

## HOLME MOSS FARM.

### A TALE IN SIX CHAPTERS.

#### CHAPTER IV.

#### HOW SOME MONEY WAS STOLEN.

When Frank Thornhill asked Farmer Tinley for his consent to his becoming Lottie's suitor, the old man was not displeased at the idea of Frank's becoming his son-in-law. The young man had been fast growing into the farmer's heart, who, having no son of his own had gradually taken this stranger in the place of one, and he would have been more than sorry to part with him. This means then for binding him to him he looked upon with a very favourable eye. It did not strike him that he knew very little of Frank's antecedents, that he had scarcely been with him long enough really to see into his character or to find out whether he was made of such honest stuff as would justify him in permitting and encouraging this new relationship. No thought that it might be unwise thus to entrust his daughter's happiness to the keeping of one of whom he knew so little entered his mind. Thornhill had come there in a busy time, he had not been above making himself useful, and the frank, unsuspecting, open-hearted farmer, who had all his life dealt uprightly by others, and who had never met with such a wrong from any other as causes future distrust of all men, opened his arms and took the young stranger into them.

Some twinges of conscience passed through him as he remembered that he had all but promised Lottie to Davie Bolden.

Frank pressed for a speedy marriage, but Tinley said,

"You must put down £50 and I'll give Lottie double that, and that will start you in life. I told Davie Bolden the same thing when he asked me about Lottie awhile ago and fair's fair you know. I would not let him have her without, and I can't go from my word."

The farmer had always declared that any man asking for his daughter must find fifty pounds "for a start" and having given that answer to Davie Bolden, his sense of fairplay inherent in an Englishman would not allow him to do differently by Frank.

Thornhill ground his teeth at the mention of Davie, but in reply to the farmer's requirement of fifty pounds, answered cheerfully,

"I think I can manage that, sir," and went his way.