

laboriously drawn on boots, spurs, and gloves, Catherine surveyed me with a pleased expression, and then declared that she must get herself in readiness.

I asked her if she meant to wear her boy's dress, which caused her to blush furiously and to tell me, with much pretty hesitation that it was no longer suitable. Now, this was a mystery to me, and the hanging folds of the graceful gown which she had worn while ministering to my sickness gave me no explanation. It may be that I was somewhat dull of comprehension, or else lacked observation, or mayhap was too ill to take note of her appearance. So I merely gazed at my wife with a look of curiosity. Then, as I watched her preparation for the journey, and she was drawing a girdle about her waist, she looked suddenly upon me, and her conscious face revealed her secret, which came over me like a great flood and engulfed me in its happiness. Springing to my feet I caught her in my arms and vowed to her a hundred times that I adored her now above all the earth, and that she was more than ever precious in my sight. She laughed and blushed, then wept, then laughed again, and made me tell her over and over that I loved her and was pleased by my discovery.

And so we joined my troop and rode off toward Carberry Hall. The journey passed without incident, and we reached the Hall by six o'clock and ate a supper of Rob Cumber's cooking. Father Terhune accompanied us, and some faithful servants of the Dillon family offered themselves, and Catherine at once began the reorganization of her domestic establishment, appointing cooks, butlers, and others who were to make our home comfortable.

My men enjoyed the garrison life of the place, and, as