

"Yes, I have often felt that," I said, "I wonder at times what I should have been like, if I had not had such a father."

"In our talk this morning," he continued, "I am afraid I must have seemed a thorough hypocrite. I know that I led him to think me better than I am. But somehow or other, I could not tell him what was in my mind. Do you know my alternative course, if I do not enter the Church? It is not journalism, as I once thought, but the stage."

"The stage!"

"Yes, I think I should make a better actor than parson. And you know, Harry, there is a grand opening there for a good work. I certainly think that the power of the stage, were it used rightly, would do more to revive religion in England than almost anything else."

"This is only one of your dreams, Elton."

"No, it isn't. Of course I have not decided; I may even yet be a parson. This pure life here has done me a world of good, but I must see how I feel after I get back to town. One thing I have settled and that is, that if I am not a parson, I shall be an actor."