

## AFTERWARD

deal of money on its improvement; for he built additional rooms and inaugurated industries which I believe are still in progress."

"He was making the land valuable, mother. Was not that wise?"

"It did not look like wisdom to my anxious mother, and when my eldest brother James died it looked still less prudent. But my brother Alexander was then 'Murray of Castle Murray,' and he was as fanatic as his father and elder brother had been. His son David was equally proud of the old grey walls, and you know how Gerard plumes himself on being heir to the place."

"Yes, I know; but, mother, the Scotch place is now a very distinctive and valuable property. You are as proud as any of us, when the newspapers announce 'Mr. Gerard Murray and a party of friends *en route* to Castle Murray, his ancestral home in the Scotch Highlands, for the shooting season.' And the years Gerard does not himself go there he rents the place for an almost incredible sum to some rich American or Englishman. I am sure we should miss the money, as well as the distinction, Murray Castle brings us if it was no longer ours. For my part, I think my Grandfather Murray did a very wise thing in buying back and renovating the old home. I do believe it will prove one of his best speculations."

"I do not doubt your faith, Carlita; and you must remember, I am now giving you instances of good results from your grandfather's wandering fever. For you know wherever