

overawed and oppressed by the events of the evening, nor ever after this did she recover her natural serenity and cheerfulness. Even her affection for De Courcy appeared to change its character, for, as she sometimes said, the power of that mysterious woman had cast a deep shadow upon her heart; she felt as though an irresistible decree controlled her actions, and she yielded to the influence of De Courcy rather through fear than love. Still that influence remained unabated, and she seemed no less solicitous than himself, that the predictions of Moll should be fulfilled; she looked indeed to their fulfilment as the only escape from the perils and persecutions which, as the witch had foretold, otherwise awaited her.

"And shortly after this the aspect of affairs promised a speedy accomplishment of all that had been prophesied, for Ida received a letter from her guardian, informing her that he had been dangerously ill, and that his health was still in so precarious a state that his physician had ordered him abroad for the winter—that his son, who had now finished his collegiate course, would accompany him, and as he could not consent to leave her in the hands of strangers during their absence it was his wish that the engagement between Frank and herself, which had been so long tacitly consented to by both parties, should be consummated by marriage before their departure, that she too might bear them company. He then went on to state the arrangements he had made for this event, which was to take place at the house of a lady in Boston who was a distant relation of Mr. Randolph's, and who had freely offered her assistance on the occasion. Immediately after the ceremony they were to embark for Europe, where they were to remain two years, when Ida would have attained her majority, and her presence on her West India estates, would be required previously to her return to America.

"The contents of this letter filled Ida with alarm and uneasiness—yet knowing De Courcy's fiery impetuous nature, she dared not communicate to him the new danger which menaced her. But thrown off her guard by her distress of mind, he one day surprised her in tears over this fatal letter, and then without resistance she yielded it to his passionate entreaties. She trembled when she told me of the rage and jealousy with which it filled him, but she did not reveal to me what had passed between them at that interview, which took place in a secluded glen, that was the scene of many stolen meetings, nor did she avow the purpose they then formed, and were shortly to execute: for tenderly as she loved me, and greatly as she then needed the support and sympathy of a female friend, even though that friend were but a

child, her kind nature shrank from involving me by her confidence, in a step, the blame and imprudence of which she generously resolved to bear alone. But I saw that night, that her gentle spirit was bowed to the very dust with sorrow, and when I carressed and strove to soothe her, she but wept the more bitterly, lavishing upon me a thousand kisses and pressing me in silent agony to her bosom. She would not go to rest, and when I fell asleep I left her sitting at the open window, looking with tearful eyes into the deep darkness of the night; but when I awoke in the morning she was gone. A note lying upon the table caught my eye, it was addressed to me, and contained these few lines, which my memory has faithfully treasured.

"Farewell, my sweet Lizzy; when you awake in the morning I shall be far from you, but do not grieve for my loss,—the predictions of the prophets are being fulfilled,—I can no longer remain here in safety, and the flight which she foretold is my only resource. If we never meet again, yet sometimes think of me with love, and pity, but do not blame your—IDA."

"Never shall I forget the sensation produced not only in the school, but throughout the village and the adjacent country by this elopement; but so well had De Courcy planned the whole affair, that pursuit after the fugitives was vain; but it was at first prosecuted with vigour, by the few interested in discovering them; as no clue to their course could be obtained, it was soon relinquished under the impression that they must immediately have sailed for France, which supposition proved afterwards to be correct.

"A perfect feeling of desolation came over me after Ida's departure. Young as I was, she had made me her friend and companion, and by her winning sweetness had secured my ardent affection. There was no one left, who could supply her place, to me—none who cared for my happiness, or valued my love; and besides these selfish considerations, a secret fear that the rash step she had taken would bring her disappointment and suffering, haunted me, and completed my utter wretchedness. Constantly I received severe reprimands from my instructors for neglecting my studies, and to escape their displeasure, and the idle levity of my companions, my only comfort, and resource was, to wander away and spend hours alone, among the haunts which had been the favourite resort of Ida and myself during the past summer. It was about a week after she left me, that I by accident overheard a conversation which threw a painful degree of light upon the machinery which had been at work to shape the destiny of this unhappy girl. I had delayed longer than usual one evening in the glen where De