```
gest of the two daughters of a most affectionate, indulgent father; and had, in consequence of her sister's marriage, been mistress of his house from a very early period. Her mother had died too long ago for her to have more than an indistinct remembrance of her caresses; and her place had been supplied
by an excellent woman as governess, who had fallen little short of a mother in affection. Sixteen years had Miss Taylor been in Mr. Woodhouse's family, less as a governess than a friend, very fond of both daughters, but particularly of Emma. Between them it was more the intimacy of sisters. Even before M
ss Taylor had ceased to hold the nominal office of governess, the mildness of her temper had hardly allowed her to impose any restraint; and the shadow of authority being now long passed away, they had been living together as friend and friend very mutually attached, and Emma doing just what she liked
highly esteeming Miss Taylor's judgment, but directed chiefly by her own. The real evils, indeed, of Emma's situation were the disadvantages which threatened alloy to her many enjoyments.
he danger, however, was at present so unperceived, that they did not by any means rank as misfortunes with her. Sorrow came-a gentle sorrow--but not at all in the shape of any disagreeable consciousness.--Miss Taylor married. It was Miss Taylor's loss which first brought grief. It was on the wedding-day
of this beloved friend that Emma first sat in mournful thought of any continuance. The wedding over, and the bride-people gone, her father composed himself to sleep after dinner, as usual, and she had then
only to sit and think of what she had lost. The event had every promise of happiness for her friend. Mr. Weston was a man of unexceptionable character, easy fortune, suitable age, and pleasant manners; and there was some satisfaction in considering with what self-denying, generous friendship she had a
way's wished and promoted the match; but it was a black morning's work for her. The want of Miss Taylor would be felt every hour of every day. She recalled her past kindness--the kindness--the kindness--the kindness the affection of sixteen years--how she had taught and how she had played with her from five years old--how she ha
d devoted all her powers to attach and amuse her in health--and how nursed her through the various illnesses of childhood. A large debt of gratitude was owing here; but the intercourse of the last seven years, the equal footing and perfect unreserve
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              which had soon followed Isabella's marriage, on their
being left to each other, was yet a dearer, tenderer recollection. She had been a friend and companion such as few possessed: intelligent, well-informed, useful, gentle, knowing all the ways of the family, interested in all its concerns, and peculiarly in
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                terested in herself, in every pleasure, every scheme of
hers--one to whom she could speak every thought as it arose, and who had such an affection for her as could never find fault. How was she to bear the change?--It was true that her friend was going only half a mile from them; but Emma was aware
ton, only half a mile from them, and a Miss Taylor in the house; and with all her advantages, natural and domestic, she was now in great danger of suffering from intellectual solitude. She dearly loved her father, but he was no companion for her. He c
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               ould not meet her in conversation, rational or playful
The evil of the actual disparity in their ages (and Mr. Woodhouse had not married early) was much increased by his constitution and habits; for having been a valetudinarian all his life, without activity of mind or body, he was a much older man in way s than in years; and though everywhere beloved for the
friendliness of his heart and his amiable temper, his talents could not have recommended him at any time. Her sister, though comparatively but little
                                                                                                                                                                           removed by matrimony, being settled in London, only sixteen miles off, was much beyond her d ail
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  y reach; and many a long October and November e
vening must be struggled through at Hartfield, before Christmas brought the next visit fro m Isabella and her husband, and their little children, to
                                                                                                                                                                                ill the house, and give her pleasant society again. Highbury, the large and populous village,
pite of its separate lawn, and shrubberies, and name, did really belong, afforded her no
                                                                                                      equals. The Wo odhouses were first in conseq
                                                                                                                                                                                  here. All looked up to them. She had many acquaintance in the place, for her fat
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 her w as universally civil, but not one among them who could be
                                                                                                                                                                                    possible things, till her father awoke, and made it necessary to be cheerful. His
accepted in lieu of Miss Taylor for even half a day. It was a melancholy change; and E
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   spi rits required sup
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               port. H e was a nervous man, easily
depressed; fond of every body that he was used to, and hating to part with them; h
                                                                                                                                                                 as the or
                                                                                                                                                                                      igin of change, was always disagreeable; and he was by no means yet reconci
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   led to his own daugh
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          s marrying, nor could ever sp
eak of her but with compassion, though it had been entirely a match of aff
                                                                                                                           ow obliged to part with M
                                                                                                                                                                 iss Taylo
                                                                                                                                                                                       r too; and from his habits of gentle selfishness, and of being never able to suppose that o ther people
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          ould feel differently from him
                                                                                                                                                                                        eal happier if she had spent all the rest of her life at Hartfield. Emma smiled and c hatt
self, he was very much disposed to think Miss Taylor had done as sad a th
                                                                                         ing f or herself as for the
                                                                                                                                                                  a great d
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    Ily as she could, to keep him from s
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             annot agree w ith you, papa; you know I cannot. Mr
uch thoughts; but when tea came, it was impossible for him not to say exa
                                                                                                                                                                  wish she w
                                                                                                                                                                                                            e again. What a pity it is that Mr. Weston ever thought of her!" "
Weston is such a good-humoured, pleasant, excellent man, that he thoroughl y deserves a good wife;-- an d you would not hav
                                                                                                                                                                e had Miss Ta
                                                                                                                                                                                                          ylor live with us for ever, and bear all my odd humours, when she
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  ght have a house of he
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                r own ?" "A house of
er own!--But where is the advantage of a ho
                                                   use of her own? This is three ti mes as large.--And you ha ve never any odd h
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  ten we shall be going to see them, and they
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     to see us!--We shall b
                                                                   very soon." "My dear, how am I to get so f ar
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      st go in the carriage, t
We must begin; we must go and pay weddi
                                                                                                                                                                 a distance. I co
                                                                                                                                                                                          uld not wa
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     "No, papa, nobody thought of your walking . We mu
arriage! But James will not like to put the ho
                                                                     to for such a li ttle
                                                                                                                                                          o be while we are pay
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     to be put into Mr. Weston's stable, papa.
                                                                                                                                                                                           ing our vis
                                                                                                                                                                                                               it?" "They are
talked it all over with Mr. Weston last night.
                                                                    as for James, yo
                                                                                              u may be very sure he will always
                                                                                                                                                       like going to Randalls. b
                                                                                                                                                                                           ecause of h
                                                                                                                                                                                                                is daughter's being housemaid there. I only doubt whether
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 ke us anywhe re e
ur doing, papa. You got Hannah that good place.
