

that had not in the least the look of a novel, and which, as I subsequently ascertained, was an elaborate essay on Causation. We, of course, passed each other on our several ways without sign of recognition. Quickening her pace, however, she was soon out of sight ; and I just thought, on one or two occasions afterwards, of the apparition that had been presented as she passed, as much in keeping with the adjuncts,—the picturesque forest and the gorgeous sunset. It would not be easy, I thought, were the large book but away, to furnish a very lovely scene with a more suitable figure. Shortly after, I began to meet the young lady at the charming tea-parties of the place. Her father, a worthy man, who, from unfortunate speculations in business, had met with severe losses, was at this time several years dead ; and his widow had come to reside in Cromarty, on a somewhat limited income, derived from property of her own. Liberally assisted, however, by relations in England, she had been enabled to send her daughter to Edinburgh, where the young lady received all the advantages which a first-rate education could confer. By some lucky chance, she was boarded, with a few other ladies, all in early womanhood, in the family of Mr. George Thomson, the well-known correspondent of Burns ; and passed under his roof some of her happiest years. Mr. Thomson,—himself an enthusiast in art,—strove to inoculate the youthful inmates of his house with the same fervor, and to develop whatever seeds of taste or genius might be found in them ; and, characterized till the close of a life extended far beyond the ordinary term, by the fine chivalrous manners of the thorough gentleman of the old school, his influence over his young friends was very great, and his endeavors, in at least some of the instances, very successful. In none, however, was he more so than in the case of the young lady of my narrative. From Edinburgh she was sent to reside with the friends in England to whose kindness she had been so largely indebted ; and with them she might have permanently remained, to enjoy the advantages of superior position. She was at an age, however, which rarely occupies itself in adjusting the balance