




## MINE FOREVER

(Concluded)

*By Susan L. Emery.*

N indescribable expression of love, of fear, of joy, of pain, swept over Emily's face. The roseate flush was on her sunken cheek, the love-light in her eyes. She leaned forward, as if hearing some one speak whom they heard not. Then she exclaimed: "Oh, *who* said, 'Mine forever'? Some one said it, and everything then was perfect joy. Mother, tell me who said, 'Mine forever'."

"My darling!" the mother cried, all other thought obliterated by the memory of her daughter's early blighted life, "no one said it. No one on earth could say it. None but God could say that, my child."

To their astonishment, Emily responded determinedly: "I never can be happy with John, then, and he need never come back to me: He would only have to leave me, and I cannot endure these partings and separations any, any more."

After this they no longer tried to hide her bereavement from her. Slowly but surely her young strength returned, but those about her questioned whether human eyes would ever again see a happy smile on her beautiful face. In her widow's dress she came at last up the very aisle of the old meeting-house where she had gone so lately, the loveliest of brides. But, though they sang, with kindest intention, "Bright fields beyond the swelling floods" and "Nearer, my God, to Thee," no one could see a ray of hope light up the face where a sudden and terrible shock had left enduring traces of a seemingly irremediable pain.