                                                                  body thought o
                                                                                                                                                    s is so obliged to you!" "I
                                                                                                                                                                                           am very glad
                                                                                                                                                                                                                I did think of her. It was very lucky, for I would not have ha d poor Jame s think himself slighte d up on any account; a
nd I am sure she will make a very good servant: sh e i
                                                                s a civil, pretty- spoken girl; I have a great opinion of
                                                                                                                                                    never I see her, she alway
                                                                                                                                                                                         s curtseys and asks
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           how I do, in a very pretty manner; an d when you
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       have had her here to do needlework, I observ
                                                                                                                                                   d it will be a great comfort to poor Miss Taylor to have
e she always turns the lock of the door the right way and never bangs
know, she will be hearing of us. He will be able to tell
                                                                                                                                                   appier flow of ideas, and hoped, by the help of backg ammon, to get her fath
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 er tolerably through the eveni
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    ng, and be att acked by no regrets but her own. The backga
mmon-table was placed: but a visitor immediately afte rwards walked in and made it unnecessary.
                                                                                                                             ightley, a sensible man about seven or eight-and-thirty, was not only a very old and intimate friend
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  of the family, but particular
nd. He lived about a mile from Highbury, was a frequen _t visitor, an _ d always welcome, and at this t _ im_
                                                                                                                           e more welcome than usual, as coming directly from their mutual connexions in London. He had returned to a late dinner, after so
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     me days' absence, and now walked up to Hartfield to say the
t all were well in Brunswick Square. It was a happy circu mstance, and animated Mr. Woodhouse fowas over, Mr. Woodhouse gratefully observed, "It is very kind of you, Mr. Knightley, to come out
                                                                                                                          r some time. Mr. Knightley had a cheerful manner, which always did
                                                                                                                                                                                                            him good; and his many inquiries aft er "poor Isabella" and
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      her children were answered mose t satisfactorily. When this
                                                                                                                                                                                                             shocking walk." "Not at all, sir. It is a
                                                                                                                        at this late hour to call upon us. I am afraid you must have ha
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          beautiful moonlight ni
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      ght; and so mil d that I must dra w back from your great fire
                                                                                                                       ! Look at my shoes. Not a speck on them." "Well! that is qui
  "But you must have found it very damp and dirty. I wish
                                                                          u may not catch cold." "Dirty, sir
                                                                                                                                                                                                             prising, for we have had a vast deal of
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      readfully hard for half an hour while we were at breakfast
wanted them to put off the wedding."
                                               "By the bye--I have
                                                                            not wished you joy. Being prett
                                                                                                                      well aware of what sort of joy you must both be feeling, I ha
                                                                                                                                                                                              ve been in
                                                                                                                                                                                                              no hurry with my congratulations; but I
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               hope it all went off
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        tolerably well. How did you all behave? Who cried most?
                                                                                                                ease; but I cannot possibly say 'poor Miss Taylor.' I have a great regard for you and Emma; but when it comes to fanciful, troublesome creature!" said Emma playfully. "That is what you have in your head, I know -- and
 "Ah! poor Miss Taylor! 'Tis a sad bus
                                                                          and Miss Woodhouse, if you pl
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 the question of dep endence or ind ependence!- -At an
tter to have only one to please than tw
                                                   " "Especially wh
                                                                          en one of those two is such a
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 u would certainly s
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         ay if my fathe
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              r were no t by.
true, my dear, indeed," said Mr. Wood
                                                                                                              very fanciful and troublesome." My dearest papa! You do not think I could mean you, or suppose
                                                house, with a sigh.
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         M r. Knightley to me an you. What a ho
                                                                                                             hat we like to one another." Mr. Knightley, in fact, was one of the few people who could see faults in Emma
ightley loves to find fault with me, you k
                                               now-- in a joke--it is
                                                                           all a joke. We always say w
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          Woodhouse, and the
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             er told her of t
articularly agreeable to Emma herself, she kne
                                                                           so much less so to her fa
                                                                                                             ther, that she would not have him really suspect such a circumstance as her not being thought perfect by
                                                                                                             she will now have but one. The chances are that she must be a gainer." "Well," said Emma, willing to let i
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  py t o tell v
lection on any body. Miss Taylor
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              ding: and I shall b
                                                                           ve two persons to please
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    ou. for
                                                                            , every body in their bes
we all behaved charmingly. Every
                                                                                                           t looks: not a tear, and har dly a long face to be seen. Oh no; we all felt that we were going to be only ha
                                                        was punctua
                                                                                                           poor Miss Taylor, and I a m sure she will miss her more than she thinks for." Emma turned away her head, divided between tears and smiles.
