

generous and tender elder sister might make for a beloved younger one.

When the marvel was known Freda moved over quietly to the Abbey, and took up her abode there as though she had always been the acknowledged niece of Lord Grandison and heiress to the estates. If anything was whispered as to Lord Grandison's part in the curious history, those who were on the side of the angels had only to point out the amity which prevailed between Freda and her uncle, to say nothing of the great affection between her and Cecile, to confute the gossips.

Presently Freda was married from the Abbey, in that very little church outside whose walls her father lay buried. On her marriage she and her husband would have gone to take up their residence near those redoubtable ladies, the Aunts Dashwood, who had forgiven their nephew, since he had, all unknown, wooed and won the elder princess instead of the younger ; only that Cecile could not bear the deprivation of her dear new sister, whose coming had seemed to impart to the delicate girl new health and strength. So Mr. and Mrs. Lionel Dampier went to live at the Dower House, since the elder princess would by no manner of means permit the abdication of those who had ruled at the Abbey so long.

To the Dower House came, at different periods, many people who had befriended Freda, to see Freda in her honour and happiness, surrounded by friends