



*Jane Eyre*

简·爱



文化艺术出版社

H319.4:I

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高飞 注释

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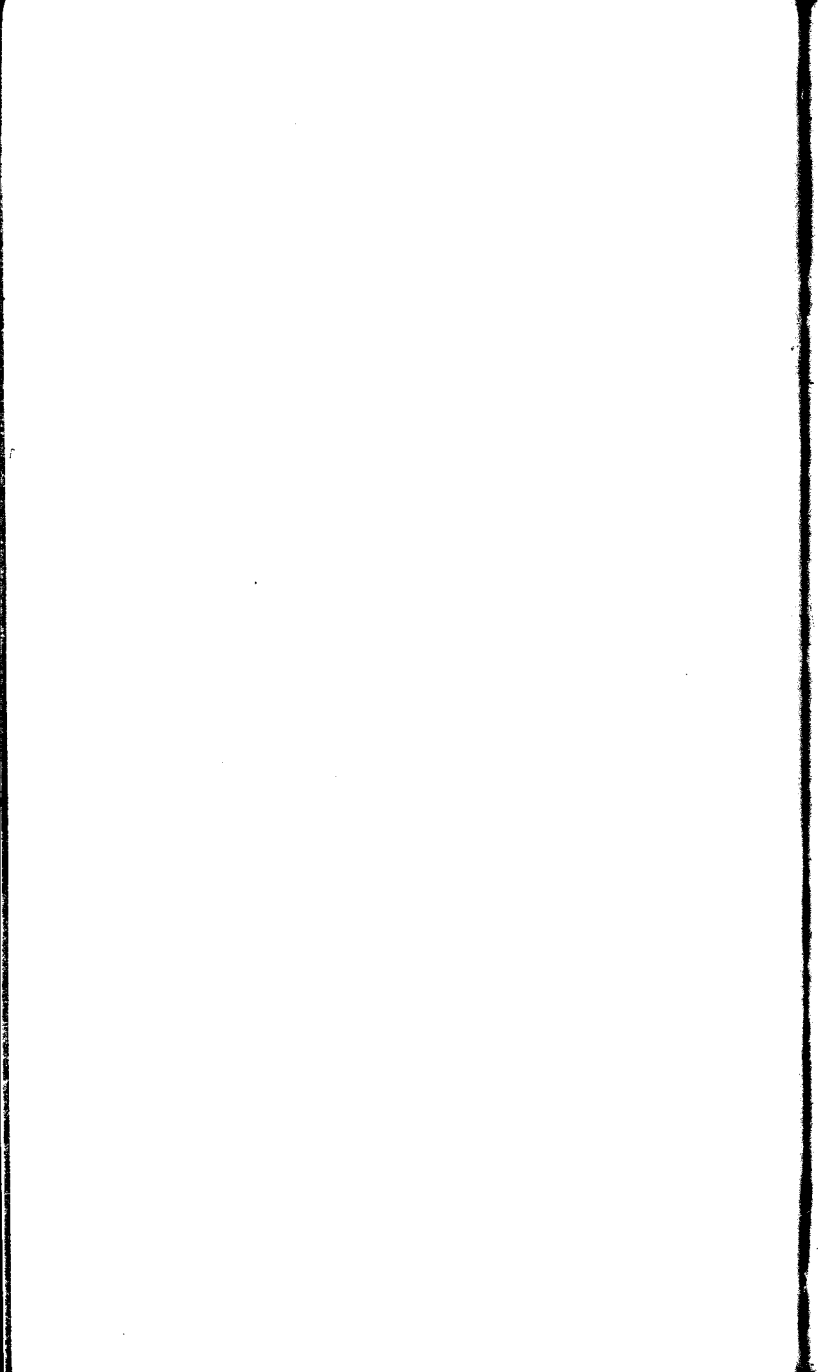




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## Volume I

## Chapter I

There was no possibility of taking a walk that day. We had been wandering, indeed, in the leafless shrubbery① an hour in the morning; but since dinner (Mrs. Reed, when there was no company, dined early) the cold winter wind had brought with it clouds so sombre②, and a rain so penetrating, that further out-door exercise was now out of the question.

I was glad of it: I never liked long walks, especially on chilly afternoons: dreadful to me was the coming home in the raw twilight③, with nipped fingers and toes, and a heart saddened by the chidings of Bessie, the nurse, and humbled by the consciousness④ of my physical inferiority⑤ to Eliza, John, and Georgiana Reed.

