

will fling aside my follies as I would a garment that I have grown ashamed of, and my father shall see that the disinherited Frank is as well worthy of his regard as the cold, prudent John; he who does nothing from the heart, but all from the head, and is charitable without sympathy."

"A wise and wholesome resolution," said the old man, who had listened to this wild tirade with a peculiar look, that could hardly have escaped Frank's notice, had he not been so much carried away by his own feelings: "a wise and wholesome resolution. It cannot fail to bring a blessing with it, though not in the way you expect. But you have not as yet invited me to seat myself, and I am old, as well as somewhat weary from my yesterday's travel."

Francis started up with many apologies, and placed a chair for his visitor, who, as he seated himself, took him kindly by the hand, and continued in a tone of the deepest sympathy.

"Bear with me if I am tedious, for it is the fault of age, and, moreover, there is a part of my tale that I am in no haste to come to. I had learnt by chance, at a time when I least thought I should ever take the interest I now do in your concerns, that Sir John Glanville intended to disinherit you in favor of your younger brother. From the conversation that passed between you and your companion at the tavern the other night I could not help thinking, whatever might have been your follies, you deserved better than to be made a mere castaway. Still, this was no business of mine; and assuredly I should not have felt myself justified in interfering but for what followed. When you saved my life from those same midnight ruffians the case was altered: it became my duty to exert myself in your behalf, and I lost no time in calling at your father's lodging. He had gone down to his hall of Tavistock; I followed him; he was too ill to see any one. I called again the next day—the next—and the next; still the same answer, with the addition that he was much worse than before. Now, I am not suspicious; Heaven forbid I should be, for it is the mark of something wrong in one's self. But I saw that in any case the time was come for decisive measures, and I requested an immediate interview with your brother, who I understood was in attendance upon Sir John."

"And my brother?" exclaimed Frank.

"He acceded to my request. I explained the reason of my coming down: that I was determined to open Sir John's eyes to the injustice he was about to commit, or had committed rather."

"Indeed!"

"Yes, I used no reserve for the matter—very foolishly you may perhaps imagine, but it's a way I have: I always go straight to the mark without disguise, and so I hope I shall always do."

"And once again, my brother? what answer made my brother?"

"That Sir John was in a state of delirium, and therefore unfit to hold communication with any one; but the moment a change took place for the better he would let me know, if I thought proper to remain in the neighborhood."

"Go on, sir, I beseech you."

"Well, I had not come so far to return without my errand, so I gave your brother notice that I should take up my abode in Tavistock, at the Green Eagle, where I would abide until I heard from him. Upon this understanding we parted. And, sure enough, upon the fifth day after my first visit came a messenger in hot haste to summon me back