

I have been told he loved you. Say on, my own, though I care not to know, save that you wish to speak. I am in a perfect rapture of bliss, and shall listen, if only to hear your voice, the sweetest music I have ever known."

"You will remember, Lion, when I was about fifteen, you came here from the east, expecting to meet uncle Eric. But, alas! as you are aware, he was held in the fascinations at Baden-Baden, with debts accumulating, the place going to ruin. He wrote saying, unless he married money he would have to shut up the Hall, but for my sake he was willing to enter an unloved alliance. Ah, how long ago these days seem ; and now, in this rest, dearest, pillowed so, I almost lose myself in the dear present."

"Do, love, forget all about the past, tell me no more."

"I must, and in a few words, for, hark ! the clocks tell the last quarter before midnight, Blanche, whom we have forgotten, will be with us, and so, to hasten ; you left me sorrowfully to go to him and see what could be done. Poor Guy was guest of the Douglas family. You are perhaps aware that from Guy's French mother came all their wealth ; but, to hasten, Guy was nearly eighteen, a handsome boy, and in love with my child self. I liked him, as I did Roland Douglas, though I can never remember the time, darling, that those magnetic eyes of yours and dear, kind face didn't haunt me. Guy never left my side, and Roland being of same mind there were many battles over the proprietorship of my small person. At last Guy triumphed, in this wise ; I had confided my troubles to him, when he persuaded me to elope (nay, don't start, darling, 'twas only a two days' trip), in this way (as he said) I would be a heroine, and save the Hall for my dear uncle, else he would wed for my sake some *outré* manufacturer's daughter and make himself wretched in a *mésalliance*. I could save my uncle. What joy ! With no thought of self we went to Gretna Green and were mar-