

have had some effect on his cousin, whilst the favorable change in his prospects, might incline his conscientious aunt to lend a more willing ear to his suit. Having applied for leave, and left his address at the foreign office, he wrote to Mrs. De Courçi, to acquaint her of his appointment, and of his intended visit, as before his embarkation, he thought it his duty, to take his leave of her in person, to thank her for her innumerable kindnesses, which duty he was anxious to acquit himself of, as it was not probable that he should have the pleasure of seeing her again for many years. A few weeks afterwards, found him once more an inmate of De Courçi Lodge, in the society of her whom alone he most valued on earth.

After the solemn assurances which his aunt had given him, that she could never listen to the wishes he entertained, in regard to her daughter, she gave herself but little further solicitude on that head, thinking reasonably, that he would not seek to ingratiate himself into the young lady's good graces, after she had so positively declared her opinion of its impropriety. Proof, however, against a non-suit, Reginald daily, and sedulously, by those unspeakable attentions intelligible only to those interested, demonstrated, by his assiduous care to the various trifles in which his cousins ease was interested, how much her most trivial wants and wishes, were anticipated by his watchful eye. Not a look could escape her—not a motion could she make, but he was ever ready to lay at her feet, the object of her desire. Yet so guarded was he, at the same time, in his conduct and address in the presence of his aunt, that her pride often warmed, when she witnessed how polite and gentlemanly, as she thought, was her nephew, in his attentions and deportment. "He certainly has given up those foolish notions of his," she would mentally say, as she watched him, "for though he is attentive, yet I could not expect otherwise from one of his education. It was but reasonable, after all, she would satisfactorily conclude," that a gentleman should be *polite* to a lady, when in her company.

Far less certain, was Miss De Courçi in her conclusion, when alone, she brought her feelings to task. She was perfectly con-