

proved unsuccessful ; his affairs became embarrassed ; debts accumulated ; until at last, he was thrown into prison, where he languished for some time, and then died. After his death, his afflicted widow strove to support herself and children by her needle, but the sedentary occupation, combined with the deep grief that preyed upon her mind, threw her into a slow fever. During her illness, her poor neighbor took charge of her children, and she is now, I believe, convalescent. It is a delicate matter, to offer relief to one who has been brought up so tenderly, and whose feelings, no doubt, are as refined and sensitive as ever, and I believed that one of her own sex would be better than I, to enter into her case ; but to no lady would I so willingly apply, for from none would I feel so sure of success, as yourself."

Belinda blushed, but answered promptly, "I shall be most happy to do all in my power to assist you in your benevolent undertaking ; but what is the name of the lady to whom you allude ?"

"Mrs. Kenyson."

"*Mrs. Kenyson!* It is the very one whom I am about to visit. She was an intimate companion of mine, in school-girl days."

"A singular coincidence, truly, and an extremely fortunate one," exclaimed Captain Elton.

Belinda then related to her delighted listener many little anecdotes which came under her observation, and which displayed, in a striking light, the excellencies of Mrs. Kenyson's character.

"What so beautiful as the confiding friendship of youth," mentally ejaculated Captain Elton, as he gazed on Belinda's countenance, glowing with enthusiasm ; on her eyes, beaming with the remembrance of affection ; and, as the musical tones of her voice fell upon his ear, pouring forth words of untutored eloquence, fresh from a warm and generous heart, he thought the cause of humanity could not find a more efficacious pleader. At length, they arrived at the place designated in the note, as Mrs. Kenyson's residence. They opened a low gate, blackened by rain, dust and smoke, which led to a long alley. Emerging from this, they beheld before them an old dwelling, whose rafters almost appeared coeval with the patriarchs. On the irregular and broken steps that led to the door, a number of squalid children were playing ;