

large, dark, and brilliant eyes, half shaded by long thick eyelashes, the small finely shaped nose, the pouting coral lips, and the roseate bloom that adorns the cheeks, all are beautiful; but the expression of sweetness and sensibility, that beams from the eyes, and plays in fascinating smiles around the mouth, seems irresistibly attractive.

Name after name is announced by the servant, but Belinda seems too much occupied by the group around her to pay much attention to them, until "Captain Elton" meets her ear, and a young man of distinguished appearance enters the apartment. It is the same whose spoken aversion to beauties we overheard. Saluting the hostess, and with a bow of mingled ease and haughtiness to Miss Dalton, he retires to the further end of the drawing-room, and engages in conversation with several acquaintances. Belinda Dalton had raised her eyes as his name was announced, but encountering his glance of curiosity, not unmingled, at least so she imagined, with a slight degree of disdain, had immediately dropped them, and continued, in a tone of gayety, her former conversation, though not without a pang of sorrow, and perhaps wounded vanity, as every now and then, the remembrance of that glance rose to her memory, and was interpreted by her thus: "You are the admired and spoilt child of wealth, and will be, if you are not already, the heartless coquette. I, at least, will keep at a distance from your snare,"—and Belinda experienced the pain of being unappreciated by one whom she highly esteemed. A reverie into which she had fallen was interrupted by the inquiry of a gentleman:

"Do you know, Miss Dalton, of what country Captain Elton is a native?"

"No," was the reply.

"The Emerald Isle claims him for her son," said Belinda's brother Charles, a young lieutenant in the navy. "He intends returning very soon to his native land for he is absolutely homesick. His mother and sisters, to whom he is much attached, reside there. Only look, Belinda, what a melancholy countenance he wears. Shall I bring him over, and see if you have power to win him to smiles?"

"I have no wish to exert it," said Belinda coldly.

At this moment Dr. Fleming joined the group, with an entreaty from several gentlemen, to Miss Dalton, for a per-