



CHAPTER IV

IN SUDDEN PERIL



As she asked this sudden question she rose to her feet again.

"Well, to tell you the truth, Miss Adair," said John, "I dinna think him looking so very weel. But there, what can you expect from anybody that has to live in London? It's too much for him, Miss Adair. There's no man can carry on twa things almost at the very ends of the earth, as it were. I made bold to tell him that this morning."

"I quite agree with you, John. I wish that he could give up the mill; he has been long enough at it. Now tell me honestly, do you think that my brother will ever be able to take his place?"

A curious look crossed John Fletcher's honest face.

"If I was to say he would, I would be tellin' a lee, Miss Adair," he answered. "What I do think is that he will get sense by-and-by, and that maybe he will be able to acquit himself like a man yet."

"But you don't see any sign of it, is that what you would say, John?" asked Adair, quick as a needle.

"Maybe my thocht was something like it, Miss Adair; but I have seen it before—the arrogance and