

**SIMPLE TALES, IN
FOUR
VOLUME, VOL. I**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649168576

Simple tales, in four volume, Vol. I by Mrs. Opie

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

MRS. OPIE

**SIMPLE TALES, IN
FOUR
VOLUME, VOL. I**

7321-1 166

SIMPLE TALES:

BY

MRS. OPIE.

IN FOUR VOLUMES.

VOL. I.

FOURTH EDITION.

LONDON:

PRINTED FOR LONGMAN, HURST, REES, ORME,
AND BROWN; PATERNOSTER ROW.

1813.

PR

5115

0355

1815

V. 1



850453

SIMPLE TALES.

THE

BLACK VELVET PELISSE.

MR. Beresford was a merchant, engaged in a very extensive business, and possessed of considerable property, a great part of which was vested in a large estate in the country, on which he chiefly resided.

Beresford was what is commonly denominated *purse-proud*; and so eager to be honoured on account of his wealth, that he shunned rather than courted the society of men of rank, as he was fond of power and precedence, and did not

like to associate with those who had an indisputable claim to that deference of which he himself was desirous. But he earnestly wished that his only child and heiress should marry a man of rank; and being informed that a young baronet of large estates in his neighbourhood, and who was also heir to a barony, was just returned from his travels, and intended to settle at his paternal seat, he was resolved that Julia should have every possible opportunity of showing off to the best advantage before so desirable a neighbour; and determined that his daughter, his house, and his table, should not want any charm which money could procure.

Beresford had gained his fortune by degrees; and, having been educated by frugal and retired parents, his habits were almost parsimonious; and when he launched out into unwonted expenses on becoming wealthy, it was only in a partial man-

ner. His house and his furniture had a sort of pye-bald appearance;—his style of living was not consistent, like that of a man used to live like a gentleman, but opulence with a timid grasp seemed to squeeze out its indulgences from the griping fingers of habitual œconomy.—True, he could, on occasion, be splendid, both in his public and private gifts; but such bounties were efforts, and he seemed to wonder at himself whenever the exertion was over.

Julia Beresford, his daughter, accustomed from her birth to affluence, if not to luxury, and having in every thing what is called the spirit of a gentlewoman, was often distressed and mortified at the want of consistency in her father's mode of living; but she was particularly distressed to find that, though he was always telling her what a fortune he would give her when she married, and at his death, he allowed her but a trifling sum, compa-

ratively, for pocket-money, and required from her, with teasing minuteness, an account of the manner in which her allowance was spent; reprobating very severely her propensity to spend her money on plausible beggars and pretended invalids.

But on this point he talked in vain:—used by a benevolent and pious mother, whose loss she tenderly deplored, to impart comfort to the poor, the sick, and the afflicted, Julia endeavoured to make her residence in the country a blessing to the neighbourhood; but, too often, kind words, soothing visits, and generous promises, were all that she had to bestow; and many a time did she purchase the means of relieving a distressed fellow-creature by a personal sacrifice: for though ever ready to contribute to a subscription either public or private, Beresford could not be prevailed upon to indulge his daughter by giving way to that habitual

benevolence, which, when once practised, can never be left off.

But though the sums were trifling which Julia had to bestow, she had so many cheap charities in her power, such as sending broth to the neighbouring cottages, and making linen of various sorts for poor women and children, that she was deservedly popular in the neighbourhood; and though her father was reckoned as proud as he was rich, the daughter was pronounced to be a pattern of good nature, and as affable as he was the contrary.

But wherever Beresford could have an opportunity of displaying his wealth to advantage, he regarded not expense:—and to outvie the neighbouring gentlemen in endeavours to attract the rich young baronet, whom all the young ladies would, he supposed, be aiming to captivate, he purchased magnificent furniture and carriages, and promised Julia a great addition