

truth suggested itself to him. These were people to whom fair, straight dealing was as the breath of life; nothing less or more would satisfy them.

Stanerigg scarcely flinched as he received his death-blow, but the doctor's practised eye detected a quick whitening of the lips and a scarcely perceptible contraction of the eyes.

'Ye can dae naething?'

'Nothing, my dear sir; I wish I could.'

'Had we kent to come earlier, could onything hae been dune?' he asked then, as if determined to know the worst.

The doctor shook his head.

'No, the seat of the disease is unapproachable. You may have no regrets or misgivings on that particular point. I would not deceive you regarding it.'

'An' hoo long?' he asked, and the words fell from his dry lips with a slight pause between each.

'About six months, certainly not longer. I will be glad to come, if need be, to see her again. There are some things we can do to alleviate when we cannot cure. A line or a message from Mr. Denham will suffice at any time. Meanwhile God comfort you and yours in this heavy trial.'