

daughter's mind, and induce her to look forward with hope to the future. But Clara fixing her eyes upon her mother's pallid countenance answered only by a desponding look, and left the apartment. Mrs. Delville then conversed calmly with Charles on his prospects, and earnestly dissuaded him from leaving England ; you have, she said, an income that would, even without addition, enable you to live with comfort ; rest then contented for the present, and in time your abilities and steady perseverance must meet with their just reward. It proved difficult to persuade Charles to forego the hope of offering Clara a splendid establishment, but the representation of the uncertainty of obtaining riches, should he even put his plans into execution, and the dread of leaving Clara prevailed.

The two following months were unmarked by any particular circumstance except the gradual decline of Mrs. Delville.— Charles became more dear each day to her, and at length at his repeated solicitation she consented to his immediate union with Clara. I see your kind wishes, she said, you are aware that I must soon leave my poor orphan girl, and you would first obtain the most sacred of rights to sustain her through the trial, take her accompanied by my warm blessings on you both, I shall then be ready to depart, and with my dying breath, praise my Heavenly Father, for his great mercy and goodness to the widow and orphan ; for if our weakness has been made manifest in our afflictions, his greatness, and love has been displayed in our consolation.

Ten days after, Charles and Clara were privately married in presence of a young friend of his, an old housekeeper, and Mrs. Delville. No joyous laugh echoed through the house, or splendidly dressed guest offered laboured compliments to the bride, but the look of unbounded love and happiness expressed in the eyes of Charles, and his thrilling voice when pressing her to his heart for the first time, he whispered, you are mine, sunk into her breast and seemed to change her whole being. For a moment she forgot all, in the sweet sense of dependance that a happy wife feels on the love and superior strength of a husband.