

## MIRABEL'S ISLAND

when first he entered my house at Ealing. But I weakly stooped to bargaining, and the unseen third at the board was death. That is all I have to explain, or plead.

*"Qui n'a plus qu'un moment à vivre,  
N'a plus rien à dissimuler."*<sup>1</sup>

The studied simplicity of this letter laid bare to Lindsay many things which the same art concealed from others. In the shorter note sent to Haum Point, Locksley had not once alluded to Mirabel as his daughter, because he intended that David should restore her to her rightful father, but in this later narrative of a crime he spoke of the girl constantly as his daughter and never mentioned her name. Nothing could be clearer than his motive. The daughter of the recluse of Lunga, the island goddess who had been compelled to marry Hawley, would vanish with the nine days' wonder evoked by the whole sensational story; but the daughter of a New York millionaire, the girl destined to become the wife of an English baronet, would rise from the ashes of the past.

In that other and more personal part of the document which was suppressed, Locksley gave details of his earlier life. They were painful, and probably quite true, as they spared neither Elwyn nor himself, but Mirabel never heard them and no good purpose could be served now by their resurrection.

<sup>1</sup> "He who has but a moment to live has no longer any cause for dissembling."