

"I said I would not go away without seeing you, so I am come. I must say good-bye for a long time."

"Why for so long a time?" enquired Maud.

"I am going out of the country, I leave England to-morrow," was the reply.

"Oh Frank! where are you going? Where are you staying now?" cried Maud eagerly.

They had by this time reached the carriage, and as soon as Maud had seated herself inside, Lord Ashburtown withdrew a few steps, so that brother and sister might be alone. "Don't be afraid," he said to Frank, as he turned away, "I will be on the lookout for your father and will let you know when he is coming in time for you to make your escape."

"Frank, tell me where you are staying," urged his sister.

"With Lord Ashburtown. He has been most kind to me, and fully believes in my innocence: although he has nothing but my own assertions to go upon."

"I don't doubt your innocence for a moment, but let me hear you say once, with your own lips, that you are free from blame."

"By heaven, I swear I'm not guilty, Maud."

"Thank you. Now tell me where you are going?"

"I am going to Canada with my regiment. But you may spare yourself the trouble of trying to trace me out by seeing what regiment sails to-morrow. You will not find my name on any army list," returned Frank with a sneer.

"You must go, Frank. Your father is in sight," interrupted Lord Ashburtown, hastening back to the carriage.

"There he is; good-bye, Maud. Whatever you do, do not betray me," cried Frank, seizing his sister's hand, and almost crushing it in his eagerness.

"Good-bye, Frank; write to me," replied Maud, but he was gone; and she only saw her father, his face red with excitement, enquiring whether his lordship thought everything had gone off well.

She saw and heard no more, for she was straining her eyes to catch a glimpse of her brother, who had disappeared, probably into his friend's carriage; for Lord Ashburtown persistently declined to accept Mr. Brerton's invitation that he would accompany him home. "You know the place looks a little dreary, and Maud there looks dreary enough in that sweeping black dress, and with those pale cheeks. Most of our guests are returning with us; indeed you had better think better of it and come."