

about to read from it, when Linne interrupted him.

"This seems to be a ridiculous waste of time," he said. "I tell you, Mr. Menzies, everything is settled, and everything is mine. I was perfectly willing to carry out my uncle's wishes. I asked the young lady to marry me, and when she refused to do that she restored to me the property which was mine by right."

"There you make a mistake," said Menzies, sharply; "there is no right in the case. If you, a man of the world, choose to take advantage of an innocent girl, that is another matter."

"It is no use to bandy words about it," cried Linne, "but to discuss common facts. Has this young lady a right, or has she no right, to dispose of her own property?"

"I presume she has a right; the will imposed no restrictions."

"Very good. Then, now that she has signed the necessary documents, the property is legally mine."

"Certainly, if you are the man to take it."

"I merely regard it as restitution of stolen goods," said Linne, assuming an air of insolence now that he knew the real extent of his power. "But I don't wish to be ungenerous. If the lady likes to change her mind now without more delay, I am still willing to marry her."

"Now, that's uncommon generous," chimed in a voice from the door. "Nothing could be more square!"