The said Eliza, John, and Georgiana were now clustered⑥ round their mama in the drawing-room: she lay reclined on a sofa by the fireside⑦, and with her darlings about her (for the time neither quarrelling nor crying) looked perfectly happy. Me, she had dispensed⑧ from joining the group; saying, "She regretted to be under the necessity of keeping me at a distance; but that until she heard from Bessie, and could discover by her own observation, that I was endeavouring⑨ in good earnest to acquire a more sociable and child-like disposition⑩, a more attractive and sprightly manner,—something lighter, franker, more natural, as it were—she really must exclude me from privileges⑪ intended only for contented, happy, little children."

"What does Bessie say I have done?" I asked.

"Jane, I don't like cavillers⑫ or questioners: besides, there is something truly forbidding in a child taking up her elders in that manner. Be seated somewhere; and until you can speak pleasantly, remain silent."

A small breakfast-room adjoined⑬ the drawing-room, I slipped in there. It contained a bookcase; I soon possessed myself of a volume, taking care that it should be one stored with pictures. I mounted⑭ into the window-seat; gathering up my feet, I sat cross-legged, like a Turk; and, having drawn the red moreen⑮ curtain nearly close, I

① shrubbery [ˈʃrʌbəri] *n.* place, eg. part of a garden planted with shrubs 灌木, 灌木林

② sombre [ˈsɒmbə] *adj.* dark colored; gloomy; dismal 昏暗的, 阴沉的

③ twilight [ˈtwɪlaɪt] *n.* faint half-light before sunrise or after sunset 黎明, 微光

④ consciousness [ˈkɒnʃənsɪs] *n.* being conscious 意识, 知觉

⑤ inferiority [ˌɪnfɪəriˈɒrɪti] *n.* state of being inferior 自卑, 次等

⑥ cluster [ˈklʌstə] *vi.* be in, form, a close group round 丛生, 成群

⑦ fireside [ˈfaɪəsɪd] *n.* part of a room round the fireplace 炉边

⑧ dispense [dɪˈspens] *vt.* deal out; distribute 分发, 分配

⑨ endeavour [ˌɪnˈdevə] *vi.* (formal) try 尽力, 努力

⑩ disposition [dɪspəˈzɪʃən] *n.* person's natural qualities of mind and character 性情, 气质

⑪ privilege [ˈprɪvɪlɪdʒ] *n.* right of advantage available only to a person 特权, 特别待遇

⑫ caviller [ˈkævɪlə] *n.* a person makes unnecessary complaints against 吹毛求疵者, 苛责者

⑬ adjoin [əˈdʒɔɪn] *v.* be next or nearest to 邻接, 毗连

⑭ mount [maʊnt] *vi.* go up (a hill, a ladder, etc) 爬上

⑮ moreen [ˈmɔːrɪn] *n.* 波纹织物

was shrined in double retirement.

Folds of scarlet drapery① shut in my view to the right hand; to the left were the clear panes② of glass, protecting, but not separating me from the drear November day. At intervals, while turning over the leaves of my book, I studied the aspect of that winter afternoon. Afar, it offered a pale blank of mist and cloud; near a scene of wet lawn and storm-beat shrub, with ceaseless rain sweeping away wildly before a long and lamentable③ blast.

I returned to my book—Bewick's History of British Birds: the letterpress thereof I cared little for, generally speaking; and yet there were certain introductory pages that, child as I was, I could not pass quite as a blank. They were those which treat of the haunts④ of sea-fowl; of "the solitary⑤ rocks and promontories⑥" by them only inhabited; of the coast of Norway, studded⑦ with isles from its southern extremity⑧, the Lideness, or Naze, to the North Cape —

*"Where the Northern Ocean, in vast whirls,  
Boils round the naked, melancholy isles  
Of farthest Thule; and the Atlantic surge  
Pours in among the stormy Hebrides."*

Nor could I pass unnoticed the suggestion of the bleak shores of Lapland, Siberia, Spitzbergen, Nova Zembla, Iceland, Greenland, with "the vast sweep of the Arctic Zone, and those forlorn⑨ regions of dreary space,—that reservoir⑩ of frost and snow, where firm fields of ice, the accumulation of centuries of winters, glazed in Alpine heights above heights, surround the pole, and concentre⑪ the multiplied rigours⑫ of extreme cold." Of these death-white realms I formed an idea of my own: shadowy, like all the half-comprehended notions that float dim through children's brains, but strangely impressive. The words in these introductory pages connected themselves with the succeeding vignettes⑬, and gave significance to the rock standing up alone in a sea of billow and spray; to the broken boat stranded⑭ on a desolate coast; to the cold and ghastly moon glancing through bars of cloud at a wreck just sinking.

