Persuasion  
nobody with either father or sister; her word  
had no weight, her convenience was always to  
give way--she was only Anne.  
  
To Lady Russell, indeed, she was a most  
dear and highly valued god-daughter,  
favourite, and friend. Lady Russell loved them  
all; but it was only in Anne that she could fancy  
the mother to revive again.  
  
A few years before, Anne Elliot had been  
a very pretty girl, but her bloom had vanished  
early; and as even in its height, her father had  
found little to admire in her, (So totally different  
were her delicate features and mild dark eyes  
from his own), there could be nothing in them,  
now that she was faded and thin, to excite his  
esteem. He had never indulged much hope,  
he had now none, of ever reading her name in  
any other page of his favourite work. All equal-  
ity of alliance must rest with Elizabeth, for Mary  
had merely connected herself with an old  
country family of respectability and large for-  
tune, and had therefore given all the honour  
and received none: Elizabeth would, one day  
or other, marry suitably.  
  
It sometimes happens that a woman is  
handsomer at twenty-nine than she was ten  
years before; and, generally speaking, if there  
has been neither ill health nor anxiety, it is a  
time of life at which scarcely any charm is lost.  
It was so with Elizabeth, still the same hand-  
some Miss Elliot that she had begun to be thir-  
teen years ago, and Sir Walter might be