

must not praise him ; but I do tell you this, that what he has undertaken will be nobly performed."

Tears of proud happiness and relief stood in the girl's eyes. She pressed the hand that held her own.

"It seems almost too good to be true," she said. "But you ? What will you do ? You will come to us, too ?"

"I think not, dearest, I think I shall remain where I am in these pleasant rooms close beside you ; and I shall claim my favourite Di as my companion—my almost daughter. It will not be taking her away, as we are so close together ; but the child has given me such a wealth of love that I think she will like to call herself my child. I have sometimes told her that when Giles marries she must come to me if she can be spared, and she has almost promised. As for sweet Ella, I do not think it will be very long before she finds a nest of her own. Some wise man will learn to value her at her true worth, and so long as the Baroness lives—Giles fears it cannot be very long now—I doubt not she will help to fill the place that Olga's marriage will leave vacant. And now you have the outline of the airy castles that Giles and I have often been engaged in building together. Do you not think that they are taking substance, and that we may look upon some of