

O, rich the breath of October days,
 Where woods are brown and gold,
 When childhood strays thro' the wild wood ways,
 For the nuts in the echoing world;
 And rich the play upon leaf and spray
 Of the colors so gaily piled,
 But, O, richer far than an autumn day
 Is the laugh of a happy child.

DOWN THE VISTA OF YEARS.

"Falsar than all fancy fathoms, falsar than all songs have sung,
 Puppet to a father's threat, servile to a shrewish tongue."

'Twas a summer evening long, yes, so long ago as 1512, but time has made little impression on our hardy English race and the merry England of to-day is the same as the Merrie England of bluff King Hal. The same hills meet our view, the same sun shines on us, the same smell of new-mown hay greets us to-day as greeted wanderers along the hedged lanes of Norfolk four hundred years ago. After all, how small is life and how little effect has time on man.

"We think the same thoughts that our fathers did think."

And so, perchance, we may guess the thoughts of these two under the yew tree. This man and maid of long ago. She is tall and slender, with a beautiful oval face and a wreath of black hair. He is also tall, but with light, clustering ringlets and a face, which, like all the Percys, lacked firmness.

"And so, Mistress Anne, thou art going to London to see the Queen, mayhap thou wilt forget thy Percy among the court gal-lants who will surround thee."

"Nay, nay, dear love," quoth she, "i' faith 'twere wrong to doubt me when thou hast mine own plighted troth. 'Tis thou who art fickle, and thy father would fain have thee marry my Lord of Shrewsberry's daughter, the Lady Grace. Nay, do not fear thy Anne, for Anne Bullen wilt ever remember thee."

"And, by my faith, thy Percy wilt ever be true to thee; the Lady Grace I will not marry; nay, not if his majesty the king should command it. Sweet, take this ring, by it I swear that tho' thou and I be far apart yet we shall be as heart to heart, and when thy sweet eyes resteth on it mayhap it will tell thee that thy Percy will ever be thine."

Words earnestly spoken and meant.