

that her husband was perfectly inexorable, and that any other attempt on their part to appease his wrath would but exasperate him the more.

At this juncture of affairs they determined to emigrate, and try their fortune in the new world, and a few months after found them comfortably situated in the city of New York. Edward very fortunately obtained a situation as book-keeper to a respectable house, and for a year they lived as happy as they could wish. They had one child who was the delight of their hearts; but, alas! how fleeting and transitory are all earthly joys—at the close of fifteen short months Julia was a widow, and her child an orphan, far from home and kindred; and pecuniary embarrassments added to mental trials, the future did indeed look dark and dreary to her. But she sought Him who has said, "I will never leave or forsake thee," and found comfort. She found friends in those she had least expected; through their exertions she obtained fine needle-work, and being industrious and frugal, she had managed to support herself and child until her health failed, which was about a year before her death, when she was obliged to accept of pecuniary relief. What a change had a few short years wrought in the blooming, laughing girl who had left her native shores, buoyant with life and hope, now but the shattered remnant of what she once was, with health and spirits broken, and nought to look forward to but poverty and suffering. At length she determined to make another appeal to her father in behalf of her child, but no answer ever came to the heart-broken widow, and she felt convinced that any expectation of aid from him would be hopeless; but though he, who should prove her friend and protector, had cast her off, she was not entirely friendless.

In Mr. and Mrs. Willis she indeed found warm and sympathising friends, and with perfect confidence in their integrity, did she on her death-bed confide to them her daughter.

Mr. and Mrs. Willis's family consisted (at the time our story commenced) of four children, the eldest a promising son of eighteen years, (who was away at school,) another son of twelve, and two daughters, the one nine, and the other five years of age. Julia was welcomed with delight by the children, and soon began to feel herself at home, though she grieved much for the recent loss she had sustained. Yet childhood's sorrows are of short duration; it gradually wore away, and she learned to look upon Mrs. Willis as a second mother. She was treated in all respects as one of the family, she possessed a mind of a high order, and every advantage was bestowed upon

her for her improvement, and well did she repay their generous exertions in her behalf, by a warm, affectionate disposition, cultivated mind, and great personal attractions. She was greatly beloved by her foster parents, who used often to say that it would be difficult for them to decide which of their children was dearest to them.

"My dear," said Mr. Willis to his wife, as he entered the breakfast-room one morning, "here is a letter from Charles; he writes that he will be home about the middle of August."

"Oh, dear, how glad I am," said Emma, the youngest child; "and how glad I am," was reiterated by her brother and sister.

"Are you not glad?" said Caroline, addressing a young lady at the other end of the table; "you haven't said a word since papa came in."

"I have not had a chance," replied Julia. "I hope, mamma," she continued, turning to Mrs. Willis, "that Charles is well."

"Quite well, my dear; he sends his love to you and the children."

"Oh, how I wish Charles was here now," said Emma, "for Julia always looks so pale, and now her cheeks are as rosy as Caroline's or mine."

This remark only increased Julia's apparent confusion, which Mrs. Willis noticing, strove to divert their attention to other things. Nearly three years had now elapsed since Julia became a member of Mr. Willis's family; the girls looked up to her as to an elder sister, and Frederick, though he delighted in nothing so much as teasing her, yet loved her with all the affection of a brother. With the eldest son Charles (who had nearly finished his collegiate course) she had become but little acquainted, he having been absent the most of the time since she came to reside in the family; and though he was ever kind and attentive when at home, she did not feel the same ease in his presence, or the same regard for him, that she did for the other members of the family. It was now more than a year since she had seen him, and she rather dreaded his return.

"Oh, dear!" said Emma, "what a long day this has been—I have been looking out until my eyes ache;—it does seem as if the stage never was so late before—how I wish it would come."

"Keep wishing, sissey, and you will get your wish at last," said Frederick; "I wish, too, it would come, for my inner man begins to feel the want of a little refreshment, and I suppose we shall get no tea until Charles comes, if it is not for two hours; however, it will only be another trial of my patience, and I have a pretty good stock of that valuable article generally."