

EARLY HISTORY OF CLOUD COUNTY BY ELEANOR KIRK

THROUGH THORNS A GENUINE THANKSGIVING

The words were playfully spoken, and the whole attitude of the man seemed the very personification of frank friendliness; and the eyes of his companion fell under the intense glance which seemed to pierce her very soul, and without a parting word she sought her own room, and gave full vent to her emotion.

Blanche De Berri and John Drayton were distantly related, but had been acquainted for only a short time. Blanche was born in England, and educated in Paris. Her father, just before his death had written to his cousin, Mr. Drayton would take charge of his daughter. This letter was cordially responded. And a few months afterward found Blanche de Berri an inmate of the pleasant home of her father's old friend.

Mrs. Drayton was very glad of her society. She had but one child; and he was so devoted to his profession, that she saw very little of him; and consequently an educated, attractive, sweet-tempered lady companion was an exceedingly valuable acquisition.

Miss De Berri had been with her friends two years when her story opens, and although she had not formally-on account of her mourning-entered society, she had, nevertheless, made many acquaintances, and, as it appears, had been annoyed by more than one formal offer of marriage.

Mrs. Drayton had very innocently, but indirectly, mentioned the fact of her protégée's large fortune, and Blanche attributed the partiality indicated by these gentleman entirely to this cause.

**Register of Deeds
Judy Lambert
(continued)**