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TERMS.
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Result of a Reversion.

Laura Grahame stood where they had left her; the "farewell" of the grave Walter Elliot and her gay cousin still rang upon her ears, and Grace's warm kisses still burned upon her lips; she returned their farewell with a smiling dignity, and motionless, watching their retreating forms until the trees hid them from her eyes. Gradually the smile faded from her lips, and a look of deep settled sorrow clouded her young face; the easy, dignified attitude was lost in the drooping figure and dejected expression. We will leave her thus in painful reverie, and sketch for our readers her previous history.

Laura Grahame was left an orphan when only three years of age; her father died of consumption, and her mother soon followed him to the grave. Mr. Danvers, her mother's brother, adopted the orphan, but no parent's care could be more tender than that which her uncle and aunt lavished upon little Laura. Her father owned large estates in the West Indies, which now became the property of the Indies. When she was about ten years old her uncle removed there, with Laura and their only child, Grace, then just seven years of age.

They had been but one year in their new home when Mrs. Danvers was taken dangerously ill, and the physicians soon pronounced her case hopeless.

It was a darkened room, in which no sound, save the low breathing of the invalid and the stealthy movements of Mamma, the old nurse, could be heard. Laura sat by her aunt's side, holding her fevered hand in one of her own cool ones, while the other was pressed upon the invalid's burning brow. A strange feeling of awe, a vague presentiment of evil kept her silent.

"Laura," said Mrs. Danvers in a low, feeble tone. "I am here, dear aunt Emily. What can I do for you?"

"Nothing, darling. My poor child, you have lost your own mother, and now I, who have tried to fill her place, am about to leave you too."

"Oh, aunt, how can I do without you?" sobbed the child, all her long restrained grief bursting forth.

"You have been a good, dutiful child, Laura darling, and a great blessing to me; now you have lost me, and I must leave you to your dear mother and dear old sister to my Grace."

"Oh, if I were but older," said Laura, "I would be her mother, as you have been mine."

"You are old enough, Laura, to exert a great influence over her. She loves you fondly, and you can by example and affection, lead her to good or evil. You are serious and thoughtful beyond your years, while Grace is light-headed and gay, but affectionate and frank. Gently guide her, Laura, by love, as I would wish her to, go, my dear Laura."

"I will, dear aunt, I will do my best. My gratification and interests shall always give way before her good."

Faithfully did Laura keep the promise she had made. Young as she was, she understood the obligations it imposed upon her; and as she had said, her own interests gave way before her cousin's. Laura's tasks were learned with double diligence, in order that when Grace needed assistance in her's it should be ready for her. There was a warm love between these motherless ones that naught but death could destroy.

When Laura was nineteen years old, Walter Elliot, a young man in whom Mr. Danvers was much interested, came to visit him. His father had died some years before, and his partner in business and Walter, on the death of his own father, sought and found a firm friend in his former partner. He was a handsome, intelligent young man, a medical student; but by too close application to his books he had injured his health severely, and the physicians recommended a winter in the warmer climate. An invitation from Mr. Danvers to pass it with him was gratefully accepted, and Walter was expected every day.

It was a bright, clear day, in the early part of November, when Walter, pale, sick and weary with his long sojourn, arrived at his father's house. He was spending a few weeks in Havana with Mrs. Elliot; Mr. Danvers was taking his daily ride, and Laura was alone to receive him. The ride and the exertion of getting from the carriage were too much for the invalid, and he fainted at the door. Laura terrified at his death-like appearance, stood watching, while Mamma had him carried into the parlor, and hastened away to find restoratives. She bent over him, parted the hair from his high white forehead, and assisted Mamma in bathing his face, while her whole frame trembled with terror.

When Walter recovered consciousness the first object that met his gaze was the pale face of his hostess, whose eyes were fixed with deep pity upon him. He tried to thank her, but she placed her tiny hands on his lips, whispering—"Lie still, and don't try to talk; Mamma will stay by you, while I give orders about your room." And with a smile and graceful courtesy Laura left him.

Walter's fainting fit was but the beginning of a long illness; he was taken to his room, and for seven weeks he did not leave it. Laura, who had been the faithful nurse, was now with Mamma; she it was who prepared his medicine and cooling drinks, and in his delirium, placed the cloths wet with cold water upon his head; while Mamma, who liked to reign supreme in the sick-room, sat watching, with a mixture of admiration and jealousy, the fair usurper of her office.

Walter had been delirious for several days; but by one afternoon in a quiet sleep, from which the doctor thought he would awaken in his senses. Laura took a book and sat by the side of the bed, to be near when he wished for anything, while Mamma sat sewing at the window. Walter at length slowly opened his eyes and fixed them upon the fair reader, who absorbed in her book, did not see him. He noted all the maiden's beauties; the rich black hair banded smoothly off her high forehead, the regular features, clear, dark complexion, long jetty eyelashes, that now drooped over the large, black eyes; the tall, noble figure, that black and beautifully rounded arm—all were perfect. He lay so motionless, "she is so light-hearted, she would get over this. He is mine—mine! But he loves me not!"

