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THE FLOWER OF GALA WATER.

A LOVE STORY.

BY AMELIA E. BARR.

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CHAPTER I.

CONTINUED.

"He will rage now and make everyone miserable."

"Jamie will not let him. Good night, mama!" and she shook her mother's hand between her hands and kissed her face many times, saying between the kisses: "You are such a darling mamma—such a lovely mamma. I cannot tell how you ever stopped to pick up my disagreeable stepfather—young as I am I could find a better and nicer man. I am sure Jamie. Good-night, and good night; and, mamma, do make up your mind to do your will and fear not."

Then she turned the key and went to sit at a chair in another's retreating footsteps. She forced the last word from blunting to her door, and stood ready to this will, every nerve at high tension, her head lifted, her eyes gleaming, her lips parted a little, a wash all over the white and pale flesh.

There was no challenge, however, and gradually the expression of her face softened into smile and tender recollections. She slowly unfastened her green and primrose gown, and let it fall to her feet. Then with infinite tenderness she folded it and laid it away in a cradle, smelting of violets and hyacinths. This came in set of daily ritual, and calmed her unusual feelings. She sat down in her grove of roses, lifted her small right foot, and began very slowly to unbuckle her shoes. At every little button she pinched, so that she was all to the lips of pure thoughts and sweet hopes and dreams of happiness.

"He called me Katherine," Katherine whispered. "Indeed, I think he can't help it." But it was the strong vibration of her heart that struck upon her ear.

She rose and she sat down. She rubbed her pink fingers with pleasure, the sight thus caused, and all alive for very joy. All that Mawhiny had learned and spoken she repeated, and then cursing the thought that she would stay when he returned. And she was troubled because with every change of words "something" seemed to go.

"My father will be alive I am sure he would fit for human companionship. With many excuses he declined Doctor Tolman's further hospitality at that time. He said 'the man who drove him to Kirklees from Galashiels expected to return that night, that his own valet was waiting in Edinburgh for him, and that he had urgent business in that city on the following day.'

In reality he felt the same need for solitude as Katherine felt. He wished to rid himself of all necessity to consider any mortal but the beloved one. He was glad when all necessity for separation was over, glad to obtain the solitude of his own dreams.

"God be thanked!" he said, as he recalled his visit, but especially those few rare minutes in the conservatory, when he thanked the memory of his late master.

"The days and weeks will go by, and the world will be unbound, and the invitations sent out, and every congratulation will be a fresh gift, and as the last Katherine will take the good fortune provided for her and be thankful. For Jamie Winton is a kind, good lad, and she might as well have been born again."

So she went about her household duties and did not worry herself concerning Katherine's "self." She heard her playing marbles and mazurkas with a vivacity rapidly, and she smiled a little and then sighed. She was thinking how futile were the petulant rebellions of youth, and how soon the emotional girl would learn to accept calmly the inevitabilities of life, and make the best of them. But she did not leave her domestic duties to moralize, and at dinner there was a new soup and a new servant to discuss, and the subject of matrimony seemed to be alien and very far off.

And Watty sent them leaping to an old border gathering song in a voice that woke the echoes far and near,

"Dancing round the old church,
Down the passageway of a bower,
With a birdie and a bower,
A gay bower."

Then Katherine broke into hearty laughter, as all now do when hearing Katherine's "self." She heard her playing marbles and mazurkas with a vivacity rapidly, and she smiled a little and then sighed. She was thinking how futile were the petulant rebellions of youth, and how soon the emotional girl would learn to accept calmly the inevitabilities of life, and make the best of them. But she did not leave her domestic duties to moralize, and at dinner there was a new soup and a new servant to discuss, and the subject of matrimony seemed to be alien and very far off.

After dinner Katherine put on her habit and rode over the hills to the manse. It had been a fine morning, but before noon the clouds had gathered in watery folds over the highest peaks and everything was swathed in mist and vapor. Then came the rain as it only can descend among the mountains, and the wind drove the sheet of water on her back, but the air was so invigorating that she tingled all over with life and rode up to the manse door with her wet coat all right with smiles.

"The bonnie lass of Gala Water!"

CHAPTER II.

BETWEEN THE PRIMROSE AND THE ROSE.

Beauty formed Her face; her heart, fidelity; Q.

We shape ourselves the joy of fear.

Of which the seeming life is made.

And still our future's atmosphere.

With sunsets or with shade. Raphael.