I cannot tell what sentiment haunted the quite solitary churchyard, with its inscribed headstone; its gate, its two trees, its low horizon,

- ① drapery [ˈdreɪpəri] *n.* hanging cloth used as a blind (供装饰用的)织物, 帷帐, 布料  
② pane [peɪn] *n.* a sheet of glass in a window or door 长方块, 尤指窗格, 窗格玻璃  
③ lamentable [ləˈmentəbəl] *adj.* an archaic word for mournful 不快的  
④ haunt [haʊnt] *n.* a frequently visited place 栖居  
⑤ solitary [ˈsɒlətəri] *adj.* characterized by or preferring solitude in mode of life 孤独的  
⑥ promontory [ˈprɒməntəri] *n.* a natural elevation (especially a rocky one that just out into the sea) 海岬, 海角  
⑦ stud [stʌd] *v.* scatter or intersperse like dots or studs 散布  
⑧ extremity [ɪkˈstremiti] *n.* the outermost or farthest region or point 末端, 极端  
⑨ forlorn [fɔːˈlɒn] *adj.* pitiable in circumstances especially through abandonment 被遗弃的  
⑩ reservoir [ˈrezəvɔɪr] *n.* a large or extra supply of something 储存库, 蓄水池  
⑪ concentre [ˈkɒnsəntə] *v.* bring into focus or alignment; of ideas or emotions 集中于一点, 集合  
⑫ rigour [ˈrɪɡə] *n.* something hard to endure 严酷  
⑬ vignette [vɪnjet] *n.* a small sketch (as sometimes placed at the beginning of chapters in books) 小插图  
⑭ strand [ˈstreɪnd] *v.* leave stranded; put ashore on a desolate island and abandon 搁浅

girdled① by a broken wall, and its newly-risen crescent②, attesting the hour of eventide③.

The two ships becalmed④ on a torpid sea, I believed to be marine phantoms⑤.

The fiend pinning down the thief's pack behind him, I passed over quickly: it was an object of terror.

So was the black horned thing seated aloof⑥ on a rock, surveying a distant crowd surrounding a gallows⑦.

Each picture told a story; mysterious often to my undeveloped understanding and imperfect feelings, yet ever profoundly interesting: as interesting as the tales Bessie sometimes narrated on winter evenings, when she chanced to be in good humour; and when, having brought her ironing-table to the nursery⑧ hearth, she allowed us to sit about it, and while she got up Mrs. Reed's lace frills⑨, and crimped her night-cap borders, fed our eager attention with passages of love and adventure taken from old fairy tales and other ballads⑩; or (as at a later period I discovered) from the pages of Pamela, and Henry, Earl of Moreland.

With Bewick on my knee, I was then happy: happy at least in my way. I feared nothing but interruption, and that came too soon. The breakfast-room door opened.

"Boh! Madam Mope!" cried the voice of John Reed; then he paused: he found the room apparently empty.

"Where the dickens⑪ is she!" he continued. "Lizzy! Georgy! (calling to his sisters) Joan is not here: tell mama she is run out into the rain—bad animal!"

"It is well I drew the curtain," thought I; and I wished fervently⑫ he might not discover my hiding-place: nor would John Reed have found it out himself; he was not quick either of vision or conception⑬; but Eliza just put her head in at the door, and said at once:—

"She is in the window-seat, to be sure, Jack."

And I came out immediately, for I trembled⑭ at the idea of being dragged forth by the said Jack.

"What do you want?" I asked, with awkward diffidence⑮.

"Say, 'What do you want, Master Reed?'" was the answer. "I want you to come here;" and

① girdle ['gɑ:dl] *v.* cut a girdle around 包围, 围绕

② crescent ['kresənt] *n.* any shape resembling the curved shape of the moon in its first or last quarters 新月, 月牙

③ eventide [i'ventaid] *n.* the latter part of the day (古或诗) 黄昏, 日暮

④ becalm [bi'kɔ:m] *vt.* make steady 因无风而使停航

⑤ phantom ['fæntəm] *n.* an unusual appearing ghostly figure 幻影

⑥ aloof [ə'lʊf] *adv.* remote 避开, 远离

⑦ gallows ['gæləuz] *n.* a wooden frame from which condemned persons are executed by hanging 绞架, 绞刑

⑧ nursery ['nɜ:səri] *n.* a room for a baby 保育室

⑨ frill [fril] *n.* a strip of pleated material used as a decoration or a trim 装饰

⑩ ballad ['bæləd] *n.* a narrative poem of popular origin 民歌, 歌谣

⑪ dickens ['dɪkɪnz] *n.* a word used in exclamations of confusion 魔鬼

⑫ fervently ['fævəntli] *adv.* with passionate fervor 热心地, 热诚地

⑬ conception [kən'sepʃən] *n.* an abstract or general idea 观念, 概念

⑭ tremble ['trembl] *vi.* move with a tremor 战栗, 发抖

⑮ diffidence ['dɪfɪdəns] *n.* lack of self-confidence 缺乏自信

seating himself in an arm-chair, he intimated by a gesture that I was to approach and stand before him.

