

arrow. Cruel Ellen, hast thou no conscience ? Not content with finding him happy, thou hast made him miserable."

"Why this is rank heresy," she muttered, with feigned displeasure at the ungallant speech, striking her companion several blows with a branch of cedar which she held in her hand. "Have I not, indeed, thou faithless and discourteous knight ? I am almost tempted, for thy irreverence, to forbid thee my presence for seven long years, that thou mightest do penance in the way related in the old chronicles. Alas ! it is quite plain to be seen that there is no more chivalry, and that the gentlemen are grown too froward to pay befitting homage to the ladies fair."

"Now, brightest and most virtuous of maidens," replied Conrad, with mock humility of tone, "I crave thy pardon humbly for my grievous fault, and promise thee full homage and fealty, as long as it may please thee to encourage thy poor knight, who is little skilled in courtly fashions, but beareth somewhat of chivalry in his heart, notwithstanding ; for he would do anything to make his dear lady happy."

And at the conclusion of this address, Conrad, with more of impulse than ceremony, caught the hand of Ellen, and pressed it to his lips. The action, slight as it was, called a blush to her cheek,