

often melodious cries of the fisherwomen. This confused medley of sounds, so different from the stillness which had always reigned in the streets of S—— by night, almost terrified them, and they drew closer to each other, as if for protection. That night, they remained at the inn, and slept soundly after the fatigues of the day.

Next morning, Isabella accompanied Lillias to her future abode, which was situated in the New Town, where she was to begin her career as governess. True, her occupation was not very arduous, for the youngest child had yet to be taught her alphabet, and the other was not much further advanced, (for these were not the days of precocious genius, and babes were not taught to read ere they could lispen the words.) Her feelings were such as all must have experienced, who have known what it is to be separated from their family, and to enter a dwelling whose inmates are strangers, and where but a cold reception perhaps awaits them. Poor Lillias felt thus as she traversed the spacious hall, and ascended the ample staircase which conducted to Mrs. Lee's drawing-room.

When they entered it, they found a lady, apparently about thirty years of age, seated at a work table, sewing very busily, while two little girls at her feet, were dressing a doll almost as large as themselves.

Mrs. Lee saluted them very kindly, and desiring them to be seated, proceeded to read the letter with which Miss Kate had introduced them.

"So you are the young lady whom Miss Duff recommends so warmly," said she, addressing Lillias; "and if only one half of what she here says in praise of you, is true, we shall be excellent friends. These are your young charges," continued she, pointing to the two little girls, whose dolls were laid aside as they gazed upon the strangers.

Mrs. Lee then began talking to Isabella concerning her prospects, and desired her to apply to her if she could be of any assistance to her.

While they were conversing, little Margaret and Agnes Lee were rapidly making acquaintance with their new governess, and Agnes discovered, greatly to her delight, that Lillias' eyes and hair were exactly the same color as her new wax doll, and that her cheeks were almost as rosy. By the time Isabella rose to depart, she was on excellent terms with her little pupils.

She felt more cheerful than could have been expected when she bade adieu to her sister, whom Mrs. Lee said she might visit frequently.

Isabella now proceeded back to the inn, escorted by a little boy, whom she had engaged as a guide to conduct her through the intricate mazes of the town, and, accompanied by Robert, she

went to deliver another letter she had received from the good Miss Kate. For this purpose she had to traverse the greater part of the Old Town, which was not then, as now, the abode of misery and poverty.

Robert and Isabella beheld with astonishment, the lofty houses, some ten and twelve stories high, and the long narrow streets crowded with busy faces.

After threading a perfect labyrinth of streets and wynds, they arrived at their destination, and were ushered into the abode of Mrs. Galbraith, a decayed gentlewoman, (as a lady in reduced circumstances was termed,) who, being a widow, resided alone, with her daughter.

Mrs. Galbraith received them very graciously, and presented Isabella to her daughter Mary, a pretty mild-looking girl, who was engaged in bordering shawls.

Mrs. Galbraith was an excellent specimen of the lady of the old school, and the antique fashion of her dress, and the formal politeness of her manners, betokened that she was no friend to modern innovations. It was agreed that Isabella should be received by her as a boarder, and she was delighted with the air of peace and quiet which pervaded the abode, which was as old-fashioned as its mistress.

After the sale of the furniture and effects belonging to their house in S——, Isabella was left in possession of a sum of money, small it is true, but sufficient to maintain Robert at college for some months, and by that time, she trusted that she might acquire an occupation, and be thus enabled to retain him there.

Accordingly, next day he departed to the college, and she took up her abode with Mrs. Galbraith. She explained to her the circumstances in which she was placed, and asked her advice concerning what she should do. The kind-hearted Mary immediately said:

"Miss Leslie, if you would like such work as this, I can easily procure you plenty?"

"But I cannot embroider," replied Isabella, "or I would thankfully accept your offer."

"Oh! as to that," said Mary, "a few lessons would soon render you capable of doing it very well, and you can begin with a coarser kind of shawls, and as you improve, you can procure such as these."

Isabella thanked her with feelings of the warmest gratitude, and immediately began taking lessons in embroidery. She possessed excellent natural taste for this kind of work, and in a short time even excelled her obliging preceptress, both in the beauty of the style, and the richness and originality of the patterns. This species of embroidery had but newly come into fashion, and