

The only spot for me is hell, where I expect to be in a brief space."

He paused for a time as if exhausted. Then he resumed: "As the tree has fallen so must it lie. Whatever else I am I'm not mean enough to go back on the devil in my last hour after serving him for all these years. No, I took my course deliberately, I have followed it deliberately, and I'll be man enough to see it through and take the consequences."

"Have you no one to forgive or to seek forgiveness from?" I asked, thinking he might soften towards myself.

He thought a moment, then said slowly and deliberately, as he looked me in the face, "No one. If I were to say that there was I would be disgracing the master I have served so long. If I said so it would only be because I am weak and dying. If it were not for this wound I would be at your throat, Lachlan, eager to kill you, and so place myself in security. I am not going to allow the weakness of body to produce weakness of spirit. I shall not play the hypocrite in my last moments. I want that it shall be known that I took my course and that I cheerfully abided the consequences. If anybody asks how Casper died, tell him he died like a man—or like an unrepentant brute, if you will—that he declared that he had voluntarily entered the service of the devil, and that he cheerfully abided by the issue and went to hell to keep company with his master. That's what I want you to tell them."

I was too greatly shocked to speak, and I knew it would be useless to attempt to reason with him. Sin