

WAVERLAND.

A TALE OF OUR GOING LANDLORDS.

BY SARAH MAHE BRIGHAM.

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AS A SMALL one we were pressing away towards the station. On, on, we went with feelings of contentment. Our little party was complete, the cars were comfortable, and the dining arrangements satisfactory.

"Gather 'round, 'round upon the air before we hardly find our way!" As we sat the train I said to Stella.

"What happy hours we spent on that homeward journey. Stella never tired of asking questions about her father's childhood home, and Melvorne seemed to enjoy picturing the old place. He would give the most minute descriptions of everything about it. At last, on a beautiful day in July, we were on a great ocean steamer bound for home.

One evening as we were standing on deck Melvorne asked: "Loyd, do you remember the day I found you?"

"Yes," I said, "I think I do! I little thought then that I was seeking a friend, and I found that he had lost the one he held most dear."

"And did you expect to find us so far from home?" asked Lady Irving archly.

"No, my lady," said Melvorne, half playfully. "When I was in London I would not seek you for fear my sweet girl friend would be changed to a cold proud woman of fashion."

"What do you think now?" she asked mischievously.

"I think," he said, catching her in his arms, "that I shall hold you a prisoner until you name the day that I shall call you mine!"

ABOUT noon we reached the mansion, which through Melvorne's generosity, was now the property of Miss Stella Everett, grand-daughter of the Earl of York.

"Then this was the childhood home of my simple, loving father, who never gave me a hint that he belonged to the English nobility. He was content to live a life of usefulness among the humble tenant people, and tears rolled down her cheeks from thinking of the past."

"Yes, cousin, this was his childhood home," said Melvorne. "It was almost my home too. I have passed many happy hours here with my grandfather. He never tired talking of Charlie. He was his father's pride and joy until, in a moment of passion, that father had disowned his son and sent him away, henceforth to be a stranger from his home."

"What would it be?" asked Stella.

"I will grant your request," said Stella, offering him her hand as a pledge for his fulfillment. Then she turned to me, saying: "You agree with me in keeping this promise?"

"Most surely! I could not help agreeing to live in such a beautiful place," I said, putting her hand upon my arm, as we started to leave the fountain, where Lady Irving had been watching the little fishes, while we had been talking. As we entered the hall Lady Irving said:

"I think Stella and I might command quite a large circle of friends who would add much pleasure and enjoyment to all these fine arrangements."

"I am only too anxious to introduce the Duchess of Melvorne to a large circle of friends," said Melvorne.

"My father had those clear blue eyes and a broad smooth brow, but the expression of his mouth was not so hard and proud," said Stella as she moved away.

"This was my mother's room," said Melvorne, leading the way into another apartment. The room was trimmed in blue and white. The ground work of the carpet, the curtains and all the drapery of the room was blue, while delicate vines and leaves were traced in white.

reached Waverland. I immediately set men to work repairing the place. The lodge at the gate I had taken down and set workmen to rebuilding it after the plan of one I had seen in Colorado. I had the lawn mowed, the walks re-graveled, the trees and shrubs trimmed and the old fountain once more gurgled forth its glees in silvery sprays.

The next day after my return I rode over to Sir Wren's to get Myrtle. When I came up the avenue I saw her in the poultry yard feeding the chickens, ducks and pigeons. The pigeons were flying about her, some of them even alighting on her head and shoulders.

"O Loyd!" cried Myrtle, putting her arms about my neck as soon as I had dismounted, "have you come for me?"

"Yes, I want you home if you are ready to go. Where is Annie?"

"She is in the house," said Myrtle, running on to tell the news. As she opened the drawing room door she exclaimed, "O Annie, Loyd has come!"

"What news?" she asked bewildered.

"Why, why Loyd, old boy, are you home?" said Sir Wren, coming into the room.

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