

William's visits to the convent after the Abbess' discovery were so restricted that his interviews or meetings with Oara were limited to chance, the Abbess acting as discreetly as possible without betraying her knowledge of their feelings towards each other. This course produced the effect that was not intended, and soon led to a declaration by William of his love, which he found was reciprocated, and the stolen meetings always ended with mutual pledges of faith and constancy.

The brother's letter was as the gentle Abbess feared. He was indignant, and his letter was full of scorn and reproaches. His child to wed an Englishman? Never; even of superior rank to her own. But to marry one of inferior rank was a suggestion he could not have expected from his sister. The angry and disdainful letter closed with a peremptory demand that his daughter should be immediately sent home.

The Abbess immediately informed William that she had perceived his attachment to Oara, remonstrated with him on the folly of it, as the father would never consent; and that, therefore, she must prohibit meetings between them and send Oara home. William was obliged to submit, and the result of his pleadings was only to obtain the Abbess' consent to a brief interview with the young lady, in which vows of constancy were renewed and each encouraged the other to hope for the future.

Oara's mother was not like her father, "who love nor pity knew," but gradually came to sympathize with her daughter, who had told her everything. As time wore on and Oara's love seemed to become stronger every day, the mother saw that her daughter's life-long happiness depended upon William. She had already been strongly impressed in his favor by the warm-hearted Abbess' letter, and this impression had been made deeper by her confiding daughter. She consented at length to a visit from William, which was to be made without the knowledge of her husband.

During this time the young man had found means of communicating with Oara, and when he received the permission to come to Amsterdam lost no time in setting upon the journey, and accompanied by a friendly clergyman, took passage in a vessel bound for Amsterdam, and to return in a short time to the Isle of Wight. Once in the city he made his presence known to Oara and her mother; the latter, after much hesitation, consented to the private marriage of the young couple. This took place on board the vessel on the day of the departure for the Isle of Wight, where the happy pair remained for some time.

The mother soon found it was impossible to reconcile the