

brother; I am sure I am not.— You surely forget that, for aught we know, she may be of humble birth and doubtful parentage."

"Yes, but she may be of a noble family," responded Mrs. Maitland. "She surely has gentle blood in her veins. The chain and cup, found with her, are beautifully wrought, and show that to whatever extremities her family might have been reduced, they were once not wholly unused to the decorations of wealth. I have fears as to her influence over Marcus. I well remember how eloquently he used to plead her cause. But we must try to counteract her influence, although, were she of unclouded birth, she would be a fit companion for a prince."

With a haughty curl of her proud lip, Miss Maitland replied:

"I am sure that Marcus has too much of the Maitland blood in him to think of such a thing; but if he should, I know Papa would never disown him, and as for ~~me~~ ~~I~~ ~~should~~ ~~be~~ ~~loaded~~ ~~with~~ ~~the~~ ~~burden~~ ~~of~~ ~~sin~~ ~~on~~ ~~us~~ ~~all~~.

In the adjoining room, Aunt Drucilla had been waiting some time for her darling, who had been off "alone, with busy memories," attempting to become composed before she trusted herself to converse, lest the emotions of her heart might be discovered.

"That's right, Sybil; now, that blue silk is proper becoming; you always did look sweet in that," remarked Aunt Drucilla, as she entered. "Now, child, you hold up your head and don't be bashful. I want you to look as well as any one, to-night, when Marcus comes. Deport yourself in a becoming manner, but do not be too reserved. In short, be yourself, do not try to act a false part, or try to appear what you really are not. I tell you, men are not fools when in search of wives. Mincing walks, finical words, and affected smiles, never yet won a sensible man, and girls had much better act naturally, and let their lovers see them just as they are. Beauty without solid sense, energy and self-dependence, is like a pretty flower without fragrance, and men are not slow to see the deficiency; so do not rely on your beauty alone, with such a man as Marcus Maitland; but converse freely with him; display your own virtues and you will make an eligible match, at last."

"Oh, Aunt, I hope you do not think I am trying to make a con-

quest of his heart," sighed Sybil, whose delicacy was pained, at any one thinking her so designing.

"Of course, I do not think you will, intentionally, make such endeavors—that is just what I was cautioning you against, but of this I am assured, that you will just as surely be Marcus Maitland's wife, as you both live," replied the solid woman of sense.

"Indeed, dear Aunt, I think you are a false prophetess, for I am equally sure, I never will be. Marcus would scorn the idea of such an alliance, and his family would never, never consent," responded Sybil.

But, notwithstanding the firm declaration, there rose up before her imagination, the many little acts of kindness, the many gentle words, and the constant deference to her wishes, bestowed by the handsome boy, to his "Aunt's moonlight foundling," as he used playfully to call her.

[TO BE CONTINUED.]

Woman's Voice.

How consoling to the mind oppressed by heavy sorrow is the voice of an amiable woman! Like sacred music, it imparts to the soul a sense of peace and refreshment, the fear of sorrow, with its soft and mellifluous tones. Riches may avail much in the house of affection; the friendship of man may alleviate for a time the bitterness of woman; but the angel voice of a woman is capable of producing a lasting effect on the heart, and communicates a sensation of delicious composure, which the mind has never before experienced, in the moments of its highest felicity.

A woman has no natural gift more bewitching than a sweet laugh. It is like the sound on the water. It leaps from her in a clear, sparkling rill, and the heart hears it feels as if bathed in the cool, exhilarating spring. Have you ever pursued an unseen fugitive through the trees, led on by a fairy laugh, now here, now there, now lost, now found? We have; and we are pursuing that wandering voice to this day.— Sometimes it comes us in the midst of care, or sorrow, or irksome business, and then we turn away and listen, and hear it ringing in the room like a silver bell, with power to scare away the evil spirits of mind. How much we owe to that sweet laugh! It turns prose to poetry; it flings flowers to sunshine over the darkness of the wood in which we are travelling; touches with light even our sleep, which is so no more than the image of death, but is consumed with dreams that are the shadows of immortality.

There has been some discussion as to the injurious effect of beer, but there is ample evidence that in some cases it is fatal. A man was killed in St. Louis lately by the explosion of a cask of this dangerous liquid, and leaves a wife and two children to mourn his loss, and many fellow-citizens to mourn the loss of the beer. The article is to be classed with dangerous explosives, but, luckily, it explodes only before it has been swallowed.

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