

pleased me so greatly to accept. I was old enough to see its danger, old enough to feel that whilst the thought of any union was vain, from difference in age and station, my heart might be yet younger than my years, her own forestalled, and that absence was for the interest of both, and I stood firm, though it cost me no small effort in doing so.

I felt it, indeed, almost a relief when the noise of the postchaise drawing up at the front door warned us to conclude our interview.

The Earl went out, and pressing the maiden's hand to my lips in silence, for I was afraid to trust them with further speech, I followed him to the door, but was presently recalled by a low summons from the gentle girl, whom I found in tears, wreathing abstractedly into a sort of knot, a long tress of her glossy hair she had just severed.

"Felipe, dear brother," she murmured in broken accents, as she put it into my hands, "you go—you no forget me—me pray the Great Spirit for you; take this—it, my hair