

with a humour that, it would seem, the habit rather than the nature of its mistress repressed.

"Seek you any here?" demanded Heyward, when the other had arrived sufficiently nigh to abate his speed; "I trust you are no messenger of evil tidings."

"Even so," replied the stranger, making diligent use of his triangular castor to produce a circulation in the close air of the woods, and leaving his hearers in doubt to which of the young man's questions he responded; when, however, he had cooled his face, and recovered his breath, he continued: "I hear you are riding to William Henry; as I am journeying thitherward myself, I concluded good company would seem consistent to the wishes of both parties."

"The division of voices would appear to be unjustly measured," returned Heyward; "we are three, whilst you have no one to consult but yourself."

"Not more unjustly than that one gallant should be charged with the care and keeping of two youthful ladies," said the other, with a manner divided between simplicity and vulgar repartee. "If, however, he be a true man and they true women, they will despise each other's humour, and come over to his opinion, in all matters of contradictory opinions; so you have no more to consult than I!"

The fair maiden dropped her laughing eyes to the bridle of her filly, and the slight flush on her cheek deepened to a rich bloom; while the glowing tints of her companion's colour altered even to paleness, as she slowly rode ahead, like one already tired of the interview.

"If you journey to the lake, you have mistaken your route," said Heyward, haughtily; "the highway thither is at least half-a-mile behind you."

"Even so," returned the stranger, nothing daunted by this cold reception. "I have tarried at 'Edward' a week, and I should be dumb not to have inquired the road I was to journey; and if dumb, there would be an end to my calling." After simpering in a small way, like one whose modesty prohibited a more open expression of his admiration of a witticism that was perfectly unintelligible to his hearers, he continued with becoming gravity: "It is not prudent for one of my profession to be too familiar with those he has to instruct; for which reason, I follow not the line of the army; besides which, I conclude that a gentleman of your character has the best judgment in matters of