

## CHAPTER II.

AFTER three years' absence Constance Lestrangle is returning to Canada. The first eighteen months of her sojourn abroad has been spent in Dresden at school, the last eighteen have been passed at a Convent in Dinan, where her almost undivided attention has been given to the study of painting; the surrounding country, abounding with scenes that are well fitted to stimulate an already artistic mind.

Hector, her brother, is on his way home from Egypt, having obtained leave of absence in consequence of recent illness brought on by the many hardships of the late campaign. The brother and sister to-morrow leave for England, thence they sail for Canada. To-day they are spending in bidding farewell to some of the scenes that have grown so dear to Constance.

Wending their way through the old street that leads from the Cathedral they quicken their pace, and after a half hour's walk, which takes them through a wood where the trees are clothed in golden foliage, and over a stream in which many gabbling women are washing (their tongues as busy as their hands as they dip the white clothes in the stream before