hing so well," said her father. "But, M
                                                                            really very sorry to lose
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              mpossible that Emm
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     ul d no
                                                                                                                                            but she knows how much the marriage is to Miss Taylor's advantage; she knows how very acceptable it must be, at Mi ss
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              Taylor's time of life, to
                                                                                                          ir, if we could suppose it;
r own, and how importan
                                t to her to be secure of a com
                                                                                                         therefore cannot allow here self to feel so much pain as pleasure. Every friend of Miss Taylor must be glad to have her so happily married." "And you ha
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              ve forgotten one matte
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            r of joy to me," said Emma
                                                                                                       tch, you know, four years—ago; and to have it take place, and be proved in the right, when so many people said Mr. Weston would never marry again, may c
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              omfort me for any thing
                                 fondly replied,
                                                                              wish you would n
                                                                                                      ot make matches and fo retell things, for whatever you say always comes to pass. Pray do not make any more matches." "I promise you to make none for my
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              self, papa; but I must. in
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            deed, for o ther people. It is
                                                                                                                                          Mr. Weston would never marry again. On dear, no! Mr. Weston, who had been a widower so long, and who seemed so perfectl ays cheerful--Mr. Weston need not spend a single evening in the year alone if he did not like it. Oh no! Mr. Weston certain
                                                                    fter such success, you kn
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             wife, so c onstantly occup
                         siness in town or amo ng h
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            gain. Som e people even ta
                                                                is friends here, always acce
                                                                                                    ptable wher ever he went, alw
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               ly would never marry a
                                                             d. and others of the son and t
                                                                                                                                               nner of solemn nonsense was talked on the subject, but I believed none of it. "Ever since the day--about four years ago-
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     -that Miss Taylor a
ked of a promise to
                                                                                                  h gallan try, and borrowed two umbrellas for us from Farmer Mitchell's, I made up my mind on the subject. I planned the match from that hour; and when such
way Lane, when, becaus e it began to drizzl
                                                           e, he darted away with so muc
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     uccess has blesse
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            d me in th is instance, dea
papa, you cannot think t hat I shall leave off
                                                                                                            what you mean by 'success,'" said Mr. Knightley. "Success supposes endeavour. Your time has been properly and delicately spent, if you have been
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     deavouring for the
bout this marriage. A wo rthy employment
                                                                                                if, whic h I rather imagine, your making the match, as you call it, means only your planning it, your saying to yourself one idle day, 'I think it would be a very goo
                                                        for a young lady's mind! But
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      d thing for Miss T aylor if Mr. Weston were t
                                                                                                       why do you talk of success? Where is your merit? What are you proud of? You made a lucky guess; and that is all that can be said." "And have you neve
o marry her,' and saying it again to yours
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       r known the plea
                                                      elf every now and then after
                                                                                                       is never merely luck. There is always some talent in it. And as to my poor word 'success,' which you quarrel with, I do not know that I am so entirely without
y guess?--I pity you.--I th ought you clever
                                                     er--for, depend upon it a luc
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      ut any claim to it
                                                                                        the do-n othing and the do-all. If I had not promoted Mr. Weston's visits here, and given many little encouragements, and smoothed many little matters, it might not had
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       ve come to any
nust know Hartfield enou ah to compre
                                                    hend that.""A straightfor
                                                                                                  en-hearted man like Weston, and a rational, unaffected woman like Miss Taylor, may be safely left to manage their own concerns. You are more likely to have d
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       one harm to vo
                                                   of herself, if she can do
                                                                                                  others," rejoined Mr. Woodhouse, understanding but in part. "But, my dear, pray do not make any more matches; they are silly things, and break up one's fami
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       circle grievous
                                                                                               ust look about for a wife for him. There is nobody in Highbury who deserves him-and he has been here a whole year, and has fitted up his house so comfortably
a; only for Mr. Elton. Poor M r. Elton! Y
                                                  ou like Mr. Elton, pap
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        at it would be
                                                   he was joining the
                                                                                             ir hands to-day, he looked so very much as if he would like to have the same kind office done for him! I think very well of Mr. Elton, and this is the only way I have
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         oing him a s
                                                                                       oung man, and I have a great regard for him. But if you want to shew him any attention, my dear, ask him to come and dine with us some day. That will be a much bette
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           g. I dare sa
very pretty young man, to be
                                                  d a very good y
                                                                           easure, sir, at any time," said Mr. Knightley, laughing, "and I agree with you entirely, that it will be a much better thing. Invite him to dinner, Emma, and help him to the best of n of six or seven-and-twenty can take care of himself." CHAPTER II Mr. Weston was a native of Highbury, and born of a respectable family, which for the last two or three general
chuse his own wife. Depend u pon it,
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               ions had
                                                                        on, but, on succeeding early in life to a small independence, had become indisposed for any of the more homely pursuits in which his bro
erty. He had received a good ed ucati
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               an active
                                                                                          ied. Captain Weston was a general favourite; and when the chances of his military life had introduced him to Miss Ch
by entering into the militia of his co
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   urchill, of a great Yorkshire fa
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              mily, and M
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               rchill fell in love with him
nobody was surprized, except he
                                                                                          who had never seen him, and who were full of pride and importance, which the connexion would offend. Miss Chu
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      rchill, however, being of a
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              ge, and with
-though her fortune bore no prop
                                                                                           -was not to be dissuaded from the marriage, and it took place, to the infinite mortification of Mr. and Mrs. Chur
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       chill, who threw her off w
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              ith due deco
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              It was an unsuitable conne
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         thing due to her in retu
xion, and did not produce much
                                                                                          t to have found more in it, for she had a husband whose warm heart and sweet temper made him think every
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             rn for the gre
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              oodness of being in love w
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                unreasonable anger, nor
ith him; but though she had one
                                               sort of spirit, she had not the b
                                                                                        est. She had resolution enough to pursue her own will in spite of her brother, but not enough to refrain from u
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         nreasonable regrets at
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              that brother's
                                               former home. They lived be yound their income, but still it was nothing in comparison of Enscombe: she did not cease to love her husband, but
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            o be the wife of
                                              in Weston, who had bee
                                                                            n considered, especially by the Churchills, as making such an amazing match, was proved to have much the worst of the
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             is wife died, aft
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               er a three vears' marriage
                                                                                        maintain. From the expense of the child, however, he was soon relieved. The boy had, with the additional softening
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         a claim of a linger
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            ing illness of his
s of a sort of reconciliation; an
                                             d Mr. and
                                                                                          having no children of their own, nor any other young creature of equal kindred to care for, offered to take the who
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          le charge of th
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           e little Frank soon
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               after her decease. Some s
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       the wealth of t
cruples and some reluctance t
                                                                                        be supposed to have felt; but as they were overcome by other considerations, the child was given up to the care an
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          he Churchills, and I
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              e had only his own comfor
                                                                      as he could. A complete change of life became desirable. He quitted the militia and engaged in trade, having brothers already est
t to seek, and his own situatio
                                            n to imp
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         a good way in Londo
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              n, which afforded him a fav
                                                                   brought just employment enough. He had still a small house in Highbury, where most of his leisure days were spent; and between us
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       pation and the pleasur
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              es of society, the next eigh
                                             passed c
                                                               heerfully away. He had, by that time, realised an easy competence--enough to secure the purchase of a little estate adjoining Highbury, whi
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     h he had always longed
teen or twenty years of his lif
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              for--enough to marry a wo
                                             s Tavlor. a
                                                            nd to live according to the wishes of his own friendly and social disposition. It was now some time since Miss Taylor had begun to influence his
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              ot the tyrannic influence of
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    schemes: but as it was n
youth on youth, it had not shak
                                                                            f never settling till he could purchase Randalls, and the sale of Randalls was long looked forward to; but he had gone steadily on,
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  with these objects in view,
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                till they were accomplish
                                                                             obtained his wife; and was beginning a new period of existence, with every probability of greater happiness than in any yet passed t arriage; but his second must shew him how delightful a well-judging and truly amiable woman could be, and must give him the pleasan
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 rough. He had never been a
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                n unhappy man; his own
temper had secured him from th
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               test proof of its being a great
                                                                                                                          e in his choice: his fortune was his own; for as to Frank, it was more than being tacitly brough
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              t up as his uncle's heir, it had
ed an adoption as to have him a
                                                                             Churchill on coming of age. I
                                                                                                                              t was most unlikely, therefore, that he should ever want his father's assistance. His father h
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             ad no apprehension of it. The a
                                                                              it was not in Mr. Weston's
                                                                                                                                 nature to imagine that any caprice could be strong enough to affect one so dear, and, as h
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             e believed, so deservedly dear. H
y year in London, and was proud
                                                                                                                                  e young man had made Highbury feel a sort of pride in him too. He was looked on as su
                                                                               eport of him as a very fin
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             fficiently belonging to the place t
                                                                                                                                     sts of Highbury, and a lively curiosity to see him prevailed, though the compliment
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             was so little returned that he had
and prospects a kind of commo
                                             n con
                                                                                                                                      d. Now, upon his father's marriage, it was very generally proposed, as a most pr
