

if anything I am is worth while. Your faith kept me alive in my darkest days—even when I thought I had wronged you.”

“Then you will come to Virginia with me—as my husband, Dyck?” She blushed and laughed. “You see I have to propose to you, for you’ve never asked me to marry you. I’m throwing myself at your head, sir, you observe!”

He gave an honest smile of adoration. “I came to-day to ask you to be my wife—for that reason only. I could not do it till the governor had declared my innocence. The earth is sweeter to-day than it has been since time began.”

He held out his arms, and an instant later the flowers she carried were crushed to her breast, with her lips given to his.

A little later she drew from her pocket a letter. “You must read that,” she said. “It is from the great Alexander Hamilton—yes, he will be great, he will play a wondrous part in the life of my new country. Read it Dyck.”

After he had read it, he said: “He was born a British subject here in these islands, and he goes to help Americans live according to British principles. With all my sane fellow-countrymen I am glad the Americans succeeded. Do you go to your Virginia, and I will come as soon as I have put my affairs in order.”

“I will not go without you—no, I will not go,” she persisted.

“Then we shall be married at once,” he declared.

And so it was, and all the island was *en fête*, and when Sheila came to Dyck’s plantation the very earth seemed to rejoice. The slaves went wild with joy,