

which Arthur Brandon had of winning his wife's heart, he threw from him. If he had nobly stayed by her side and forgotten all, lavishing upon her a husband's love and protection, she might, in time, have learned the lesson he had at one time hoped to teach her. Though the man's nature was not ignoble or ungenerous, still there was in it an undercurrent of selfishness. During his life he had never taught himself to battle against the bitter feelings of resentment which he always felt against those who injured him. How small a thing the love of such a man was compared with Alan Horton's. Eva smiled as she contrasted the two. How differently he would have acted. The days wore slowly on. Eva had nobly and patiently borne too many sorrows to sink under this one. She found many duties to fill her life. She made some improvements, many of which had long been necessary on her husband's estate. But she determined she would form no acquaintances until the return of her husband. She went to see Mrs. Brown once, who rejoiced when she heard of her marriage to Arthur, but thought, as did a great many others, his absence rather strange. Mrs. Macelgin visited her occasionally and Eva returned the visits. This lady was much attached to her and wondered what motive Arthur Brandon could have for neglecting so long such a wife as he possessed. Her friendship helped, in some degree to break the monotony of Eva's life. One night, early in September, a young man arrived at "Brandonville," and asked to see its mistress. He was shown into a reception room, where Eva soon joined him. When she entered she noticed that he appeared somewhat embarrassed and seemed as if he had a disagreeable duty to perform.

"I am truly sorry, Mrs. Brandon," he said, "to be the bearer of unpleasant news. You are expecting your husband home very soon, are you not?"

"I am expecting him every day," she answered, while a nervous sensation began to creep over her.

"Well, madam, I am the bearer of a message from him. He was on his way home when he was stricken with small-pox and had to be taken to the hospital in London, where he is now very ill. He would not have alarmed you by letting you know of his condition only he feared you might hear it from