John Reed was a schoolboy of fourteen years old; four years older than I, for I was but ten: large and stout① for his age, with a dingy② and unwholesome③ skin; thick lineaments④ in a spacious visage, heavy limbs and large extremities. He gorged⑤ himself habitually at table, which made him bilious⑥, and gave him a dim and bleared eye and flabby⑦ cheeks. He ought now to have been at school; but his mama had taken him home for a month or two, "on account of his delicate health." Mr. Miles, the master, affirmed that he would do very well if he had fewer cakes and sweetmeats sent him from home; but the mother's heart turned from an opinion so harsh, and inclined rather to the more refined idea that John's sallowness was owing to over-application and, perhaps, to pining after home.

John had not much affection for his mother and sisters, and an antipathy⑧ to me. He bullied and punished me; not two or three times in the week, nor once or twice in the day, but continually: every nerve I had feared him, and every morsel⑨ of flesh in my bones shrank when he came near. There were moments when I was bewildered⑩ by the terror he inspired, because I had no appeal whatever against either his menaces⑪ or his inflictions⑫; the servants did not like to offend their young master by taking my part against him, and Mrs. Reed was blind and deaf on the subject: she never saw him strike or heard him abuse me, though he did both now and then in her very presence, more frequently, however, behind her back.

Habitually obedient to John, I came up to his chair: he spent some three minutes in thrusting out his tongue at me as far as he could without damaging the roots; I knew he would soon strike, and while dreading the blow, I mused on the disgusting and ugly appearance of him who would presently deal it. I wonder if he read that notion in my face; for, all at once, without speaking, he struck suddenly and strongly. I tottered⑬, and on regaining my equilibrium⑭ retired back a step or two from his chair.

"That is for your impudence in answering mama awhile since," said he, "and for your sneaking way of getting behind curtains, and for

① stout [staut] *adj.* e-uphemisms for fat 结实的, 矮胖的

② dingy ['dindʒi] *adj.* (of color) discolored by impurities; not bright and clear 暗黑的, 邋遢的

③ unwholesome [ʌn'həulsəm] *adj.* detrimental to physical or moral well-being 不健康的

④ lineament ['liniəmənt] *n.* the characteristics parts of a person's face 面部轮廓

⑤ gorge [gɔ:dʒ] *v.* overeat or eat immodestly 狼吞虎咽, 塞饱

⑥ bilious ['biljəs] *adj.* suffering from or suggesting a liver disorder or gastric distress 肝火过旺的

⑦ flabby ['flæbi] *adj.* lacking firmness or stiffness (肌肉等) 不结实的, 松弛的

⑧ antipathy [æn'tipəθi] *n.* a feeling of intense dislike 憎恶, 反感

⑨ morsel ['mɔ:sl] *n.* a small quantity of anything 少量

⑩ bewilder ['bi:wildə] *vt.* cause to be confused emotionally 使迷惑, 使不知所措

⑪ menace ['menəs] *n.* a threat or the act of threatening 威胁

⑫ infliction [in'fliktʃən] *n.* an act causing pain or damage 欺侮

⑬ totter ['tɒtə] *vi.* move without being stable 蹒跚, 摇摇欲坠

⑭ equilibrium [i'kwɪləbrɪəm] *n.* a stable situation in which forces cancel one another 平衡, 保持平衡的能力

the look you had in your eyes two minutes since, you rat!"

Accustomed to John Reed's abuse, I never had an idea of replying to it; my care was how to endure the blow which would certainly follow the insult.

"What were you doing behind the curtain?" he asked.

"I was reading."

"Show the book."

I returned to the window and fetched① it thence②.

"You have no business to take our books; you are a dependent, mama says; you have no money; your father left you none; you ought to beg, and not to live here with gentlemen's children like us, and eat the same meals we do, and wear clothes at our mama's expense. Now, I'll teach you to rummage③ my book-shelves: for they *are* mine; all the house belongs to me, or will do in a few years. Go and stand by the door, out of the way of the mirror and the windows."

I did so, not at first aware what was his intention; but when I saw him lift and poise④ the book and stand in act to hurl⑤ it, I instinctively⑥ started aside with a cry of alarm: not soon enough, however; the volume was flung⑦, it hit me, and I fell, striking my head against the door and cutting it. The cut bled, the pain was sharp: my terror had passed its climax⑧; other feelings succeeded.

"Wicked⑨ and cruel boy!" I said. "You are like a murderer—you are like a slave-driver—you are like the Roman emperors!"

I had read Goldsmith's History of Rome, and had formed my opinion of Nero, Caligula, &c. Also I had drawn parallels in silence, which I never thought thus to have declared aloud.

