

HOME INFLUENCE;

A TALE

FOR

MOTHERS AND DAUGHTERS.

BY

GRACE AGUILAR.

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IN TWO VOLUMES.

VOL. II.

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CHAPTER I.

Suspicion. — A Parting. — A Double Grief. — Innocence Proved. — Wrong Done and Evil Confirmed by Doubt.

LADY HELEN's ball took place; and Caroline had so conquered herself, that she could listen to Percy's flowing account of its delight with actual cheerfulness. It was so associated with self-reproach, that she could scarcely think of it without pain; but she was so convinced of her folly in permitting such a very little thing so to affect her temper as to cause all the misery she had endured, that she had resolved to punish herself, not only by listening to Percy, but by herself inquiring the details. She was a girl of really a strong mind, and once convinced of error, once released from the fell dominion of temper, she did not care what pain she endured, or what difficulty she encountered, so that she could but convince her mother how truly she regretted, and tried to atone for past misconduct. It was very easy, as Mrs. Hamilton had told her, to regain lost time in her studies, but not quite so easy to check the cross word or unkind thought, and to break from the