

"Ay."

Then he looked less carefully at the coachman.

"Yes," he said.

Lastly, he gave both eyes to the carriage, and corroborated his previous remark with,

"Umpha."

In themselves these statements suggest little, though they really left Haggart master of the situation. The first was his own answer to the question, "Will these be Balribbie's beasts?" and the second was merely a stepping-stone to the third, which was a short way of saying that the ladies had called on Chirsty at last.

Tammas's wife, Chirsty, had been a servant at Balribbie, the mistress of which had promised, as most of Thrums was aware, to call on her some day.

"Ye'll be none the better though she does call," Haggart used to say, to which Chirsty's inhuman answer was,

"Maybe no; but it'll make every other woman in Tillyloss miserable."

Every day for a year Chirsty awaited the coming of the ladies, after which it was the neighbors who spoke of the promised visit