

introduced Captain Elton to Mrs. Kenyson, who received him with a gracefulness of manner that would have done credit to a drawing-room, though her cheek flushed, as she remembered her miserable apartment. He noticed it, and apologized in kind and respectful terms for his seeming intrusion, and then turned to address the little boy. Naturally fond of children, he soon succeeded in attracting his attention, by lifting him up to the window, and showing him the various objects in the street below, while Belinda was conversing in low tones with Mrs. Kenyson. After some time spent thus, she rose to depart, but not before, in the most delicate manner, she had prevailed on her friend to accept of money sufficient to relieve their present wants. Promising a removal to a more suitable dwelling, and a situation in which she could procure a respectable living, Belinda and Captain Elton took their leave. Having expressed a wish to hear Mrs. Kenyson's history, she promised to relate it at some future visit. Pleasant was that night to the poor widow; her spirits, so long depressed under a heavy burden, became comparatively light, at the blissful thought of being able to maintain her children comfortably, and of giving them a suitable education, while the infant, solaced by a plentiful meal, and warmed by the abundance of wood that now filled the stove, had sunk into sweet and refreshing slumber on their bed of straw.

Belinda and Captain Elton returned home, moralizing on the sad scene they had witnessed. On arriving at Mr. Dalton's dwelling, Captain Elton accepted Belinda's invitation to remain and dine with them; and, on passing the dining-room, the folding doors of which were open, they could not help contrasting it with the apartment they had just left. An ample fire of coal blazed in the highly polished grate, throwing light on the spacious dining-table, with its glittering array of china and silver, and on the tastefully arranged dessert of the side-board. And, in the pleasant social circle that met that evening around the family-hearth, there were no happier persons than Belinda and Captain Elton, for the consciousness of having added to the comforts of others, enabled them more fully to enjoy those which Heaven had bestowed upon them.