

## LITERARY DEPARTMENT.

ALICE.

IN TWO CHAPTERS:

CHAP. II.

'Tis very strange,' said Alice to her husband, 'but I am sure I have heard that gentleman's voice before. Didn't you think he looked very hard at me and at Emily? Pray God, there may no evil come out of it.'

'You are too suspicious, Alice. Why should you think you have seen this man before? I dare say 'tis only one of those travellers who so often stop a few days to see the falls, and admire the rock and the trees which towns-people are so fond of looking at.'

'I have seen a great many such people but I never yet met with one that made me feel so strange and awful-like, as this man does. It seems as if I saw my poor dear lady, too, whenever I look at him. I hope he may never come here again.'

'Nonsense, wife, you are too silly. Put such notions out of our head as fast as you can, that's my advice to you.'

Thus warned, Alice knew her husband too well to say anything further on the subject, but she spent the greater part of the night in endeavouring to bring back the chain of associations which his presence inspired. It was nearly fifteen years since she had left her native shores, and the bright and vivid recollections which she at first retained, had lost their distinctness with each succeeding year, and time had familiarized her with new faces, and attached her to different scenes. Having long lost all hope of learning anything of her mistress' fate, she had contented herself with giving Emily every advantage which her slender means would allow, while she preserved, with religious care, every book, map and even toy which had been intrusted to her for her use.

The next morning she repaired early to the bedside of her adopted child, when she was surprised to find her much better, and having assisted her to rise and dress, she busied herself with her usual domestic occupations, still looking with considerable anxiety to the promised visit of the stranger. He soon made his appearance, and easily ingratiate himself with the children, by those thousand little arts which are always felt, and gratefully acknow-

ledged by those acute, and often accurate judges of character. For one, he shaped a boat, for another, a whistle, while to Emily, he presented a richly bound Souvenir, claiming, as he did so, a kiss in return, with playful familiarity, he stood leaning on her chair, admiring her beautiful hair; now and then raising a curl, and insisting that he must have it as a keepsake. Suddenly, struck by some deadly arrow, he dropped the ringlet, turned very pale, and sunk upon a seat. Alarmed, and yet not greatly surprised. Alice ran for water, and having dismissed the young folks, awaited in silence the issue of this strange demeanour.

'Woman,' said the stranger, as soon as he had recovered sufficient composure to speak, 'tell me, in pity's name, is this the child of Lady Emily Cortlandt?'

Alice was not prepared for this sudden address, though during the interview of the morning, she had discovered, in spite of the changes of time and sorrow, the features of Sir Henry, and in him had recognized the destroyer of her beloved mistress, and the father of the little Emily. She had scarcely time for thoughts, but remembering that he would probably be able to import some information concerning the unfortunate lady, she hesitatingly acknowledged it was. Finding that he made no reply, except by a heavy groan, she in her turn, demanded why he asked, and how he had discovered her.

'Alice,' said he, 'I see that you recollect me, and therefore there is no need of further introduction. At the death of Lady Emily—'

'Death!' exclaimed Alice, 'my dear Lady Emily dead?'

Sir Henry hid his face in his hands, and for some moments mingled his tears with those of the faithful dependent. At length, with a heavy sigh, he resumed. 'At her death, which happened ten years since, she left a sealed packet directed to me, for I was then on the continent, and had not seen her for several years. It contained the information that her daughter was living in America, but in what part of it, or under what circumstances, she could not tell, further than that she was under your care, as by some mischance she had never heard from you since the time of your arrival. She earnestly entreated me to seek her out, and gave me a minute descrip-