

THE WORLD BEFORE THEM.

CHAPTER I.

DOROTHY AND HER LOVER.

“**B**UT, Dolly! father will never give his consent, you know that;” said a male voice behind the hawthorn hedge, that skirted the deep, sandy lane that led to Heath Farm. The tone, reproachful and irritating, in which this was spoken, was answered in a sweet, calm voice.

“Until he gives his consent, his frank, free consent, Gilbert, I cannot, and *will not* be your wife.”

“You are just as obstinate as the old man.”

“Ay, and as proud. But don’t think