

follies and weakness as intimately as though I were a conscientious Romanist, and you my father confessor."

"True. And yet—and yet—but I must even trust——" said Mr. Farquhar, somewhat incoherently. And at last he removed his eyes from his friend's face, loosed his grasp of his hand, and went from the room.

And in his own apartment long did George Farquhar sit thoughtful, with a very changeful expression in his dark face—sometimes of pain, keen and sharp enough to make the lip quiver, and to contract the brow as with some physical spasm; anon of doubt, deep and perplexing;—till at length pain and doubt were both silenced, as it seemed, by the voice of a strong resolve. And then he rose from his seat, walked rapidly up and down the room for some minutes, and then—the mouth quite fixed and firm, although the brow was still clouded and the eyes were not all peace nor all thoughtfulness—he drew pen, and ink, and paper to him, and began to write rapidly.

Let us look over his shoulder:

"MY DEAR VAUGHAN,—I am going to leave Redwood early to-morrow morning. I beg of you to tender my apologies for the abruptness of my departure to your good uncle, and my earnest thanks for the friendly hospitality he has so kindly shown me.

"So much for myself; now to your own affairs. I have been considering their position, and I can see no righteous solution of the difficulties that would arise from their further postponement. You tell me that your marriage is to take place before long—an additional reason why all should be made clear and straight for your future career. I can, indeed, see reasons why an *esclandre* at this juncture is to be specially deprecated, yet worse even than that would it be for you to take new responsibilities upon you while the trammels of former difficulties still remain.

"Let there be no delay. Arrange the whole matter at once. I will advance you the requisite sum; you shall repay me at your convenience. I rely upon your often reiterated assurances and solemn promises never to incur another of these accursed 'debts of honour.' I rely, too, on the fact that you are about to link with your own fate that of a good and noble woman, whose love, I believe and trust, will awaken in you high ambitions towards a nobler life than has yet been yours. Moreover, I have sufficient faith in your generosity to believe that you will not disregard the knowledge that this loan to you will cripple my resources for the next few years. Let me have the real *happiness* of finding that it has done good service to you and yours. The money shall be paid to your creditors (according to the list of them with which you furnished me) directly I reach London, and the receipts sent to you. I purpose a foreign tour for