

CHAPTER VI.

LIFE IN MILL HALL (CONTINUED.)

WHILE the change was being made consequent upon Joseph Mann's withdrawing from the firm of Robert Mann & Sons, it occurred to me that it would be well to throw the entire care of the axe factory properties upon my sons who operated them, as I expected they would come into the ownership of them some time.

But in the proposed sale of the factories to my sons it was evident to me, and also to them, that Thomas and Alfred could not work pleasantly or satisfactorily together. It had been Thomas's misfortune from eighteen to twenty-two years of age to prefer pleasure to business, and this worked to the advantage of his younger brother, who gradually got the control in the management and held it with an iron grip. This did not necessarily imply that his ability was superior to his brother's, but that he had a tenacity of purpose that was unyielding.