

people of his native land ; for his heart did certainly feel an unusual warmth as he spoke to his fair young fellow-citizen. As for Gracie, she seemed much pleased.

"O, thank you," said she ; "that will be very nice indeed, if you really could manage to send some one."

"O, I'll manage it," said Vernon, eagerly ; "for that matter, I'll go myself. So you need not give yourself any further anxiety. Think of Italy as though it were Massachusetts. Travelling here is just as safe, and easy, and simple, as there. Your aunt will be well cared for wherever she is, and I hope that you will find yourself well cared for, too."

Gracie felt very grateful, and could not help thinking that it was very fortunate for her to have found some one who was so well able to hunt up her lost aunt. Vernon's manner, too, was so cordial, so devoted, and withal so respectful, that her natural timidity was quickly dispelled, and she found herself talking with this new acquaintance with the utmost ease and confidence.

Soon they were all in the boat, and moving along through this wonderful city. The first thing that they noticed was the marvellous stillness around them. In other cities there are always the noise of wagons passing over stone pavements, the cries of people, and the confused murmur formed out of all the aggregated sounds of a busy multitude. But here there was nothing of the kind. All was