

Isabella. Her lovely countenance was suffused with blushes as I informed her how necessary she was to my existence; and with down-cast eyes she informed me, that although she was by no means indifferent to her, yet she should be obliged to desist from receiving any further visits from me, save in the presence of her father, until such time as the sentiments of the latter might be ascertained, "you will perceive," added she, with a sweet smile, "that this is the only course which I can pursue, I hope therefore that you will only attribute my motives to their proper source, namely, a feeling of delicacy." I felt the full force of her reasoning, and, accordingly declared my intentions to Lord Bancroft on the following day. He said that nothing would give him greater pleasure than such an alliance, but that he should withhold his consent, until he should be assured that that of my own father—who was of an equal grade with himself—could be obtained. I lost no time therefore in writing to my father, and by the next mail I received his answer. It contained his decided approbation of my being allied to such a noble family as that of Lord B., but at the same time, he hoped that I should still continue in the service of my country, with which wish I entirely concided.

The election terminated in favour of the nephew of the Earl, when I, having obtained leave of absence for a few months, proceeded to the family seat of Lord B., where, (my father having arrived,) my nuptials with the lady Isabella Vernon were solemnized with all the pomp and magnificence.

My leave having expired, I rejoined my Regiment, taking my lovely bride along with me, who in due course of time, presented me with a beautiful boy, the image of herself, and my happiness cannot well be expressed, as the little darling was first enabled to climb my knee and hail me by the tender name of father; alas! little did I dream that the cup of bliss was to have been dashed so suddenly from my lips.

"I had lived in a state of unalloyed felicity in the society of my wife and child, devoting to them every hour which was not employed in the duties of my profession, the little Charles grew to be a fine boy, and although I had been now four years married to his mother, yet there appeared to be no likelihood of any further increase to our family, as Isabella's health was very delicate. By the advice of the surgeon of the Regiment, she proceeded to the beautiful town of Newport for the recovery

of her health, and a small detachment having been stationed there under the command of Lieutenant Daley, I solicited and obtained permission to place myself under his orders, that I might still be near those dear objects of my tender solicitude.

"While stationed in this delightful little town, I was several times dispatched by Daley, in command of small parties to assist the revenue officers, as the practice of illicit distillation was very frequent in those parts. Upon returning one evening from one of those excursions, I was surprised to find my darling Isabella in tears. To my anxious enquiries as to the cause of her grief, she returned evasive answers, but on my continuing to question her, she reluctantly informed me that she had for some time past been annoyed by the disagreeable attentions of Daley—who had recently attained the rank of captain, and was in consequence, soon about to return to head-quarters—that he had but just left her presence, with dreadful threats of vengeance in case of a non-compliance with his desires, and that fears for my safety alone, had hitherto imposed upon her the necessity of silence. With the wildness of a maniac, I flew from the house, and sought the quarters of this fiend, but he happened to be from home. This was a fortunate circumstance, as, had I found him, I should have certainly immolated him to my vengeance. After mature deliberation, I decided upon sending him a challenge, but instead of giving me satisfaction, he was cowardly enough to order me into arrest.—When, however, the circumstances attending the case, became known in their proper light, he received a severe reprimand from the officer commanding the Regiment, and his conduct with regard to the challenge, being viewed in no very favourable light, by the majority of the officers, he was sent to Coventry,* and after a few months, he exchanged with a captain upon half pay; thus leaving a corps which was too happy to get rid of him.

"A few months after this occurrence had taken place, the station of the regiment was changed to Athlone, and as I had been lately promoted by purchase to the rank of lieutenant, I was, at my own request, sent in command of a detachment of thirty men to Roscommon, and took lodgings in a retired part of the town; and as Daley had now left the regiment, and my wife had been gradually recovering her health, I anticipated no further interruptions to

* An officer is said to be sent to Coventry, when his brother officers refuse to associate with him.