

I could doubt your love, then turning to her father, who had followed us into the room:—"Oh my dear kind father; how can I repay your goodness.—Her parents returned her fond embrace and Mrs. Seymour taking my passive hand; for the scene before me was so inexplicable, I was hardly conscious of my own identity, she introduced me to their mutual friend Mr. Dunforth, adding: you have probably heard of this gentleman, under his former name of " Mantville ;" my enquiring eyes demanded an explanation, which was readily given. Mr. Mantville had a few months previous come into possession of a large unincumbered estate, in consequence of the death of his maternal uncle, who had bequeathed it to him, on condition that he should ever afterwards bear his name. Mr. Seymour had not informed Ellen of this circumstance as he had every reason to believe that the surprise which would ensue, when she discovered that Mr. Mantville and Mr. Dunforth were the same individual, would be a joyful one to his darling daughter. This gentleman had for four long years loved Ellen with an enthusiasm which was equalled only by the self command which had prevented him from confessing his affection, and securing her promise to be his—but he had solemnly promised his mother, that such a confession should not pass his lips, even were the object of his passion an angel, until he had completed his professional studies. She was now dead and she alone could release him from that promise, he determined to obey the commands of a mother, whose memory he loved and venerated, even should it cause the destruction of his fondest hopes. He hoped and although he dared not acknowledge it to himself, he more than hoped, that Ellen loved him, and when from year to year, report told him how uniformly all were refused who aspired to her hand, however worthy or deserving they might be, he permitted himself to indulge the enrapturing *belief* that for his sake, she remained single. By indefatigable industry and perseverance he completed his studies preparatory to the practice of the law, in a much shorter time than he could have anticipated, and the same week in which he became a licenced Attorney, witnessed his arrival in Boston.