

voice of his sister. "Yes, yes, love; no, I mean—yes, dance by all means, dance;" "I have really your leave?" she continued with a smile; "I believe you scarcely heard my question."—"Yes, yes, my dear Lucy; you wish to dance—go now—go—I am quite willing you should dance to-night.—Oh! Lady Glenallan—oh! Bessie! answer me, speak to me!" But another voice was in Bessie's ear. As they stood in the shadow of the portico, unseen by those who were walking in the garden, Claude Forester and a lady passed close to them. "Do not deceive me," said Claude, "I have been deceived once, and I tell you fairly, that my contempt and disgust for the most wretched and profligate of her sex, is weak to what I feel towards the coquette, who, with no temptation but vanity, trifles with—" the words were lost in the distance. Yet, as the speaker returned, Bessie thought she distinguished her own name in the murmuring protestations of Claude's companion. "He scorns me—he holds me up as a warning, as an example, he—Claude—the only being whom I ever really loved!" and Lady Glenallan leaned her head against the portico, too faint even for tears. "Speak to me—speak to me—answer me, beloved Bessie!"—She had forgotten *him*. Shuddering, she attempted to withdraw her hand from the death-like clasp of his, while she exclaimed in agony: "Oh! well, might he scorn me! Let me go, infatuated boy! you know not what you love!—Oh! let me depart and die, I am sick, sick at heart! I have not heard you—I know not what you have said, or what I have answered—I am a fool—a miserable, vain, accursed fool, I am—Oh! God, forgive me!" "Lord Linton! Lord Linton! Lord Linton!" cried several voices, in a tone of alarm and horror: "Lord Linton! your sister!" said Lord Glenallan, as he made his way through the crowd, and seized the arm of the unhappy young man. Instantly he darted forward—and Bessie followed; drawn by that fearful impulse which prompts us to leap the precipice we shudder to gaze from. A silent circle was formed where the dance had been; the music had only ceased that moment; there was but one sound through the wide room where hundreds were collect-