

that is highest and best in a woman's nature would respond to the appeal inherent in such a situation; but it is far too frequently not so.

"The case we are considering is a case in point. And the young girl had reached a period when experienced and sympathetic guidance is so vitally important; for she stood on the threshold of womanhood, swayed by new impulses which she could not understand, in a holy ignorance fraught with the gravest danger to herself, danger from which she could be safeguarded only, humanly speaking, by the understanding sympathy and guidance of an older woman.

"The architect's assistant was a youth of handsome appearance and good address, and he very quickly captured the interest of the inexperienced and impressionable girl. It did not require much skill on his part to convert that interest into affection, and in time he won her consent to a runaway marriage. As he himself was practically penniless and had absolutely no prospects he knew only too well how the father would entertain a request for his daughter's hand; but he believed that, the marriage an accomplished fact, the father would bow to the inevitable and provide for him as his daughter's husband. The young people succeeded in reaching a neighbouring town without their object being discovered; they were married, and the following day presented themselves at the paternal door. But instead of pardon and acceptance, if not welcome, they met with violent abuse and rejection; the poor girl was upbraided as an undutiful daughter, and her father's house forever closed to her.

"Her romantic dream was soon rudely dispelled. Her husband was summarily dismissed from his situation as soon as tidings of his misconduct reached his employer, and he found it impossible to obtain steady work elsewhere. The failure of his schemes embittered him, and constant indulgence in strong drink did not tend to improve his temper or make

him a more desirable companion. Before long he began to look upon his wife as the cause of all his misfortunes, and when in his cups he not infrequently ill-treated her savagely. In six months' time the situation had become intolerable, her husband's cruelty endangering not only her own life but that of her unborn child as well.

"The architect, who had learned of her plight in the course of his occasional visits of inspection, and vainly endeavoured to secure her re-admittance to her father's home, at length advised her to leave her inhuman husband and go to her married sister in Dublin. The district had no stage coach connection with Dublin at the time, and the question of transportation appeared to be a difficult one to solve, more especially as the matter must needs be arranged and carried out without the knowledge of the husband. But a solution presently appeared in the person of a young Englishman, who had been on a visit to a neighbouring farm. He was riding back to Dublin, and the good architect, who had met him and been much prepossessed in his favour, readily secured his sympathy on behalf of his fair young protégée and his consent to her riding on a pillion behind him. The better to conceal her movements, and also as a means for the avoidance of possible embarrassments while travelling together, he assumed the role of her brother, and she that of his widowed sister.

"The journey was accomplished without incident, and the weary but thankful girl presented herself at her sister's door, sure that she had found a safe and welcoming haven. But the unnatural sister, who had seen her approach from a window, met her on the threshold, not with the arms of love but with the mien of a fury, and slammed the door in her face.

"And so here was the poor runaway, penniless, in a strange city, her only protector a young man who was neither relative nor connection! In a state of woeful perplexity the