

what then happened. But let me remind you to say nothing to Danton about our former acquaintance with Miss Vernon." "I shall say nothing about it," replied Gordon, "it is my policy to keep all record of our acquaintance as much of a secret as possible, besides it would not be polite you know to reveal to him the history of our intimacy, upon the strength of which I hope to gain her confidence and esteem. It will be necessary for me to introduce you, as you formerly remarked to me that you had not seen her since last summer. In all probability she may have forgotten you; however, we shall see." Summoning a servant, a rather smart, intelligent young man, Gordon sent to the lady's room two printed cards, and on his return, he politely conducted us up-stairs. We were soon ushered into the room; it was large, splendidly furnished, and exhibited in the arrangement of everything a fastidious refinement and taste. Large and costly pictures adorned the walls, while a small marble bust of Lincoln stood upon the table. There was no gas burning, but the windows were raised, and the curtains drawn to one side to let in the soft mellow light of the summer moon, which brought into distinct and ghost-like relief the shadowy form of her who sat before us. She seemed like a spirit sitting in the room, quiet and motionless, arrayed in a light summer dress, with the mellow rays of the moon glistening on the locks of wavy, golden hair, which shadowed her brow. Miss Vernon possessed the highest type of beauty. She was tall and graceful, with a moderate fulness of figure, a clear, pale complexion, suffused with the roseate tint of health; eyes large and beautiful, and with that peculiar spiritual expression which indicates the highest cultivation of the intellect. The introduction over, and the chandelier lighted, I had a good opportunity of studying the features of our fair friend. At once I recognized the pale, oval face, the rich, golden hair, and the winning, fascinating smile which oft mantled her face in days gone by. Gordon, as usual, was assiduous in his attentions, eliciting information from Boston and New York, the fashions, the theatre, new books, new plays, and a host of other topics, his eyes beaming light, love, and joy. "What time do you propose leaving for F——?" I remarked. "You will not, I hope, leave the city without visiting that delightful place, and thus renew the associations of other days?" Her face brightened as I spoke, while an expression of sadness, not unmingled with joy, passed over it, and I saw at once that her mind was absorbed in other scenes. "We intend leaving to-morrow," she faintly replied, "and if the weather is propitious, will probably go in the night boat, and thus enjoy a moonlight excursion on the river. There is quite a large party from the hotel who purpose going the same time, and I have no doubt the trip will be a pleasant one. Mr. Danton, whom I expect this evening, resides in F——, and has kindly consented to

act as *cicerone*. He has spoken of you in a kindly manner, and sincerely values your friendship." "Yes," I calmly replied, "we have been long attached to each other, both at home and abroad, and I may here mention that before I had heard of your arrival in the city, we had formed the plan of visiting together some of the beautiful places in the country, endeared by recollections of friendship—" "And no doubt of love," Gordon jocosely replied. "But it gives me exceeding pleasure to think that you purpose going at the time you mention, because I intend to avail myself of the same opportunity, and hope that nothing may occur to mar the enjoyment of the trip." "O that will be delightful; there is nothing like company when one is travelling," replied Miss Vernon, in the natural and vivacious manner so common to her, "it does so much beguile the tedium and monotony and *ennui* of a lengthy confinement, either in the steambot or rail-car." "Yet," replied Gordon, "there is a compensatory advantage in being 'cubined, cribb'd, confined,' for several days or weeks on sea or land. It seems to me that all the prominent traits of character then reveal themselves; the thoughtful become decidedly philosophical, especially when alone; the humorous quite jocosely and jolly, and the proud more *distract* and gloomy than when on shore. It is, in fact, a capital place, the steambot, for studying the fine and delicate shades of character which oft reveal themselves to the eye of the calm and practical observer." "All this may be true," replied Miss Vernon, "when applied to the young and inexperienced, and as you appear to have observed closely, and have, no doubt, travelled much, we shall not dissent from what may appear to you an established truth."

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

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