

The great hall clock striking one, at last reminded the gay assembly that it was time to retire. As the company dispersed to their various chambers, Kathleen passed me, and whispered :

"Come and share my room to-night, Gypsy ; I hate to be alone."

I willingly complied, and ran with her up to her apartment. It was situated in such a manner as to command a view of the whole mansion. Kathleen seated herself by the window, while I undressed and went to bed.

"Are you going to sit there all night, Kath ?" said I, my eyes closing drowsily as I spoke.

"No, only a few minutes ; I don't feel sleepy ; never mind me," replied Kathleen, quietly.

"Gypsy, Gypsy, wake up ! I want to show you something !"

"What on earth is it, Kath ?" said I, springing up in alarm.

"Look !"

She drew me to the window, and pointed in the direction in which Etoile's chamber was situated. There was no light in the window, but the moonlight fell brilliantly over every object, rendering all around as clear as day. Under the window, a tall, slight figure, which I instantly recognized as that of Randal Percy, paced to and fro, keeping his restless watch before the chamber of her he loved. I glanced at Kathleen ; she sat, or rather cowered on a seat near the window, her face covered with her hands, as still, as motionless as a marble figure. With a sigh, I turned again to look out. As I did so, I saw Etoile's window open hastily, and a rose fell through the moonlight to his feet. It was enough ; I drew the curtain, and turned to Kathleen ; she still sat in the same attitude, in a dreary, forlorn manner.

"Dear Kathleen !" I said, softly.

She took her hands down from before her face, and looking up, said, huskily :

"You saw it all ; I knew it would be so. Oh, Gypsy, that I should have stooped to love one who cares not for me !"

In all her grief, the old pride was predominant still. I knew not what to say, and remained silent.

"I thank you for your sympathy, dear Gypsy, dearest cousin that I ever had ; and now that my dream has ended, never speak of him to me again while you live."