

client's quarrel. Indeed he had wrought himself so completely to Anthony's mood, that Burley had become almost personally offensive to him. The squire felt the accord at once, and the two men sat down together.

"You have been badly treated, Aske—shamefully treated, disgracefully treated, by both Burley and his daughter."

"Leave my wife out of the question. I prefer that she should not be named.

"Very well; Burley ought to be punished—severely punished. To come between a man and his wife is a crime, squire; and I'm sorry the law finds no adequate punishment for it. There is no adequate punishment, so we must take the law somewhat in our own hands; and I think we can make Burley smart. Yes, I really think we can! If I remember right he bought the land on which his mill stands from your father?"

"Yes, he did."

"And the land above it is still yours?"

"Both above and below."

"Never mind that which is below. You own the land above it, as far up the stream as Black Force?"

"Yes, I do."

"Then build a mill upon it. Build as large a mill as you can, and fill it with the newest and finest machinery."

"I see what you mean, Rhodes; but I don't want to meddle with trade and spinning. I am a county gentleman, and my ancestors—"

"I want you to do nothing the 'ancestors' will object to. You need not appear at all. I know the man who will attend to the business for you."

"But that would be a mere question of competition; and it is likely Burley would have the best of it. He is clever in business, and he has the reputation of being clever. Everything is in his favour. I do not believe I could injure him in that way; and I might injure myself."

"Squire, you don't see as far through a stone wall as I thought you could," and he stooped forward and said a few words in a lower voice to Anthony.

Then the squire leaped to his feet with a laugh. "Thank you, Rhodes," he cried; "the plan is capital. No one but you would ever have dreamed of such a revenge."

"But my thoughts must depend on your money."

"Draw upon me for all you require; and, remember, I am impatient. Do not lose an hour."

"It isn't my way. You can go home, squire; you will not have long to wait for the declaration of war."

Rhodes kept his word. Within a week a large force of men had begun to dig the foundations for another mill, higher up the stream than Burley's. Jonathan winced at the coming com-