

Would she refuse it? The question agitated him strangely, and gave him feelings that had never troubled him before.

Lord Dalton anticipated something of this kind, and was compassionate :

" Now understand me, Maldon : I've no intention to enter the field against you, if you'll tell me honestly that you're in it. The circumstances of the case, our relative positions, would render that unfair. Besides, the lady's in your house, and she's your acquaintance. Say that you want her, and she's yours !"

Pride alone kept the Baronet's passion within bounds. " My Lord," he said, " I am indebted to you for your delicacy—your consideration ! Further than this, I have only to say that these words must be our last !"

" Stay !" exclaimed the young Lord, as Sir Roger turned away to end the interview. " What am I to understand ?"