



CHAPTER II.

PHILIP.

“ Is it worth while that we jostle a brother
Bearing his load up the rough hill of life ? ”

THE father of Daisy was the second son of Squire Courtney, of Courtney Hall, a fine estate in one of the inland counties of England. It had descended direct from father to son for many generations, and, as the revenues were very large, and the estates unencumbered, each heir, as he became Lord of the Manor, added to its proportions, either beauty or strength, as fancy prompted ; and, at the period of which I write, it was a noble pile of architecture, fit for the abode of royalty itself. Standing in the midst of extensive pleasure grounds, where many giants of the forest raised their lofty heads ; where fountains and waterfalls glittered in the sunlight, and everything that art could suggest had been done to render it one of the most beautiful places in that land of noble homes.

Squire Courtney had come to the estate early in life, his father having met with a fatal accident. A few months after the death of his father he had asked