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KOLSEY HALL.

BY _____

CHAPTER V.

BUSINESS LIFE.

Two days ere the arrival of Christmas, Mr. Vanners and his brother returned to the hall. Franklin had quite recovered his health, and was now as robust and strong as ever, and anxious if possible to procure a situation in business. After a short consultation it was decided that Mr. Charles Vanners would, a few days after Christmas, accompany Franklin to New York, after which he would proceed to his new Western home.

Christmas dawned, and the day was spent at Kelsey Hall in a thoroughly English style. An excellent dinner was served, and the time passed merrily away. In the evening Franklin and Emma enjoyed a couple of hours conversation, during which he intimated to her his intention of immediately proceeding to New York. This sudden news rendered her quite sad, and tears fell, when she realized that such was actually to be the case.

A few days after, Mr. Vanners and Franklin took leave of their friends, and proceeded directly to New York. Soon after their arrival Franklin fortunately procured a good situation in the large mercantile firm of Hendrie & Co., after which Mr. Vanners proceeded westward to Pennsylvania, to a place now called Oil City, but which at the date of our narrative was far from being a city.

Franklin's success from the first was marked and sure. He was a steady, energetic, and strictly responsible young man. He rose speedily in his employer's estimation, who very much respected him. Though employed in business, he never lost sight of Kelsey Hall or its occupants. A regular correspondence occurred between Emma and himself. Though separated, the ardor of their friendship never abated, but was rather enhanced by the pangs of separation.

Four years after the entry of Franklin into mercantile life, he was admitted as junior partner into the firm to which he had given his faithful services. By exercising economy in his wages, and aided by an additional five hundred pounds, a legacy from his grandfather, he was enabled to place in the business quite a large cash capital. By integrity, independence, and resolution he now more than ever determined to work manfully and have ultimate success crown his tasks. He saw fortune smiling kindly