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THE FLOWER OF GALA WATER.

A LOVE STORY.

BY AMELIA E. BARR.

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CHAPTER I.

THE FLOWER OF GALA WATER.

"Was water ever the theme of song?
Dear water from the mountain springs,
The crystal wonder-bubble and stone,
And pearls heaped heaps.

"A spirit of beauty wherever it goes;
The Bard in Heaven's grace,
To music called by mighty power,
Because of long ages."

"I have a friend. Her name is Katherine Jaffrie." In these words Jessy Telfair casually answered any remark about the solitude of her home. It was only an apparent solitude, for Jessy knew the laird's fine house was just over the nearest hill, and that there the sweetest maid of Tweedside dwelt—her friend, Katherine Jaffrie.

She was in King this morning to see a stranger who was waiting to see her father. But many strangers called upon the minister of Kittle Hope, for he was a famous angler, and the lonely manse among the hills by Gala Water was well known to the brothers of the rod and reel. Such visitors, however, had usually reached middle age, dressed for their inevitable rain in gray tweed and well creased hoods, with a long, light waterproof and creel slung across their shoulders. But the caller was unusually early in the season for travelers of this character to be young, and had the air of a high-bred and prosperously mannered gentleman.

Standing on the hearthrug in the manse parlor, he looked up the winding valley that led to the source of the river in the heart of the hills. The slopes were covered with sheep and lambs—hundreds of brides bellows were full of them—and their bleating, and the murmur of Gala Water, hurrying down through the amphitheaters of boulders, and the far-away tiny waterfalls, were all the sounds that broke the stillness of the lonely place. So he turned to Jessy then, and made some remark about the solitude, and she answered him:

"I have a friend. Her name is Katherine Jaffrie."

There was a childlike promptness and confidence, a sense of sufficiency in this assertion, which was very attractive. It was evident also that she wished to be entertaining, and that she could think of no subject more delightful than her friend. Yet, far as the eyes could roam in every direction, the hill and valley were not to be seen and shorn. Names that lift through the noblest ballads in the world, that sanctify the most desperate struggles for religious liberty, that are treasured in the custodies of valor and romance are its familiar names. But Jessy thought of none of them, for she was only aware of the loneliness of the immediate.

"I have a friend. Her name is Katherine Jaffrie."

Then he looked into the glowing fire of the grate. He had been expecting to hear of the Douglases and Buccleuchs, of the Elliots and Armstrongs. "Clerk-pest" and "Dominie with the sword," of Border life, Border creatures and Border customs, of poachers on the Tweed, always ready to risk unnumbered fines and imprisonments; but Miss Telfair did not mention any of these names. Her heart was with her friend, and she turned as her lips made the music of her name. Perhaps if she had considered the matter she could not have said more or better, for the young man waiting for the minister knew all about the romance of the past; it was the existence of the present he feared, and "Katherine Jaffrie" fell upon his ears like the prediction of danger.

"Is your friend pretty enough to deserve her pretty name?" he asked.

"Pretty? Katherine is beautiful! Katherine is the 'Flower of Gala Water.' On all Tweedside there is none like her."

"Then I hope she lives near to you."

"She lives just over the hill. I can sit here and watch her come to visit. If she does not see me, when she gets to the little burn by the garden gate she begins to sing and then I run to meet her."

"Some one is coming over the hill now—but it is not Miss Jaffrie."

Jessy looked up and nodded.

"That is the minister; Rab Hays is with him. Rab is one of the duke's men, and is worth the knowing. Rab went 'out' with the Free-kirkers, and when father asked him 'what the duke would say to that,' he answered: 'Indeed, minister, I dinna ken; but I must think o' the Day o' Judgment. The duke will na answer for me on that day.' If Rab sees the minister going to the hills, he is sure to 'dauner up the water' to meet him. Now I must go and welcome father home. He would think it strange if I did not."

The minister entered the front door as Jessy stepped into the hall. He called to her cheerfully, and patting his creel, said:

"The burns are a perfect Piccadilly with anglers, Jessy, but I have got a few fine fellows."

Then Jessy peeped into his creel and answered:

"There are a dozen fine fellows, at least, father."

"Maybe so; but oh, lassie, for the days when a man could fish down stream, and yet fill his creel, and his cap, and his pouches with speckled trout!"

"There is a gentleman in the parlor. He is waiting to see you. Here is his card with his name printed on it. I never heard of the name before."

The minister waited for dinner and he did not want to see strangers at that hour. He took the card rather curtly, read and then reread it.