"What! what!" he cried. "Did she say that to me? Did you hear her, Eliza and Georgiana? Won't I tell mama? but first—"

He ran headlong⑩ at me; I felt him grasp my hair and my shoulder: he had closed with a desperate thing. I really saw in him a tyrant⑪, a murderer. I felt a drop or two of blood from my head trickle⑫ down my neck, and was sensible of somewhat pungent⑬ suffering: these sensations for the time predominated⑭ over fear, and I received him in frantic⑮ sort. I don't very well know what I did with my hands, but he called me "Rat!"

① fetch [fetʃ] *vt.* bring 拿来, 取来

② thence [ˈðens] *adv.* from that place or from there 从那里

③ rummage [ˈrʌmɪdʒ] *v.* search haphazardly 到处翻寻, 搜出

④ poise [poɪz] *vt.* hold or carry in equilibrium 使平衡, 使悬着

⑤ hurl [hɜːl] *vt.* throw forcefully 用力投掷

⑥ instinctively [ɪnˈstɪŋktɪvli] *adv.* as a matter of instinct 本能地

⑦ flung [flʌŋ] *v.* throw with force or recklessness (fling 的过去分词) 猛冲, 直冲

⑧ climax [ˈklaɪmæks] *n.* the highest point of anything 顶点

⑨ wicked [ˈwɪkɪd] *adj.* 坏的, 不道德的

⑩ headlong [ˈhedlɒŋ] *adv.* with the head foremost 头向前地, 轻率地

⑪ tyrant [ˈtaɪənt] *n.* a dictator or dictatorial person 暴君

⑫ trickle [ˈtrɪkəl] *v.* run or flow slowly, or in an unsteady stream 滴流

⑬ pungent [ˈpʌndʒənt] *adj.* sharp biting or acrid 辛辣的, 苦痛的

⑭ predominate [ˈpriːdɒmeɪt] *vi.* be larger in importance 成为主流, 占优势

⑮ frantic [ˈfræntɪk] *adj.* transported with rage or other violent emotion 狂乱的, 疯狂的

Rat!" and bellowed① out aloud. Aid was near him; Eliza and Georgiana had run for Mrs. Reed, who was gone upstairs: she now came upon the scene, followed by Bessie and her maid Abbot. We were parted: I heard the words:—

"Dear! dear! What a fury to fly at Master John!"

"Did ever anybody see such a picture of passion!"

Then Mrs. Reed subjoined②:—

"Take her away to the red-room, and lock her in there." Four hands were immediately laid upon me, and I was borne③ upstairs.

## Chapter II

I resisted all the way: a new thing for me, and a circumstance which greatly strengthened the bad opinion Bessie and Miss Abbot were disposed to entertain of me. The fact is, I was a trifle④ beside myself; or rather *out* of myself, as the French would say: I was conscious that a moment's mutiny⑤ had already rendered⑥ me liable to strange penalties, and, like any other rebel slave, I felt resolved⑦, in my desperation⑧, to go all lengths.

"Hold her arms, Miss Abbot: she's like a mad cat."

"For shame! for shame!" cried the lady's-maid. "What shocking conduct, Miss Eyre, to strike a young gentleman, your benefactress⑨'s son! Your young master."

"Master! How is he my master? Am I a servant?"

"No; you are less than a servant, for you do nothing for your keep. There, sit down, and think over your wickedness."

They had got me by this time into the apartment indicated by Mrs. Reed, and had thrust me upon a stool⑩: my impulse⑪ was to rise from it like a spring; their two pair of hands arrested me instantly.

"If you don't sit still, you must be tied down," said Bessie. "Miss Abbot, lend me your garters⑫; she would break mine directly."

Miss Abbot turned to divest⑬ a stout leg of the necessary ligature⑭. This preparation for bonds, and the additional ignominy⑮ it inferred, took a little of the excitement out of me.

"Don't take them off," I cried; "I will not

① bellow [ˈbeləʊ] *v.*  
make a loud noise,  
as of animal 吼叫,  
怒吼

② subjoin [səbˈdʒɔɪn]  
*vt.* add to the end  
增补, 附加

③ borne [bɔːn] *vt.*  
move while holding  
up or supporting  
(bear 的过去分词)  
推

④ trifle [ˈtraɪfəl] *n.*  
something of small  
importance 少量,  
有些

⑤ mutiny [ˈmjuːtɪni]  
*n.* open rebellion a-  
gainst constituted au-  
thority 反抗

⑥ render [ˈrendə]  
*vt.* cause to become  
致使

⑦ resolved [ˈrɪzəlvd]  
*adj.* decided 下定决  
心的, 断然的

⑧ desperation [despə  
ˈreɪʃən] *n.* a state in  
which everything  
seems wrong 绝望

⑨ benefactress [ˈbeni  
ˈfektɹɪs] *n.* a woman  
benefactor 女施主,  
女恩人

⑩ stool [stul] *n.* a  
simple seat without a  
back or arms 凳子

⑪ impulse [ˈɪmpʌls]  
*n.* an instinctive mo-  
tive 推动, 刺激

⑫ garter [ˈɡɑːtə] *n.*  
a band worn around  
the leg 吊袜带

⑬ divest [daɪˈvest]  
*v.* take away 拿走

⑭ ligature [ˈlɪɡətʃə]  
*n.* something used to  
tie 绷带

⑮ ignominy [ˈɪɡnəmiːni]  
*n.* a state of dishonor  
耻辱

stir."

