

him, and he missed the sweet companionship that, for a few happy days, had filled it with sunshine. But Gracie, though no longer a visitor in his house, was still in Venice, and it was the intention of her friends to stay there some time.

All that time was spent by Vernon in the exclusive devotion of himself to Gracie. There were many things to be seen. He revisited the old scenes in company with the whole party, and many new ones. He had many more stories in his manuscript, and these he read to them now under the arcades of palaces, again while floating lazily in the gondola, and yet again in the evening at the Hotel Zeno. They were also often at his house, looking at his pictures or sketches, and seeing the vivid portrayal of the very events which he had been narrating. These days were quite as pleasant to Gracie as the old ones, and in one respect pleasanter, since the anxiety that formerly lay beneath all her enjoyment had now altogether passed away, and there was nothing to think of except the present and its delights.

Uncle Moses did not accompany them in these wanderings. He excused himself on the ground that he had seen enough of sights. So he remained at home in the hotel. As a general thing Miss Lee also remained at home. She, too, declared that she did not care for sight-seeing, and thus it happened that the sudden and sympathetic friendship which had sprung up between Uncle