

"So you have been turning governess, Ruth?"

"I have done what I could for Miss Stella, sir. She was anxious to learn, but she ought to have somebody else to teach her—a lady who understands more than I do."

"Nobody would teach me like you do, Ruth!" exclaimed Stella.

"There are a great many things that young ladies learn that I know nothing about, Miss Stella. You ought to have a governess, or else go to school."

twice a week for lessons? I have tried to think it all out. I—I—don't want to be impertinent, but when you and Mrs. Atherfield are away, I feel Miss Stella is in my charge, and I think a good deal about her; I want her to get some education."

"I'm not sure that you don't look after her better than either her father or mother," said Mr. Atherfield; "you shall make inquiries at Skirley for some one to give her lessons."

"And there is another thing, sir," said Ruth nervously; "I have gone



"MR. ATHERFIELD RESUMED HIS ANGRY MARCH."

"Oh! I couldn't go to school, and leave the dear old place, and Dad and you, Ruth. Why," reproachfully, "do you want to get rid of me in this unkind way?"

"Indeed I do not," answered Ruth, suddenly aware that if Stella left the Old Hall the brightness of her life would be gone; "all I want is for you to be taught properly."

"Stella doesn't want to go to school, and I'll have no governess here, so you'll have to be teacher still, Ruth."

"But, sir," said Ruth anxiously, "couldn't you send her into Skirley

to church at Brunt Dale while you have been away, and Miss Stella has gone too. She wishes to go again, but I felt I must speak to you; I could not take her without your knowledge."

Mr. Atherfield sprang to his feet, and paced the room with an expression on his face which made Ruth tremble.

"Let her choose," he cried at length, "between the church and me. If that parson gets hold of her, and puts ideas into her head, I'll never forgive him, or her either."

"Father, Mr. Denman wouldn't do