

inlincing Katherine to attend a charity ball, which was to be given in the neighbourhood during the following week.

"It will be a splendid affair," said Mrs. Black; "all the world are to be there. I hope you will become a subscriber!" Katherine who had never been at a public ball in her life, looked towards her husband for his approval.

"Oh! of course Captain Warburton will go," said Miss Dashwood, answering for him, "as he is engaged to dance with me at the first ball where we meet."

"Neville! will you subscribe to oblige me," asked Katherine with a flushed cheek."

"Certainly, love! if you wish it. I have two reasons to induce me."

"Am I one?" said Miss Dashwood in a languid tone, and looking up in his face most beseechingly.

Now, had he spoken the truth, Captain Warburton would have replied "No!" but this he rarely did to women; therefore, pressing his hand on his heart, he bowed, saying "Can you doubt it?"

Oh! how the young heart of Katherine bounded with indignation at his folly, and at the look of triumph with which it was received by the lady.

"You must not be jealous of Selina," said Mrs. Black with a smile, on perceiving the vexation depicted on the ingenuous countenance of Katherine: "she is an old friend and favorite of Captain Warburton's, and claims a few privileges."

Now the idea of being thought jealous, and that too of one like Miss Dashwood, was torture to the beautiful girl. She repeated the word with a look of contempt.

"Jealous! I must fall far beneath my own self-esteem ere I merit to be considered so. What say you, Neville?"

A smile was the only answer, and an orderly entering the room at the same moment to say that the parade waited for him, Captain Warburton hurried away, leaving poor Katherine a prey to a thousand painful thoughts. Her visitors did not remain long after him. The moment they were gone, she flew to her friend Mrs. Bruce, to open her heart to her, with no aspect so troubled and agitated that the worthy lady exclaimed,

"My dear young friend, what has happened? I trust you have received no ill tidings from home."

"Oh! no! no! thank goodness for that," replied Katherine, throwing herself into a chair, and panting for breath, "but those hateful

women have just been with me, and they always make me miserable."

"Of whom are you speaking?—how am I to understand you? Compose yourself, my love! and tell me;" returned Mrs. Bruce soothingly, and releasing Katherine from her bonnet, the strings of which she was trying to rend asunder.

"You will think me very foolish, I know, and to no one else would I betray my folly. I allude to Mrs. Black and Miss Dashwood, whose freedom of manner towards Neville exasperates me."

"Ah! is that all, poor child?" replied Mrs. Bruce, smiling and sitting down by her. "And pray, my dear! does Captain Warburton admire them for such freedom?"

"No! I am convinced he does not, but then he appears pleased, and makes so many fine speeches that their vanity is completely flattered, which amounts to the same thing."

"Katherine, Katherine, my dear girl! do not make miseries for yourself out of trifles light as air," said Mrs. Bruce, taking her hand and speaking in an earnest tone; "if you are assured of Captain Warburton's affection, as you value its possession, never allow him to imagine that you doubt it, else will you bitterly rue it. Now own that pride and much self-love are the cause of all these passionate and angry feelings?"

"Perhaps they are; for if Miss Dashwood were really a charming or a beautiful person I should not feel half so indignant. But such a thing as that! it is too provoking." And she bit her lip and stamped her little foot upon the ground.

"Ah! Katherine! would that half the pains had been taken to improve your mind that were lavished on accomplishments. What does the gospel of Jesus Christ teach you? To be meek and lowly, not easily provoked, forbearing, charitable in your judgment of others."

"But Mrs. Bruce!" interrupted Katherine with a flushed cheek, "surely you do not admire or like Miss Dashwood?"

"I do not admire her certainly, my dear! and you know I warned you against forming any intimacy with either her or Mrs. Black; still while we are compelled to censure, we may pity. Miss Dashwood has had few advantages; her education has been totally neglected—not so with you, and yet—Katherine!"

Mrs. Bruce paused. Katherine instantly understood the look of reproach with which her words were accompanied, for bursting into tears, she said,

"Ah! I know what you would say. Notwithstanding all the tender care and solicitude of my parents, I have deceived and deserted them.