

and generously in providing for the future of her orphaned niece.

'I could not turn my back on my own flesh and blood—dear Eustace's child,' she remarked tearfully to her special crony, Lady Armitage. 'No, my dear, of course not,' replied her friend sympathetically; 'your feelings do you credit, Caroline; and I cannot but applaud your sense of duty—and then the girl will be such a companion for Adelaide.'

'I am not so sure of that,' returned Mrs. Fordham rather quickly; 'there is a difference in their ages, and Christian has never quite suited dear Addie; besides, she has so many friends; but, of course, we shall do our best for the poor child;' and according to her lights Mrs. Fordham had acted up to her words. Nevertheless, the house in Mandeville Street was no home to the girl, to quote her own words: 'for Christian was generally verbally strong. I was always a stranger and a sojourner in the Mandeville House; I was never really one of the family. No,' answering an indignant protest, 'they were not unkind. Adelaide was always cold—her nature is not a genial one; but Aunt Caroline tried to make me comfortable—only she had not the right knack, and somehow I always felt in the way.'

Perhaps, after all, there were faults on both sides; Christian, in her secret unhappiness, may have been a little too exacting in her demands, and somewhat unyielding and aggressive with regard to the prejudices of others; Adelaide's company manners and would-be juvenility grated terribly upon her. 'Why does she try to be young?' she would say to herself; 'all her friends know she is eight-and-thirty; if she would leave off being sprightly and girlish, she would be so much more attractive.'