

became of real value. For years she continued to impart instruction to the young, cheered at evening when she returned from her daily toil, by the caresses of her child. She has of late abandoned her arduous labours, for her daughter, whom I did not see, but who, I am told inherits her mother's talents, now contributes largely towards their mutual support. This is what I have been able to learn concerning the past life of Mrs. Douglas, and her personal appearance amply corroborates all that has been said of her. Her mild, pale face, surrounded by the widow's cap, tells a tale of suffering which has been borne with fortitude and resignation, and her placid smile which lights up a countenance beautiful even in its decline, bespeaks a heart which enjoys that inward peace which this world cannot destroy. Such, Mr. O'Donnel, is Mrs. Douglas. Are you now satisfied with the home I have chosen for you?"

"Perfectly so, Mrs. Allison," replied Charles, "and I know not in what terms to express the gratitude I owe to you for the trouble you have taken on my account."

"Do not be too lavish in your thanks to this little wife of mine," said Mr. Allison, smiling, "for did you only know how she delights in such commissions as that which she has so well executed in this instance, you would perhaps ascribe her assiduity to-day to that harmless little *penchant* for gadding about from house to house, which so many ladies possess."

"Indeed, my dear, you do me great injustice, replied Mrs. Allison with undisturbed good humour. "I assure you that I had not such an easy task to perform as you appear to think. I had to convince Mrs. Douglas, before she would agree to receive Mr. O'Donnel into her house, that he was a most studious, peacefully disposed, solitude-loving youth. She said that she would have preferred a more elderly person; but when I enumerated all the extraordinary good qualities which, if Mr. O'Donnel does not already possess, I trust he will endeavour to attain in order to support my assertions, she was perfectly satisfied."

Charles immediately proposed that on the following day he should remove to the house of Mrs. Douglas, as he felt desirous of prosecuting his studies; and with oft-repeated injunctions from his kind host and hostess that he would frequently call and see them, he took his departure.

Charles found his new abode all that could be desired, and as he arranged the few volumes which he had brought with him from Ardmore, in the book-case which stood in his small but cheerful

apartment, he could not but congratulate himself upon his good fortune. There reigned an air of undisturbed stillness and quietude throughout the house which was congenial to his present state of mind; for since he had left his home he had often sighed for a quiet spot to which he could retire and dream of Constance. Her nature was so associated with all that was calm and peaceful that it was not in scenes of festivity nor in the hurry and jar of every-day life that his mind loved to dwell upon her image; but when every sound was hushed around him, sweet thoughts of her and Ardmore came thronging upon him, and hope pointed to the future when he might yet possess her as his own.

The walls of his apartment were adorned by many paintings which displayed much talent; but they wanted that high degree of finish which study and careful cultivation alone impart. Innumerable indications of a refined mind were also perceptible in the rare flowers which adorned the windows, and in those many trifling but characteristic indications of woman's presence.

When Charles descended to tea, he found Mrs. Douglas presiding, and her appearance greatly interested him in her favour. The serene but melancholy expression which had become habitual to her face, revealed a tale of long and severe suffering, and the exquisite outline of features still distinguished a countenance, which, in youth, must have been surpassingly beautiful.

She saluted Charles with great ease, and he soon became as much delighted with her conversation as he had already been interested by her history and personal appearance.

CHAPTER X.

"Thus Harold deem'd, as on that lady's eye
He look'd, and met its beam without a thought,
Saw admiration, glancing harmless by:
Love kept aloof———."

CHILDE HAROLD.

To the University of E—— there annually resort numerous students from many portions of Europe, and even from many of the British Colonies. Some are wealthy youths to whom the name of "Student" is a sad misnomer, unless their punctual attendance at theatres and other places of public resort, and an unbounded share in the dissipation which surrounds them upon all sides, gives them a title to that appellation; their careless demeanor and spendthrift habits form a strong contrast to the severe study of those youths, the children of humble parentage, who have left their distant homes, and whose means of educa-