

Lilias, the laughing, light-hearted Lilias, slept with the dead, and her grave was close by the murmuring waters of the Shannon. She had wedded the object of her choice, but had not long survived her marriage. He was poor, though well deserving her love, and Mrs. Lee, ever kind to her, had procured him a situation with a relative who had an estate in Ireland, and thither they had removed. She survived only a year, and Isabella, thus deprived of all other objects of affection, now centred all her love in Robert. He was the only oasis in the desert of her existence.

We behold her when four years have elapsed since she entered this city, and that period has wrought many changes in her appearance. She still possesses the same fine dark eyes, but they now wear a melancholy, sad expression. Her features retain all the delicacy of their outline, but anxiety and fatigue have chased the colour which once mantled on her cheek, and left it pale and colourless as marble. She is still seated in the same small room, containing its humble, scanty furniture, and beside her lie a heap of rich shawls, which owe to her the gay wreaths of flowers with which they are embroidered.

Suddenly a hasty knock comes to the door; Isabella rises and opens it, and in a moment is clasped in the arms of her brother.

"Oh, Robert! is this indeed you?" she exclaimed; "you know not how glad I am that you have come at length."

Robert, without replying, gazed earnestly in her face, and then around at the humble apartment.

"And is it for my sake?" he passionately exclaimed, "that you have endured all those privations that I read so plainly in your pale, thin cheeks? Oh, Isabella! I hope that I may never prove unworthy of all the sacrifices you have made for me. If it is in my power to prevent it, you shall never more know poverty or sorrow."

The joy of that moment, amply repaid Isabella for years of toil and suffering, and as she gazed upon her intelligent, noble-looking brother, she felt with pride and joy, that she had made him what he was.

He had just received his diploma as surgeon, and many flattering encomiums had been bestowed upon him by the medical board, by which he had been examined. One gentleman, in particular, had taken a great interest in him; and after having invited him to call upon him next day, made him a very advantageous offer of the situation of surgeon of a large vessel, which would shortly sail for Van Diemen's Land. He would return with the vessel on its homeward voyage, and his

services would be most handsomely remunerated. Robert thanked the stranger most warmly for his kindness, but said that he must consult his sister before accepting this offer, adding, that he would see him in a few days, and that he would immediately write her decision.

It was with a variety of conflicting feelings, that Isabella listened, as Robert enumerated to her the advantages which would result from accepting this offer. She felt it cruel for him to be torn away from her, just as she thought their long separation was at an end. On the other hand, would it not be selfish to deprive him of this excellent situation? She was so generous and disinterested, that she did not hesitate for a moment, concerning the course he should adopt.

"Go, Robert, she said, though it will grieve me to part from you. Go, and my prayers shall attend you!"

"Isabella!" he replied, "I would not be so cruel as to leave you alone for such a long period, but I think it will be to your advantage also, that I go. Thanks to the generous man who has befriended me, I have it in my power to leave you in comfort till I return. So you must lay aside all that work, and spend the time, while I am absent, in endeavouring to regain the roses that have fled from your cheek."

Isabella smiled sadly, as Robert proceeded in this cheerful strain, but she endeavoured to appear resigned to this long separation. She immediately made the necessary preparations for his departure, and resolved to return to reside with her old friend, Mrs. Galbraith, in Edinburgh, till her brother's return. Robert accompanied her thither, and resided also with the good lady, till his departure upon his long voyage. Although Isabella felt the separation very keenly, Hope still pointed to the future. But, alas! it only told a "flattering tale."

After having seen Robert on board, and bidden him many a tender adieu, Mary Galbraith and Isabella watched the receding vessel, as long as it continued in view, and then with tearful eyes returned to their home.

Isabella was rendered independent for a time by the sum Robert had placed at her disposal. Her long and severe application to needle-work had impaired her health; but being gifted by Nature with an excellent constitution, by using exercise, and entering a little into amusement, she soon revived, and began, once more, to look like her former self. For the gentle Mary, she felt all the affection of a sister, and Mary in return, regarded Isabella almost as a being of a superior order, for she was aware of all the hardships she had endured on her brother's account. But Mary would often murmur to herself, "If I had only