

so, for Captain Elton was conversing, in low tones, with Belinda. She was listening attentively, and from the flushed cheeks, and beaming eyes of both, the subject appeared of a very pleasing character. Lavinia repeated her question, before she received an answer.

"It would not be polite," said Harry, bowing, to differ from a lady, "and besides, you know, gentlemen are not good judges of each other."

At this moment the ladies rose to withdraw, and Lavinia was spared the necessity of replying.

The gentlemen soon rejoined the ladies in the drawing-room, and enlivened the company by their performances: on several musical instruments they had brought with them. Music and conversation chased the swiftly-winged hours away, and it was with regret that they beheld the time approaching for their departure. The placid beams of the cloudless moon cheered their homeward ride; and, as they entered the road that winds round Bedford Basin, the picturesque scenery was the subject of much admiration. The evergreen spruce that skirted it, formed a fine contrast to the pure expanse, solid, apparently, as marble, dotted by a long line of sleighs, hurrying rapidly over its frozen surface, while the silvery appearance of the parts on which the moonbeams glistened, heightened the effect of the scene. Pleasant, very pleasant, to all parties, was that homeward journey, one of those periods, that, hallowed by delightful associations, dwell on the memory, and can be called up vividly again, through the lapse of many intervening years.

SCENE IV.

THE VISIT.

"A NOTE for Miss Belinda," said the servant, as the family were seated at the breakfast table, one morning in the ensuing May. Belinda opened the note, read it, and laid it down with a sigh.

"Mamma," she inquired, "do you not remember my favorite school companion, Clarissa Nelville? Though several years older than I, what a cordial friendship subsisted between us."