







Beauty

TOGETHER. We took a long forsaken road. Queen's smile being over. Between the deep dark curtains, showed a narrow, gray border, gay With Ruffian's purple and caraway And ambrosian and clover.

Literature

TEMPTATION: OR The Lady of Ashurst.

CHAPTER XXXIV.

MRS. WELBY AT "THE OAKS."

On the following day the visit to the Oaks was made; it was a fine old place, surrounded by the noble trees from which it took its name.

Mr. Welby's wealthy planter, and lived as a few of Maryland families still did at that day—with open house and open hand welcoming even the chance wayfarer with that cordial hospitality which gives from its abundance as freely as it gives.

Both Mr. Welby and his wife were well-bred, good-natured people, ready to promote the enjoyment of others, and never better pleased than when their capacious mansion was filled with guests.

The house was the centre of gaiety in the neighborhood, and a large family of sons and daughters successively appearing on the stage of life kept up a round of festivities of which the older seemed to grow weary no more than the youngest guest they received.

Luckily for Mr. Welby his fortune was sufficient to stand the drain thus constantly made upon it, for his management was good and his income large.

Two sons and as many daughters were already married, and settled near their parents; another son was grown, and the third daughter was to make her debut this summer, while two younger girls were to appear at home under the care of their governess.

Mr. Welby, a dumpy light-haired woman, with a face of rosy contentment, received Mrs. Ashley with punctilious politeness, and Besie with affection.

Her daughter presently appeared—a small, fair-haired girl, with blue eyes and rosy cheeks, exhibiting a youthful copy of her mother's face.

Kate greeted Mrs. Ashley with the affectionate interest that lady rarely failed to inspire in those who had seen much of her; and Mrs. Ashley had been a frequent guest at Ashurst. She impulsively said:

"Oh, my dear Mrs. Ashley, I do hope that you have come to confirm the good report Dr. Mantion brought us yesterday evening. He said he had been persuading you to let Besie go North with us, and if we would only second him, he thought you might be induced to give her up to us for a little while."

Dr. Mantion had evidently displayed more tact than Mrs. Ashley had given him credit for, in removing from herself the disagreeable necessity of asking as a favor that which she would no longer have to do.

"What K. says is quite true, Mrs. Ashley. It will add very much not only to her pleasure but to that of our whole party to have dear Besie as our travelling companion in the trip we contemplate making. I have remarked the change in her of late, but if you will trust her to our care, I think we can promise to return her to you quite restored to her former self."

Bessie gave her a grateful look, and after a few whispered words to those who were left to her, she went to the apartment of the young lady and discussed their plans in private.

Mrs. Ashley hastened to reply to her hostess:

"I scarcely know how to thank you, Mrs. Welby, for your kindness in offering to burden yourself with a young girl who may prove something of a charge to you. Besie is very tractable, but she is giddy and impulsive, and I own that I am very anxious as to what may happen while she is away from me. The trip may benefit her health, but I fear it will sadly dissipate her mind."

Mrs. Welby laughed good-humoredly as she replied:

"Do not expect that she will leave her head a little turned; a young lady of her attractions, as must, of course, receive much attention, and listen to a great deal of flattery, but Besie has sense enough to reject the froth, and settle down on what will promise some solid comfort."

"I hope so, Mrs. Welby; but I beg that you will not permit Besie to be spoken of, or introduced into society as an heiress. Unless she marries Frank Wentworth she loses everything, except three hundred dollars a year."

Mrs. Welby looked astonished, for the lawyer had been discreet, and the provisions of Judge Ashley's will had not been so generally known, and intimate as the two girls were, Besie had never breathed a syllable of the distasteful compact by which she was bound, in the eyes of her friend Kate.

Mrs. Welby merely said:

"Then I may look on my young friend as betrothed to her cousin? Of course, with the confidence bestowed on me, I shall be bound to look after her most carefully. Mrs. Ashley, I remember now, that she was some talk in the neighborhood about a wedding at Ashurst before Mr. Wentworth left, but as no intimation came to us from that party, that such an event was like to take place, I concluded that there was no report."

"I may tell you in confidence, Mrs. Welby, that there would have been one, Besie had been suddenly attacked with illness. In fact, the minister was in the house to unite them; but the poor child was so deeply grieved by her grandfather's death that she became too ill to find her way to the altar—certainly his own."

"I had heard something of that too,"

admitted prudent Mrs. Welby, "but the impression I received was, that Besie was unwilling to ratify the contract, and Mr. Wentworth refused to insist on it when he found how unhappy it made her. Perhaps the change in the poor child's spirits may be traced to her dread of Frank's return."

Mrs. Ashley rapidly changed color as she listened, but she readily replied:

"I do not believe that Besie has the slightest dread of such a thing. She and Frank are the best of friends, as they are really very fond of each other. The unwillingness she betrayed was, in my opinion, more girlish caprice, arising from her ignorance of life. A few months hence she will understand herself better, and yield gracefully to the destiny which has been laid out for her."

