

It was the first time they had met since his return from England. The girl still looked pale, but there was a bright, hopeful look in her eye which betokened returning health.

"Mr. Nelson," she said, softly, "papa has been telling me something about your family in England. I am sorry to know of your father's sudden death. You won't leave Bronson, will you?"

"Not unless you go with me," said Reginald, looking into her eyes. She met his gaze and in her eyes he read his happiness.

"Joy," he exclaimed, "you are free now. Can I express my love for you which began long ago when we first met on the Neptune?"

"Reginald," she whispered, and in a fond embrace every barrier between them had gone. "I loved you all the time, too, but I did not dare admit it, even to myself."

They talked over their future plans. Reginald told of his own beautiful home which he was already planning to build in the outskirts of Bronson, and spoke of his ancestral castle in England which he expected to visit every summer.

"This is like a beautiful dream," said the girl, in a happy tone. "I seem to have waked up out of a horrible nightmare."

"It is a dream that will last for life," said Reginald, smilingly. When Vivian Derwent heard of the sudden turn of affairs she pouted a good deal, but finally concluded to receive George Caldwell back again. The double wedding was planned for the following spring,