

"and that is, that I have not brighter worldly prospects and more assured support to offer Kate."

"The time has been, my son," said the squire, adopting him at once into the family, "when I would have thought so too : when I would have sought, as conditions for her future—position, wealth, and ease. But I have lived to see that these are not the great essentials of life, that these alone cannot give happiness. With true love and God's blessing you can never be poor. Without these, though you roll in riches, you are poor indeed. Not but that it would grieve me to see Kate want, as many a preacher's wife whom I have known has wanted. But by God's goodness I am able to secure her against that, and to do so shall be the joy of my life."

"I accept on her behalf your generous offer," replied Neville, "but with this condition, that your bounty shall be settled exclusively on herself. No man shall say that I married your daughter for anything but herself."

"I daresay you are right," said the squire "Better get a fortune in a wife than with a wife. Often when a wife brings a fortune she spends a fortune."

"I would never submit," remarked Neville, "to the humiliation of being a pensioner upon a wife's bounty. My self-respect demands that,