"There is a kind of familiarity," he muttered. "Richard Mowbray, Mowbray Hall, Westmoreland!" His brows went together. Then his face brightened. "To be sure, Jessy," he said, "Mowbray! I know the man! We were at Edinburgh College together."

"Is Sir Mowbray is not very much older than I am."

"Then it is Richard Mowbray's son. Dear me! How the days go by! Look to the dinner, Jessy; the young man will eat it with us. I will give you half an hour, my dear."

Jessy was glad of the interval. She carried the trout to the kitchen to be broiled, and then ran to her room to change the gray woolen she wore for something pretty in silk and plush. She made her black hair a trifle more fluffy and put a bright ribbon in her throat. And with her brighter garments she put on a brighter spirit, a more hospitable manner and accent. Yet through all her toilet she was thinking of both the young stranger and the minister, and wishing she could know something of what Mr. Mowbray would think of her—speculations as to what Katherine would think of the unexpected little romance in such a certain Jessie Winton interested her tremendously and feeling to a large extent all the excitement of her expectations.

Then she hastened down stairs and found the dinner on the table, and her father and Mr. Mowbray just entering the dining-room. They were talking politics, and the elder man was quite excited.

"You are just a deaf and blind Tory, Mr. Mowbray," he said, "and your father was one before you. You cannot discern the signs of the times any better than the Tories of ten thousand years ago could. Go to the hillsides and look among the weavers a wee. They will give you something to think about."

"It is matter enough for thought, sir, to see the men who 'howked' the Border for centuries to be a loom and shuttle—and I cannot understand how it came possible to make Hodden and Gala out of them."

"Man, they are the same and noble natures now as then. The pleasant descendants of Mr. Clarence and Mr. Symington, and their ancestors by land or sea, and are therefore liable to be appropriated by them. In fact, the Border men have always favored the dead-and-alive plan that——

"Those who worry most, live
And those who fight most, win."

And the manner, perhaps, helped to soften a needlessly painful or hostile threat. The sentiment called for an example, and he gave it.

So the wordy warfare went on throughout dinner until the quiet, dreadful old house had the aura of a town hall at election time. All the political and social struggles of the day and hour filled the little room, and Jessy heard, as afar off, such simulations, revolving names as Gladstone, Salisbury, Parnell, Balfour, Chamberlain, until the restless atmosphere of the present was suddenly invaded by a voice from the restless atmosphere of the past—a clear, sweet voice singing an old Border lilt:

"Let a lover be a lover,
And leave me to be true,
We have the land and all to gain,
And over the border love again."

At the first line there was a sudden silence, and a smile flashed over the minister's disputatious face. Jessy looked at him, and she, too, was smiling. Mowbray glanced from father to daughter, interested and curious, and the merry voice came nearer and nearer. In a few moments the door of the room opened, and Katherine Jaffrie stood in its place, like a picture in a frame. The song was yet upon her lips and the music still on her face.

Mowbray felt his heart lean, and he rose to his feet. It was an unconscious and involuntary homage, for the girl was marvelously beautiful, an exquisite little creature, with a face fresh and radiant as a new-blown flower, eyes like two stars, and lips that were made to kiss. Some fine instinct had taught her to robe herself this spring day in the very colors of the spring. A dark-greenish dress of softish cashmere fell straight to her feet, but the plaited vest was of pale primrose silk. She had in her hands a little basket of rushes filled with fresh primroses, and she looked like an angel of the flowers.

But the loveliness words describe so tediously was an instant revelation to eyes and hearts, and Katherine had not crossed the room ere Richard Mowbray was conscious of some new element in his existence. Through all his being the full tide of love swept like a fateful fire with irresistible surge and flow, and he was carried off his feet—far beyond his reason—by its unforeseen impetuosity. Even when the minister spoke her name to him, and he was conscious that she was at his side and looking into his face, he was not able to collect or control himself. The fire she had kindled in his heart rushed into his eyes, and she dropped her eyes beneath their gaze, and was vaguely troubled and yet pleased by the mysterious shock they gave her.

A moment or two of embarrassment followed the meeting, but the minister quickly relieved it with a very commonplace remark.

"I thought you had a new room, Katherine," he said, "and I was sure you would be just distracted to find it otherwise here."

"I had a new hat, sir, and the hat carried the day."

Then she took it from her head and turned it about on her hands, and smiled at Jessy, and was quite unconscious that the revelation of her fair, bright hair waving and curling around her brow was a fresh ornament.

