

control over her temper to enjoy her reign unmolested. In an evil hour Major T. yielded to the claims she was beginning to establish on him, and from the hour in which he did so her influence was unbounded and perpetual.

On their arrival at Ceylon, Major T. procured private lodgings and installed Mary Taylor as mistress of them. She had all she required of money and attention; at first he was shy of appearing with her in public, but gradually as her power increased and he grew hardened in evil practice, he threw off all restraint, and she was frequently seen accompanying him in his drives or walks. But this was not enough for her ambitious desires, she not only wished to possess the luxury and care he bestowed upon her, she determined the world should know she enjoyed them. With this in view, soon after their arrival at Ceylon, she hinted to the Major the propriety of disannulling his previous marriage, either by reporting the death of his wife or procuring some legal separation. This request the Major was by no means willing to accede to; marriage had not set so well upon his fancy, and he was not willing to try a second experiment. He was perfectly satisfied with the present arrangement of things, and fancied the would-be Mrs. T. should be the same. But the lady was determined to persevere in her endeavours to reign acknowledged owner of the Major's name, yet her influence was not rivetted securely enough to press matters much further. Though Major T. was infatuated with her, so much so that he would unwillingly have renounced her claims, his was not an acquiescence that was to be won through affection. Like all selfish and unprincipled persons he was powerless before a determined will. He dreaded the sneers of the world far more than the reproach of his own conscience. Once let any one be in possession of a secret that affects the fair name of such a man, and he becomes a slave to the breast of those who own it. Until he acknowledged her to all as his wife, this woman felt she had no absolute power over Major T. He could yet shake her off when he pleased, and consign her to the low position in which he at first found her. She had as yet only persuasion to use, but she looked forward to the day when she could bind him by the strong power of fear and make him her obedient slave in all things. Did the Major explore the country for a few days, she was sure to make it appear that it was necessary she should accompany him, which she accordingly did, and thus step by step she made herself the constant companion of his existence, perpetuating her influence through his very selfishness, to which she continually ministered, until he began to feel that life would be a very poor affair indeed, if he had not the attentions and society of Mary Taylor to brighten it.

We have no inclination to follow her through all her manœuvres and wiles, nor him through the growth and strengthening of evil inclinations, and renunciation of truth and honour. The task would be a painful one, and the recital would be of little interest and less benefit to the reader. A downward career is ever a dangerous one. We will not follow it even in imagination.