

of interest at which he will dole out to me the couple of hundreds that will ensure us against starvation for a time, and enable me to evade Carry's wearisome reproaches. Indeed, poor thing, had I a guinea in my possession she would not have sued in vain. I never yet refused it to a friend, far less would I do so to her."

"Then, you shall not refuse it to her any longer, Augustus dear, nor need you go to London either," interrupted his sister, her soft cheek glowing with happy emotion. "I trust I have enough, for all the liberal allowance made to me by my guardians since my first arrival here, is almost untouched, for my expenses are but trifling, and that I can place immediately, unquestioned and unsuspected at your disposal. By writing myself to one of my guardians, good Doctor Ormond, who has known me from infancy, I can also command at once a couple of hundreds."

"Eva, you are a dear good girl," rejoined her brother, his tones despite his efforts, faltering as he spoke. "Generous as you are gentle; and though it may seem both selfish and unjust of me, I will yet avail myself of your generosity. Truly, I have no alternative save the desperate and ruinous one I have mentioned; yet, before concluding, Eva, I must tell you that though I accept it as a loan, months, years may elapse ere fortune will enable me to repay it."

"What of that, dear Augustus? Is it not as a gift I offer it? Surely, I am more than repaid by your kind compliance with my wishes, in abandoning your intended visit to London. Oh! I would give ten times the sum, all that I possess in this world, to ensure your happiness and that of Mrs. Huntingdon."

"And you are taking a sure and effectual means to accomplish it. Sister, your gentle counsels and influence, your still more eloquent example, must and will bear fruit. Yes, already have they done so, and the indulgent forbearance I have extended to Carry's failings, instead of being derived from the dogged stoicism to which I falsely attributed it, is entirely the result of the gentle yet noble frankness with which you spoke to me of my own duties and responsibilities, my remissness in performing them, and my many faults towards Carry. True, my own perversity had well nigh proved the strongest, and but for you, Eva, I would, to-morrow, have been on my way to London, which would most probably have been also my way to ruin. At the time I promised her dying father to make her my wife, I also vowed to abjure my besetting sin, gambling, and since my marriage I have faithfully kept that promise. This morning and yesterday, however,

when smarting under her unjust and perverse re-
 criminations, I arranged with my own conscience, that her conduct entirely freed me from my engagement, and that my reunion with Middlemore, would be a return to the ruinous pleasure from which I had so long refrained, and which I fondly strove to persuade myself might be the means of building up anew my shattered fortunes. You, my gentle, self-sacrificing sister, have saved me, and saved also the poor young creature, so entirely, so totally dependant on me. Ah! advise her as you have advised me, continue to instil into her mind, by word as well as example, the gentleness and forbearance of which you are yourself so perfect a model, and there may yet be hope in store; there may yet arise for us a happiness that will amply atone to me for all I have lost, and realize the roscate dreams that filled poor Carry's imagination when she wedded the heir of all the Huntingdons."

Perhaps the happiest moment of Eva's whole existence was that in which she placed in her brother's hand, some days after, the sum which, notwithstanding its seeming insignificance to him who had once lavished thousands in idle folly, was yet, she felt, the salvation of his earthly, as well as spiritual happiness. More frequent than ever were her visits to the Cottage after this, and ever was she welcome, ever did her presence bring sunshine potent enough to dispel the clouds that so often threatened the happiness of its inmates.

With Augustus, her influence each day became more powerful. Insensibly, almost unconsciously, he yielded to the magical spell of that sweet, timid nature, that, strong in its very shrinking humility, won, by gentleness, what no other power could have obtained. The change so gradually yet surely taking place in the young man's character, was really admirable. Resigning without a murmur the luxuries which had once been essential almost to his existence, he parted with his well-beloved hunter, his faithful dogs, declining unhesitatingly all the invitations of his former thoughtless associates. The childish provocations and petulance of his wife, he bore with singular and noble forbearance, subduing, for her sake, the impetuous sallies of the reckless, satirical gaiety, which had once formed the prominent characteristic of his nature. True, there were times when his patience failed, when his good resolves were forgotten, times when his old temptations came upon him, too mighty almost to be resisted, but his better angel, his gentle-hearted sister, was ever at his side to whisper encouragement and hope, to win him by prayers and counsels to re-