

THE LENNOXVILLE MAGAZINE.

THE BRERETONS.

CHAPTER IX.

We must now go back a couple of years, and review the history of Frank Brereton, whom we last saw stationed in Canada with his regiment, after having incurred his father's serious displeasure. Time was, when Mr. Brereton had worshipped his son with the idolatry which those alone know who look to one only to build up and maintain the honour, I might even say the life, of their house; and when he found he had been deceived, when his idol fell crashed to the ground at his feet, he would send no helping hand to pick up the pieces, he refused to look at the ruins, nay, he even threatened to set his foot upon the fallen, and grind the false god to powder, so that it might utterly perish.

In his childhood and early boyhood, Frank had given fair promise of becoming a distinguished man, and it was for him that Mr. Brereton toiled and laboured, for him that he rose up early, took rest late, and ate the bread of carefulness for so many years,—and then, when his efforts seemed about to be crowned with their uttermost reward, when he had regained the home of his fathers, when his family had already resumed its rightful position in the country, then the blow fell. His own fair fame was tarnished, for a blot stained his son's honour.

I will tell you under what circumstances Frank Brereton became an outcast from his father's house, but we must first glance at his boyish years. His school career was eminently successful. On entering a large public school he was placed in one of the lower forms. Out of this and others, he rapidly worked his way into and through the upper school, until he attained the dignity of the sixth form. He was head of the school for a year, and under his government the whole tone of the place rose rapidly, and when he left, it was amid the regrets of his school-fellows, and his master's prophecies of future distinction. His entrance into the university was signalized by the gaining of a scholarship; one or two prizes followed, and, in short, great things were expected from him both by his companions and tutors.