Time flew by as he lay there; he was so absorbed in her reverie that the hours were as minutes. At length she turned and reentered the house; with tottering steps she regained the room, once there, she collected all her calmness, wrote and folded a note, carried it herself to Walter's room, and then again in her own chamber, her task over, she fell without consciousness on the floor.

When Walter awoke from his ride he found upon his table the following note—"Grace has told me all; you are free!"

When Laura rejoined them the next morning she was again calm, dignified and even cheerful. Walter and Grace never knew the struggle and anguish this had cost her heroine, and Walter said to himself, "she is too cool to love!"

Grace returned home with Walter, Laura staying in the West Indies with her uncle; when he died she returned to her father's house; some time after this she went on a visit to her father's house, and was accompanied by her sister, Mamma, and her young brother, who was with her on board the ship S. Louis and with his wife sailed for Oregon. A long wedding tour.

Recollections of Washington.

In giving a graphic description of the stature and form of Washington, we give not only the result of our personal observation and experience of many years, but information derived from the highest authority—a favorite nephew.

Major Lawrence Lewis asked his uncle what was his height in the prime of life? He replied, "In my best days, Lawrence, I stood five feet and two inches in ornamental shoes." We know that he measured by a standard precisely six feet, when laid out in death. Of his weight we are an evidence, having heard him say to Crawford, governor of Canada, in 1780, "my weight in my best days, sir, never exceeded from two hundred and ten to twenty." His form was unique, unlike most athletic frames that expand at the shoulders and then gather in at the hips. The form of Washington deviated from the general rule, since it descended from the shoulders to the hips in perpendicular lines, the breadth of the trunk being nearly as great at the one as at the other. His limbs were long, large and sinewy; in his lower limbs he was what is usually called straight-limbed. His joints, feet and hands were large, and could cast his dimensions from his right hand, so far did his dimensions exceed nature's model that it would have been preserved in museums for ages as the anatomical wonder of the 18th century.

Lafayette remembered this remarkable hand, when during his triumph in America, he said in the portico at Mount Vernon, "It was here in 1784 I was first introduced to you by the good general; it is a long white age; you were then a very little gentleman, rigged out in cap and feather, and held by one finger of the general's mighty hand. It was all you could do at that time, my dear sir."

The eyes of the chief were a light grayish blue, deep sunken in their sockets; giving the expression of gravity and thought. Stuart painted these eyes of a deeper blue, saying in a hundred years they will have faded to the general rule; his hair was round white, and very thin in his latter days. In his movements he preserved, in a remarkable degree and to advantage, the elastic step that he had acquired in his service on the frontier.

Being ordered one morning very early into the library, at Mount Vernon, a spot that none entered without orders, the weather being warm, we found the chief very much undressed, and while looking on his many framed, we discovered that the center of his chest was indented. This is an exception to the general rule; laid down by anatomists, that where the human frame possessed great muscular power, the chest should rather be rounded out and protuberant than indented. We were equally surprised to find how thin he was in person, being, with the absence of flesh, literally a man of "chews and sinews." He wore around his neck the miniature portrait of his wife. This he had worn through all the vicissitudes of his eventful career, from the period of his marriage to the "last days of Mount Vernon."

In the appearance of Washington there was nothing of the bulliness, but there was united all that was dignified and graceful, while his air and manner were at once noble and commanding. No one approached him that did not feel for him, as Lord Erskine observed, "a degree of awful reverence." He wore a sword with peculiar grace. The viscount de Noailles said it was because "the man was made for the sword, and not the sword for the man."

Lafayette, not long after the war of the revolution wrote a letter to Col. Trumbull urging him to paint an equestrian portrait of the chief as he appeared on the field of Monmouth. The illustrious Frenchman, America's great benefactor, said to us: "I was a young major-general on that memorable day, and had a great deal to do, but took time, among the heat and fury of the fight, to gaze upon and admire Washington, as, mounted on a splendid charger covered with foam, he rallied our line with words never to be forgotten. Stand fast, my boys, and receive your enemy; the good of the nation is at stake; support you!" "I thought then as I do now," continued the good Lafayette, "that never have I seen so superb a man."

Our readers may ask, shall the standard portrait be equestrian? We reply, to the portrait of one so accomplished a cavalier as Washington was, the white charger, with the leopard skin housings, &c., would be an embellishment, the chief to be dismounted, with arm resting on the saddle, after the manner of Trumbull.

Was he rather equestrian or not, the Americans have the materials for the standard before them in the head from Stuart, with some slight modification from the original of 1772, and the figure from Trumbull's original. They have only to choose their artist and let the work be done.

When this noble empire shall have achieved its high destiny, and embracing a continent, attained a power and grandeur unexampled in the history of nations, the future American, from the topmost heights of his greatness, will look back upon the early days of his country, and the heroism of the age of Washington and, who, contemplating the image of the pater patriae, perpetuated by the mellowed tints of the canvas, and the freshness of time-enduring bronze, with honest pride of ancestry he will exclaim, "My father was the associate of that great man in the perils and glories of the struggle for American independence. Let there be undying honor to the memory of Washington. Ever green be the laurels that deck his trophied tomb, ever living be the homage of his hearts to the hero and sage, who, under Providence, with humble means, so much contributed to raise his native land from the depths of dependence and to place her in the rank of nations; who