with Mrs. and Miss Bates, or when Mrs. and Miss Bates returned the visit. Now
                                             is fathe r
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              oper attention, that the visit shou
                                            e on the
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                was the time for Mr. Frank Chui
                                                                                                                                            n to his new mother on the occasion. For a few days, every morning visit in
mong them; and the hope stre
                                           nathened
                                                           when it was understood that he had writte
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 Highbury included some menti
                                                                                                                                                         tter Mr. Frank Churchill has written to Mrs. Weston? I understar
                                           eived. "I s
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  was a very handsome letter, in
                                          dhouse sa
                                                         withe letter, and he says he never saw such
                                                                                                                                                           a handsome letter in his life." It was, indeed, a highly prized I
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  er. Mrs. Weston had, of course
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    . form ed a verv fav
                                                         such a pleasing attention was an irresistible p
                                                                                                                                                            of of his great good sense, and a most welcome addition to
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  very source and every expres
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   sion of con gratulation
                                        ad already s
                                                         ecured. She felt herself a most fortunate
                                                                                                                                                             and she had lived long enough to know how fortunate she
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  might well be thought, where
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   the only r egret was
                                       n from friend
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   e must be missed; and could
                                                         easure, or suffering an hour's ennui, from the
                                      ng a single pl
                                                                                                                                                                           ionableness: but dear Emma was of no feebl
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   haracter: she was more equa
                                                                                                                                        want of
                                                                                                                                                            oped would bear her well and happily through its little dif
                                      ave been, and
                                                         had sense, and energy, and spirits that might
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     Ities and privations. And th
an mo
          st girls would h
comfort in t he very eas
                                     y distance of R
                                                         andalls from Hartfield, so convenient for eve
                                                                                                                                                            solitary female walking, and in Mr. Weston's disposition
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     nd circumstances, which w
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     ould make the app
                                                                                                                                                           ether. Her situation was altogether the subject of hours of
                                                         spending half the evenings in the week tog
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      f gratitude to Mrs. Weston
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     and o
                                    atisfaction--he
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      new her father, was someti
nly of regret; a nd her s
                                                        r more than satisfaction--her cheerful enjoy
                                                                                                                                                        ment, was so just and so apparent, that Emma, well as she
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             taken by sur
prize at his bein g still a band to a carriag e of h
                                                        or Miss Taylor,' when they left her at Randal
                                                                                                                                                s in the centre of every domestic comfort, or saw her go aw
g a gentle sigh, and saying, "Ah, poor Miss Taylor! She would b
                                    ble to pity 'po
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        ay i
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       he evening attended by her
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             pleasant hus
                                                       ever did she go without Mr. Woodhouse's givin
                                     er own. But n
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        lad to stay." There was no
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            recovering Mi
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       e ver
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      y g
ss Taylor--nor mu ch lik
wished joy of so s orro
                                                                                                                                           me alleviation to Mr. Woodhouse. The compliments of his neighbou
                                     elihood of c
                                                       easing to pity her; but a few weeks brought so
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        e over; he was no longer t
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           eased by being
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      rs wer
                                                      nt; and the wedding-cake, which had been a grea
                                                                                                                                            t distress to him, was all eat up. His own stomach could bear noth
                                     wful an eve
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      ing rich,
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          and he could never belie
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          ve other people
                                                      was unwholesome to him he regarded as unfit for any bo
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          y wedding-cake at all, an
to be different from hi
                                                                                                                                                 and he had, therefore, earnestly tried to dissuade them from
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     having an
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          d when that pro
                                                                                                                                              nsulting Mr. Perry, the apothecary, on the subject. Mr. Perry wa
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           ent, gentlemanlike man,
ved vain, as earnestly
                                      tried to pr
                                                    event any body's eating it. He had been
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    s an intellig
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          whose frequent
                                                                                                             ng appl
visits were one of the
                                                                                                                          ied to, h
                                                                                                                                     e could not but acknowledge (though it seemed rather against the bias
                                      comforts
                                                    of Mr. Woodhouse's life; and upon bei
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    of inclinatio
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            n) that wedding-cake m
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          ight certainly di
                                                                                                                    lv. With such a
sagree with many--per
                                     haps with
                                                    most people, unless taken moderate
                                                                                                                                        n opinion, in confirmation of his own, Mr. Woodhouse hoped to infl
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  uence every v
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              isitor of the newly mar
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         ried pair; but still
                                                  as no rest for his benevolent nerves
the cake was eaten; an
                                     d there w
                                                                                                                                           e. There was a strange rumour in Highbury of all the little Perrys
                                                                                                                  till it was all gor
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  being seen w
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               th a slice of Mrs. We
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        ston's wedding-c
                                                                                                                  TER III Mr . W
                                                                                                                                              oodhouse was fond of society in his own way. He liked very
ake in their hands: but
                                    Mr. Wood
                                                  house would never believe it. CHAP
                                                                                                                                                                                                                               much to have hi
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                s friends come and
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       see him; and from
                                                   long residence at Hartfield, and his
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      wn little circle, in a
various united causes
                                     , from his
                                                                                                                                                  d nature, from his fortune, his house, and his daughter, h
                                                                                                                                                                                                                             e could command
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  the visits of his o
                                                                                                                       goo
                                                   had not much intercourse with any f
                                                                                                                     am ilie
                                                                                                                                                           s beyond that circle; his horror of late hours, an
great measure, as he l
                                    iked. He
                                                                                                                                                                                                                           d large dinner-parti
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  es, made him unf
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       it for any acquaint
                                                                                                                                                                                                                           h, and Donwell Abb
ance but such as wou
                                    ld visit hi
                                                   m on his own terms. Fortunately for
                                                                                                                     hi m. H
                                                                                                                                                            ighbury, including Randalls in the same paris
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   ey in the parish
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      adjoining, the seat
of Mr. Knightley, com
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     dine with him: b
                                   prehended
                                                     many such. Not unfrequently, th
                                                                                                                   rou gh E
                                                                                                                                                            mma's persuasion, he had some of the cho
                                                                                                                                                                                                                           sen and the best to
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     ut evening parties w
                                                                                                                                                             ual to company, there was scarcely an ev
and Mr. Knightley; and by Mr. Elton, a y
ere what he preferred
                                   ; and, un
                                                   le ss he fancied himself at any ti
                                                                                                                 me
                                                                                                                        uneq
                                                                                                                                                                                                                          ening in the week in
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      which Emma c
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     ould not make up a c
                                                                                                                        tons
ard-table for him. Rea
                                    I, long-st
                                                        anding regard brought the
                                                                                                                 Wes
                                                                                                                                                                                                                        oung man living alone
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        without likin
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    g it, the privilege of e
                                                                                                                                                             egancies and society of Mr. Woodhou
                                     evening
xchanging any vacant
                                                         of his own blank solitude
                                                                                                                 for
                                                                                                                         the el
                                                                                                                                                                                                                       se's drawing-room, an
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     of his lovely daught
er, was in no danger o
                                      f being
                                                             thrown away. After t
                                                                                                                                                             second set; among the most come-a
                                                                                                                                                                                                                   t-able of whom were Mrs.
