

and that they who as children had sympathized with his boyish troubles shed tears of heartfelt sorrow over his grave.

In person Mr. Hagerman was beyond the average strong and firmly built, his face indicative of great good humour and latent wit, which he often called into play; he was full of anecdote, and possessed remarkable conversational powers.

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## CLAIRE MEADOWSWEET,

### OR SELF-RELIANCE.

It has been said that Mr. Mortimer fell desperately in love with Miss Meadowsweet. Being a very frank and open-hearted young man, he made no secret of his passion. He was a barrister in good practice in a western town and had come to Cedarslie to pass a few days with the Lennoxes, to whom he was distantly connected.

"I have always admired Claire's person as much as her character," said my aunt. "I think her face is strikingly noble, good and true, and it surprised me less than most people when I heard of Mr. Mortimer's admiration. I respected him for it, for I knew there must be innate good in his own mind when he unhesitatingly chose her from amongst the many prettier and more showy girls who surrounded him that night."

He lingered in Cedarslie for more than a week, and chance seemed to favor his hopes, for Claire and he often met. Mrs. Lennox gave a little party for him the night before he left, and invited Mrs. Meadowsweet, her husband and step-daughter; and it was when walking home with the latter in the moonlight, that Mr. Mortimer took courage to speak of his love. I think it must have been very sweet to Claire to find herself beloved by him. Since her father's marriage her life had been very anxious, troubled and solitary. Without withdrawing from her former friends, she had gradually ceased confidential intercourse with them. Of the cares and anxieties that engrossed her time and thoughts, she could speak to no one, and so they had been shut up in her own bosom, there to trouble and perplex her existence.

It was said that she had remonstrated with her father, but without effect. He was infatuated by his wife, and could deny her nothing, though his own judgment must have told him that her present course, if persisted in, must result in ruin. It was also said by ill-natured