

man, whom she knew to be trustworthy, the state of affairs, she told her to procure a suit of clothes from one of the men-servants, and bring them to her. This was quickly effected, and Dr. Wyatt disguised himself in them. In the meantime Annis whispered to the servants in the hall that the soldiers were pursuing "him," for that "he had escaped on to the roof, and let himself down by the aid of a rope to the ground; that her lady was extremely ill, she feared," and so on. She then hurried to her mistress, and when, ten minutes later, she returned, accompanied apparently by a man-servant, no one suspected that it was Dr. Wyatt whom she was urging so impatiently to "hasten to bring hither the leech, thou loitering knave."

And so he passed under the very eyes of the soldiers in the hall, and out of Beaufort Castle, and beyond their reach, to fly through the night to the cottage of a pensioner on his sister's bounty, where he intended to remain till a vessel could be procured to take him to Holland.

When seized by the soldiers, Edward felt assured his last hour had come, so fierce was the torrent of vengeful anger, and so threatening were their looks, on finding that they had been outwitted and braved by a mere boy.

But his course was appointed for him, and it was not God's will that it should end here. He was immediately brought back to the castle, which was again searched, but, of course, with no result.

After the search was over, and the fruitless inquiries had been repeated, the officer demanded instant speech with Lady Beaufort.

"Madam," he said, "were I to follow the promptings of self-interest, I should carry back with me the youth who has dared to brave Her Majesty's servants in the execution of their duty."

"By what authority, fair sir?" gasped the unhappy mother.

"T is true I have none, but that would not hinder me. T is the daring the lad has shown. In good truth, never have I seen a braver boy, and I have a soldier's love for courage, though I had well nigh forgotten the feeling in anger at his having so far outwitted me."

"Now may Heaven requite the kindness of thy heart!" exclaimed the poor lady.

"And, madam, ere I depart I would speak a word of counsel. Wherefore pursue a course which can only bring shame and disgrace upon all who persist in it?"

"We have counted the cost," murmured Lady Beaufort, "and must continue faithful to the end."

The rough, but not altogether cruel soldier, looked at the calm, steadfast face of the speaker with mingled curiosity and admiration, shrugged his shoulders, and took his departure.

That very night Lady Beaufort, feeling that their own land was no longer a safe dwelling-place for them, departed, accompanied by the two boys, their tutor, and a couple of faithful servants who chose to remain with them in their adversity. After a few hours' travelling to the sea-coast, accompanied by Dr. Wyatt, who had joined them, they embarked in a fisherman's boat, and arrived safely at Holland. Having learnt from Philip of Roger Bonfield's questioning and his own part in the affair, Lady Beaufort arrived at the correct conclusion—viz., that it was Roger who had betrayed them, for their disaster had followed upon his supposed visit to his dying mother, which was of course a mere ruse.

Lord Beaufort was enabled to meet them in a few months' time, but he had not been able to save his property, which had been confiscated to the Crown. They struggled on, however, in comparative poverty till the death of the unhappy and misguided Mary enabled them to return to their native land, and dwell there again in peace and plenty, for their estates were returned to them.

Philip, under the benign and gentle influence of Lady Beaufort, abjured his errors, and became a zealous and distinguished preacher of Christianity; while Edward, as he grew up, followed the bent of his disposition, became a soldier, and adorned his profession also, showing that in different callings the same virtues may be practised by God's people.

"Ah, my lady mother, I know not how to forgive myself for all the trouble I was the means of bringing upon my honored parents by my disobedience!" said Edward, the day of their return to their old home.

"T was a sin; but out of evil it hath pleased the Almighty to bring much good," replied Lady Beaufort; "and, so far as that might be, thy fault was atoned towards thy late dear uncle"—for, during his last illness, Dr. Wyatt had been tended by Edward with the care and devotion of a son.

"Towards mine honored parents, as God hath in His mercy spared them to me, 'Edward's Atonement' shall be life-long," replied our hero; and as he grew to manhood this promise was well remembered and acted upon.

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