

ed up and was comforted, and put her arms around my neck; but I do not know why she said I had done her good."

"Come to my arms, my darling!" said the mother; "to rejoice with those that rejoice, and weep with those that weep, is to obey our blessed Redeemer."

### SILVER WARE.

"Look, Ellen," said Rose Vernon to her sister, as they sat at dinner with their father, mother, and uncle Gilbert, "here are the Tower marks on the spoons and forks that we are using."

Rose and Ellen had, that morning, accompanied their parents to a silversmith's shop, to make a purchase as a present to a young relative about to commence housekeeping.

A great variety of splendid and useful articles were brought forward for selection, from among which the purchasers seemed disposed to fix on a handsome tea-service, observing, however, that the price somewhat exceeded the sum they had intended to devote.

The master of the shop then offered to their inspection a modern article, extremely elegant, much in request, and which could be sold at a much lower price.

The articles produced were indeed brilliant, tasteful, and well executed, and excited the admiration of all the party, especially of the young ladies, who pronounced them even superior to those bearing the higher price.

"Yes," said Mr. Vernon, pushing aside the goods last exhibited, "they are very beautiful; this kind of ware is brought to great perfection, but *it wants the Tower mark.*" Ellen and Rose wished to know what particular mark it was on which their father laid so great a stress.

Taking up the service first selected, and which he decided on purchasing, Mr. Vernon showed his daughter, on the under part of each article, several small stamps—one of a lion, one of a crown, another of certain letters, and so on.

"Well, papa," said Ellen, "you have, no doubt, a good reason for liking these marks; but I really do not see any great beauty in them."

"And," added Rose, "if they were ever so beautiful, they are placed so out of sight that no one who did not know they were there, would think of looking for them."

"True, miss," interposed the silversmith; "but persons who know the meaning of these marks will never omit to look for them in the goods they purchase. To give you some idea of their importance: the goods in this window, all of which bear the Tower mark, exceed in their intrinsic value, by more than a thousand pounds, that of an equal quantity of the goods you just now so much admired, which do not bear the Tower mark."

"Do you mean to say, sir," asked Ellen, "that the mark really adds to the value of the things?"

"The mere addition of the mark, certainly, would not make *that* valuable which before was worthless. But as it never is applied except to articles of intrinsic value, it serves to attest the value of the article on which it is found. Every piece of gold and silver plate is required by law to be tested by duly authorized persons. If, on examination, it should be found that an article presented is, in any degree, below the standard of purity, that article is immediately demolished, and rendered valueless, except as old metal. But if it is approved, these marks are affixed to attest its purity and value; and there they stand as a