SCOTCH COURTSHIP.

Jock Rippeth was a hind, or ploughman, to Mr. Elliot, the farmer of Braxton, on Tweeddale. Mr Elliot was a large-bodied, good-hearted man, though he sometimes lost his temper at the carelessness or stupidity of his servants, and sought relief to his irritated feelings by soundly rating them; for a frank, open-hearted man of his stamp does not mince matters.

Jock Rippeth, being unmarried, was what is called "the man within the hoose"—that is, he got his food in the farm kitchen, and slept in the stable loft. He was a stout, well-made, ruddy faced youth, capable and active. He could "turn a fur" with any ploughman in the district, had his horses always in capital order, and could manage them with an ease and dexterity equalled by few. Jock was intelligent, too, for his station, and warm and generous-hearted; yet there was one difficulty which he could not overcome. He was deeply, hopelessly in love, and could not muster sufficient courage to disclose the fact to the object of his affection. Like all genuine men, he was blind to his own merits and personal advantages, and was ignorant of the naturally good impression he made on the fair sex. Indeed, his own opinion of himself was the humblest possible, and though he could not help loving Peggy Sheerlaw, yet he thought it very daring to do so, and considered it quite impossible that he could be loved by her in return.

In this, however, he was mistaken. Peggy, who was "servant lass" at a neighbouring farm toon, was a buxom, blooming girl "as guid as she was bonny." She was a general favourite, and might have had many sweethearts, but she regarded none of her admirers with particular favour except Jock Rippeth, and every one saw this but Jock himself, whose bashfulness and humility would not enable him to perceive a fact which was obvious to all others, and which it so nearly concerned his peace of mind to know.

For a long time he noticed no passion, and [illegible] grew too strong [illegible] believe it [illegible] [illegible] insupportable. [illegible] certain [illegible] was [illegible] wonder [illegible] deed [illegible]

[illegible] know the truth. The time was fast approaching when he could [illegible] longer. And the crisis was reached.

One afternoon Jock and his companion hand, Willie Harrower were scuffling turnips in one of the fields. At some distance a band of female workers under the superintendence of the farmer, were engaged in singling the turnips. Among these were Peggy Sheerlaw, whose master had sent her up for the day to give Mr Elliot assistance, as his work pressed. Her presence set Jock's heart [illegible] in a lowe, and many a longing eye did he cast across the field, to the detriment of the turnips, which suffered severely through his inattention. And, if the truth must be told, Peggy in turn sent many a glance in his direction, thereby doing her work badly, also, and incurring a rough reproof from Mr Elliot.

When [illegible] time came Jock would fain have left his horses to find their own way to the stable and accompany Peggy to Riggfoot, but, of course, he durst not commit such a flagrant neglect of duty, and had the mortification of seeing her trip homeward by herself. That evening, restless and distracted, he committed into Willie Harrower's charge [illegible] and his wife [illegible] enjoying their domestic felicity. Willie lying at full length on the [illegible] and Jenny [illegible] staring in [illegible]

[illegible] Willie. "Where's [illegible] hoose to-night?"

[illegible] twa rigs [illegible] [illegible] and [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]