

friend, when
at any time
was rashly
at necessity.
pounds was
I would not

per medita-
r wine, and
often before
by wine, a
a character
een terribly
and weak.
the present
strongly to
I still re-
olution was
me consid-
ced up and
rasping my
ax, take it;
at load.' I
smile, that
his mind to
as my firm
row money
ended upon
teps which

led to the conclusion. He had recourse
again and again to the glass; he seemed
to waver and hesitate; and, indeed, his
conduct appeared so strange in pressing
assistance upon a man unwilling to re-
ceive it, that I began to think his intellect
was affected, when suddenly he became
calm, sat down, and said, 'Now, Fair-
fax, you must take the money, and I will
tell you why; but you must promise me,
upon your word of honour, never to repeat
what I am going to say as long as I am
alive.' I readily promised, and he went
on to say, 'I can bear my feelings no
longer, Fairfax. When first I played you
a very sorry trick, I tried to pass it off
upon myself as a good joke. I thought I
could tell you at any time, and would tell
you some day. But month after month
passed by, and I did not tell you, and then
I sold out, and we were separated, and I
became ashamed to write to you, but still
I resolved to tell you the whole facts, and
make restitution as soon as ever I saw
you. I should have done it already, but
you seemed to give me an opportunity of
following a middle course, and not risking
your good opinion forever, while I restor-
ed to you what is your own. Do you re-