

CHAPTER II.

A new Friend. — The young Artist. — A strange Railway Station. — A wonderful City. — The Grand Canal. — The Winged Lion. — A Story of St. Mark the Evangelist. — Pleasant Lodgings.

HE young man who was sitting opposite to David had heard every word of the conversation, and had at times stolen glances at the sweet face of Gracie Lee, without venturing, however, to intrude himself upon her. At length, as David's eyes wandered about, he caught sight of the stranger, who was looking at him with a careless smile.

"You have never been in Venice before — have you?" said the stranger.

"No," said David, who could not help taking a liking to the young man, both on account of his face and the tone of his voice.

"It's rather an awkward place to land in," said the other. "I'm an old inhabitant, and if there's anything I can do, why, I can only say I shall be very glad to do it."

"Why, you must be an American," said David, in surprise, as his ear detected the beloved intonations and accent of his native land.