

tended her in her late illness, and besides, being anxious to hear your story,—I shall make it a point to be there," said the physician.

"And you, Gerard——"

"I," replied the stranger, who was standing apart, his arms folded, and his eyes fixed on vacancy,—“I must decline; I have a task to perform, and cannot defer it;—then, Mary Hereford," he added, in a lower tone, “my oath shall be obliterated from the Book of Fate!”

THE END.