

interfered in a great degree with a determination which Nevers had partially formed, of leaving Bath that day; and Miss Belmore could not fail to remark, that his manner was reserved, and, as she inferred, indicative of dislike to herself.

When we can sometimes find in matters of minor importance, so many sources of vexation in trifles, to which at other times, we would impute no meaning; it is not to be wondered at, when love or ambition, the two great subjects of interest to the natural man, engross his attention, he should leap at false conclusions, upon events widely different from those which circumstances would lead him to expect. Had Miss Belmore been aware that in the very exaltedness of his attachment to her, was to be found the clue to Nevers' mysterious conduct, how much pain—how much mental suffering might she have escaped! She loved him, as Morris had rightly judged; she felt that her fate was linked with his, and yet when she asked herself why it was so, she could find no satisfactory answer. To some it may appear strange and improbable, that these young persons should conceive the same violent attachment for each other, on so casual and short-lived an acquaintance as theirs had been. It seemed so, even to her; for she had more than once since their first meeting, wondered why her thoughts reverted so often, and with so much pleasure to the event that had made her acquainted with Nevers, and as often had she convinced herself that it was not gratitude alone that prompted them. Now without once attributing it to design, she saw only the same fate involved in this second meeting; and yet, although her strong mind was deeply imbued with this romantic principle,—destiny,—creating a belief in the ultimate realization of her hopes, she was nevertheless agitated by the doubts which the strangeness of his manner forced upon her understanding; and when Nevers, who had walked with her to the door of the hotel, took leave, she found herself in no enviable state of excitement. She had been accompanied on her walk by a female friend, to whom she excused herself, and retired to her room on the plea of indisposition: entering there more fully upon a consideration of every word which had passed between them, and which she had no trouble in recalling to her mind; connecting the pressure which he had left on her hand at parting, with language of his, which might have been construed variously according to the inclination of the mind, she conceived at one moment the most un-

bounded hope, and on the next, with a sickening sensation would come the questions "why did he not speak to me last night?—why was he so reluctant to meet me this morning?—why did he seem in such a haste to get away?" and then, language which had before borne a favourable construction, became replete with naught but evil.

Undetermined as to the best course to pursue, in relation to Miss Belmore, Nevers had spent all the morning in his chamber, at one moment forming schemes which were dissipated by the next. Wearied and still irresolute, he had thrown himself on a couch, in the hope of finding repose, when a servant brought in a package with his address; hastily breaking the seal, his eye brightened as it ran over the contents. "The very thing," he exclaimed throwing it on the table; "I want excitement—I will deserve *her*—I will bring her a name; but what if I should fail!—ifs so soon! I have a queer temperament of my own—always hoping—doubting as often—bah! I will cast doubts to the wind;—let me be a man for once—I must—let me see—yes!—I *must* be on the road to-morrow."

It will be necessary here, in order to render this part of the tale intelligible to the reader, to inform him that Nevers was a native of Rhode Island. His family were among the first settlers of the colony, and were consequently possessed of broad and fertile lands. These which had descended to George's father, together with a high character for honesty and benevolence, had acquired for him considerable influence in the state, of which he had been an industrious representative in Congress, until the weight of years compelled him to seek retirement in the bosom of his family; his example had inspired George when very young to emulate his deeds, and they who had supported the old man, marked with a proud satisfaction, the ease with which the son bore off the prizes at the university; they identified the young man with the state—they adopted him as their own—they claimed his character and talents as State property; and they determined as we have before hinted, to make them serviceable.

The letters which he had received so opportunely, came from friends in Rhode Island, forwarded from New York, and contained invitations to become a candidate, at the election of state legislators, for the town of——. The requisition was well seasoned; it decided his resolution.

How often is a man's career through life