

# THE LENNOXVILLE MAGAZINE.

## THE BRERETONS.

### CHAPTER XI.

"Have you had a pleasant ride, papa?" said Maud, one evening as her father entered the drawing-room, where she sat waiting for dinner. "It is quite pleasant to think of your having had a real day's holiday. You so seldom take one now!"

"True, my dear, business requires all my attention just now. But I have enjoyed my ride to-day very much. Sir William is certainly a most amusing companion. But I have not been out solely on pleasure. I had heard of a sad case of distress, and was anxious to learn the rights of the affair."

"Is it anything you can tell me about, papa?"

"Certainly. There is no reason why you should not know her history, since I hope we shall see Mrs. Murray here soon." Maud opened her eyes in some surprise at this new phase of her father's character, and he continued: "This Mrs. Murray is the widow of a Captain Murray. I can tell you nothing about him except that he was an officer of good family; but he was poor. When he was quite young he met with Miss Crawford, fell in love with her, and married her, contrary to the wishes of her family. Two years afterwards he was attacked by yellow fever in Jamaica, where his regiment had been ordered, and died within three days, leaving his wife a widow with one child—a boy. After all her husband's debts were paid, Mrs. Murray had only money enough left to pay her passage back to England. Captain Murray's family was too poor to assist her, and as she had married against the will of her own relations, they declined to see her. Her brother, however, offered to receive and educate her child. She refused to part with him, and actually supported both herself and her son for eight years. Finding at last that, with all her efforts, for she was not a strong person, she would be unable to give the boy an education befitting his station, she wrote to her brother, and promised to give him her son, if he still wished to receive him. Mr. Crawford, who had no child of his own, eagerly grasped his