

sister's proposal, adopted the boy, and took him to his own house. In time he was sent to Eton, then to Woolwich, and finally entered the army.

"After parting with her child, Mrs. Murray resolved to give up the poor lodging which she had hitherto occupied, and go out as a governess. In this manner she has supported herself for fifteen years more. She has just left a situation which she has held for several years in the family of Madame de Lusignon, Sir William Dinacre's sister. Madame was anxious to keep her, but Mrs. Murray felt that as her daughters were grown up, her patroness (who is not too well off) had no need of her services, and refused to remain with her in idleness. The relations whom she has been with—very distant cousins—are even poorer than herself, and she has been paying them out of her small savings to allow her to stay with them, and therefore, until she finds another situation, I have invited her to come and stay with us. I hope you will be good to her, Maud."

"Indeed I will, papa. What a sad story!"

"You have not heard all yet. Her son, a fine spirited young man, refused to give up his mother, in spite of his uncle's threats, and never ceased to write to her. When he grew old enough to have control over his own movements he frequently visited her, until some four years ago he was ordered on foreign service. His health failed, and he was forced to return home on sick leave. Whilst on his passage from the Cape of Good Hope, he again fell ill and died of low fever, which he had not strength to throw off. This happened a couple of months ago."

Maud's sympathy was fully aroused, and she looked anxiously forward to the time when her work of mercy, for as such she was disposed to contemplate the period of Mrs. Murray's visit, should begin. "When may we expect her, papa?" she said, after a few moments silence.

"Next Monday, my dear." And with a smile of satisfaction he rose and left the room to dress for dinner.

"Well begun is half done," he said to himself. "Take a woman's feelings, by storm, and you have no more trouble. Mrs. Murray's game is in her own hands now."

Maud felt deeply interested, and for the first time relented, and thought that, after all, perhaps she had dealt hard measure to Sir William. A man who would take so lively an interest in his sister's governess could not be wholly devoid of good feeling.

It was the first time since her mother's death that Maud had entered with zest into anything extraneous, and she gave the necessary orders about the preparations for Mrs. Murray's reception with so much vivacity