

heaven gave my cousin by right of birth, his father was not justified in taking away from him, still less in giving it to me, an alien."

Mr. Sharp regarded her with a penetrating expression.

"If I might quote," he said, "from that half-god, half-knave who cast his pearls to playhouse swine, I'd say 'Methinks the lady doth protest too much.' You are the child of his late lordship's sister, and therefore *not* an alien. Have you seen your cousin, Charles Brandon, lately?"

"Not since we were boy and girl together."

"You have not been to the theater, where, I am told, he struts the boards with shameless effrontery, and plays the lover to women as wanton as himself?"

"Heaven forbid!" cried Lady Eleanor, with a little shiver of distaste. "I would as soon defile my mother's grave as cross the