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     ates, and Mrs. Godda
                                                                                                               se c
                                                                                                                        ame a
                                                                                                                                                             invitation from Hartfield, and who w
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     ften, that Mr. Woodh
rd, three ladies almost
                                       always
                                                                                              he s
                                                                                                               ervi
                                                                                                                        ce of an
                                                                                                                                                                                                                   ere fetched and carried h
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          ome so o
ouse thought it no hard
                                       ship for
                                                                                                               es o
                                                                                                                         r the ho
                                                                                                                                                            rses. Had it taken place only once a
                                                                                                                                                                                                                      year, it would have bee
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           n a grie
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     vance. Mrs. Bates, th
                                                                                                               ld la
                                                                                                                                                             Imost past every thing but tea and quadrille. Sh e lived with her single
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    hter in a very small w
e widow of a former vica
                                        r of Hia
                                                    hbury, wa
                                                                                          s a very o
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            e daug
                                                                                                                         dy, a
                                                                                                                                                              armless old lady, under such un toward circumst ances, can excite.
ay, and was considered
                                        with all
                                                     the regard and
                                                                                         respect whi
                                                                                                              ch a
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             Her d
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    aughter enjoyed a m
ost uncommon degree o
                                                    pularity for a woman neith
                                                                                                              ndso
                                                                                                                                                               ich, nor married. Miss Bates s tood in the very wo rst predicament i
                                         f po
                                                                                      er young, ha
                                                                                                                                            me, r
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              n th
uch of the public favour;
                                                    and she had no intellectual superiority to m
                                                                                                             ake a
                                                                                                                                         tonement
                                                                                                                                                                 to herself, or frighten those who might hate her into outward res
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    ect. She had never b
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    he endeavour to mak
oasted either beauty or o
                                                   leverness. Her youth had passed without d
                                                                                                              istinc
                                                                                                                                        tion, and he
                                                                                                                                                                 r middle of life was devote d to the care of a failin g mother, and t
                                                ar as possible. And yet she was a happy wo
                                                                                                                                                                  man whom no one named without go
e a small income go as f
                                                                                                                                        an, and a wo
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     was her own univers
                                               ted temper which worked such wonders. S
                                                                                                                                                                   y body, was interested i n every
al good-will and conten
                                                                                                                                         he loved ever
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    ody's ha
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        ppin
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   ess, qui
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   cksighted to every bod
y's merits; thought her
                                             self a most fortunate creature, and surroun
                                                                                                                                          ded with bles
                                                                                                                                                                     sings in such an excel
                                                                                                                                                                                                                              mo
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    ther, and
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        so m
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   any good
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  neighbours and friend
                                       ted for nothing. The simplicity and cheerful felicity to herself. She was a great talker upo
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   grateful
s, and a home that wan
                                                                                                                                           ness of her n
                                                                                                                                                                      ature, her contented
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       spirit
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 recommendation to ever
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    , were a
y body, and a mine of
                                                                                                                                            n little matter
                                                                                                                                                                       s, which exactly suit
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    r. Woodh
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       ouse,
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    full of tr
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                ivial communications an
d harmless gossip. Mr
                                       s. Goddard was the mistress of a School--n
                                                                                                                                             ot of a semin
                                                                                                                                                                       ary, or an establis
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      y thing
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    which p
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               rofessed, in long sentenc
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    nt, or an
es of refined nonsens
                                       e, to combine liberal acquirements with ele
                                                                                                                                              gant morality
                                                                                                                                                                        , upon new prin
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                new system
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   s--and w
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              here young ladies for enor
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    es and
mous pay might be sc
                                       rewed out of health and into vanity--but a
                                                                                                                                                real, honest,
                                                                                                                                                                        old-fashione
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   oarding
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               -school, who
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   re a reas
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              onable quantity of accom
plishments were sold
                                      at a reasonable price, and where girls mi
                                                                                                                                                 ght be sent t
                                                                                                                                                                       o be out of the
                                                                                                                                                                                            way, and scramb
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    le them
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              selves into a li
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  ttle educ
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              ation, without any danger
of coming back prodig
                                      ies. Mrs. Goddard's school was in high
                                                                                                                                                  repute--and
                                                                                                                                                                        very deservedl
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   y; for
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            Highbury was re
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  ckoned a
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              particularly healthy spot:
she had an ample hou
                                      se and garden, gave the children plenty
                                                                                                                                                    of wholeso
                                                                                                                                                                       me food, let them
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    run a
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           bout a great deal
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   in the sum
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               mer, and in winter dresse
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          w walked after her
d their chilblains with
                                      her own hands. It was no wonder that
                                                                                                                                                    a train of
                                                                                                                                                                        venty young cou
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   ple no
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  to church.
