

continent, and Clifford had only left college a year when the account of his cousin's death, in a duel in Paris, reached Sir Edward. The heart of the good old baronet was too affectionate, his nature too kind, not to mourn over the untimely fate of the inconsiderate Wilmot, with whom he now bitterly repented having parted in anger: as there was nothing, however, with which, on a review of his conduct, he could reproach himself, he was eventually consoled by that reflection. On Clifford no such violent emotion was produced. He regretted his cousin, more as one with whom he had been brought up from his earliest years, than as a dear and lamented friend, for Wilmot had ever evinced a repugnance to intimacy, which the naturally proud spirit of our hero prevented any attempt on his part to surmount; and to this want of cordiality between the young men, must be attributed the comparatively trifling interest evinced by Delmaine in his conversation with O'Sullivan.

In consequence of this event, Delmaine became the sole surviving relative of the baronet, whose affection was, if possible, increased by the circumstance of his being the exclusive object on which his feelings and interests reposed. He was the last scion of an ancient and proud family, and Sir Edward could not endure the idea of the name and title becoming extinct. It was, therefore, his fondest wish to see his nephew married to some woman of family, through whom the name might be transmitted to posterity, for although possessed of the manners and indulging in the pursuits of a mere country gentleman, Sir Edward was highly aristocratic—a feeling which had led him more than once secretly to triumph in the proud and independent spirit of his nephew. The property attached to the title was in itself but small; but the baronet had a considerable sum vested in the funds and other public securities, half of which he intended giving him on the day of his marriage: the remainder Delmaine was to have at his death. His disappointment had been extreme on finding that, among the numerous women, celebrated either for their beauty,