

of. Yet was all this pure spiritual feeling. Each had, in imagination, long associated and invested the other with every thing pure and virtuous. They took no thought for the future; but in their day dreams and present hour of delight, deemed, and hoped that as they then were, so would they ever be to each other.

As day by day Lionel made his visits, so did attachment, by their constant intercourse the more increase and become confirmed. Lionel also became a greater favourite of, and was treated by the Canon with more kindness than ever, being frequently invited by him to dine and passevenings, on which occasion he would have him and his daughter sing together.—For two years did this state of things continue and Lionel and Margaret were constantly in each others company—none dreaming of the deep affection existing between them. With regard to parents, both were now similarly situated. Margaret at eight years of age was called to mourn the loss of a mother who had tended her during her earliest years with the greatest tenderness, since which period she had been left much to herself when at home. The Canon besides attending to the duties of his office, passed much time in study; and except when her masters were in attendance, assisting her in her studies, she was her own mistress. The death of the mother of Lionel had taken place in the course of the last two years. His father held an office under government, the duties of which demanded and occupied his whole attention, so that Lionel, with the exception of the church duties, and a few stated hours of each of three days during the week, which were devoted to classical and musical studies, was free to go where and when he pleased.

He had now attained the sixteenth year of his age, and the clear silvery tone of his voice, according to the course of nature, was changing to the deeper diapason of manhood; consequently the time had arrived that he, in due course of events, must resign the office which he had hitherto filled in the church. The symptoms of such change were regarded with much regret by Miss De Vere, because she no longer could hear the compositions in which she took so great delight, performed by one, who, in her judgment far excelled all others in their execution. By him, because really attached to, and taking delight in the service, he could no longer retain his office. His visits at the house of the Canon too must now be less frequent, because independent of the cir-

cumstances under which he had commenced them having no longer existence, he must also engage in some worldly occupation, which would require his attention to its successful and profitable prosecution. Having resigned his office he became a less frequent visitor at the house, but his intimacy was now on such terms that he was no longer regarded as a mere boy, but treated by the Canon in a manner more in accordance with his riper age.—While attached to the cathedral no one noticed the familiar terms which existed between himself and Miss De Vere; because knowing the favour with which the Canon regarded him, he was merely considered fortunate in having attracted his notice, and so much of familiar intercourse seen in public, which passed between the daughter and himself was looked upon as a natural consequence of the Canon's distinction. Their youth also had hitherto been sufficient to shield them from the remarks usually made on others in similar situations. But now circumstances were changed. Lionel was no longer a mere boy, his present position no longer warranted that familiarity on the former terms; and the same reasons equally applied, with regard to Miss De Vere. The Canon still entertaining the same friendly feelings toward Lionel, often specially invited him to his house, and on these occasions if by writing, it was by the hand of Margaret the invitation was penned. And now began to lower the clouds of sorrow, which darkened the horizon of their bright heaven, and were the precursors of the storm which was about to burst on them in all its fury. The Canon having expressed a wish that Lionel should visit him, desired his daughter to write and send a billet of invitation to him; a desire which was most gladly complied with. The note was written and despatched by a servant, who having arrived at Weston's home, found Lionel preparing for a journey; and on delivering the note, was dismissed with a verbal message that a written answer would be shortly returned. It so happened that a few hours previous, Mr. Weston had received a government despatch accompanied by others with instructions to give his immediate personal attention to that directed to himself; select a messenger in whom he could place firm confidence, and by him forward without loss of time the others to their place of destination, which place was situated about one hundred miles from the city in which he resided. In compliance with their instructions, he immediately desired Lionel to prepare himself to carry the despatches,