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 She was a plain, mothe
rly kind of woman, w
                                     ho had worked hard in her youth, and
                                                                                                                                                    now thoug
                                                                                                                                                                        ht herself entitled
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   o the o
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          ccasional holiday o
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  f a tea-visit
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 ; and having formerly o
                                     odhouse's kindness, felt his particula
wed much to Mr. Wo
                                                                                                                                                     r claim o
                                                                                                                                                                        n her to leave her n
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 at parlour
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           , hung round with
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  fancy-work
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  whenever she could, a
nd win or lose a few
                                      sixpences by his fireside. These wer
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  o collect; an
                                                                                                                                                       e the lad
                                                                                                                                                                        ies whom Emma fo
                                                                                                                                                                                                                          und herself ver
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           y frequently able t
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 d happy was she, for he
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           ence of Mrs. West
r father's sake, in the
                                      power; though, as far as she was h
                                                                                                                                                        erself c
                                                                                                                                                                       oncerned, it was no
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  on. She was
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  delighted to see her fat
her look comfortable,
                                      and very much pleased with hers
                                                                                                                                                         elf for c
                                                                                                                                                                       ontriving things so w
                                                                                                                                                                                                                   ell; but the quiet prosi
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            ngs of three such
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  women mad
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  e her feel that every ev
ening so spent was ir
                                      deed one of the long evenings she
                                                                                                                                                           had f
                                                                                                                                                                       earfully anticipated. A
                                                                                                                                                                                                                s she sat one morning, loo
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             king forward to exa
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   ctly such a c
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  lose of the present day
                                      rom Mrs. Goddard, requesting, in
                                                                                                                                                                        t respectful terms, to be allowed to bring Miss Smith with her
, a note was brought f
                                                                                                                                                            mos
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             ; a most welcome r
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    equest: for
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  Miss Smith was a girl o
                                                                                                                                                                        d long felt an interest in, on account of her beauty. A very gra
f seventeen, whom Em
                                      ma knew very well by sight, and
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             cious invitation was
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    returned, a
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   nd the evening no lon
                                       r mistress of the mansion. Har
ger dreaded by the fai
                                                                                                                                                                         Smith was the natural daughter of somebody. Somebody had
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             placed her, several y
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    ears back, a
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   t Mrs. Goddard's scho
ol, and somebody had
                                         lately raised her from the co
                                                                                                                                                                         n of scholar to that of parlour-boarder. This was all that was g
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             enerally known of he
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    r history. S
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   he had no visible frie
nds but what had been
                                         acquired at Highbury, and
                                                                                                                                                                         ow just returned from a long visit in the country to some youn
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              g ladies who had been
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     at school t
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    here with her. She wa
                                                                                                                                                                         f a sort which Emma particularly admired. She was short, plum
s a very pretty girl, and
                                           her beauty happened to b
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             p. and fair with a fine
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    bloom, blu
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   e eyes, light hair, reg
                                                                                                                                                                    b efore the end of the evening, Emma was as much pleased with h
ular features, and a look
                                           of great sweetness, and,
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              er manners as her pers
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    on, and qu
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    ite determined to con
                                                                                                                                                                   an y thing remarkably clever in Miss Smith's conversation, but she f
tinue the acquaintance
                                             She was not struck by
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             ound her altogether vei
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     y engagin
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   g--not inconveniently
                                                                                                                                                                       pushing, shewing so proper and becoming a deference, seeming s
shy, not
                                            alk--and yet so far from
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             o pleasantly grateful for
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     being ad
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   mitted to Hartfield, an
                                            sed by the appearance
                                                                                                                                                                       of every thing in so superior a style to what she had been used to
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              that she must have goo
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    d sense
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    , and deserve encour
                                             ent should be given. T
                                                                                                                                                                       hose soft blue eyes, and all those natural graces, should not be wa
             t. Encouragem
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             sted on the inferior socie
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     ty of
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    Highbury and its con
agemen
              The acquainta
nexions
                                             nce she had already fo
                                                                                                                                                                       rmed were unworthy of her. The friends from whom she had just p
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              arted, though very good
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    ort of people, must b
                                                                                                                                                                        he name of Martin, whom Emma well knew by character, as rentin
     e doing he r harm. T
                                              hey were a family of t
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              g a large farm of Mr. Kn
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     ightley, and residing
                                                                                                                                                                         y, she believed--she knew Mr. Knightley thought highly of them-
      n t he pari
                                              nwell--very creditabl
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               but they must be
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    coarse and unpolish
ed, and very u
                                               e the intimates of a g
                                                                                                                                                                           irl who wanted only a little more knowledge and elegance to be q
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                uite perfect.
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    would notice her; she
would imp rove
                                                                                                                                                                           rom her bad acquaintance, and introduce her into good society
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 ; she w
                                               e would detach her f
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     rm her o
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    pinions and her man
ners. It woul db e an intere
                                                                                                                                                                           a very kind undertaking, highly becoming her own situation in
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 life,
                                               sting, and certainly
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            her leisure,
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      and po
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     wers. She was so bu
                                                                                                                                                                             and listening, and forming all these schemes in the in-betw
sy in admiring
                                                blue eyes, in talking
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        s, that the even
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     ing fle
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     w away at a very un
                                                                                                                                                                              closed such parties, and for which she had been used to
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    sit and watch the d
usual rate; and t he suppe
                                               r-table, which always
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    ue ti
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     me, was all set out a
nd ready, and mov ed forw
                                               ards to the fire, befor
                                                                                                                                                                             e she was aware. With an alacrity beyond the common i
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               mpulse of a spirit which
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      t was never indiffe
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    ye
rent to the credit of doing e
                                               very thing well and at
                                                                                                                                                                               tentively, with the real good-will of a mind del
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     ighted with its own ideas, did s
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        acceptable to the
honours of the meal,
                                               elp and recommend
                                                                                                                                                                                the minced chicken and scalloped oyster s, with an
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 urgency which she knew would be
                                                                                                                                                                                 pon such occasions poor Mr. Woodhouses feelin
early hours and civil
                                                 es of their guests. U
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           gs were in sad warfare. He loved t
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      o hav
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       e the cloth laid, be
cause it had been the
                                                   n of his youth, but
                                                                                                                                                                                    his conviction of suppers being very unwhole some made him rather sorry to se
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  e any thing
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        put on it: and whi
le his hospitality woul
                                                      welcomed his v
                                                                                                                                                                                      isitors to every thing, his care for their health made him grieve that they wo
                                                                                                                                                                                        orough self-approbation, recommend; though he mi ght constrain hi
of thin gruel as his ow n was
                                                       all that he could
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  mself. w
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       were comfortably
clearing the nicer things
                                                        say: "Mrs. Bate
                                                                                                                                                        s, let me
                                                                                                                                                                                            propose your venturing on one of these eggs
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     . Ane gg bo
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               iled very soft is not unwholes
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        ome. Ser le unde
stands boiling an egg be
                                                        tter than any bo
                                                                                                                                                       dy. I woul
                                                                                                                                                                                                d not recommend an egg boiled by any bo
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         se; but you need not be afraid, th
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        ev are very small
                                                                                                                                                                                                     ates, let Emma help you to a little bit o
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      tart--a very little bit. Ours are all app
you see--one of our small
                                                        eggs will not hu
                                                                                                                                                       rt you. Mis
                                                                                                                                                                                  s B
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        le-ta rts. You nee
d not be afraid of unwholes
                                                                                                                                                                            e. I do n
                                                                                                                                                                                                      ot advise the custard. Mrs. Goddard,
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  what say you to half a glass of wine?
