

TO-MORROW

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649274253

To-morrow by M. B.

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Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

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BY M—— B——.

Smitten friends
Are angels sent on errands full of love;
For us they languish, and for us they die:
And shall they languish, shall they die, in vain?
Ungrateful,—shall we grieve their hovering shades,
Which wait the revolution in our hearts?
Shall we disdain their silent, soft address,—
Their *posthumous* advice, and pious prayer?

YOUNG.

Fifth Edition.

WELLINGTON, SALOP:

PRINTED BY AND FOR F. HOULSTON AND SON.

And sold by Scatcherd and Co. Ave-Maria Lane,
London; and all other Booksellers.

1824.

[Entered at Stationers' Hall.]

TO-MORROW.



THERE was, in a certain city, a gentleman of an ancient family, whose forefathers had once been greatly respected, and thought to be people of noble descent. They had, also, possessed a large and fair estate, and had held many honours under the King of that country, insomuch that nothing had been wanting to their happiness. Nevertheless, they had lost all their honours, and the greater part of their estate, by an act of rebellion against the King. His

Majesty, however, was one who loved mercy; so he spared their lives, and allowed them still to hold some parts of their estates: though he thought it necessary entirely to divest them of the many great privileges with which they had been formerly indulged; one of which was, that they had had free access at court, to go and come as they pleased, and to talk with the King face to face: but, as I before said, this honour was no longer permitted them.

This gentleman with whom we began our history lived in the old family mansion, which, indeed, was now fallen into so ruinous a state, that it had little remains of its former beauty: for when it was first built, it was exceedingly

beautiful, being the work of the King himself, and fashioned after the likeness of the royal palace.

The mansion, which was built of clay, stood in what had once been a garden, but it was now a waste, where nothing was to be seen but thorns and thistles, brakes and briars. The surrounding country was exposed to violent winds and tempests, and to pestilential vapours, with which the very walls of the house were often infected. Moreover, the mansion was in a very decayed and ruinous state, though the master of it was unwilling to allow that it was so; and when the wind blew off some of the roofing, or a storm shook the walls, or, as it sometimes happen-

ed, the foundation was a little sapped by a flood, he would have it repaired with such materials as were at hand: still flattering himself that the house made a most fair appearance, while every bystander could plainly see that it was hastening rapidly to decay.

This gentleman continued to live upon the bounty of the King, holding his estate under him without ever paying any consideration for it, or ever expressing any sense of gratitude for such an obligation; but, on the contrary, he took every opportunity of trespassing upon His Majesty's generosity, and allowing his servants to do the same, until he had run up so large a debt, that, had he himself, and all his possessions,

been sold, they would not have made sufficient satisfaction for his immense debt.

This unfortunate gentleman was also accused of entertaining a number of insolent and headstrong servants in his house; who might, indeed, have been called his governors, for he was always under subjection to one or other of them.

These servants were old retainers of their master's family, and, by long indulgence, had gained the upper hand, so that they managed all things, both in the house and about the grounds, in their own way: sometimes one taking the lead, and sometimes another; and often two or more strove together for mastery.

The intestine broils of these lawless servants kept the house in a continual uproar, which the master could quiet in no other way than by yielding himself entirely to the dominion of some one of them; and it was generally found, that if one could gain the master's ear, the rest would not only, for a time, submit with tolerable quietness, but even contribute to establish, for a season, the authority of the favourite: so that, by turns, every one was ruler of the house, excepting that person only who had a right to the government.

Now the servants of this unfortunate gentleman were of various characters and tempers. Some of them were bold, and