

those disagreeable streets, and dirty dwellings. Could you not send her relief by the servant, for I suppose it is that which she needs."

"Surely, Alice, you do not mean what you say. What turn coldly away from one, who, if she had any faults, they leaned to virtue's side. She may have been imprudent, but nothing more, and she has suffered deeply for it. It is not for me, erring fellow-mortal that I am, to judge; rather let me leave that to a higher Power, and hasten to pour into the wounded breast the consolations of sympathizing friendship. Well I know, were I in her case, they would be more highly praised than the gold of Ophir."

"Well, well, Belinda, you were intended, no doubt, for a heroine of romance; I am but a common-place character; but however, my purse is not very heavy, but it is at your service," handing a crimson one elegantly wrought with gold beads, and adorned with fringe and clasps of the same precious metal.

"Thank you, dear Alice. I believe I shall have to levy contributions on all, but not now. I will first go and ascertain her condition."

"It is commencing to snow," said Lavinia, in the afternoon of the same day, as she stood by the drawing-room window. "You will postpone your visit, will you not?" she inquired, addressing Belinda, who had just entered the apartment equipped for her walk.

"Oh, no. A little snow will not injure me, and, even if it should come on heavier, I am too well wrapped up to fear it much. It would seem unkind in me to delay longer after the receipt of Clarissa's note."

"Had you not better ride, then?"

"No, I prefer walking. I shall be able to find my way without difficulty, and it might remind her too forcibly of past times, and the contrast between our conditions, were I to go in a carriage."

At this moment the hall clock chimed the hour of three, and Belinda hastened to depart.

"You will be back to dinner, of course?" said Lavinia, as Belinda walked to the door.

"Yes," she replied, laughing, "unless I should be lost in the snow storm; in that case, you must tell Alice to send Dr. Fleming in search of me, for I am sure his stentorian