

## THE HAPPY PARTY.

WHICH road should they go, was the question.

They had come to a place where three roads branched off the main road ; each of these roads led to objects that the young people wished to see. These were an old castle, with a beautiful park ; a china manufactory ; and a town, where there was a ropewalk.

Their father and mother said that they would go whichever way Godfrey, Rosamond, and Laura agreed in preferring ; and they gave the young people five minutes to decide, while their father took a sketch of a gateway that was within view. Godfrey immediately decided, "The rope-walk, then, the rope-walk ! I vote for the rope-walk ! Rosamond, don't you ?"

"No, indeed," said Rosamond, "I would rather see the china manufactory than all the ropes in the world. Would not you, Laura ? My dear Laura, you will vote for the china manufactory, will you not ?"

"For my own part," said Laura, "if I were to say what I wish for most myself, it would be to see the old castle, and to walk in the beautiful grounds, and to see the fine conservatory ; but,——"

Before Laura could say another word, Godfrey and Rosamond both interrupted, exclaiming, at the same moment,

"Conservatory ! castle ! park !—Is it possible, Laura, that you would rather see those foolish things than a rope-walk ? than a china manufactory ?"

"I would," said Laura, smiling ; "I confess that I am so very foolish ; but I do not call the rope-walk and china manufactory foolish things. On the contrary, if you will

settle between you, Godfrey and Rosamond, which you choose, I will give up my wish and follow yours."

"Oh, that is very good-natured! thank you, Laura, thank you, dear Laura," said Rosamond, "you are always so ready to give up. Now, Godfrey, what pleasure can you expect in seeing ropes, dirty ropes, all smelling of pitch and tar?"

"The way of making them is very ingenious; and ropes are much more useful than china," replied Godfrey. "What paltry things are china cups and saucers compared with ropes! The nation, the royal navy could not exist without ropes; consider that, Rosamond!"

"I have nothing to do with the royal navy," said Rosamond; "but I want to know how china tea-cups and saucers are made: they are used every day, and twice a day, and you do not think them such paltry things at breakfast or tea-time, Godfrey; consider that, too, Godfrey."

"Consider, Rosamond," whispered Laura, "that my father has just finished sketching his gateway, and the five minutes are almost over; look at the minute hand of the watch; three minutes and a half are gone. If we do not agree and decide, we shall not go to see any of these things."

"And, *instead of a party of pleasure*, Rosamond," added her mother, "*it may turn out a party of pain.*"

These words brought instantly to Rosamond's recollection the disagreeable day she had passed with the Masters and Misses Blisset, who had disputed about every trifle. She also recollected her own resolution never to imitate them; so, turning to her brother, she said with a good-humoured smile:

"Well, Godfrey, Laura has given up her choice to please us, and I will give up my wish to please you, and we will all agree to go to the rope-walk."

"No, no, my dear Rosamond," said Godfrey, "no, no, my

dear Laura, you shall not both give up your wishes to me, that would not be fair; let us draw lots.

"Here;" said Godfrey, holding up three slips of paper, "draw one of these out of my hand, each of you; whoever has the longest shall choose which way we shall go."

Laura drew the longest slip of paper; Godfrey and Rosamond smiled, and said she deserved it best, because she had been the most ready to yield.

"Laura has her wish, and we are both glad of it," said Rosamond; "and we agree, and are happy, mamma. We shall not dispute, like those foolish boys and that girl who turned pleasure into pain. I think, mamma, there is a sort of pleasant feeling in giving up instead of disputing."

Her father smiled, and holding out his hand to Rosamond, said—

"That is right, my little girl."

"And trust me, dears, good humour can prevail,  
When airs, and flights, and screams, and scoldings fail."

Rosamond was in such good humour with herself, that she doubly enjoyed everything she saw and heard.

"My dear Godfrey, look at those honeysuckles in the hedge! did you ever see such fine honeysuckles! and did you hear that bird? I do believe it was a nightingale."

"No, it was only a robin; but a robin, when people are inclined to be pleased, sounds sweeter than a nightingale when people are not disposed to be satisfied."

"Now, Laura, we are come within sight of the castle; look out of this window—here you can see it best," said Rosamond; "and do you know, Godfrey, you will see a draw-bridge, and hear a gong."

"Indeed!" said Godfrey, "then I do not regret the rope-walk."