

look was changed to that of deep feeling : he pressed the hand of Mrs. D. and was forced to turn to a window to conceal his emotion. That visit was painful to all parties ; not daring to speak on the subject nearest his heart, Charles could not bring himself to converse on any indifferent one ; and Clara's spirits were too much worn out to admit a cheerful thought. He soon took leave requesting permission to return the next day.

By this time, Mrs. Delville who was perfectly ignorant of business, was prevailed upon by interested advisers to mortgage her remaining property, as her only means of raising money for the purposes of life. The idea of selling it and thereby forming a small capital having never occurred to her mind ; and with respect to Clara, the real situation of her mother had at length become impressed on her mind, and she lived in a kind of reckless despair, her only object being to contribute to her comforts ; further than that she thought not, cared not. A vague hope might exist that she should not survive that mother, but it was undefined. Poor credulous girl ! to fancy for a moment that grief could break a woman's heart. She had yet to learn that it might be crushed, lacerated, and tortured, and even consumed by every species of misfortune, and that still another, and another strong in feeling at least, would arise out of the ashes of the first.

Charles was now a constant visitor at the house, and unconsciously, Clara began to look forward to the time of his visits with something like pleasure ; a very great change had taken place in him, although evidently labouring under a secret weight of anxiety, he was always cheerful in presence of Mrs. Delville and Clara. His manner to both was tender and affectionate, he had ever some new trifle to engage their attention ; books, pictures, and music, of which latter they were all equally enthusiastic, all was put in requisition. His conversation was suited to his hearers, never had Clara believed him so rich in the graces of the mind, his wit was ready, but though bright and sparkling as a crystal stream in the noon-day sun, it was as harmless and refreshing. Too kind in disposition to