

of friends of our faith, and have concluded to accept your Aunt Fanny's loving invitation to spend a fortnight with her. At her house you will meet girls of your own age, some of your convent friends are her neighbors."

"Oh! Mother Redmond, you are just the loveliest woman I know. You would rather stay at home, but I acknowledge, this trip promises so much pleasure that I want to be selfish. Will father go?"

"He cannot accompany us, but I think he may find time to bring us home. Run away, now, for Nelly. I have some preparations to make, and need her help."

Off went Kathleen, her eyes sparkling with pleasant anticipation. She was a happy, wholesome girl, in all the glow of seventeen.

Her school days had been passed at Emmittsburg, the remainder of her life she had known as presented by circumstances in Sargentsville. Many handsome residences had been built in the neighborhood in the last few years. Mr. Redmond was an architect, and found pleasure and profit in the improvements of the beautiful town.

Rapidly sped the days of preparation, and, at last, Mrs. Redmond and Kathleen found themselves in Philadelphia. They were met at the station by Aunt Fannie and her husband, and in half an hour they were cordially welcomed by Mary and Margaret. The cousins had not met since their childhood. Mrs. Murphy believed in home education, and, as the convent was within walking distance, her daughters were able to attend school without separation from the beloved home circle. They had been graduated the summer before our story opens, and had gone into society on a few occasions. They were of fair complexion, and Kathleen thought them very elegant, as they moved gracefully about, helping her mother and herself to lay aside their wrappings, and showing them the convenient appointments of their sleeping room.

The bell rang for supper, and the travelers declared themselves quite ready to appreciate the bountiful meal set for them. They adjourned afterward to the large sitting-room, and Kathleen found the same custom observed as in her home. The

servants came in and were introduced to the visitors.

When all were seated Mr. Murphy read the meditation for the following day; one decade of the Rosary was then recited, and the *De Profundis*, after which the servants left the room.

Her cousins drew Kathleen away to the parlor, leaving their elders to a family talk. Merrily the young girl chattered away, as freely as if she were at home.

It was with surprise the sisters learned that Sargentsville contained no Catholic Church, although boasting of nine houses of religious worship.

"That was the reason mother sent me to Emmittsburg," said Kathleen. "She wished me to have not only religious instruction, but companions whose lives were formed on Catholic principles. At home we drive two miles to Church, at the factory village. After grandma's death mother did not send me back to school, I think she needs my company."

"And very good company you must be, dear," said Margaret, fondly.

Long before the eventful day Kathleen had become quite one of the family, and was therefore prepared to enjoy the occasion.

The spacious parlors were separated from the dining room by portieres. Looped back they displayed a charming view. The furniture was simple, selected for comfort rather than display. A few good pictures on the walls, chosen for their subjects, as well as for artistic merit, gave a home-like tone and a sense of companionship. Growing palms, and other foliage plants, made a harmonious back ground for the toilets of the ladies receiving. Here and there, on mantlepiece and tables, bright tulips, varied by vases of roses, and other cut flowers, gave color and perfume to the scene.

Kathleen thought Aunt Fanny appeared very handsome this evening. The heliotrope tint of her dress, relieved by some fine old lace of creamy hue, emphasized her clear olive complexion. Her figure, a little more erect than usual, owing to the unwonted excitement, added something to her usual height. Her smile, so cordial and gracious, gave to each visitor an assurance of loving welcome. Mary's tall, girlish