

**TALES FOR THE PEOPLE AND
THEIR CHILDREN.
SOWING AND REAPING; OR,
WHAT WILL COME OF IT**

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Tales for the People and Their Children. Sowing and Reaping; Or, What Will Come of It by
Mary Howitt

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MARY HOWITT

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T A L E S

FOR

THE PEOPLE AND THEIR CHILDREN.

—

BY MARY HOWITT.

SOWING AND REAPING.



THE WOMAN AND THE CHILD

SOWING AND REAPING;

OR

WHAT WILL COME OF IT.

BY MARY HOWITT,

AUTHOR OF "STRIVE AND THRIVE," "HOPE ON! HOPE EVER!"
ETC. ETC.

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1844.

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SOWING AND REAPING;

OR

WHAT WILL COME OF IT.

CHAPTER I.

A CHARACTER.

SIXTY years ago, a tall, gloomy house, of a very dingy, unpromising aspect, in Lincoln's Inn Fields, was inhabited by Thomas Durant, one of the most sagacious lawyers of the day.

By birth he was a gentleman, the younger son of the Durants of Stanton-Combe, an old, though decayed family, in the county of Durham. The family estate was greatly encumbered by debts and mortgages, and, owing to the sudden death of his father, he was left unprovided for. Edward, the elder son, took all, excepting the mother's jointure of three thousand pounds. The younger son was penniless; and, as if to increase his difficulties, had been bred to no profession.

In talents and temper the young men were as different as in fortune. The elder brother was of weak mind, and with that pliant, easy temper which is frequently its accompaniment; the younger was active and enterprising in mind, subtle in intellect, and by temper, resentful and implacable. He seemed naturally made to rule, and the other to submit; and such might have been their fate, had not the elder, to the amazement of every one, when the period of mourning for the father had just passed, brought home a bride—a haughty country beauty, without fortune, but impatient of any restraint, and perfectly capable, and very willing, to take the place of governor.

The first act of her supremacy was to hint that the absence of the mother was desired by her, and that her jointure was sufficient for a widow to live retiredly upon; and, furthermore, that it was her will that the brother should choose his profession; to enable him to do which, she presented him with a few hundred pounds. To live upon her jointure is what a widow looks forward to, therefore the mother said little: she acquiesced patiently. Not so the younger son. He flung back the money with ineffable disdain, and vowed to raise himself to wealth and power by his own unassisted efforts; assuring his sister-in-law, at the same time,