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        As ma II half-gla
                                                         ome preserves
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             r father to talk--but supplied her visitors i
ss, put into a tumbler of wate
                                                          r? I do not thin
                                                                                                                                                                              k it could
                                                                                                                                                                                                      disagree with you." Emma allowed he
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         n a much mo
                                                                                                                                                                                                      particular pleasure in sending the make away happy. The happiness of Miss Smith we o great a personage in Highbury, that the prospect of the introduction had given as muc
re satisfactory style, and on the
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 as quite
                                                             present even
                                                                                                                                                                              ing had
equal to her intentions. Miss Wo
                                                             odhouse was
                                                                                                                                                                                                    went off with highly gratified feelings, delighted with the affability with which Miss Wood at last! CHAPTER IV Harriet Smith's intimacy at Hartfield was soon a settled thing. Qui
as pleasure; but the humble, grate
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   house I
ad treated her all the evening, and a
                                                              ctually shake
                                                                                n hands
                                                                                                                                     with her
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   ck and
                                                                                                                                    raging, a
decided in her ways, Emma lost no ti
                                                               me in inviting
                                                                                                                                                                                               elling her to come very often; and as their acquaintance increased, so did their satisfacti
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     on in each othe
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   r. As a
                                                                                 , encou
walking companion, Emma had very e
                                                                                                                                  I she might
                                                                                                                                                                                              r. In that respect Mrs. Weston's loss had been important. Her father never went b eyon
                                                                 arly foresee n how us
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                d the shrubbery, whe
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  re two di
                                                                                                                                                                                            nd since Mrs. Weston's marriage her exercise had been too much conf ined. She h
visions of the ground sufficed him for h
                                                                    is long wa lk, or his
                                                                                                          short, as
                                                                                                                                     the year
                                                                                                                                                          varied; a
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            ad ventured once alon
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 e to Rand
                                                                                                                                                                                       ould summon at any time to a walk, would be a valuable addition to her privileges. Bu
alls, but it was not pleasant; and a Harrie
                                                                     t Smith, t
                                                                                                          efore, one
                                                                                                                                                          om she c
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        t in every respec t, a
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                s she saw
more of her, she approved her, and was co
                                                                       nfirmed
                                                                                                           n all her
                                                                                                                                                                                     d designs. Harriet certainly was not clever, but she had a sweet, docile, grate ful di
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   sposition, was totall y
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               free from co
nceit, and only desiring to be guided by an
                                                                                                                                                                                d up to. Her early attachment to herself was very amiable; and her inclination for
                                                                        v one sh
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             go od company, and pow
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            of appreciatin
g what was elegant and clever, shewed that
mith's being exactly the young friend she wa
Two such she did not want. It wa s quite a d
                                                                                                                                                                                 want of taste, though strength of understanding must not be expected. Alto
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        ced of Harriet S
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            get her she was quite con
                                                                                                                                                                           ething which her home required. Such a friend as Mrs. Weston was out of th
                                                                        nted--exac
                                                                                                                              the som
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               uestion. Two such
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       never be granted.
                                                                                                                                                                         ent distinct and independent. Mrs. Weston was the object of a regard whic
                                                                                             rt of thin
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              nd e steem. Harriet woul
                                                                         ifferent so
                                                                                                                           g, a sentim
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               asis in gratitude a
d be loved as one to whom s he c ould be u
                                                                        seful. For M
                                                                                          rs. Weston
                                                                                                                             there wa
                                                                                                                                                                         s nothing to be done; for Harriet every thing. Her first attempts at usefu
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    ness wer
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 endeavour to fin
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            d ou
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    t who were the pare
                                                                                                                                                                    ower, but on this subject questions were vain. Emma was obliged to fan
                                                                        dy to tell eve
                                                                                             ry thing
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               ut she could n ev
nts, but Harriet could not tell. She was rea
                                                                                                                              in her p
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              cy what she li
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    lieve that in the same
                                                                                                                                                                  riet had no penetration. She had been satisfied to hear and believe just w
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               hose to tell he
situation she should not hav e d iscove
                                                                         red the truth.
