

of a female friend reads our hearts ere their pulsations are rightly construed by ourselves, and Mary had already sketched a shining future for Annesley and Isabella Brock, ere they had exchanged their blushing greetings.

The surprise felt by Jemmy and the General's party, was mutual, but did not equal the pleasure which the meeting afforded. Sir Isaac took the earliest opportunity of withdrawing with Annesley and Mountmorris to an unoccupied card-room, and seating himself, said—

"We fancied you still with Mr. Bushe's uncle, working away in the Attorney's office. How, in the name of fortune, have you been metamorphosed into a navy officer?"

"The tale is a long one, sir; but if you can afford me a few minutes, I will condense it."

"Let us hear it, my boy."

Jemmy briefly told his tale, in delicacy to Mountmorris, suppressing his suspicions that Lord Altham was his evil genius.

"'Tis a wonderful story, Annesley," said the General, after musing for a few minutes, "and beyond my comprehension; but Mr. Quill shall make all clear—my utmost endeavors shall be exerted to punish the scoundrel, and do you right. Take an opportunity to introduce me to your gallant Captain—I long to make his acquaintance, were it only to thank him for his kindness to you; and now let us rejoin the girls, they are no doubt as curious as their old father to hear your adventures. Of course you take up your quarters at my house for the few days I remain here, at least when duty does not intervene."

Notwithstanding the delicacy which had prevented Annesley's touching on any point in his history, which might lead suspicion towards Lord Altham, a chill oppressed the heart of Mountmorris, as he proceeded, and the most painful of all doubts, that of a loved father's honor, fell on his spirit and clouded his brow; he could not help remembering the unaccountable dislike evinced by Lord Altham to Annesley after his wound, and the prohibition so strongly insisted on against their intimacy. He was also aware that just before he left, Mr. Quill had been appointed agent to the estates in Galway, and Jemmy's abstraction happening scarcely a month after,—the whole subject was shrouded in painful mystery.

They rejoined the ladies, who gladly renewed their acquaintance with Annesley, questioning him as opportunity offered. Alice's attention was soon taken up with Mountmorris, whose depression she perceived. They had met only that day, after a long absence, during which the young noble had been with his regiment, from which he was recalled by an order to await General Brock's arrival at Halifax, and to attach himself to his staff. Short as had been the period of their reunion, much of deep importance to the happiness of both had passed, and though no express troth had been ex-