

changed, yet each heart was glowing with happiness, when they entered the Governor's house. It was therefore that the gloomy abstraction which he manifested, on rejoining their party, after the conversation with Annesley, almost instantly attracted Alice's attention and fond sympathy.

"You have heard ill tidings, Edward—or something has occurred to pain you."

"Much, sweet Alice—Annesley has been most infamously treated and placed in the power of pirates, from which a tissue of good fortune alone has delivered him."

"Our young friend is far better off than when we last met; and although this does not absolve the unintentional authors of his good fortune, surely there is nothing to regret."

"Not on his behalf, certainly. Pardon me, dearest Alice, if I cannot even to you explain my present feelings, as they are founded on what may, I trust, prove idle suspicions—still I cannot shake off the depression which your kindness has noticed. What a lovely girl Annesley is introducing to your sister—let us too make her acquaintance."

Happily the evening sped for Jemmy. Mary ——— had read his sacred soul, and in a thousand apparently trifling ways advanced his suit. Nothing pleads more strongly the merit of a lover, than finding it appreciated by one to whom his homage might be worthily devoted, but is not; and very different would have been Isabella's sensations at hearing Annesley mentioned in such terms by a lovely girl, were it not apparent at a glance that they were simply warm friends.

General Brock reminded Jemmy of his engagement to introduce him to his Commander; and taking his arm, led him to where the hero of the day was surrounded by the most distinguished persons present. All made way for the noble looking old soldier—the introduction took place, and Jemmy blushed gracefully at the praises bestowed on his conduct during the period he had served in his ship, by Captain Brooke, who concluded by requesting to know at what hour he should wait on the General the next day—saying, that he had much of deep importance to communicate on a subject which he doubted not would be of great interest.

"Name your own hour, sir; my time is entirely my own at present, so that any that may convenience you will suit me."

"Shall we say at noon, Sir Isaac?"

"Certainly, I shall be at home all day—having letters to write—so do not inconvenience yourself to be punctual—meanwhile I have a favor to ask."

"It is granted, sir, if in my power."

"I wish, should duty not occur to prevent it, that you would give Annesley leave to remain ashore with me whilst I stay."

"With the greatest pleasure, sir; I am always delighted when my young officers have an opportunity of being in good society."