

THE TALISMAN.

CHAPTER I.

A VISITOR AND A GIFT.

EDWARD MANNERS lived with his mother in a small but comfortable homestead in the town of Hartford, on the Connecticut river, which at that time could boast less than half a century of existence. The house was situated at the farther end of the town, in a somewhat retired position, and was flanked by a moderate-sized but well-kept and flourishing garden. Sometimes, in the pride of his sixteen years, Edward cried out that these quarters were very narrow