

you Grace? so do out of love to me what seems very hard to you now."

It was true Grace loved her father better than herself, and this love for him decided her.

"I will try, dear papa," she said, "to do all you wish me to; but oh! I know I shall not be able to stay here; I will promise to stay till Christmas, but if I fail, you will not be angry with me, but take me home then?"

He promised all, and with a sad heart he left his treasure, to see what other influence would do for her. And Grace, as the gate closed behind her father, threw herself into a chair, and wept long and bitterly, till Maude Melville came to her, and with many kind and endearing words endeavoured to soothe her grief.

That evening Ida Promfret with her cousin Georgie arrived, and although she was somewhat disappointed to find that Grace had her room, rather than leave her little cousin alone, exchanged rooms with Maude Melville, to the great delight of Grace; and so, when it was time to retire, Maude's influence over Grace began this first evening, and without intending it, she