

wretched your silence has made me. Three times I have written to you, to beg you to decide my fate, but you were determined to try my affection for you to the uttermost. Love can stand every trial but neglect.'

"'You have written to me, Armyn, but I learned the fact from another. Yes!' I cried, losing my temper in the deep annoyance I felt at his want of prudence. 'You chose such a trustworthy messenger for an important communication, that I was upbraided by the wretch herself, who laughed at her own perfidy, and triumphed in having betrayed our secret to my brother.'

"Armyn turned very pale at this announcement, and his stern brow contracted into a gloomy frown. He passed his hands over his face, and for a few minutes continued in deep thought.

"'Jane,' he said at length, 'this is an unfortunate accident, but as our love for each other is now known to your brother, and he will do all in his power to oppose us, we must dare to act in a decided manner for ourselves. It is out of my power just at the present time to make you my wife; but, if you would confide in my honor, and feel a lively faith in the deep love I bear you, I could convey you to another part of England, and place you under the protection of a middle-aged female, an aunt of my own, with whom I am a great favorite, and who would be a mother to you until such time as I am able to appear again in my own character. The gentleman whom I shot in the duel is still living, but small hopes are entertained for his life. Until his recovery is certain I must retain my incognito. At present I pass for my friend Mr. Onslow's new gamekeeper, and in this assumed character I have eluded the vigilance of those who would rejoice to see me in a prison.'

"'Alas!' said I, 'you must make no sacrifice on my account. I am content to wait your time in patient submission to my brother's tyranny, but without being your wife I dare not leave his protection. All I possess in the world is my good name, and if I part with that I am lost.'

"A haughty smile stole over his features.

"'You are too cautious, Jane, for a lover. True love will risk all things, yea! life itself, for the sake of the beloved.'

"'Ah!' said I, 'I would to God it were only my worthless life that I was called upon to give up as the test of my affections. Armyn, I could die for you—but I could not consent to live in infamy even for your dear sake.'

"This speech drew from him the most passionate caresses, and vows of eternal fidelity, and we parted after I had solemnly promised to meet him every fine evening in that lonely place.

"Ah! Rose, how little we know ourselves—how weak and vain it is for creatures of clay to trust to their own strength—to bid defiance to the tempter, and by so doing dare their own certain ruin.

"Well had it been for me had I never again consented to meet the seducer; if instead of tampering with his base proposal, I had spurned him from me with contempt. I confided in my sense of rectitude, and I did not think it possible that I ever could be induced to act wrong. Many in my situation have entertained the same opinion, and fallen into the same abyss of ruin.

"But to proceed with my sad tale. Night after night we met in the rugged glen at the bottom of the heath, and night after night the cloudless summer heavens, the pale moon and the burning stars, witnessed our vows of eternal fidelity. Surely, never woman loved as I loved! and never was affection for a time more ardently, more intensely repaid. But even in those moments when my cup of happiness seemed overflowing, there was a wild and gloomy expression in the dark blue eyes, and high features of Armyn Redgrave, that startled and alarmed me; and often have I buried my face in my hands to shut out that baleful gaze. It was but a momentary thing—a dark cloud that briefly floated over the summer heavens: his fine countenance was again lighted up with a smile, and his soothing voice, and the tenderness of his manner, dispelled my boding apprehensions. So delightful were these meetings, so rapturous my anticipations of the future, that they amply repaid me for the cares and labors of the day. But you will ask me how did I escape the watchful vigilance of my brother, or the prying curiosity of his disagreeable friend, Andrew Miller, who had become a constant evening visitor at the house?

"In the country, people retire early to rest, and it was not until our humble household were buried in sleep, that I stole from my chamber, and with noiseless steps traversed the passage, and descended the stairs that led to the lower part of the house. Fearful of awakening my brother by unclosing the front door, I purposely left the dairy window open, which being close to the ground, gave me easy access to the garden, and from thence to the common. My absence was never suspected, as I always took good care to return before the dawn of day.

"The summer passed all too swiftly away, and the leaves of autumn were scattered over the earth, when I discovered with unspeakable horror that I was likely to present to the world a living witness of these stolen interviews with Armyn Redgrave. When the terrible truth flashed upon