

MADISON.

I thank you, Miss Nelly and Mr. Parker. But I did only my duty..... As you require rest after so many painful emotions, allow me to turn at once to another subject..... I have the honor, Mr. Parker, to ask of you the hand of Miss Nelly, will her consent. (*Nelly holds out both hands.*)

PARKER.

With pleasure this time..... But you know, of cours that I am a ruined man, and that this marriage will not be so advantageous as it might have been formerly.

MADISON.

I hope I have proven that I never expected any other fortune than the love of Miss Nelly (*she looks at him fondly*). As the war is over and my country no longer needs my services, I intend to labor for its prosperity in another sphere. Would you be disposed, Mr. Parker, to give me, as you once offered, a partnership in your business?

PARKER.

Surely, Major, your demand is ironical. I can only offer you a share in my ruin.

MADISON.

Very well, Mr. Parker, we shall say no more about it. I will only show you, however, that although my demand may have been indelicate, it was not ironical. Take and read this. (*Places papers in his hands.*)

PARKER (*reading and brightening as he reads.*)

What does all this mean?..... My property restored to me..... An indemnity of £50,000 for my confiscated ships..... You are making fun of me, Major!..... It cannot be.....

MADISON.

It is all the same quite true. Read the note addressed to the war department.