In guarantee whereof①, I attached myself to my seat by my hands.

"Mind you don't," said Bessie; and when she had ascertained② that I was really subsiding③, she loosened her hold of me; then she and Miss Abbot stood with folded arms, looking darkly and doubtfully on my face, as incredulous④ of my sanity⑤.

"She never did so before," at last said Bessie, turning to the Abigail.

"But it was always in her," was the reply. "I've told Missis often my opinion about the child, and Missis agreed with me. She's an underhand⑥ little thing: I never saw a girl of her age with so much cover⑦."

Bessie answered not; but ere long⑧, addressing me, she said—"You ought to be aware, Miss, that you are under obligations⑨ to Mrs. Reed: she keeps you; if she were to turn you off, you would have to go to the poor-house."

I had nothing to say to these words: they were not new to me: my very first recollections⑩ of existence included hints of the same kind. This reproach of my dependence had become a vague sing-song in my ear: very painful and crushing, but only half intelligible. Miss Abbot joined in:—

"And you ought not to think yourself on an equality with the Misses Reed and Master Reed, because Missis kindly allows you to be brought up with them. They will have a great deal of money, and you will have none: it is your place to be humble, and to try to make yourself agreeable to them."

"What we tell you is for your good," added Bessie, in no harsh⑪ voice, "you should try to be useful and pleasant, then, perhaps, you would have a home here; but if you become passionate⑫ and rude, Missis will send you away, I am sure."

"Besides," said Miss Abbot, "God will punish her: He might strike her dead in the midst of her tantrums⑬, and then where would she go? Come, Bessie, we will leave her: I wouldn't have her heart for anything. Say your prayers, Miss Eyre, when you are by yourself; for if you don't repent⑭, something bad might be permitted to come down the chimney⑮ and fetch you away."

They went, shutting the door, and locking it behind them.

① whereof [weər'ɒv] *adv.* of what (关系副词) 关于那事(人, 物)

② ascertain [ə'seɪn] *vt.* make certain of something 确定, 探知

③ subsiding [səb'saɪdɪŋ] *adj.* decreasing in amount or intensity 平息

④ incredulous [ɪn'kredjʊləs] *adj.* not disposed or willing to believe 怀疑的, 不轻信的

⑤ sanity ['sænɪti] *n.* normal or sound powers of mind 心智健全

⑥ underhand [ˈʌndəhænd] *adj.* marked by deception 狡猾的

⑦ cover ['kʌvə] *n.* the act of concealing the existence of something 隐瞒

⑧ ere long 不久

⑨ obligation [ˌɒblɪ'geɪʃən] *n.* the social force that binds you 义务, 债务

⑩ recollection [ˌrekə'lekʃən] *n.* something recalled to the mind 回忆, 记忆

⑪ harsh [hɑːʃ] *adj.* extremely unkind or cruel 严厉的, 刺耳的

⑫ passionate [ˌpæʃənət] *adj.* having or expressing strong emotions 充满热情的

⑬ tantrum [ˈtæntɾəm] *n.* a display of bad temper 发脾气, 发怒

⑭ repent [rɪ'pent] *v.* turn away from sin or do penitence 忏悔, 悔悟

⑮ chimney [ˈtʃɪmni] *n.* 烟囱

The red-room was a square chamber, very seldom slept in, I might say never, indeed, unless when a chance influx ① of visitors at Gateshead-hall rendered it necessary to turn to account all the accommodation ② it contained: yet it was one of the largest and stateliest chambers in the mansion. A bed supported on massive pillars ③ of mahogany ④, hung with curtains of deep red damask ⑤, stood out like a tabernacle ⑥ in the centre; the two large windows, with their blinds always drawn down, were half shrouded ⑦ in festoons ⑧ and falls of similar drapery; the carpet was red; the table at the foot of the bed was covered with a crimson cloth; the walls were a soft fawn ⑨ colour with a blush of pink in it; the wardrobe, the toilet-table, the chairs were of darkly polished old mahogany. Out of these deep surrounding shades rose high, and glared white, the piled-up mattresses and pillows of the bed, spread with a snowy Marseilles counterpane ⑩. Scarcely less prominent was an ample cushioned easy-chair near the head of the bed, also white, with a footstool before it; and looking, as I thought, like a pale throne.

