

"I met John Spence, the advocate, this mornin', when I gaed up to the New Toon, and he was tellin' me some things that I didna like to hear. I suppose you young birkies dinna think that an auld fogie like me would take ony interest in your love affairs, but, if ye do, ye're sair mistaken. Alistair and you have aye been very dear to me; and when I heard that auld Garland o' the Knowe had been trying to foree Elsie into marrying Alan Kilgour, I was wae for her as weel as for Alistair. It seems that Elsie's father has been hard up for some time back, and Kilgour has been his Shyloek. Noo Mr. Shyloek demands his pound o' flesh, and he'll not get it if Tam Fraser can prevent it. Kilgour has gone to join George's men; but I found out that before he left he put Garland's note into John Spence's hands for collection, and, if it is not met on demand, he is authorized to sell him oot. I'm glad that you have come at the present time, for I want you to take out to Garland a sum sufficient to meet Kilgour's claim. Tell him it comes from a friend who knows of his difficulties, and who knows also that his sympathies are with the Princee, although he is afraid to give expression to them. Tell him also that when this burden is taken off his shoulders he is not to coerce either his wife or daughter into sympathy with a government which both detest. I do not ask him to declare himself a Jacobite, but he can quite well keep a calm sough, an' say naething."

"I had heard something o' this whispered, and can thoroughly appreciate your goodness. I wad dae onything in my pooer to mak' Alistair and Elsie happy."

"Weel, weel, say nae mair about it. I hear the soon' o' Tibbie takin' ben the dinner, so we'll e'en go and wash oor hands, and tak' what's providit."

For many a day afterwards Charles remembered the happy evening he spent under his unele's hospitable