

place I feel as if I had lost myself. I should never have done it. Why didst thou tempt me? 'Tis I should have died for my house and mine honour, and not thou."

"Hugh," I answered, "try and face thee this matter as God would have thee. Thou hast done naught wrong. 'Twas I deceived thee. 'Twas for her sake also, remember that."

"Nay, thou art wrong, Ian," he answered. "Hear me out, for I am a dead man. Thou must know the truth, and thou alone, for thou hast done all, and thou lovest me, and thou art strong. Not to priest or other would I tell this. My mother must never know, nor she above all; but know thou that from the moment I entered that dread prison my hope of life went out like a wick in a lamp, and my manhood with it. The sight of those grim engines of torture, and the cruel eyes and taunts of those ill men, gave me a horror of all which lay before me, till I, who would have laughed at death, grew as fearsome and as cowardly as a girl with anticipation of what might come to me. I could not sleep at night, and I sat all day waiting and waiting, and every time that brute-keeper came to my door, I thought it was to take me forth to torture or death. Then I longed for the air and sunlight, and mine old freedom once again, as a sick man longs for health and strength; and when thou camest, oh! my brother, with that offer of thine, thou little knewest whom thou wert releasing, and with what a beating heart I took thine offer. Nay, nay, it were not mine earldom, nor even her; but my