

With much to attract, and much to admire in his character, there was a vein of wordliness running through it—an eager ambition to rise in society, if not by merit, at all events, by the force of external circumstances.

He knew the advantages of wealth, and he aspired to them, and though his heart was naturally a genial and loving one, yet with a resolute will, he was ready to sacrifice even love itself, on the altar of ambition.

For while he would scarcely acknowledge it even to himself, he yet loved Alice Weldon with a deep and fervent love, though to her he had not made known his attachment, for he was too honorable to awaken hopes which he feared were destined never to be realized, for Alice, like himself, was the child of comparative poverty.

A widowed mother, dependent in a great measure on her for support, she added to their narrow income, by teaching a small, but well regulated school, for which her education and natural capacity had well qualified her.

And so Edward Mortimer's heart wavered between Love and Ambition, until, wearied out, he sometimes resolved precipitately to end the conflict, and embracing the latter, to bid to the dreams he was wont to style "romantic and foolish," a "long, last adieu."

Under very different auspices, and surrounded by a different social atmosphere, was passed the early youth of Sydney Ellwood.