

Delavigne, "why did you not put yourself in communication with Stanton through all these years?"

"Because of the unnaturalness and the uselessness of such a course," said Mr. Delavigne mildly.

"But he has been looking for you—has spent money. You might at least have told him that you were alive."

"I regret the expense; but my child—you forget her. I did not know that she longed for her father, yet I remembered her mother's nature. Had she had a hint of my existence a search might have been instituted. Better for her to think that I was dead than to link herself with one who would disgrace her. To you," and the elder man turned impulsively to Armour, "my intensely grateful acknowledgments are due for your care of my child. By the kindness of one of the most noble and admirable of men, I have been enabled to receive accounts of her safe-keeping; occasionally, with a heart wrung with thankfulness, to see her. Your vigilance, your loyalty, I knew I could trust; for this latter expression, this love for my beloved daughter, I was unprepared. I felt that I must hasten here, yet always with the feeling that the boy of my earlier recollections would not prove unworthy of the highest mark of my confidence. At the moment of finding my child I am willing to lose her again for her sake and yours."

While Mr. Delavigne was speaking Mr. Armour's