

fore precious to her. A something came over her, a swift determination that she would not be thus shamelessly robbed; so as the man laid hold of her wrist she lifted her other hand and dealt him a blow directly in the face. Looking back upon it afterwards Adair never could remember how she had presence of mind to do it. She remembered thinking that probably this would so enrage the man that he might kill her on the spot, but just at that moment she heard a hasty foot on the path, and the next moment some one had the cowardly assailant by the back of the neck in a grip of iron, and she was free. A blinding mist seemed to swim before her eyes, and she remembered no more. When she came to herself she was in her own room, and her mother's anxious face was bending over her.

"Oh, mother, where am I?" she cried, tremblingly. "Oh, I remember, it was Robert Fletcher who came up. Is he here?"

"He has been, dear," said her mother, soothingly. "He brought you home, and he has also succeeded in delivering into custody the man who gave you such a terrible fright. I shall never be able to forgive myself for allowing you to go down there alone."

"It was terrible," said Adair, with a shudder. "I shall never forget how I felt; but you must not trouble about it, mother; just think how many hundreds of times I have done the same thing. John Fletcher wanted to bring me home, and I would not allow him. Oh, I shall never be able to thank his son. I wish he had not gone away. I should like to have seen him."

"It will be an easy matter to see him when you are able for it," said Mrs. Bremner, tenderly. "I don't know what your father will say when he comes home.