This room was chill, because it seldom had a fire; it was silent, because remote from the nursery and kitchen; solemn, because it was known to be so seldom entered. The house-maid alone came here on Saturdays, to wipe from the mirrors and the furniture a week's quiet dust; and Mrs. Reed herself, at far intervals, visited it to review the contents of a certain secret drawer in the wardrobe, where were stored divers ⑪ parchments, her jewel-casket, and a miniature ⑫ of her deceased husband; and in those last words lies the secret of the red-room: the spell which kept it so lonely in spite of its grandeur ⑬.

Mr. Reed had been dead nine years: it was in this chamber he breathed his last; here he lay in state; hence his coffin was borne by the undertaker's men; and, since that day, a sense of dreary consecration ⑭ had guarded it from frequent intrusion.

My seat, to which Bessie and the bitter Miss Abbot had left me riveted, was a low ottoman ⑮ near the marble chimney-piece; the bed rose before me; to my right hand there was the high, dark wardrobe, with subdued, broken reflections varying the gloss of its panels; to my left were the muffled windows; a great looking-glass

① influx [ˈɪnflʌks] *n.* the process of flowing in 涌入

② accommodation [əko'mə'deɪʃən] *n.* living quarters provided for public convenience 住处

③ pillar [ˈpɪlə] *n.* (建) a tall cylindrical vertical upright 柱子

④ mahogany [mə'hɒɡni] *n.* wood of mahogany trees, much used for furniture 桃木

⑤ damask [ˈdæmæsk] *n.* a fabric of linen or cotton 缎子

⑥ tabernacle [ˈtæbəneɪkl̩] *n.* 帐篷

⑦ shroud [ˈfraʊd] *vt.* cover 遮蔽, 隐藏

⑧ festoon [ˈfe'stuːn] *n.* fabric draped and bound at intervals to form graceful loops 花彩

⑨ fawn [fɔːn] *adj.* a color varying around light grayish brown 浅黄褐色

⑩ counterpane [ˈkaʊntəpeɪn] *n.* decorative cover for a bed 床单, 床罩

⑪ divers [ˈdaɪvəz] *adj.* many and different 种种的

⑫ miniature [ˈmɪniətʃə] *n.* a painting or drawing included in a book 肖像, 缩影

⑬ grandeur [ˈɡrændʒə] *n.* the quality of being magnificent 庄严, 伟大

⑭ consecration [ˌkɒnsəˈkreɪʃən] *n.* a solemn dedication to a service 祭奠

⑮ ottoman [ˈɒtəʊmən] *n.* thick cushion used as a seat 软垫凳

between them repeated the vacant majesty of the bed and room. I was not quite sure whether they had locked the door; and when I dared move, I got up and went to see. Alas! yes: no jail was ever more secure. Returning, I had to cross before the looking-glass; my fascinated glance involuntarily explored the depth it revealed. All looked colder and darker in that visionary① hollow than in reality: and the strange little figure there gazing at me, with a white face and arms specking the gloom, and glittering② eyes of fear moving where all else was still, had the effect of a real spirit: I thought it like one of the tiny phantoms, half fairy, half imp③, Bessie's evening stories represented as coming out of lone, ferny④ dells in moors⑤, and appearing before the eyes of belated⑥ travellers. I returned to my stool.

Superstition was with me at that moment; but it was not yet her hour for complete victory: my blood was still warm; the mood of the revolted slave was still bracing me with its bitter vigour; I had to stem⑦ a rapid rush of retrospective⑧ thought before I quailed to the dismal present.

All John Reed's violent tyrannies, all his sisters' proud indifference, all his mother's aversion⑨, all the servants' partiality⑩, turned up in my disturbed mind like a dark deposit in a turbid⑪ well. Why was I always suffering, always brow-beaten, always accused, for ever condemned? Why could I never please? Why was it useless to try to win any one's favour? Eliza, who was headstrong⑫ and selfish, was respected. Georgiana, who had a spoiled temper, a very acrid⑬ spite, a captious and insolent⑭ carriage, was universally indulged. Her beauty, her pink cheeks and golden curls, seemed to give delight to all who looked at her, and to purchase indemnity⑮ for every fault. John no one thwarted, much less punished; though he twisted the necks of the pigeons, killed the little pea-chicks, set the dogs at the sheep, stripped the hothouse vines of their fruit, and broke the buds off the choicest plants in the conservatory: he called his mother "old girl," too; sometimes reviled her for her dark skin, similar to his own; bluntly disregarded her wishes; not unfrequently tore and spoiled her silk attire; and he was still "her own darling." I dared commit no fault: I strove to fulfil every duty; and I was termed naughty and tiresome, sullen and sneaking, from morning to noon, and