"You see, it is a sailor hat," she said, "and one could not be impossibly absurd as to wear a sailor hat on horseback. I wanted to wear the sailor hat; so I walked."

"Well, my dear, we will all walk back with you. I want to see the laird, and I know well he laird wants to see me. So, my bonnie lassie, go away for half an hour and talk your hats well over—straw and ribbons and a'—and let Mr. Mowbray and me get through our argument. He has the last word now, and that, you know, is for wrong."

"The last word belongs to women, does it not, father?"

"To women by courtesy, Jessy; to ministers by right. Now, Mr. Mowbray, you were saying——"

The parlor door closed the argument as far as Jessy and Katherine were concerned. They went slowly up the stairs hand in hand, not speaking until they were in Jessy's room. Then Katherine said:

"Who is your guest, Jessie Telfair? And where did he come from?"

"His father was at Edinburgh College with my father. They were friends—or enemies. I am not certain which. The elder Mowbray died last Christmas and left Jessie a legacy. The young man brought it to him."

"A legacy—what, Jessy?"

"It may be a love-legacy. Father put it in his vest pocket and never said a word."

"Only think of Minister Telfair having a romance! Such a nice, comfortable, middle-aged gentleman with a love-token in his vest pocket!"

"I do not say that it was certainly a love-token, Katherine."

"But let us think it was. I have an idea there is a great deal of bitter romance in life. And please, Jessy, where does 'the young man come from?'

"Over the Border—somewhere in Westmoreland."

Jessy was trying on the new hat, tilting it this way and that way, and he was not as interested in the question as Katherine thought she should have been.

"Never mind the hat, Jessy. You can get another just like it in Kelso to-morrow. And that new vest would not be next to it, I should say. Tailor-made, I dare be bound, somewhere in Westmoreland, by the Londonderry."

"Do you think he is handsome?"

"Do you not think him so yourself?"

"He is not to be compared with Jamie Wardrop."

"Perhaps not, if the comparison is made by modes. But then Mr. Mowbray is all alive. His head is full of the strange events he has met with in his many journeys around the world. I know, for I listened to them. Jamie Wardrop is made of clay. You never doubt it."

"Mr. Mowbray is a very handsome man."

"Informed with spirit."

"Jamie has some spirit. He is a bit of a lad, and, truly, but I usually exclaim, he does what he ought to do. Mr. Mowbray is only a bird of passage; he is here to-day and to-morrow he will be gone."

Katherine did not contradict this prophecy. She walked to the window and looked out over the green desert and up to the gray firmament above it.

"It will rain at sunset, Jessy," she said. "Let us hasten the minister's argument. This bird of passage will want somewhere to sleep. Are you going to ask him to stay at the manse?"

"Father has said nothing to me. I will speak to him as we walk over the hill."

Perhaps it was the supposed need for obtaining this information which led Jessy to range herself at her father's side and with a smiling movement indicate to Mr. Mowbray that his duty was to be Katherine's escort. It seemed, however, the most natural of positions; neither of them felt a moment's surprise at their sudden companionship. They sauntered through the garden, which was full of early flowers, and Katherine pointed out the sweet freedom and democratic friendships that were permitted there.

"Pansies are everywhere you see," she said, "and the rose-trees have no upper beds to grow in, and the lilies are not too saintly to mingle with the gadabout honeysuckle-vine and the very worldly poppies."

"Yet the place is pretty now, and it will doubtless grow more lovely with the summer. My gardener has but one idea, and that is to make geometrical shapes and fill them with colored leaves or blossoms.

[TO BE CONTINUED.]

Giant of a Giant Family.

The tallest man in Missouri is A. G. Waite, of Waverly. He is six feet eight inches out of his boots. He is one of a family of ten, the tallest of whom was seven feet eight inches. His smallest sister is six feet three inches tall. The Waites are relatives of the late Chief Justice Waite.

The largest clock in the world is that in Westminster Abbey.

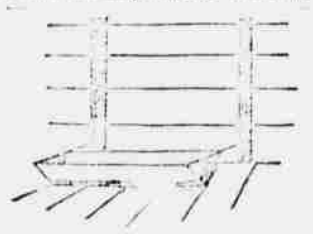
AGRICULTURAL.

Value of the Egg Organs.

The egg specialty is particularly desirable for farmers living at a distance from market. The product is in its concentrated and a high price at some period in the year and hence almost as much as a load of hay can be much more easily taken to town. An advantage over retail milk selling is that the product need not be taken to market every day.

A Saving of Trouble.

