

**WEALTH NOT HAPPINESS;
OR, VAIN EXPECTATIONS
DESTRUCTIVE TO PEACE**

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Wealth Not Happiness; Or, Vain Expectations Destructive to Peace by Miss Mary Ann Everitt

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WEALTH NOT HAPPINESS;

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CHAPTER I.

“BEHOLD HOW GOOD AND PLEASANT A THING IT IS
FOR BRETHREN TO DWELL TOGETHER IN UNITY!”

THIS fallen world presents no fairer sight than a united family, whose constant intercourse tends to strengthen virtuous principles—to arouse and cherish refined and ennobling sentiments and feelings—to increase those stores of knowledge that expand and enrich the intellect—and to allure and urge each other forward in the paths of piety and usefulness, which afford security and refreshment to the traveller while he sojourns on earth, and pre-

pires for the sublime and perfect bliss of heaven. Some such families may happily be found, and Mowbray Lodge was the dwelling of peace, where love and harmony continually reigned.

Mr. and Mrs. Mowbray were pious parents, who earnestly strove, both by precept and example, to guide their large family into the pleasant ways and peaceful paths of religion. They strenuously endeavoured to impress on their youthful minds the solemn and stimulating conviction that they were immortal and responsible beings, placed for a short period in this world to work the works of Him that sent them.

While their understandings were enlarged and cultivated, by assiduous application to various studies, the instruction of the heart was not forgotten or neglected; but in that soil, so prolific of good or of evil, the seeds of every virtue were planted and cultured with parental solicitude and affection.

Mr. and Mrs. Mowbray most deeply felt how fruitless must be all human effort for the accomplishment of the best designs, unaccom-

panied by the divine blessing; they therefore incessantly applied to the source of all good for those supplies of wisdom and strength which daily experience taught them they required; and while they unremittingly laboured, in obedience to the command of God, to train up their children in the way they should go, parental hopes were animated and encouraged by the gracious assurance, that when they were old they would not depart from it. Nor were their prayers and efforts in vain—God, well pleased, beheld and prospered their “work of faith, and labour of love;” and as they sowed so did they also reap.

The elder members of the family had just completed a course of school instruction. They had been well educated—or rather, their education had been well begun; and they were now looking into the future with the glowing anticipations of youth, untouched by sorrow or care.

Several of the children were still young, and their plastic minds were prepared to receive the impress which the manners, conversation, and teaching of those by whom they were sur-

rounded might stamp upon them—They were being educated by all they saw and heard. Interesting creatures! to them life was comparatively new, and all things around them surprised by their novelty, or charmed by their beauty. They were strangers to the ills of mortality, and every pleasing object heightened the buoyancy of their feelings, and increased their admiration and delight.

The education of the girls had been for several years carefully superintended by Mrs. Mowbray herself; and when circumstances rendered it necessary that Maria, the eldest daughter, should be placed at school, she was committed to the charge of Mrs. Winford, a religious and intelligent governess, who sedulously endeavoured to educate for time and for eternity those young persons who were provisionally consigned to her care.

What do not parents owe to instructors who thus faithfully strive to promote the best interests of their children!

While Maria Mowbray was at Mrs. Winford's seminary, she selected from among the numerous pupils, Louisa Amherst, an intelli-

gent and amiable girl, to be her constant associate and choicest friend, and they happily spent together that important period of youth when the natural ardency of the feelings leads to the ready formation of disinterested and affectionate intimacies. But though these associations are frequently broken when school engagements terminate, such was not the case with these endeared companions, for similarity of tastes, pursuits, and dispositions, had closely united them in the golden bands of friendship.

Louisa was now at Mowbray Lodge, where she had obtained permission from her parents to spend the summer with Maria; and together they daily enjoyed the sweets of unreserved and affectionate intercourse, and diligently pursued a plan of self-improvement, in order that they might be the better qualified to fill the situations Providence had assigned them both usefully and well.

And in all their pursuits they were actuated by the simple and ennobling desire to please God. Drawn by the influences of the Holy Spirit, they delighted to sit at the feet of Jesus,

and hear His words; and, conscious of their own frailty and impotency, they earnestly sought that divine and powerful energy which can alone bring every action and every motive into subjection to Him who seeth the thoughts and intents of the heart.

The example and conversation of these attached friends could not but exert a most powerful and salutary influence on the younger branches of the family.

They were their teachers—without wearying them with dull and formal lessons; their counsellors—without tiring them with the constant repetition of dry advices to which their own conduct presented a striking and unlovely contrast; their guides—without assuming and boasting of their superior wisdom and qualifications to direct them.

They endeavoured to cement the bonds of affection, by which the different members of a family should ever be firmly united to each other; and while the grateful parents hourly witnessed with heartfelt joy the love and concord which uninterruptedly prevailed throughout the happy circle, the welcome guest who