at the thought, he has been dragged into the paths of vice. If he is no more, the patrimony which would have been his, will become the inheritance of the poor. Such is Harry's wish and his mother's, and it is mine too."

In speaking with so much confidence to Sir Gilbert Leslie, Colonel Clayton had somewhat relieved his oppressed heart. Sir Gilbert could not think of repeating this conversation to Frederick, for the secrets entrusted to him by his friend were sacred; but he encouraged the young man to be full of hope, and to seize the first favourable opportunity of making himself known to his father.

CHAPTER IV.

THE very next day the long-looked-for opportunity presented itself. Colonel Clayton called the young man into his library, and addressed the following words to him:

"I think you are attached to my service, Alexander; my son is fond of you, and my wife is delighted with your industrious habits. It would be very agreeable to me if I could settle you near