

adjacent to his mother's, but a single voyage remained to be performed, in which, if he were successful, he would bid adieu, forever, to the fickle fortune of the sea. At length the day for his departure arrived; a more beautiful morning than that upon which he embarked I have never witnessed. A fresh bland breeze blew out from the coast. Away for leagues lay the sea, molten and gleaming like gold beneath the broad sun. The little ripples broke upon the shore with a merry musical laughter, and there seemed to be an unusual sweetness and calmness in the air. The departure of a fishing boat was then of frequent occurrence and excited little interest; but somehow, this time, there was an unwonted emotion on the part of the people, caused, partly, probably, by the popularity of young Langthorne, and partly because this was to be his last venture. But many afterwards spoke of a sense of some impending calamity which compelled them to follow the crowd to the beach.

"May went down even to the water's edge with her lover. It appears now," said the old man in a lower voice, and drawing his rough hand across his face, "as if I could see her as then,—her graceful form bent towards the boat, and her dark eyes sparkling with a happy laughter. 'Watch for me, May,' cried Langthorne as he sprang lightly into the boat, 'watch for me from yonder clift where we planted the pinks that summer afternoon.' The boat glided smoothly across the fiery bay; the white sails gleamed across the waves and soon disappeared beyond a rocky headland.

"Happily, homewards, went May with the dispersing people, and for the few following days was busy preparing for the return of Langthorne and the approaching marriage. I remember well how she came to our cottage, and brought some little delicacy for my daughter, who was very ill then, and lingered, while returning, awhile by the gate yonder. She was full of happy thoughts of the future, and spoke eagerly of her lover's return. 'He was to come on the morrow,' she said; 'would I sit with her on the beach?' Nothing loth, I consented to wait with her to welcome the bonniest of all bonny fishermen. Then she passed out the gate and down through the long street, her white dress fluttering in the wind.

"However sanguine I had been of a fair day on the morrow, my confidence was nearly broken ere night had fairly come. The sun was concealed ere it set, by heavy masses of clouds piled like mountains one upon another. Early in the evening large drops of rain began to fall, and a strong wind rattled the pane and whistled round the corners. I was not, therefore, surprised to find when I awoke the next morning, a furious gale driving the waves in great heaps against the foot of the crags.

"The people were soon astir, and many an anxious face showed plainly the alarm felt for the safety of the boats which were now hourly expected. All along the beach were little groups of men and women gazing eagerly across the white and seething waves to catch the first glimpse of the boats in the horizon.

"I hastened to join one of these groups which stood almost in reach of the fling-