

FIRST CONVERSATION.

CHILD. It is long since, Mama, you promised to teach me the Piano; when shall we begin? I would be so glad to be able to play, and I like to hear it so much, that I wait with the greatest impatience for the beginning of your lessons.

MOTHER. I should wish to fulfil my promise, but...

C. But! what prevents you from doing so?

M. The only thing I fear is, that you will not be assiduous enough.

C. Not assiduous! why should I not, since I have the greatest desire to learn?

M. I do not doubt, my dear, that you would like to learn the Piano, but you do not know the difficulties you will have to encounter. The Piano is the most difficult of all the Instruments: it requires great patience, much practice, and a close application.

C. I shall not be without them.

M. Besides, you will perhaps find it rather hard to pass your hours of leisure, or at least a part of them, daily before the Piano.

C. Do not fear Mama, I will not regret my hours of amusement if I can only learn the Piano.

M. And if you should hereafter dislike it, and I should be obliged to make use of my authority to compel you to practice, would you not regret that you ever commenced?

C. Never, Mama! let me but commence, and you will be satisfied of my attention and application.

M. Well, my dear, I will do my best to teach you.

C. How glad I am! when are we to begin?

M. Whenever you like.

C. Well, then, we will play to-day—to-morrow—after to-morrow, and every day, till I am able to play well.

M. This is what you should do.

C. With what shall we begin?

M. Be attentive, and listen to me: The small pieces of ivory and ebony upon which we are going to play, are called Keys.

C. Mama, I know that already.

M. All the Keys together make what is called the Keyboard.

C. Very well—Keys and Keyboard.

M. There are two kinds of Keys, namely, long and short—or white and black ones.

C. It is not difficult to understand all this.

M. Every Key has a particular name.

C. Oh! that changes the thing altogether.

M. You must begin by learning the names of these Keys, and by making yourself familiar with them.

C. I believe, Mama, that this will be the most difficult part of the task.