

grief; then, hastily starting from her side as the door opened, he moved towards the window.

"May I come in?" said Captain Beauchamp, entering and bowing to Mrs. Warburton, whose cheek was in an instant suffused with blushes.

"Warburton," he added, "the route is come, I am happy to say, and we had better proceed at once. Have you ordered a conveyance for Mrs. Warburton?"

"Yes! an hour ago; I will go and hasten it," replied the young man, hurrying away and leaving Captain Beauchamp to wrap his delicate young wife in her shawl, and to give her his support, which he did with a kindness and gentlemanly feeling not to be misunderstood.

A post-chaise now drove round from the inn-yard; into this Mrs. Warburton was handed by her husband, in whose ear she whispered a few words. He smiled and shook his head, closing the door as he did so—he then fell in with the men, when, after some little maneuvering, the word "quick march" being given by Captain Beauchamp, the whole party moved on and quitted the town. As they proceeded towards their destination we will introduce our young bride more particularly to the notice of our readers, since she is destined to hold a conspicuous place in our simple tale.

Katherine Atherston was the only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Atherston of Grinby Lodge. Her father, a rich merchant in the city, now retired from business, had purchased the estate on which he lived, from a nobleman, whose enormous debts had obliged him to sell it and to live abroad. In the opinion of Mr. Atherston to be poor was a crime—to be rich the highest aim of man;—he gloried in his wealth, displaying it in the most pompous manner, by keeping a large retinue of servants, and living in the splendour and magnificence of a prince. His partner was a very amiable lady, who had been forced into a union with him by worldly calculating parents, when her heart was fondly attached to another. This cast over her a melancholy which was visible in her whole deportment through long years; but the cares of a family had silently conquered her former feelings. She was meek and placid, and, possessing as she did every indulgence and luxury, felt resigned to her lot, and happy in her children. Perhaps the only point in which her opinion coincided with that of her husband, was the education of their daughter, who they earnestly desired to see placed in a station equal to her beauty and accomplishments. They consequently spared no expense in forwarding their ambitious views, and gifted as she was by nature, Katherine soon repaid their care by acquiring a proficiency in all those studies, which in society would render her at-

tractive. She played and sang delightfully. She drew remarkably well, she danced like a sylph, whilst her knowledge of the languages was the wonder of all mamma's friends, and the envy of her own young companions. Her disposition was sweet, gentle and engaging; her heart all tenderness and love. She consequently became the idol of her mother and the pride of her father, who frequently promised that on her bridal day, if she married to please him, she should receive as her dowry her weight in gold. Katherine would laugh on hearing this; for, accustomed as she was to have every wish gratified that money could procure, she knew not its value, and cared very little about it.

Her young brothers shared with her the affection and solicitude of her parents; and noble boys they were, whose love for their beautiful sister could only be equalled by her own for them. In character and mind they were very different; for while Arthur was bold, daring and fond of every active pursuit, Ernest was mild, retiring and remarkably studious. The first sorrow Katherine experienced was when these dear brothers were removed to a public school, nor did she cease to count the days and weeks until their return at each vacation, when sweet it was to witness their fond greetings—the bringing forth all the treasured gifts prepared during their separation—the seeking together their most favorite haunts, and the visiting their pet animals. Innocent happy days! Why were they to glide away so swiftly and for ever!

Unfortunately, in educating the young Katherine, it was to prepare her for this world alone. The idea that she was in a state of probation—a being born for eternity—never entered the minds of her parents; consequently Religion, the only basis of all that is pure and good and right, had been neglected and entirely forgotten. Let us not be misunderstood. Every outward form of her creed was strictly attended to; she went to church regularly with her governess, she repeated her catechism every Sunday morning, but without comprehending the spiritual meaning. Generally a sermon was read aloud for the benefit of the household on the Sabbath evening; some dry moral discourse from which her thoughts constantly wandered. She knelt in prayer, poor child! but in darkness and in ignorance of all that she needed, all that she was by nature, for the subject of religion had been forbidden to be discussed between her and her governess, who was a French lady and a bigoted Catholic; whilst from her mother's lips she received no instruction, Mrs. Atherston being herself but a nominal Christian, assenting to the truths of Scripture without experiencing their vital import in her heart. The