

only a woman and very much afraid." Saying these words she tightened her clasp of my hand and drew me forward. Turning round she said:

"I am going to ask you a question. Will you answer me?"

"Yes, Miss Campbell, if I can. What is it?"

"Do you know that I kissed you once?"

"Did you?"

"Yes, John, dear, and you never returned it. Will you kiss me now?"

"Miss Campbell!" I cried pitiously, "please allow me to return for a moment, will you?"

"Then kiss me first, and promise not to stay long."

"When I return, Miss Campbell."

"John, please kiss me!"

"I dare not, Julia, I am too unworthy, I am a great sinner. My lips are vile."

"No! No, John Meredith, you are not a great sinner. Then, will you please let me kiss you?"

"No, Miss Campbell, seeing that you are soon to marry David Maxwell. You are his, are you not?"

"Oh! John Meredith, who told you such a falsehood?"

"Your brother?"

"Milton?"