

a not very amiable light ; and he had strongly expressed his disapprobation of her conduct ; this had been all the more remembered by Alice, because Edward Mortimer did not belong to that class of young men who seem to take an especial delight in marking and commenting on woman's faults and foibles. He did not esteem it a mark of manliness, as some appear to do, to ridicule and depreciate the weaker sex ; for a high esteem and regard for woman as woman, had always characterized him ; so that if he censured them in any particular, one might be quite sure that his reproof and displeasure were too well merited.

Alas, thought Alice, that with all his estimable qualities, pride and worldly ambition should so warp his better judgment, that to secure their gratification, he will not hesitate to sacrifice, if needs be, the best and truest emotions of his heart.

Nor could she help feeling a little bitterly, that had she possessed the coveted wealth, there would have been no demur on Edward Mortimer's part ; she knew full well, with woman's keen instinct, that she possessed his high esteem and regard, and rebellious thoughts of what "might have been," had she been differently situated, drowned for a time the "still small voice" of an upbraiding conscience, and she entered her quiet home, disturbed, restless, and unhappy.