

having arrived, Frank hastened into the drawing-room, clasped Harry and Laura in his arms, and having, in a voice choked with grief, bid them both a long farewell, he hurried out of their presence.

When the door closed, something seemed to fall heavily on the ground, but this scarcely attracted any one's attention, till Major Graham followed Frank, and was shocked to find him lying on the staircase, perfectly insensible. Instead of calling for assistance, however, Uncle David carefully lifted Frank in his own arms, and carried him to the carriage, where, after a few moments, the fresh air and the rapid motion revived his recollection, and he burst into tears.

"Poor grandmamma! and Harry and Laura!" cried he, weeping convulsively. "Oh! when shall I see them all again!"

"My dear boy!" said Major Graham, trying to be cheerful; "do you think nobody ever left home before? One would suppose you never expected to come back! Three years seem an age when we look forward, but are nothing after they have fled. The longer we live, the shorter every year appears, and it will seem only the day after to-morrow when you are rushing into the house again, and all of us standing at the door to welcome you back. Think what a joyous moment that will be! There is a wide and wonderful world for you to see first, and then a happy home afterwards to revisit."

"Yes, dear, good, kind Uncle David! no one ever had a happier home; and till the east comes to

the west, I shall never cease to think of it with gratitude to you and grandmamma. We shall surely all meet again. I must live upon that prospect. Hope is the jewel that remains wherever we go, and the hope to which grandmamma has directed me is truly compared to a rainbow, which not only brightens the earth, but stretches to heaven."