Mrs. Welby looked grave, but she said nothing in reply, and Mrs. Ashley went on with nervous haste:

"Did not Besie's presence with you, she will have opportunities of learning the true value of wealth; she will comprehend the prestige it gives; and I am sure when she once understands how important an element of happiness money is, she will regret to relinquish her grandfather's estate because she has not formed a romantic attachment for her destined bridegroom. If she goes with you, my dear Mrs. Welby, I hope that you will constantly keep in mind her peculiar position, and guard her as much as possible from those silly sentimental fancies to which young girls are so prone. I assure you, that without absolute ruin to Besie's prospects, there is escape for her from the marriage Judge Ashley so ardently desired."

She spoke with the earnestness with which she spoke, Mrs. Welby said:

"I will do my best to guard her from the dangers you dread for her, Mrs. Ashley, and I can leave that to your maternal interest you share for this motherless girl, is highly creditable to you."

The listener shrank a little, but she replied, with perfect calmness:

"The listener shrank a little, but she replied, with perfect calmness: I have been so long in the world, I have seen as many of my own, for she took the place of the infant that was removed from Besie's home, and I love her very dearly. Any misfortune happening to Besie would affect me as nearly as it would her grandfather, and I should be glad to see her again, I would never permit her to leave me; but I feel that, for me, it is impossible to forsake the shade in which I have so long and so peacefully lived."

"I cannot be otherwise, for Frank is a noble fellow, and if he loves Besie, as I understand your anxiety about the temptations to which she may be exposed while on this northern journey. She will be much admired, for she is singularly handsome."

"It is not that I care to guard her against only one suitor, but I am desirous to save her from every temptation to swerve from her allegiance to Frank. I thank you for the confidence you have placed in me, and I will prove to you that I deserve it."

"We understand each other now, and I feel better satisfied to let her go with you. When do you think of leaving?"

"In four days from this time. It is short notice for Besie, but we shall start a week in New York, and we can stop at the foot of the mountain for the summer campaign."

"Of course, that will be the best arrangement. She will only need a traveling dress made here, and that can soon be done."

"I cannot tell you how happy I am that you have consented to let the dear girl accompany us, and how much Mrs. Welby to tell you the same. Mrs. Ashley, my dear Mrs. Welby, who was even faster, and we have arranged it that she is to go North with us."

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girl, and his blond hair hung in soft waves around a brow as smooth and lineless as his sister's. Mrs. Ashley almost smiled as she thought how lately she had questioned Besie as to the possibility of her falling in love with this miniature specimen of humanity."

Rufus Welby greeted Mrs. Ashley with great embarrassment and then said:

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COMPARATIVE WORTH OF BAKING POWDERS.

Table listing various brands of baking powder and their comparative worth. Brands include ROYAL, GRANT'S, HUNFORDS, REDHEADS, CHARM, AMAZON, CLEVELAND, PIONEER, CZAR, DR. PRICE'S, SNOW FLAKE, LEWIS, PEARL, HECKER'S, GILLET'S, ANDREWS & CO., BULL, and RUMFORDS.

REPORTS OF GOVERNMENT CHEMISTS

As to Purity and Wholesomeness of the Royal Baking Powder.

"I have tested a package of Royal Baking Powder, which I purchased in the open market, and find it composed of pure and wholesome ingredients."

"It is a scientific fact that the Royal Baking Powder is absolutely pure."

"I have examined a package of Royal Baking Powder, purchased by myself in the market. It is entirely free from alum, and is free from any injurious substance."

"I have analyzed a package of Royal Baking Powder. The materials of which it is composed are of the highest quality."

"The Royal Baking Powder received the highest award over all competitors at the Vienna World's Exposition, 1874, at the Centennial, Philadelphia, 1876, at the American Institute, New York, and at State Fairs throughout the country."

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On and after MONDAY, June 1st, 1885, the Trains of this Railway will run daily, (Sunday excepted) as follows:

Trains will leave St. John: Day Express, 7:25 a.m.; Accommodation, 11:00 a.m.; Express for Quebec, 4:25 p.m.; Express for Halifax & Quebec, 10:15 p.m.

Trains will arrive at St. John: Express from Halifax & Quebec, 5:30 a.m.; Express from Quebec, 8:30 a.m.; Accommodation, 12:35 p.m.; Day Express, 6:10 p.m.

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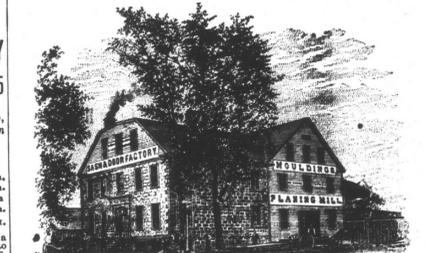
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