

because in a moment of extreme selfishness I urged you to the forging of a bond which Scripture itself says no man may put asunder. When I saw you ride up the avenue a picture of youth and strength and loveliness, and realised what I had done, I turned my face to the wall, and prayed that my new strength might go from me, and that I might die."

"Oh, Will!" she said again, and this time her face was hidden.

"I have been trying to find some solution of the difficulty, but there is none. Suppose you voluntarily left me, and if you wished to do so I should not seek to keep you," he went on in his quiet, hopeless voice. "Still you would not be free, still no other, however dear to you, could seek your love. I have done you a great and irreparable wrong, my dearest. May God forgive me for it."

"And you cannot find any solution of the difficulty, Will," she said at last in a low and tender voice, though still keeping her face hidden. "Two heads are better than one. Suppose we try together."

"What would you say then, Evelyn?" he asked, in a voice so eager and earnest that a faint tremulous smile hovered for a moment on her lips, but he did not see it.

"You have had your say, Will," she said, presently. "Suppose I speak now?"

She sat up, tossed her hat to the floor, and with a pretty wilful gesture, pushed back the dark locks which the wind had ruffled so unmercifully.

"It is very kind of you to torment yourself about my settlement in life, and even to give a thought to the 'braw wooers' who might ride down the glen," she said, quite soberly, though there was a gleam of laughter in her eyes. "But don't you think, Will, that this unvarnished candour on your part is a little hard on me? You see I have got used to being a person of importance in this house. I find it is quite an enviable position to be a squire's wife," she