

me what bit of money she had, so that he mightn't be any heavy burden to me. They say a drownin' man 'll catch at a straw, and a dyin' lady, havin' nobody else to trust, thought it better to leave her boy for me to look after, poor an' humble as I am, than to let him take his chance. It was to please the boy I gave in to him callin' me 'Grandad,' so as he might feel he belonged to somebody. He was only to have said it when we were at home by ourselves, but I expect, with being used to the word, it slips out now and again."

"He told me so, and said it was so good of you to let him call you Grandad, and he only wished you were his grandfather, though that could not make you kinder or better than you were to him."

"That was nice of him, now. In Glinderses, if the folks hear him call me Grandad, they only laugh and tell him that nobody that knew his mother would think Old Roger was aught akin to him. I've told you before, sir, she was the lady of the court."

"I have heard you say she was," replied the schoolmaster, who was a little afraid when Roger began to talk of Dick's mother. He was a busy man, and, though anxious to serve the boy and deeply impressed by the simplicity and unselfishness of Old Roger, he had not time to listen to long-winded praises of the dead and gone lady of Glinderses.

"I'm terrible afraid, sir, that I mayn't be able to keep Dick at school much longer. I wanted him to be a scholar, so as he mightn't be a disgrace to—to—her that's gone," stammered out Roger, in rather a confused manner. "I've put it into the lad that he must live up to what she was as far as he can."

"I am sure he has tried to do it. I should be very sorry for him to leave school yet. He is doing wonderfully well, and I have been hoping that he would gain one of the scholarships that will be awarded very soon."

"What may that be, sir?"

Mr. Rawson explained that, in order to give clever and good lads a chance of keeping at school and fitting themselves for better positions, certain sums of money had been subscribed to furnish the means. He made every-

thing quite plain to the simple old man, whose first thought was that if Dick could only gain one of these scholarships his fortune would be made. Then he realised that the money would not be sufficient to find Dick with everything, and his countenance fell again.

"Do you not think it would be a grand thing for Richard, if he were to succeed?" asked Mr. Rawson.

"It would indeed, sir, if I could only be sure of being able to keep him and clothe him accordin', whilst he was taking in so much high larnin'. Anyway, I hope you'll do your best for the boy. That scholarship might be a help to the other. I can hardly see my way yet, but I've got an idea that one as knew his mother years ago might give him a lift—that is, if I could get at him the right way."

"Then you know something of Mrs. Holgate's family or friends, perhaps?"

"I did not say that much, sir. The gentleman is not a relation of hers, and I don't even know that she ever spoke of him as a friend—for that word 'friend' means a deal, doesn't it, now?"

"It does; but if the gentleman is neither kinsman nor friend, what makes you think he would be willing to help Richard? I do not want to be too curious, but as I should like to assist the boy, I should be glad to know what chance he has of using the scholarship if he should win it."

"Indeed then, sir, all I can tell you is that the gentleman knew Dick's mother when she was at her best. If anybody in the world could have known her in her poverty without lovin' her and just longing to be good to her, he must have been made of hard stuff. Only think! there was neither man, woman, nor child in Glinderses, rough lot as they were, but would have run for her night or day. If such-like felt in that way, how could anybody that knew her in better days help wantin' to do something for her orphan boy?"

Roger's face beamed on the schoolmaster as he spoke, never doubting that his words must carry conviction.

Mr. Rawson by no means shared the old man's confidence, but he would say nothing to dishearten him. He only promised that Dick should have