

THE HEIR OF FAIRMOUNT GRANGE

PART I

CHAPTER I

'POOR child! poor child!' said Mrs Jocelyn, musingly, as she poured into her cup a liberal portion of the rich country cream which, as a Londoner, she so much appreciated, 'It is certainly very sad for her! I wish I could see what she had better do. I think I shall write by the next mail to Caroline Aylmer, to ask her if she can think of anything suitable for her, out in Canada. Mr Aylmer has done very well there, and as Caroline is so prosperous herself, she might very well do something for poor Ethel! I should be only too glad to have the dear child myself, but really our accommodation is so limited, and then Clara and I have so many engagements for this summer—Clara is in *such* request, you see—and a stranger in deep mourning does interfere so much with all one's arrangements,