

of coming sorrow deeper than what we are suffering. I feel that we two shall never stand together again as we are now; that something will come between us."

"Everyone feels these gloomy forebodings when they are in such bitter sorrow as we are. Eva darling, try and look on the bright side. I shall come back in two years. It is not so long after all, and we shall be dearer, if possible, to each other than we are now. Farewell, my own dear one, farewell; be faithful till we meet again."

"More faithful than you will be," Alan," were her last words to him, and with one more lingering, tender adieu they parted, and as the last sound of his footsteps died away, Eva felt as if her life had ended. It was her first real sorrow, and but a preparation for what was to come. But the future was mercifully hidden from her as it is from us all.

CHAPTER II.

A soft, balmy day early in the month of June, the sweet scent of the budding trees, the delicate perfume of the lilies of the valley and the polyanthuses filled the air. Eva Carlen is leaning against a lilac tree, gazing sadly into vacancy. The sweet breath of approaching summer does not bring any balm to her wounded spirit. She is clad in deepest mourning, for but a few weeks have passed since her father has been laid to rest. When the Commercial Bank had failed, sinking with it the fortunes of many, all laughed at the idea of danger to the Union. It might have been saved had not such a demand been made upon it, but the people grew panic-stricken, and those who had money invested drew it. Gold and silver was dealt out while it lasted, and then the crash came. The shareholders lost not only all their bank shares, but what other money belonged to them. Mr. Carlen was a large shareholder and his losses were heavy. It simply broke his heart to think that after all his life-time of saving and providing for Eva, he should die and leave her almost a beggar. But he murmured not against the order of Providence, and, when he found death approaching he turned his thoughts from this world to that of