

"Is not 'indeed' an exclamation of surprise in your language?" he asked.

"Sometimes; it may be made so."

"And you made it so?"

"Did I?" said Blanche, smiling, "Well, you must pardon me! I was dreaming, I confess."

"And I disturbed you?"

"You did."

"Now it is for me to say 'indeed'!" exclaimed De Lisle, with animation. "What subject but one could so engross your meditations?"

"Ah, what but one!" said Blanche, dreaming again.

"And that one?"

"Shall I confess?"

"Yes. But-I guess your sin!"

"Sin!" exclaimed Blanche, with surprise.

"I speak the jargon of the confessional merely! We are playing at priest and penitent. Now say,—what occupies so engrossingly the thoughts of Miss Maldon?"