

which I have lately become a subscriber ; there are some choice articles in it, which I think you would like to read."

"I am very, very much obliged ; you are extremely considerate, Mr. Sydney," and Alice's eyes glistened, as taking the magazine from his hand, she glanced rapidly over its contents.

"Books are rare treasures to me, for my library is not very extensive ; you know most of poor Papa's works were sold ; I have read and re-read all my little volumes, and it was only this morning I was wishing for something new to read, little thinking how soon my desire would be granted."

"I can assure you, you are heartily welcome to any books I possess, that you would like to read ; they will acquire a double value in my eyes by your perusal of them ; and whenever I purchase any new ones, which is a luxury I dare seldom indulge in, it will give me a great satisfaction to know that they will afford pleasure, not only to my mother and sisters, but also to yourself."

Alice and Sydney were old acquaintances. When children, their fathers both living and maintaining wealthy establishments, they had resided in adjoining dwellings ; and from thence, had sprung up an intimacy and friendship, which the lapse of time, or the vicissitudes they had experienced, had neither power to weaken or diminish.

Of late, however, they had not met as often as they were wont to do in former days. The changed circumstances of both ; the removal of the families into different neighborhoods ; and Alice's school,