

was plain her son had won the good opinion of this Mr. Arondale. Had she been asked, why she particularly valued the good opinion of Mr. Arondale the probability is great that the secret and true reason would not have been given. At least she would not have said 'I know the family to which he belongs, it is an old family and very respectable.' But she was none the less influenced by these very considerations. Stopping in the midst of her work she said:—"Do you still live at the Manor House, Mr. Arondale?"

"No, my brother, an elder brother, is now living there, but both my father and mother are living still."

"I can remember your father and your mother too as I used to see them come to church, and sit in the pew near the pulpit. They must be getting old by this time."

"I don't think my father has changed very much this past twenty years and my mother would readily pass for sixty, and she is seventy."

"And if I may make so bold, may I ask what you are doing now? I think you said you were in the King's service."

"I am a captain, ma'am, in command, at the present, of a coast guard ship. And it is on this account I am travelling in search of a brother of mine, that I would like to have with me."

Just as he was speaking the eldest son came in and was introduced to the captain. "So this is the *loyalist* you were speaking about Ronald." Ronald seemed somewhat confused but his mother took up the matter.

"I see," she said, "it was our Ronald who was telling you about our being driven out of the States. I forgot about the question I put before."

"Why," said the Captain, "don't you go and take up your grant of land in Canada?"

"I have thought a good deal about it lately," said the eldest son, whose name was Joseph. "I would have gone out there long ago if my health had been better. But I am not to call well at the best, and yet I don't know what is amiss with me."

"I think I can tell you," said the Captain. "You don't take enough out-door exercise. You work at your loom, instead of working in the field. Why, you have a build similar to my own, and if you had plenty of free air——" The Captain stopped quite suddenly, and looking at Joseph, he said: "Are not you pretty well educated?"

"Yes, I suppose I am, in a way," said Joseph. "I'm pretty fair in mathematics, and I have read a good deal of history, and in fact almost on every subject, in a desultory way."

"What do you say to taking a cruise with me for a few months. If you will, I will give you a good berth, and your mother will scarcely know you when you come home."

"I should be very glad to see him strong and healthy," said Mrs. Oakson; "but I think he'd cut a poor figure on board one of his Majesty's men-of-war."

"I think he'd cut a very fine one, with proper training, and without that the best are clumsy enough. I have seen fellows come on board so awkward that it seemed impossible to make any-