

"Your words are charged with blessed meaning, Evelyn, but you must be plainer still. Can it be possible that in the future you have so exquisitely sketched, you might learn to care a little, even for me?"

"Even for you."

She laid her head down upon his arm and rested her hot cheek on his hand.

"Was ever man so hard to convince? Why, Will, I love you now with all my heart; and I believe," she added, with a little break in her voice, "I believe I have loved you all my life and did not know it."

They were amazed at the rapidity with which the Squire recovered his lost strength. From that day he became a new man, and in less than a month's time was able to journey to the sunny South to establish the cure love had wrought. Husband and wife took that journey alone. There was never much said about it, but it very gradually began to dawn upon them that it would be better so; nay, that though grateful to those who so loved and cherished them, the time had come for them to be alone.

Some months later, in the bright spring month which was to witness the bridal of Sybil and her brave soldier, the Squire and his wife returned to their own; and when the Lady Emily saw the bronzed and bearded man, still slender of figure, but straight and lithe and strong, come up the carriage-way, with his wife leaning heavily and proudly on his arm, while the people who loved him rent the air with their hurrahs, she was totally overcome.

"Courage, Emily!" said Rachel, the faithful and true, ready, as of yore, to speak the tender word in season. "God has been very good to us, and to our children. Are they not a noble pair?"

"Ay. I was but thinking how very little I had aided in the formation of my son's character. I owe a great debt, Rachel, to you and yours, a great debt. It is love and