

'Then you confess?'

'Since you insist. But there will be no police-station, and I will tell you why. To accuse me would be to accuse your wife's mother, Arthur; you couldn't do that. Think of Sylviane's feelings; think of the scandal.' The Doctor smiled.

'If the scandal were fiftyfold what it will be, you shall hang. As for my wife, I am capable of watching over her.'

'Ahem!' said the Doctor. 'By the way, Arthur, satisfy my anxiety on this one point; I beg it as a last favour. Why did you refuse the fortune?'

'I will tell you—I should like to tell you. On her deathbed I promised my mother that I would never attempt to obtain my father's fortune from my half-brother; she was proud, and I am proud. "If your father could forget us," she said. "let him forget us; we will owe nothing to him." And I, too, say, let him forget us. Not for ten times the millions would I stoop to take those millions from the man to whom my father left them.'

'I can scarcely understand such a feeling,' said the Doctor.