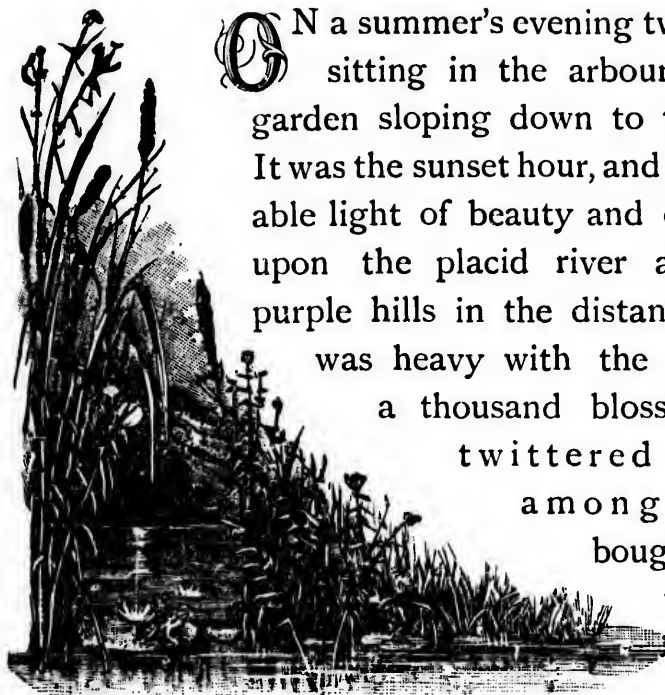


# MISTAKEN.

## CHAPTER I.

DO THE DUTY WHICH LIES NEAREST TO THEE.



ON a summer's evening two girls were sitting in the arbour of a large garden sloping down to the Thames. It was the sunset hour, and an unspeakable light of beauty and of peace lay upon the placid river and on the purple hills in the distance. The air was heavy with the perfume of a thousand blossoms ; birds twittered drowsily among the lilac boughs ; and even the humming of the lazy bees sometimes mingled with the pleasant evening sounds.