

"Arthur," said she, "you never could decree our separation."

"Not for my own sake," replied he.

"For whose sake, then?"

"I feel it to be a pity to take you now to London, where, although nominally with me, you would have to pass so many lonely hours, for Miss

Campion expects no release from her uncle's death-bed. You have wished me to enter public life under your

father; this is now the case, and you well know that no one working for the

Marquis of Seaham is permitted to be idle. If he have complimented me on

the possession of good brains, he takes care they shall not become inert. His

holiday time here included many working hours, both for himself and me;

and when, on parting, he said,—"I foresee hard work for us both to

prepare for parliament," I also foresaw, by that speech, enough to make an

idle man tremble. Were all my work to be like that of the secretaries, plain

before me, you could still be with me; but half my time will be spent on the

railroad to Marsden, or driving to Bayswater, to assist in consultations,

for the Marquis will be in St. James' square as late as possible. He cannot

be to be alone in that house; he told me this; so that without the power to

do otherwise, I should seem to neglect and desert you. Then, Violet, think

of all my grandfather has done and suffered for me. I must leave him; but

he sees me in little Henry, and loves you as his true granddaughter. He

thinks that the child had better travel in more genial weather to Carlton

Gardens; the Easter holidays are short, but they would give me time to

fetch you to London."

"But you forget, Arthur, that papa

expects us for the Easter holidays at Marsden"

"Does he? Was any promise made? I was not aware."

"I thought it so natural, so likely that you would say 'yes,' that I answered for you to papa. Poor papa!

People only know him as the great orator, the great statesman, who is to

sway cabinets, and keep the equipage of Europe. Few know his good, his

wounded heart. He said it would comfort him to welcome his grandson

to Marsden Park. Philip Henry is his grandson, his only—only grandson,

grandpapa."

"You must go to Marsden, my child," said Lord Charleton.

"Can it not be thus arranged?" interposed the duchess. "Lord Stan-

more fetches Lady Violet and the infant at the Easter recess; but he

conducts them to Marsden Park; till those short holidays being over—the

whole party must necessarily remove to London: the already great states-

man, the future great statesman, and Philip Henry; the latter being little

aware of his consequence in any relation of life."

"That seems a very good arrangement," observed Lord Staunmore.

"Oh!" cried Lady Violet. "Were I a poor woman, with but one house

—one little cottage, I should be compelled to live there, and there alone

with you, Arthur. Sweet obligation! But now I must yield for these few

weeks, before Easter; and God, who sees the anguish of this parting, will

accept the sacrifice, and will guard and preserve you to me, Arthur. You

will not forget me; you will not wander from me!"

"I forget you, Violet!—I wander from you! Oh! how have I deserved these last words!"

More followed, during which the venerated witness to the scene, drew

a tear or two of remembered sympathy, and the earl whispered:

"Our young days, Emma."

These first moments of disappointment over, however, Lady Violet re-

covered the heroism of her character, even through the parting moments.

She accepted, for the first fortnight of her bereavement, the paternal invita-

tion, with the precious babe, to the western mansion, after which she returned to her usual duties in the eastern half, with the additional one of a punctual and detailed correspondence with her husband.

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

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