①visionary['vɪʒənəri] *n.* none practical or realizable 虚玄

②glittering['glɪtərɪŋ] *adj.* having brief brilliant points or flashes of light 闪闪发光的

③imp[ɪmp] *n.* fairies that are somewhat mischievous 小鬼

④ferny['fɜːni] *adj.* resembling ferns especially in leaf shape 蕨类的

⑤moor[mɔːr] *n.* open land covered with heather and moss 沼地

⑥belated[bɪ'leɪtɪd] *adj.* delayed 误期的, 迟来的

⑦stem[stem] *v.* halt 阻止

⑧retrospective[retrə'spektɪv] *adj.* related to the past 回顾的

⑨aversion[ə'veɪʃən] *n.* a feeling of intense dislike 厌恶

⑩partiality[pɑːʃi'ælɪti] *n.* an inclination to favor one group 偏爱

⑪turbid['tɜːbɪd] *adj.* muddy 混浊的, 脏的

⑫headstrong['hedstrɒŋ] *adj.* habitually disposed to disobedience 顽固的, 任性的

⑬acrid['ækɪd] *adj.* harsh or corrosive in tone 辛辣的, 刻薄的

⑭insolent['ɪnsələnt] *adj.* unrestrained by convention or propriety 傲慢的, 无礼的

⑮indemnity[ɪn'demni'ti] *n.* protection against future loss 补偿, 保证

from noon to night.

My head still ached and bled with the blow and fall I had received: no one had reproved① John for wantonly② striking me; and because I had turned against him to avert③ farther irrational violence, I was loaded with general opprobrium④.

"Unjust! —unjust!" said my reason, forced by the agonising stimulus⑤ into precocious though transitory⑥ power: and Resolve, equally wrought up, instigated some strange expedient to achieve escape from insupportable oppression—as running away, or, if that could not be effected, never eating or drinking more, and letting myself die.

What a consternation⑦ of soul was mine that dreary afternoon! How all my brain was in tumult, and all my heart in insurrection⑧! Yet in what darkness, what dense ignorance, was the mental battle fought! I could not answer the ceaseless inward question—*why* I thus suffered; now, at the distance of—I will not say how many years, I see it clearly.

I was a discord⑨ in Gateshead-hall: I was like nobody there; I had nothing in harmony with Mrs. Reed or her children, or her chosen vassalage⑩. If they did not love me, in fact, as little did I love them. They were not bound to regard with affection a thing that could not sympathise with one amongst them; a heterogeneous⑪ thing, opposed to them in temperament, in capacity, in propensities⑫; a useless thing, incapable of serving their interest, or adding to their pleasure; a noxious⑬ thing, cherishing the germs of indignation at their treatment, of contempt of their judgment. I know that had I been a sanguine⑭, brilliant, careless, exacting, handsome, romping child—though equally dependent and friendless—Mrs. Reed would have endured my presence more complacently; her children would have entertained for me more of the cordiality of fellow-feeling; the servants would have been less prone to make me the scapegoat of the nursery.

Daylight began to forsake⑮ the red-room; it was past four o' clock, and the beclouded afternoon was tending to drear twilight. I heard the rain still beating continuously on the staircase window, and the wind howling in the grove behind the hall; I grew by degrees cold as a stone, and then my courage sank. My habitual mood of humiliation, self-doubt, forlorn depression, fell

① reprove [ri'pruv] v. admonish 责备

② wantonly ['wɒntənlɪ] adv. in a licentious and promiscuous manner 放纵地, 嫖闹地

③ avert [ə'veɪt] v. prevent from happening 避免

④ opprobrium [ə'prɒbriəm] n. the state of disgrace resulting from public abuse 耻辱

⑤ stimulus ['stimjʊləs] n. acts to arouse action 刺激

⑥ transitory ['trænsɪtəri] adj. enduring a very short time 短时间的

⑦ consternation ['kɒnstə'neɪʃən] n. fear resulting from the awareness of danger 惊愕, 惊惶失措

⑧ insurrection [ɪn'sə'rekʃən] n. organized opposition to authority 反抗, 起义

⑨ discord ['diskɔ:d] n. lack of agreement or harmony 不一致, 意见不合

⑩ vassalage ['væslɪdʒ] n. the state of a serf 家仆

⑪ heterogeneous [heta'rɔ:dsɪniəs] adj. consisting of elements that are not of the same kind 异类的

⑫ propensity [prə'pensɪti] n. an inclination to do something 嗜好, 倾向

⑬ noxious ['nɒksɪəs] adj. having adverse effect on living things 有害的

⑭ sanguine ['sæŋgwɪn] adj. confidently optimistic and cheerful 乐天的

⑮ forsake [fɔ'seɪk] vt. leave 放弃, 抛弃