

only real uneasiness you have ever occasioned, has arisen from this source, and for the sake of our dear family, it is my last request that you would not permit them to visit you, and that you entirely renounce their society. Promise me but this, and it is all I ask. For my sake, promise, and for the sake of our dear children, so soon to be motherless."

She sank back on the arm of her husband, overcome by fatigue and the excitement of her feelings. Captain Lindsay supported her tenderly, and in an agitated voice, replied, as soon as she had recovered from her stupor :

"Do not, my love, distress yourself a moment about such a thing as this; I promise to obey your wish; solemnly and before God I promise, and may He assist me in performing this my vow, and in training up our dear children, and to bear the heavy affliction with which it may please Him to visit me!"

"Amen!" added I fervently—seeing that he was deeply agitated. The sufferer too seemed affected at the solemn manner in which he complied with her wish, and murmured in a low voice :

"Now my last wish is gratified, and I have nothing farther to accomplish;" looking upward, she adding with fervor : "Father, I thank thee for this, and may he and my dear children be united with me in a better and happier state."

Captain Lindsay sat down in deep thought, leaning his head upon his hands, a half stifled groan occasionally escaping from him, shewing that his pent up and excited feelings could not be entirely subdued. The patient was silent and motionless, and I sat down also by the fire, and imagination soon began her sketches, but not as is her wont, with light and airy touchings, but with slow and heavy hand, with dark dark shades. I thought of the future, of the clamorous creditors, the various debts which although due had not been demanded by those who respected the house of mourning. And then the children, what was to become of them? What if the vow so solemnly made should prove as frail and worthless as vows generally are? And the health of the daughter, the gentle and tender Margaret, the sweet flower whose bloom was so perceptibly vanishing—what if long watchings and fatigue had undermined her delicate constitution, and the hand of disease should be lifted from the mother, after having accomplished its dire object, to be laid with overpowering force upon the daughter? It was not long, however, that such forebodings could be indulged, for the patient soon became again restless, and anxiously begged that she might be permitted to see and bid farewell to her children. There was something in her earnest manner that would not admit of opposition; her heart was evidently set upon it, and they were accordingly brought in, poor frightened creatures, wondering at the summons and at the

earnest and almost convulsive manner of their mother's embrace. It was a sad scene, and touching, but it was at last over—the long farewell uttered, the last prayer invoked, the last embrace given, and in the chamber of the dying woman there was again silence, unbroken but by the war of the elements, and the now hurried and laboring breath of the sufferer. She had spoken long and earnestly to her daughter, but I had taken the opportunity of leaving the room, and on my entrance I found the poor girl struggling to restrain her feelings, and still anxiously watching every look and anticipating every wish of her mother. As I entered, the patient beckoned me to approach, and in a sweet low tone, such as sometimes lingers about an organ when the requiem for the dead has been just performed, and the fingers remain motionless, as if to prolong some sweet chord as it dies away, she said :

"All is well, Doctor. The bitterness of death is past, and I am now ready." She said no more but closed her eyes, and her thoughts seemed to be wandering.

"My Father, will you not forgive your daughter! And my poor absent one! Why does he not come." There was a pause of some minutes, and in the meantime Captain Lindsay and Charles joined us at the bed-side, and we continued looking on in silence, trying, but in vain, to catch the hurried low words which at intervals escaped her lips. Time fled, and she seemed still to slumber on; at last she opened her eyes, and glancing hurriedly around, finding her husband standing close by, made an attempt to speak. Bending over as if to catch the half formed words, his cheek touched hers, and I heard her say distinctly but with difficulty : "George, my dear husband!—you have promised." He received her last breath, and her gentle spirit had passed away for ever. My first patient was in heaven!

It was a sad night, and a sad scene, but I will not dwell upon it. The elements were battling without, but the combat within had just closed, and feeling that I could be of no farther use I left the house, and sad in heart made the best of my way homewards.

On the morning of the funeral I went with the neighbours to pay the last duties to the deceased. No invitations had been given, yet a large number of persons attended, who evidently sympathized in the distress of the family. Indeed, no one could help feeling, and that deeply; for a more afflicted family can scarcely be conceived. The children had been put in black, and were moving about from room to room, apparently unheeded, their swollen eyes plainly shewing that they were able to comprehend their loss. Captain Lindsay appeared calm, but evidently in deep agitation, although he had too much self-command to allow his feelings to appear in loud bursts of sorrow. He seemed unprepared for so large an assemblage of