

asked herself. He, whom she had ever thought so true and honest, could not be wholly base and fickle! Could Hathaway be in any way accountable for his changed demeanor towards her? She had always distrusted the fellow. She would watch him closely when next he came to visit them, in the hope of learning something from his actions, if he was guilty of any treachery towards them. If she could only prove his villainy to her dear mother, for instinct told her he was a villain at heart, she might prevent the fearful sacrifice her parent was bent upon making. To accomplish this, she felt, would in a measure repay her for the loss of her own dear lover. How dear she only knew when she had probably lost him forever.

She was aroused from her sad reverie by a summons to the drawing-room, where she found her visitor to be Hal's most cherished friend, Vernon Clifford. Now she would be able to learn something definite of Hal's departure, and she greeted his friend so cordially that it sent that gentleman's hopes soaring high. But he had not come there for the purpose of discussing his friend, and he soon managed to let his companion know that he knew but little more than herself regarding the young fellow's movements.

"He understood the manager of the company who