The trough or feeding-chute shown in the illustration is suitable for either cattle or swine. It is the ordinary V-shape, and is held in place by a short bar at either end. These bars are bolted to the sides of the pen. Either iron or wooden bars may be used. When the trough is not in use it is turned up against the wall out of the way, and fastened there. The advantage of such a trough is that it is out of the way when it is turned to clean out the pen, and any accumulation or slopped over feed, to become offensive, is avoided by it.—Indianapolis News.



FEED BOX FOR PENS.

Feeding New Corn.

New corn is not a good food for horses or any animals. Green corn may be fed in good moderation to cows, but only partially dry feed for horses, unless it has been ripened in the sun or quite at the point of ripening. Those who have tried it at first say how fine it gives as good results as if dry when ground and cooked for cattle. But the trouble is not found in immediate, but in the after effects. The horse's gizzard is a gristmill in miniature, and every one who knows much about grinding grain knows that soft or immature grain is not ground well. The mill clogs up and refuses to do its work. The horse's gizzard is affected in the same way, and indigestion is the certain result, as indicated by looseness of the bowels, diarrhea and colic, which is about as effective a form of purgative for horses as a peck of filthy surroundings is for any one.

Pattern Locks.

In cases of rear wagon axles a large percentage of the breakages occur at the collet of the axle. Sooner or later this will be going in two, either on the inside, but it is now often up on the outside. The latter is preferable internally, as the first is apt to injure the spoke, but it is—well not quite so frequently seen—equally bad in appearance. We must use every means to use the utmost care in preparing their poultry for market; some of them heed what we say, while others go on year in and year out, doing as they always have done, when they could just as well receive 5 cents per pound more for their birds than they do.—Farm, Field and Fireside.

Forest Trees From Seed.

The propagation of forest trees either for decorative plants, windbreaks or forests is a comparatively slow process, according to Bulletin 95 of the Virginia experiment station. The horticulturists of that station have been making extended tests along these lines and find that the seeds of such trees as the silver maple and other species which ripen seed early should be gathered and sown at once. They can be planted in the same manner and grow as readily as peas. Seeds which ripen late in the fall should be sown in autumn and then taken up and planted in spring. Nuts like walnuts can be planted several bushels in a heap and then taken up and planted in rows in spring with perfect success. It is usually practical to plant nut seeds where the trees are to stand if the ground is not too wet. If turned up against the wall out of the way, and fastened there. The advantage of such a trough is that it is out of the way when it is turned to clean out the pen, and any accumulation or slopped over feed, to become offensive, is avoided by it.—Indianapolis News.

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Park Your Poultry Carefully.

There is one thing many shipped poultry do not dress important and that is putting their birds on the market in attractive condition both as to dressing and packing. If they would more carefully study demands of trade more carefully and follow the advice of their selling agents it would be better for them.

Usually nearly all the poultry is shipped by old experienced men and it is generally packed in the best possible manner, but around holiday times, the shippers who do not comply with demands of trade, do not fare as well as those who do. Poultry of rather inferior quality is frequently sold at a premium, just because it was put up in an attractive manner. A dealer says "a lawyer will come into our store and want to look at a few barrels of poultry and you can bet he is sure of that. The most attractive appearance one can give the package is all—and not that generally even is equally for appearance. We must use diligence to use the utmost care in preparing their poultry for market; some of them heed what we say, while others go on year in and year out, doing as they always have done, when they could just as well receive, and 5 cents per pound more for their birds than they do."—Farm, Field and Fireside.

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GOOD ROADS NOTES.

What It Costs to Haul Produce.

"The condition of roads in the United States, taken as a whole, cannot readily be shown in figures. If we can make inquiries of a hundred farmers in as many localities, as to how long it takes to haul a load of produce to town, how far he must go, and what the condition of the roads are, we can readily ascertain what it costs on an average to haul a load of crops," says Otto Dorner, Chairman of the Highway Improvement Committee of the League of American Wheelmen.

"If the answers of these inquiries be sufficiently increased, and extended over the entire country, the result will pretty nearly show what it costs on an average over the whole United States to haul a load of crops to market. It will each inquiry we also ascertain the weight of the load, or even a figure out how much it costs per 100 pounds, or per ton, to market all these crops, and if the inquiries also include the manner of motive power employed, we can easily figure the cost of hauling these crops per ton per mile. This gives a unit which can be compared with the same unit similarly obtained by similar inquiries made in other countries.