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           hat Mrs. G odda
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 rd
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       r; a
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                nd looked no farther. Mr
s. Goddard, and the teache r s,
                                                                           the girls and
                                                                                                                                                          the affairs of the school in general, formed naturally a great part of the conve
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         rsation--and but f
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               her acquaint
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            nce with the Martins of Abb
                                                                                                                                                         ut the Martins occupied her thoughts a good deal; she had spent two very h
ey-Mill Farm, it must hav e b
                                                                           n the whole. B
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      appy months w ith
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       and now loved to talk of the plea
sures of her visit, and des
                                                                                                                                                      ny comforts and wonders of the place. Emma encouraged her talkativenes
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    s--amused by such a
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  re of another set of beings, and enjoy
ing the youthful simpli cit
                                                                                                                                                  uld speak with so much exultation of Mrs. Ma rtin's having "two parlours,
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  two very good p arl o
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               urs, indeed; one of them quite as large
as Mrs. Goddard's drawi
                                                                                     ng-room; and
                                                                                                                                         ha ving an upper maid who had lived five-and-twen ty years with her; and of
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            ws, two of them Alderneys, and one a little
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               their having eight c o
                                                                                           little Welch co
                                                                                                                              eed; and of Mrs. Martin's saying as she was so fond of it, it s hould be called her cow; and o
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       ry handsome summer-house in their garden, w
Welch cow, a very pretty
                                                                                                                              o drink tea:--a very handsome summer-house, larg e en oug h to hold a dozen people." Fo r some time she was ings arose. She had taken up a wr ong idea, fancyin g it w as a mother and daug hter, a son and son's wife, ation for his great good-n ature i n doing so me th in g or other, was a s ing le man; that there was no
here some day next y
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  amused, without thinking beyond the immediate ca
                                                                                           ear they wer
                                                                                                                  e all t
use; but as she ca
                          me to understand the
                                                                                              better, ot
                                                                                                                her feel
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      who all lived together; but when it appeared that the Mr. Martin
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              young Mrs. Martin, no wife in the case; she did suspect danger to he
                     re a part in the narrative, and w
                                                                                                               h approb
r poor little friend from all this hospitality and kindness, and that, if she were not
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         ons increased in number and meaning; and she particularly led Harriet to
                                                                                                                                                                                                   orever. With this in
                                                                                                             taken car
                                                                                                                                e of, she might be requir ed to sink her sel ff
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 spiriting notion, her questi
talk more of Mr. Martin, and there was evidently no dislike to it. Harriet was very rea
                                                                                                                                 of the share he had had in their moonl
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      nd dwelt a good deal upon his being so very good-humoured and obliging.
                                                                                                            dy to speak
                                                                                                                                                                                                     ght walks and mer
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  evening g ames; a
He had gone three miles round one day in order to bring her some walnuts, because she
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   so very obliging. He had his shepherd's son into the parlour one night on purp
                                                                                                                 had sai
                                                                                                                                 d how fond she was of t hem , and
                                                                                                                                                                                                      in every thing e
                                                                                                                                                                                                                              is e he w a s
ose to sing to her. She was very fond of singing. He could sing a little himself. She belie
                                                                                                                                 s very clever, and un de
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               ry thing. He had a very fine flock, and, while she was with them, he had been bid
more for his wool than any body in the country. She believed every body spoke well of him. His mother a
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   very fond of him. Mrs. Martin had told her one day (and there was a blush as she said it,) that
                                                                                                                                  nd sister swere
it was impossible for any body to be a better son, and therefore she was sure, whenever he married, he wou
n!" thought Emma. "You know what you are about." "And when she had come away, Mrs. Martin was so very k
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            good husband. Not that she wanted him to marry. She was in no hurry at all. "Well done, Mrs. Marti
                                                                                                                                  ld mak e a
                                                                                                                                                                                                      nd as to send Mrs. Goddard a beautiful goose--the finest goose Mrs. Goddard had ever seen. Mrs. Goddard had dressed it on a Sun
day, and asked all the three teachers, Miss Nash, and Miss Prince, and Miss Richardson, to sup with her." "Mr.
                                                                                                                                                                                   tin, I suppose, is not a man of information beyond the line of his own business? He does not read?" "Oh yes!--that is, no--I do not know--but I believ
e he has read a good deal--but not what you would think any thing of. He reads the Agricultural Reports, and so
                                                                                                                                me other book
                                                                                                                                                                          s that lay in one of the window seats--but he reads all them to himself. But sometimes of an evening, before we went to cards, he would read something alou
d out of the Elegant Extracts, very entertaining. And I know he has read the Vicar of Wakefield. He never heard of such books before I mentioned them, but he is determined to get them now as soon as ever he can." The next que stion was-- "What sort of looking man is Mr. Martin?" "Oh! not handsome--not at all handsome. I thought him very plain at first, but I do not think him so plain now. One does not, you know, after a time. But did you never see him? He is in Highbury every now and then, and he is sure to ride through every w
eek in his way to Kingston. He has passed you very often." "That may be, and I may have seen him fifty times, but without having any idea of his name. A young farmer, whether on horseback or on foot, is the very last sort of person to raise my curiosity. The yeomanry are precisely the order of people with whom I feel I can have nothing to do. A degree or two lower, and a creditable appearance might interest me; I might hope to be useful to their families in some way or other. But a farmer can need none of my help, and is, therefore, in one sense, as much above my notice as in every other he is below it." "To
be sure. Oh yes! It is not likely you should ever have observed him; but he knows you very well indeed—I mean by sight." I have no doubt of his being a very respectable young man. I know, indeed, that he is o, and as very respectable you had being a very respectable young man. I know, indeed, that he is o, and as very respectable you had being a very respectable young man. I know, indeed, that he is o, and as very respectable young mean by sight." I have no doubt of his being a very respectable young to settle. His mother is very odd." Only four-and-twenty. That is too young to settle. His mother is very odd." "Only four-and-twenty. That is too young to settle. His mother him well. What ever how of the indicate in the indica
ence and good luck, he may be rich in time, it is next to impossible that he should have realised any thing; and Mrs. Martin talks of taking a boy another year." "To be sure, so it is. But they live very comfortably. They have no indoors man, else they do not want for any thing; and Mrs. Martin talks of taking a boy another year." "To be sure, so it is. But they live very comfortably. They have no indoors man, else they do not want for any thing; and Mrs. Martin talks of taking a boy another year." "To be sure, so it is. But they live very comfortably. They have no indoors man, else they do not want for any thing; and Mrs. Martin talks of taking a boy another year." "To be sure, so it is. But they live very comfortably. They have no indoors man, else they do not want for any thing; and Mrs. Martin talks of taking a boy another year." "To be sure, so it is. But they live very comfortably. They have no indoors man, else they do not want for any thing; and Mrs. Martin talks of taking a boy another year." "To be sure, so it is. But they live very comfortably. They have no indoors man, else they do not want for any thing; and Mrs. Martin talks of taking a boy another year." "To be sure, so it is. But they live very comfortably. They have no indoors man, else they do not want for any thing; and Mrs. Martin talks of taking a boy another year." "To be sure, so it is. But they live very comfortably. They have no indoors man, else they do not have no indoors man
rly careful as to your associates. There can be no doubt of your being a gentleman's daughter, and you must support your claim to that station by every thing within your own power, or there will be plenty of people who would take pleasure in degrading you." "Yes, to be sure, I suppose there are. But while visit at Hartfield, and you are so kind to me, Miss Woodhouse, I am not afraid of what any body can do." "You understand the force of influence pretty well, Harriet; but I would have you so firmly established in good society, as to be independent even of Hartfield and Miss Woodhouse. I want to see you per
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