len could barely comprehend the apparent contradiction, as he tenderly stroked her head.

" Helen, do you trust me ?   Then in going, believe that I go in sorrow, and will return soon to realize, I hope, all the pleasure we have anticipated in our visit here.—Farewell !"

Helen came in.

" Do not look any longer after Captain Seymour ; he will not stay away long, I know," said Marion.   " The old gardener is wondering why Miss Helen has not been to see his new flowers."

Helen dashed the tears away and followed her sister, and as every new object revealed the untiring love of their devoted relative, her face brightened for· the sake of one so dear.   How much there was to see and to talk over, sure of sympathy in every joy and sorrow.   With a mind fresh, and buoyant as ever, richly endowed with knowledge, Mrs. Reynolds ever entered with true zest into all the feelings of youth, and was in return almost idolized by young people, by whom she was con ·tinually surrounded.

" I have asked your young friends, the Stuarts, to meet you this evening ; so I expect quite a concert with such a musical party.   We must postpone our ramble now and go and dress," and they returned to the house.

Evening came, Mrs. Reynolds' watchful eye alone, perhaps, could detect the cloud over her darling's apparently cheerful smile ; but she was consoled by knowing Captain Seymour might momentarily be expected.   As these thoughts occupied her mind, the sound of carriage wheels caught her ear, and she left the room to find that he had indeed arrived.

" Does Helen know I am here ?"

" No.   I have attended to your wish, and she still remains in ignorance of it.   I left her singing."

" My dear Madam, have I your permission to speak a few words with her before I join your party ?"

" Certainly.   I will send her to you."

Captain Seymour walked round the lawn, and taking his station near the open windows was an unobserved spectator of the scene within.   Helen had risen from the harp, and was then the centre of a group proffering their thanks for the song just