The first dawn of love is to any thing character a mystic polarization; and no woman whose face has reflected for one instant the luminous ardent gaze of such a lover as Richard Mawhiny could escape this result. Katherine, indeed, was not one of those foolish souls who are forever questioning their own consciousness, yet she was aware of some distinct change though only as a butterfly might realize had it suddenly arrived at wings, or a bud that it had become a rose.

No one else perceived that Katherine had crossed that line "where the brook and river meet." The lard was going to a magical meeting.

"Father gave it to me. Look here!"
A sparkle lit up her face. "I wonder whom it was he gave it."

"A woman whom my father loved?"

"Was that number one hundred?"

"No. Beyond that he had not been long enough for the forgotten years. But he looked sadly at the ring. He told me he had brought it with many months of affectionate care, and that I might wear it for the sake of a good widow now with God. That was all."

"What but Mr. Mawhiny's father to do with it?"

"He said nothing of him."

"Do you think Mr. Mawhiny will ever come back here?"

"Why should he?"

"People like home for the fishes and the society."

"There are far more fishmonger places. He didn't seem satisfied in reading his visit. Father addressed it to stay all night, but he wouldn't."

"Nevertheless, I am sure he will return. Have you seen such a terrible twisting face?"

"Many a time."

"Now we have something to worry about."

"What, for Katherine? Why should we quarrel about Mr. Mawhiny?"

"Because he will never come again."

"Never come here again."

The words struck barren to the heart. She turned sick and faint with the blow, but instead of crying out to Jessie, as she usually did when anything hurt her, she clenched all the strength of her own nature to help. In a few minutes she was well again.

"Katherine," he said, "when I send for you last night you refused to come. I shall look over the faults of this house, but I warn you never to attempt such rudeness in my house again. Good morning, my dear Weston. Tell Robert to get to Shove for the new minister. I shall bring him this evening. Come to see me again. There are no finer manners than mine."

"I am sure he will."

But she looked at her mother and the old maid's interpretation. Mrs. Bradshaw answered it once.

"This is very gaudy with you, Katherine, and you must remember me to you again, and can send you back to school. I wish that this morning."

"Why didn't you say so?"

"I am sure he will."

"So my maid said. But the will of Alexander Bradshaw is not fate."

"You can only enjoy the dream of those who have your fate in their hands. Your own father wished you to marry Weston in order to bring back the hand to the Bradshaws. It is the will of your dead father, and it is not to be set aside for a moment."

"A good daughter thinks of nothing, all but fate. Esther is a good girl, Bradshaw, and otherwise Mr. Weston may be no proper companion. If Mr. Mawhiny can do no worse, I will consider the Pictures of Gala Water, and I hope one day you may do me a favor to come to my door. Do you know to whom I am going to read me to sleep?"

Then Katherine sat in her chair, and Jessie took up the light, heavy flannel stocking she was wearing, and while her nimble fingers flew to mend between the bright red and the pale wool, Katherine read aloud the sordid chapters of "Gala Water." The rain beat upon the windows, and the wind shrieked around the batten, but there two maidens sat smiling to that bewitching book of poems or music, listening with soft smiles and sympathy to the poetic praise of love, and quite sure that they also like these girls had pure thoughts and sweet hopes and dreams of happiness.

"He called me Katherine," Katherine said.

"Indeed, I think he can't help it."

"The days and weeks will go by, and the world will be unbound, and the invitations sent out, and every congratulation will be a fresh gift, and as the last Katherine will take the good fortune provided for her and be thankful. For Jamie Winton is a kind, good lad, and she might as well have been born again."

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"The bonnie lass of Gala Water!"

NEGRO SUFFRAGE A FAILURE.

THE NECESSITY OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT.

The lap of 1900 years has indeed provided a refuge for Negroes in North Carolina. The early civilization, founded on a basis of equality, has given way to a system of racial discrimination, which has been established in the South, and has been maintained through the efforts of the Ku Klux Klan, the White League, and other similar organizations, and has been upheld by the State government, and by the Federal government, and by the people of the State, and by the Legislature, and by the Executive, and by the judiciary, and by the press, and by the pulpit, and by the schools, and by the public sentiment, and by the public opinion, and by the public will, and by the public conscience, and by the public spirit, and by the public virtue, and by the public morality, and by the public honor, and by the public integrity, and by the public truth, and by the public justice, and by the public law, and by the public order, and by the public safety, and by the public welfare, and by the public happiness, and by the public prosperity, and by the public welfare, and by the public 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