

"There, Mamma," she said at length, "I think I have exhausted the list of our acquaintances; you will have to tell me, for I shall never be able to guess."

"I wonder you had not thought of Mrs. Ellwood?"

"Why, you know she was quite ill a week or two ago, and though I heard she was better, I did not think she had recovered sufficiently to venture out."

"Yes, she is looking quite well now, and the very sight of her face did me good. I think she remained here an hour, for the time passed quickly, talking of by-gone days. She wishes you very much to spend to-morrow afternoon with her. Now that you have given your holidays, you must take advantage of them," she says, "to go out as much as possible."

"But, Mamma, I hope you told her I could not go, for you know it would be impossible for me to leave you so long."

"Indeed, Alice, you must go. Jane can take excellent care of me, and I shall feel far happier, knowing you are enjoying yourself, than to see you sitting here day after day; your bright youth passing away amid such harrassing cares, and constant attendance on your poor sick mother."

"Enjoy myself," and the deep sigh which she could not repress, told how little that sad heart recked of earth's enjoyment. "How could I enjoy myself, knowing you were ill and suffering at home?"