

not ask if I loved
"How, then, can
trees so calmly bear
may sink"

"Because I know she will not
sink beneath it. I have unbounded
confidence in her. You will see how
she will meet the distress of which
you speak. Thoughts of her child
ren's bright prospect may for a
moment cause her lip to tremble, and
a tear to dim her eye, but it will
be only for a moment that she will
regret for the past to hinder her
exertions for the future. Come, let's
go home."

"I cannot go home. Would that I
could go, feeling the same confidence
in Laura that you do in your wife. I
dread seeing her. I dread the burst
of grief that will follow the announce-
ment of our misfortune. I cannot go
home I cannot hear her reproaches."

"Reproaches! Surely, Alfred, you
do your wife injustice. She cannot
reproach you for misfortunes which
you had no power to avert. She can-
not be so unjust. So unfeeling."

"I don't know that it should be
called unjust. You know that Laura
had a handsome fortune from her
father. It is but natural that she
should feel the loss."

"Undoubtedly she must feel it
as she must feel that it is as
to herself. No, no blame
attaches to you."

Henry's representations were in
vain, as could not prevail upon his
brother to go home, until he offered
to accompany him, and break the in-
telligence to Laura.

I will not attempt to describe the
scene that followed her becoming ac-
quainted with her husband's failure
and loss of property. She absolutely
raved; accused him of swindling, of
robbing her; called upon him to re-
store her fortune, to give her back her
position in society; declared that she
would not be married to a man who
would not be her firm friend. Al-
fred at first endeavored to calm her,
to represent to her his own innocence,
she would not listen to him, and
finally, worried and despairing, he
seated himself, and silently he
reproached with which she loaded
him.

Henry turned with pity and disgust
from the scene, and hastened to his
own home. There all was peace.
Though the whole world was dark,
and the horizon black with gathering
clouds, there shone within his quiet
home the undying light of affection.
Elinore had heard the bad news before
he arrived, and was prepared to soothe
and comfort him. She was not insen-
sible to the extent of their misfor-
tune, but she had been early taught
to bow her head in uncomplaining
resignation to whatever her heavenly
Father sent. The lessons learned
from the practice of a tenderly
loved mother were not forgotten in
the hour of trial. She thought of
her children, deprived of the advan-
tages which wealth procures, and she
wept. Then came thoughts of her
husband, of his disappointments and
blighted hopes, of the disgrace which
she feared his quick sense of honor
would attach to his failure, how much
he would need support and comfort,
and she needed and prayed for
strength not only to bear her own tri-
als, but to alleviate those of her
husband, of his prayers, a calm fell up-
on her heart, and the remembrance of
many blessings still mercifully spared
to her before her; and the prayer
commenced in supplication was
ended in thanks and praise. She
sought for children, and went with
them to the little parlor where, at
evening Henry was accustomed to
find his family. She arranged the
room to give it its ordinary appearance
drew up her work table to the fire, as
if she had been employed as usual,
and then joined the sports of her
children.

For a moment Henry hesitated be-
fore opening the door. He heard the
merry voices of his children and the
sweet voice of his wife. They were
happy, they must mar their happi-
ness. His thoughts were becoming
intolerably painful, when his oldest
child asked a mother what father
stayed away late for?

"My father, my child, will soon
come, I hope. I cannot think why he
stays so late." Then continued as if
to herself, "He surely does not doubt
me; he cannot fear to tell me what
has happened; I trust his confidence
in me is not weakened."

Henry now opened the door, and
she arose to meet him. "I am so hap-
py that you have come home," she
said; "I know all and am ready to
redeem my promise to bear unflinch-
ingly any reverse of fortune; for and
with you. I have already given the
servants warning, poor things! I felt
more for them at that moment than
for myself. They all begged that if
I ever required them again, they
might come back. I promised what
you asked, but at the same time told
them no idea that I should ever
again to take them again."

"I shall see what a nice
the."

"I don't speak. A
and be held in
id Governor
id who was
South
do do"

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