

wealth did not belong to his family, there was not a boy better loved or more respected. I sat next him for a long time; and I noticed that his clothes, when they grew old, were not replaced, as heretofore, with plain though good articles, but they were carefully patched and darned. One morning, when he came to school, he looked very sad; but, as we were required to attend to our lessons, I did not find out the cause. After school, he went to the master's desk and told him that he could no longer attend school, because his services were needed at home. The master was very kind, and enquired if he could not be spared for a part of the day; but John said that he had obtained employment as a doctor's boy, and that he was needed at all hours of the day. I was sorry enough for him, poor fellow; but we agreed to see each other as much as possible in the evening. I go very often to his house. His father has been dead many years. The fortune which he left was quite small, but enough to support the widow and her two children comfortably, though with strict economy. It was John's darling wish to go to college, and be educated for an engineer; and the energies of the whole family were exerted to gratify this desire. But the failure of a company in which half of Mrs. Lee's property was invested put an end to all these bright plans; and John was obliged to seek an employment which might support himself, and add something, however little, to the scanty resources of the family.

"No one could know Mrs. Lee without feeling an involuntary respect for her. She never complains, and is all the time busy with her needle, except the necessary time spent in nursing her daughter, who is an invalid. John

loves his sister dearly. She is sixteen, — three years older than himself; and it is his delight to do anything for her in his power."

"All that may be true, Charlie, and John Lee may be a very good boy; but, still, I don't see why we should associate with him."

"I have known John Lee three years, and have never discovered any thing bad in him. He has his faults, of course; but he is a far better boy than I am."

"Very probably; but there is such a want of refinement and good breeding in that class of people!"

"Wrong again, James. Your mother is an elegant woman; her manners are polished and lady-like, but no more so than Mrs. Lee's. If Mrs. Lee by a sudden turn of fortune, were to become mistress of such an establishment as your father's, she would be equally capable of the etiquette and refinements which you consider so necessary."

"Upon my word, Charlie, you grow quite eloquent. Why don't you go and play with those fellows?" — pointing to a group of quarrelsome, dirty lads, who were kicking foot-ball.

"Simply because I do not believe our tastes and pursuits would agree. They would not be happy in my company, and I should not enjoy theirs. John Lee and I have many pursuits and thoughts in common; and so we have chosen each other for friends. Come, James, shake off this nonsense, and let me introduce John to you. He's a capital fellow, though a little shy at first."

"No, no, Master Charles! It is bad enough to go with you, if you will persist in associating with him, without becoming acquainted with him myself."

Charlie's spirit was a little