

ly ill with scarlet fever, caught at school. He has made it such an urgent request that I should award you my forgiveness in his presence, that to keep his mind easy I have consented to do so. Come therefore immediately, but remember to come alone, as I have vowed never to receive under my roof the man who betrayed my hospitality, and taught my daughter to deceive me.

"The carriage shall meet you at D—."

"Adieu, yours, &c.

JOSEPH ATHERSTON."

He crushed the paper in his hand and then contemptuously threw it from him, saying, while his cheek blanched with passion :

"Katherine! your father is a bad man, and all the misery which may be in reserve for us both, he will bitterly have to answer for. Yes! if I ever become cold and unkind to you, blame him."

"For mercy's sake do not speak thus severely, my own dear Neville!" cried the agonized Katherine, clinging to him. "If I lose your affections, I shall have nothing else left me on earth; you would not be so cruel as to punish me for the fault of another; but tell me what am I to do? Am I to go alone to D—, or will you accompany me?"

"Do not ask me now; my mind is all in a tumult," returned Captain Warburton, resisting her caresses. "I will see that arrangements are made for your departure, at all events, to-morrow morning," and he left the room for this purpose as he spoke, while poor Katherine remained in a state of mind the most painful, having lost the sympathy of the only one who, in such a moment, could have consoled her.

The rest of this hapless evening she spent in making hurried preparations for her journey, her tears frequently blinding her as she pursued her task. Captain Warburton sat silent and abstracted by the fire, his elbow resting on the table, his head supported by his hand. In the sullen expression of his countenance might be traced the thoughts that were passing in his mind. Until to-day he had always indulged the hope that Mr. Atherston would relent, and receive him and his wife under his roof, but now this hope was entirely destroyed, and the future displayed nothing less than actual poverty to his sight. Expensive in his tastes and habits, and fond of vieing with those in his Regiment who possessed money or rich relations, how mortifying was it to reflect that he must retrench and forego many pleasures, or else incur debts that he would not have the power to repay. Building on the wealth of Mr. Atherston, and buoying himself up with the idea that he would settle an annual income on his daughter, he had already laid out a considerable

sum in horses; while she, poor girl! accustomed as she had been to every indulgence, and ignorant of the value of money, as she was of all household cares!—how unfit a partner for a poor man!

"A poor man!" muttered Captain Warburton between his clenched teeth; "there is death in the thought."

"Did you speak, love!" asked Katherine, pausing in her employment and looking anxiously in his face.

He made her no answer, and with a deep sigh, she resumed her employment. Presently Mr. Bruce and Captain Beauchamp entered with the kind intention of offering any assistance in their power to our heroine. Captain Warburton rose, and trying to recover from his moody humour, thanked them for their civility.

"Of course you are going with Mrs. Warburton, Neville! have you got your leave?" inquired Captain Beauchamp.

"No! nor shall I require any. My wife is to go alone—so says her father," replied Captain Warburton, with suppressed anger.

"I am sorry to hear that," said kind Mrs. Bruce; "but we must have patience, my dear sir: when Mr. Atherston sees his daughter, doubtless her influence will avail to reconcile him to you; pray go with her at least part of the way."

"Oh do! dearest Neville! go with me," pleaded Katherine, taking his hand and looking up beseechingly in his face.

"You cannot resist that appeal, Warburton," said Captain Beauchamp, viewing the interesting girl with the utmost sympathy.

"Well! Well! I will think about it," returned the young man in a softened tone. "Katherine dear! retire to your room, for you are fatigued and worn out. I will let you know my decision in the morning."

With a heart overburdened by care, she obeyed him, instinctively casting herself on her knees when she found herself alone, from a feeling of her own utter helplessness, and her need of a stronger power to sustain her.

The morning was dull and lowering as Katherine, escorted by her husband, set out to meet the stage coach. A few minutes' walk brought them to the spot from whence it usually started; he had comforted her by consenting to be the companion of her journey as far as D—, but no persuasion would induce him to take an inside place, and she was left to the musing of her own thoughts, and the annoyance of a most troublesome child, who, with its mother, became her fellow passenger the greater part of the way; while the rain, beginning to fall in torrents soon after starting, added not a little to her uneasiness.