

*Agnes.* Good morning, dear Helen. Give me a kiss, and then ask Oswald to come to me directly ; but do not disturb mamma, for she wants rest. [*Exit Helen.*]

*Enter OSWALD.*

*Agnes.* Come hither, dear ; I want to speak to you.

OSWALD comes forward in tears, and buries his head in the counterpane as he kneels beside AGNES. AGNES puts her arm round him, and draws him near enough to whisper in his ear—

I know all about it, dear ; I know what you are thinking of.

OSWALD beats his breast, but does not say a word.

My poor Oswald ! how much you have suffered ! Would you do any thing I asked you now ?

OSWALD kisses her hand and sobs.

You will. Well, then, promise me that, when at any time you think of yesterday and of all that happened to us, you will think of it in this way : Once upon a time Almighty God, in his infinite mercy, preserved my little Agnes in a wonderful way, in order that she might love me and I love her, and both of us love him a thousand times more than ever we did before, or ever could have done otherwise.

*Oswald.* I will.

*Agnes.* And when you cannot help reproaching yourself, you will not do it more unkindly than you can help, but will say, "Out of this fault, with God's help, shall spring ten virtues ?"

*Oswald.* I will.

*Agnes.* And now, dear Oswald, give me a drink. I am still very weak, but shall soon be well. If Helen comes in, tell her it is your turn to watch. There, put your hand under my cheek, that I may kiss it when I awake. That is nice ; I can go to sleep again now. Good-night, dear. How happy we shall all be, now, if Almighty God gives us the grace of perseverance to the end !

THE END.