

TOM NORWOOD: A STORY OF THE CIVIL WAR.\*

BY JAMES P. SHAW.

IV.

ONE day, a few weeks after the colonel's departure, Frank took a stroll through a grove of fine old oaks, which belonged to the grounds surrounding the Harrington homestead. It was a fine autumn day, the sun shining out just warm enough to make a walk under the spreading branches of the oaks enjoyable. He sauntered aimlessly along, now and then kicking over a chunk of decaying wood, or peering into some hollow log or tree. Occasionally a busy little chipmunk darted across his path, while the provident gray squirrels were busy storing away their winter's food of nuts, which are so plentiful in the forests of that section of Ohio. The native blue jays, with their uninteresting squak, were flying from tree to tree, always keeping just out of reach of the stick Frank carried. He had reached the farther end of the grove, when he suddenly came upon Amy, ensconced in a little bower, constructed with great care and artistic skill from the branches of the oaks in the vicinity. She was occupying a seat in one corner, her lap full of nuts, and a book lying on the ground beside her.

"So I have found your hiding place, have I?" said Frank, as he bowed, hat in hand, in front of the door of Amy's retreat.

"I was not aware that I had been in hiding," replied Amy.

"Do you know," said he, "I have not had the pleasure of seeing you since morning?"

"I have been very busy of late, preparing bandages and scraping lint for the hospital," said she.

"Indeed, that is commendable in a young lady, and shows patriotism. I suppose you are preparing a stock of stores to take with you when you leave us to engage in hospital work," he said, throwing considerable stress upon the last words.

"I am not preparing these to take with me."

"Oh!" said he, "I supposed you were, as you informed me on my arrival that you thought seriously of becoming a hospital nurse."

"Yes, I think I did, and my mind is unchanged. I hold it a sacred duty which the ladies of our country owe the soldiers, that they do all they can to alleviate their sufferings."

"Very true, and nobly said, but it will require a great deal of courage for a lady, who would necessa-

rily come in contact with the many revolting scenes which would meet her on every hand. Few ladies, I think, would care to venture on such a mission."

"No true woman, Mr. Von Brean, should shirk her duty to the brave men who have imperiled their lives in the defense of this country."

Amy rose from her seat and passed by Frank, as he stood admiring her great beauty while she was animated with her argument. Frank saw that Amy was piqued at the turn the conversation had taken, and changed it by asking when she had heard from her father.

"We had a letter from papa yesterday."

"When does he expect to leave Washington?"

"Very soon now. He writes that they may be ordered to join McClellan in Virginia any day, as there is a great battle expected to take place very soon in front of Richmond."

Amy made a move to pass on, when Frank said: "Don't go yet, Miss Harrington; it is so pleasant out here, and besides, I want to talk to you."

Turning so as to face him, she said: "I am all attention; proceed with what you have to say."

Frank was somewhat disconcerted by Amy's manner, but managed to say: "I wish to ask you why you avoid me of late?"

"I am sure I have taken no particular pains to avoid you, Mr. Von Brean."

"I wish you would drop the Mr. when you speak to me."

"And, pray, what shall I call you?"

"I should prefer to have you call me by my first name, which is shorter and much easier spoken."

"And what is your first name?" asked the mischievous Amy.

"Frank," said he.

"Well, I agree with you for once, for I think Von Brean is a horrid name, and were it mine I should petition the legislature to have it changed."

"You mistake my meaning, Miss Harrington. It was not on account of my name that I wished you to call me Frank, but to show that you regarded me, at least, as a friend."

"It is not necessary, I believe, to address one by his christian name to be regarded as a friend. Besides, you are papa's friend and guest, and it would