

tion of a singular mole just below the left ear, by which I this morning discovered her. When I returned to England, the package was put into my hands without suspicion of its contents; by her husband, who fondly loved her and deplored her loss. Stung to the quick by this proof of confidence, from one whom I had so deeply injured, I hastened from the spot to comply with her request, merely because it was such, for I had not the least idea of succeeding in the search. The only link that bound me to my native land, was now severed and I set sail for this country without a tear, save to the memory of her whom I had so passionately loved, and so fatally destroyed. When I landed in New York, without a single friend to whom I could apply to advise or assist me, I felt that my task was a hopeless one, and abandoned all hope of accomplishing my object. In the meantime, I met with a party of gentlemen, who persuaded me to join them in a trip to Niagara; I did so, and having reached this place, was taken sick and was detained some weeks. Being much pleased with the wild scenery and the hospitality of the people, I had resolved to spend a few days longer in this neighbourhood, when accident conducted me to the spot where I found my child. I was struck with her resemblance to her mother when I first saw her, but thinking that perhaps it only existed in my heated imagination, I called this morning, little thinking to have my hopes and wishes so completely realized.

Alice listened to this relation with deep interest, though not without some forebodings. She saw that she was expected to yield possession of the child, and as it appeared by the letter of her mistress, which was now handed to her, to have been her wish, she could not object, though, to resign one whom she had so tenderly loved and cared for, she felt to be a bitter task.

'Think not Alice,' said Sir Henry, 'that your care is unappreciated, or will go unrewarded. No: while there is life and memory in this sad heart, you and yours shall be amply provided for.'

'Ah! sir,' said Alice, 'twas not of reward or gain that I was thinking, but I have nursed and cherished that little child, and have thought it but little when I have done my best, and now to lose her forever—Oh! it is too hard.' And she hid her face in her apron, and sobbed bitterly.

'Alice, you have other children still dearer; you have a husband, and a peaceful home, while I have but this single tie to bind me to earth. I am rich, but wealth has lost all charms; powerful, but can power fill the dreary void created by the absence of all natural affections? You shall not be separated entirely. Alice; it is my design to leave her in a boarding-school for three years, and she can spend her vacations with you, for I would have her always love and honour the friends of her early youth. But you must be well aware that the means of improvement which she now enjoys are far short of what, as the daughter of Lady Emily Cortlandt, she has a right to demand.'

Alice could but yield a reluctant consent to the truth of this observation. She timidly enquired whether it was the intention of Sir Henry to return to England. 'Not under a year,' was his reply. 'I wish to see more of this country ere I make up my determination with regard to my permanent residence. In the meantime, it is my wish that all idea of my real relationship may yet be kept from Emily. I hope with your co-operation to be able to persuade her to accept of my offer.'

This arrangement having been satisfactorily settled, it was put in operation without delay. In a few weeks, Emily found herself at a fashionable school in the midst of a large and populous city, a handsome wardrobe provided for her, and every means of gratifying her ardent desire for improvement within her reach. For some time, the gloom of parting from those she so sincerely loved, hung on her spirits like a dense fog upon a beautiful landscape, obscuring for a time, though not diminishing its real beauties. The griefs of childhood are not of long duration, and Emily was soon entirely engrossed in the pursuits of literature.

Thus did two years of her time pass away, enlivened by letters and occasional visits from her cottage home. Her benefactor, as she called Sir Henry, had twice visited her, and his pleasure at her evident improvement, stimulated the grateful girl to renewed exertion, in order to equal the expectations he had formed of her talents and industry.

The period when he should return from England, began to draw near, and she felt her heart glow with delight at the thought of