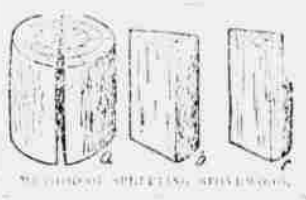
"An inquiry of this kind was made in November, 1895, by the United States Department of Agriculture, through its office of road inquiry. Ten thousand circulars were sent out to farmers in all parts of the United States, asking for information to these various particulars. Returns were received from 1,247 counties, or about one-half of the counties in the United States. The result of these returns showed between an average of 5 miles in the Southern States and 21 miles in the Pacific and mountain States—the average cost per ton per mile ranged from 25 cents in the Southern States to 12 cents in the Pacific States and 6 cents in the prairie and Pacific Coast and mountain States, and as low as 3 cents in the Dakotas, and as high as $1.87 in the Northern and Eastern States, which is more densely settled, and where railroads are shorter and hard to build. The average cost of hauling a ton of produce one mile was 25 cents, or 10 cents in the prairie and Pacific Coast and mountain States, and as low as 3 cents in the Dakotas.

"The returns also showed that the average load in the United States was 1,209 pounds, or about 2,418 pounds for a two-horse team. The average load in the Pacific and mountain States was 2,000 pounds, or a ton, and in the Dakotas 1,500 pounds, or 750 pounds to the horse. The average load in the United States was found to be 12 miles in the Southern States and 21 miles in the Pacific and mountain States. The average cost per load in the United States was found to be $2.02. It was as high as $3.12 in the Pacific States and as low as $1.87 in the Northern and Eastern States, which is more densely settled, and where railroads are shorter and hard to build. The average cost of hauling a load one mile was 25 cents, or 10 cents in the prairie and Pacific Coast and mountain States, and as low as 3 cents in the Dakotas.

"The application to the road work of the business rules which govern every progressive farmer in the conduct of his farm, with the work done under the supervision of a responsible man, will accomplish wonders.

About Cutting Wood.

Every farmer who plans to do a large season's work cannot overlook the importance of having his year's supply of fuel on hand and ready for use not later than April 1. With some it is not a very hard task, for in many localities where timber is near and is largely used for heating and all the cooking purposes. During the last ten years a number of different kinds of trees have been dying, and the farmer who owns ten or more acres of hard wood timber finds that the dead trees accumulate in spite of the fact that the quantity of timber each year as the quality deteriorates. Some farmers cut down and sold off the varieties that were subject to decay and denied all from his woods. Others, however, were in honor that they could have to use the dead trees for fuel before they were worthless. Here is where they made a mistake. At this time wood is one of the most valuable articles in the world. There are to-day in the United States, taken as a whole, can most easily be shown in figures. If we can make inquiries of a hundred farmers in as many localities, as to how long it takes to haul a load of produce to town, how far he must go, and what the condition of the roads are, we can readily ascertain what it costs on an average to haul a load of crops," says Otto Dorner, Chairman of the Highway Improvement Committee of the League of American Wheelmen.



WOOD-CUTTING APPLIANCES.

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"The application to the road work of the business rules which govern every progressive farmer in the conduct of his farm, with the work done under the supervision of a responsible man, will accomplish wonders.

Expert to Advise on Roads.

There are twenty-two State directors of the League of American Wheelmen would expect to introduce expert road legislation in their legislatures this winter. In several others there will be lobbying for the founding of expert posts. The National Highways Improvement Committee of the league is working in connection with the State directors to secure the passage of these bills.

The Anti-Rut Agitation to Cost.

It is claimed that the improvement of the roads in Allegheny county, Penn., has increased the value of farm property about thirty-five per cent.

Have you tried water bars? The water runs from the middle of the road and let the wagon tracks be dry.

In the fall the entire road should be gone over to see that all gutters and bridges are free, that the road may not be washed out by winter rains and spring rains.

The L. A. W. is beginning to receive applications for membership from automobilists, who are as much interested in the cause of good roads as the wheelmen and farmers.

The application to the road work of the business rules which govern every progressive farmer in the conduct of his farm, with the work done under the supervision of a responsible man, will accomplish wonders.

Rebuilding Abroad.

New Use for College Trophies.

A unique feature at the hall of Yale's class room is the envy of all her friends. It consists of a rare cross-section of wood, covered with photographs of her college friends, taken yearly and kept in order, and of memorials, class and society emblems, college presents, etc., etc., etc. The cross-section is a section of a tree which was cut down on the campus of Yale's class room. It is a very beautiful piece of wood, and it is a very interesting piece of wood, and it is a very beautiful piece of wood, and it is a very interesting piece of wood, and it is a very beautiful piece of wood, and it is a very interesting piece of wood, and it