

privilege of being able to repay her in our own time."

"Which, I suppose, if we can contrive it so, will be never; but, are you certain the little blue eyed fairy will lend as accommodately as we borrow?"

His companion's lip curled contemptuously as she rejoined:

"When lady Huntingdon asks a favour of her daughter, she entertains no fears of a refusal."

"That is more than you can say of your son, my well beloved mother. Though you may command at all times my life and services, my purse and time, I fear, will be ever beyond your reach."

The truth of the remark forced an involuntary sigh from lady Huntingdon; but without further comment on it, she exclaimed:

"'Tis a relief to have that affair settled."

"Yes; thanks to your feminine ingenuity, or strict perception of honor, I do not know which. Truly may you be styled the pillar, the hope of the house of Huntingdon, for its apparent support is a very feeble tottering one indeed. But, I hope you do not fancy that because an evil in perspective is removed, I am going to submit to a present one. No; to-morrow, at eleven, Arlingford arrives; and to-morrow, at ten, I leave you. You need not look so imploring, so heart-broken, I really almost fear you are a little selfish. I tell you, that in the presence of that man who has favored me so singularly and undeservedly, who has done for me what neither father nor friend would have done, rescuing me from death, disgrace and ruin, I feel like a degraded, contemptible thing, the mere creature of his generosity. Such a state of feeling is to me unsupportable! I would rather steal—beg—than endure it."

"But, Augustus," remonstrated his mother, "if Mr. Arlingford made you feel the heavy obligations you owe him, I would sympathize with, nay, approve of your feelings; but how widely different is his conduct. Never does he allude to them by look, word, or smile; never does he parade in any way the superiority over you, derived from his age, experience, and favours; and with a delicacy admirable, but, I fear, overstrained, never does he permit himself to offer you the slightest remonstrance, reproach, or advice, on any point of your conduct, no matter how reckless, how culpable it may be, unless solicited to do so by yourself."

"But, do you not see, mother, retorted the young man, springing from his recumbent position, and speaking with an earnestness most unusual to him. "Do you not see that 'tis that very perfection of generosity that overwhelms me! Were his favours like yours, like those of others, commented on afterwards by himself, recalled,

cast up to me, I would mind them no more than I would the snarling of yonder hound; but, I tell you, Arlingford is a being of another stamp from myself,—from us all. The galling feeling of inferiority that steals over me in his presence, the consciousness of the contemptibleness, the littleness of my pursuits and pleasures when compared with his, the vast difference in our very intellects, render his presence a yoke, a burden, which is insupportable to me."

"Nonsense, Augustus!" interrupted lady Huntingdon, with an incredulous smile. "All this fine speechifying is got up, I well know, for no other purpose than to deceive me. You wish to start to-morrow, and you would fain transfer the responsibility of your ungratefully hurried departure from your own shoulders to those of Mr. Arlingford, or any one else. Your affectation of fancying yourself, with your good looks, youth, and sparkling spirits, so vastly inferior to the quiet and taciturn, though gentlemanly, Mr. Arlingford, is too great a tax on my credulity."

The young man eyed the speaker a moment with a look of mingled bitterness and irritation, and then the expression of his countenance changed, and with one of his usual light laughs, he fell back on the sofa. Lady Huntingdon went on:

"Though Mr. Arlingford's favours are many and great, they are not quite so enormous as you have just affected to believe. Remember the fact of your being his godson, as well as distant relative, gives you a sort of claim upon him; add to that, he has ever been an intimate cherished friend of your father's family, as well as of my own, and during the illness of his mother, who died when you were a child, we watched and tended her almost as we would have done yourself."

"Bravo! mother! At the rate you are now getting on, the tables will soon be turned, and we will find, in the end, that instead of our owing Mr. Arlingford anything, he is immensely our debtor."

The mocking tone in which this speech was uttered, did not escape lady Huntingdon, but she calmly rejoined:

"You may sneer as you like, Augustus; but I will not allow myself to be provoked to anger, now that we are probably on the eve of separation. I would know something of your projects and intentions, I would learn how many weary weeks must elapse ere I see you again?"

"Well; that depends a good deal on your own movements. When do you go to London?"

"I can scarcely say. It rests with your father, who has some business transactions here, which may detain him much longer than he anticipated."

"Well; be the time long or short, be it four