

lilent, the beautiful in his social circles, what would they say if, when the goblet of choice wine was offered, he alone should refuse? No! it would'n't be polite, it would'n't be manly, and he could not do it, though his soul responded to the truth of Annie's arguments.

'No!' he answered, resolutely, 'anything reasonable, Annie; but I cannot agree to this foolish whim of yours! I cannot, and I will not!' And so they parted the night before our story found Annie and her brother talking about the same thing. He had scarcely ever given the subject a thought before. But he thought of it seriously that morning as he rode to the city; and finally exclaimed, mentally:

'Annie is right. We who are strong, have a responsibility for the weak. We have no right to pursue a course that shall lead another in error or sin. Now I like the taste of wine and the pleasant excitement it gives one, but it will cost an effort, and he was surprised to find it so. But directly he went on again to say, 'Well, well, I'll do it, if only to please Annie. I'll take care of my influence in future, and bless my stars that it has done no mischief yet.'

Ay! fortunate, indeed, are you, Charlie Moore, if, in your high social position, influence has never caused your brother to offend! But we shall see.

At his office, Frank Rivers met him, saying that a stranger lady had been waiting an hour in the inner room to see him.

She rose at his entrance, throwing back a thick veil, and showing a fair oval face, now pale as death, and large brown eyes, wild with pain and anxiety.

She trembled violently, but came to meet him, saying in a hurried manner, 'I am Edward Talbot's sister. I received a dispatch last evening, from some one, telling me of my brother's trouble, and directing me to you. I—'

But the gentleman's face shewed so deep sympathy, that the calm exterior with which she had concealed her anguish of soul gave way, and she burst into uncontrollable weeping.

He gently led her to a seat, and his own eyes grew moist as he strove to comfort her, and to place the unhappy affair

in as bright a light as possible. She regained her composure in a few moments, and asked, with touching earnestness,

'Only tell me, Mr. Moore, you don't believe him guilty in heart? He surely could never knowingly have done this dreadful thing.'

'Upon my word, I believe not. He has been the dupe of a villain, who has somehow entangled him in some mysterious manner, which I don't doubt can be explained. I know Edward Talbot too well to believe him guilty of such a deed.

'Thank heaven, he may be saved! And now, Mr. Moore, I must go to my brother. My place is by his side, even though he be in a prison.'

It was in vain that he urged her to take some rest or refreshment, for she had traveled all night, to no purpose; he begged her to go to Annie, and promised to bring her brother to her in a day or two at longest, but her pleading answer was always the same:

'I am strong; I am not weary; I must see poor Edward first. He has no one in the world but me. I must go to him and tell him I love him better than before, that he is dearer to me than all the world beside. Then I will go to Annie, but oh! first take me to my brother.

He could not resist the pale, sweet face raised so earnestly to his, and after consulting Rivers, who was despatched for a carriage, they were soon driving out to the old jail that, in the midst of the gay, populous city, reared its gloomy walls as a monument to human frailty and human misery. It was a day of wondrous beauty. The sunshine lay bright and soft upon the dark, old building, and flickered among the branches of a tall elm that stood near, a thing of life and beauty. But Catharine Lee did not see the sunshine or the beauty of the day. Pale, calm, and tearless, she took Charles Moore's offered arm, and was barely conscious of passing through a long, gloomy corridor, of hearing the rattling of keys, the clanking of a heavy door, and she found herself, like one in a dream, standing in a small cell, in the further corner of which, upon