

"I had not loved thee dear so much,
Loved I not honor more."

The lines, as they came fresh to remembrance, nerved him with new resolution and courage, and he broke the silence by saying--

"You have just intimated, Miss Alice, that you regard me as a brother; you must then allow me a brother's privilege of sympathising and assisting you, if possible, by counsel, or in any other manner in which my services might be acceptable."

Alice thanked him with a grateful smile. "Indeed," she said, "I feel deeply your kindness, and shall not hesitate to avail myself of your advice, on any emergency that may arise."

"And it shall be given to the best of my ability," was the reply.

"But I had nearly forgotten that I came here, partly as a messenger from my mother," said Sydney, as entering again the dwelling, he followed Alice into the neat parlour, and seated himself at her request, on the pretty chintz-covered couch.

"There is a note respecting, I believe, some pattern of fancy-work, which you promised, but as you were out to-day when she called, she forgot to mention it. I told her I thought my memory would serve me sufficiently to remember her message, but she said, 'your head is so occupied now with business affairs, that I am afraid it will hardly find room for so trivial a matter, so I prefer to write.'"

"But now, having performed my mother's commission, I must not omit my own. I have brought you a number of a new monthly periodical, for