

against him and Mrs. Costelloe—who alone took his view of the danger Alice was incurring—Father Fitzgibbon studiously absented himself from the Costelloe dwelling during the long weeks of busy preparation.

He had positively refused to be present at the celebration of a marriage unblessed by the Church, and had warned Alice from the first that her union would be an unhallowed one, devoid of sacramental grace. Mrs. Costelloe's heart sank within her, hearing this, and many a bitter tear she shed over the infatuation of her husband and child; but she, like the priest, was powerless to ward off the blow, and the great day came at last—and found Alice outwardly gay and smiling, inwardly full of strange misgivings, for “conscience doth make cowards of us all.”

Alas! poor Alice! the shadow of the future was already falling over her hitherto sunny life! This first departure from the path of duty was even then hard in itself, and attended with shrinking pain and trouble. Had she any misgivings as to the final goal, or the coming events that in that hour of hope and joy cast their shadow before?

She had reached the parting of the ways. Were they ever, ever to be re-united? Time alone could tell.

II.

For some years all went well with the Barringtons in their city home, many miles away. The husband's professional practice went on increasing. Money came pouring in, and the large establishment over which the fair Alice presided was kept up on a scale of plenty and luxury that left nothing to be desired, while she, on her part, made it a model of order, neatness and comfort. Five children, two sons and three daughters, were born to George Barrington and his wife, and, as yet, there had