

"Ay, afraid that you had ceased to love me—afraid that you would be angry."

After this she told how she had brought about my escape, and explained those things which were so wonderful to me at the time. It was she who had planned it all. It was she who had seen the difficulties, and had prepared for them. Instead of Rachel Marlow's being the guiding hand, it was Rosiland who had done everything; ay, and had faced a thousand difficulties and dangers in doing so.

"And Master Cromwell knew all this?" I asked in wonder.

"He knew much," she replied, "for I had to seek his aid to carry out my plans."

"And it was you who sent me that letter about the King's papers?"

"Ay; Ralph Greenvil found out that I was near. In his vanity he thought I had come thither to be near him, even although I had told him that he was naught to me. By some means he had got into the confidence of those who held the King's secrets, and so I learnt what I told you."

All this I have set down in brief, not putting down many of the questions I asked, or the answers she gave. Nevertheless, I have told enough to show how brave and clever she was, how she often risked her life for my sake, and above all, how much she loved me.

Now I knew that it was she who had watched me from afar; it was she who, night and morning, prayed for my safety; it was she who had been my deliverer.

"And yet you never let me know you were near!" I cried.