

our prisoner, it was through no fault of yours. You did your best to taste of our bullets.

MADISON.

Believe me, Major, I feel flattered by praise coming from one of the bravest and most distinguished officer of the King's army.

CHAMBERS.

How amusing to hear compliments bandied between men who may perhaps kill each other to morrow.

*(While Chambers speaks these words, Madison sits down at Nelly's side at her invitation. Major Andre walks with Eva toward the window which looks into the garden. Chambers, visibly annoyed, is next to Parker.)*

NELLY.

Do you know, Mr. Madison, that it is a long time since we had the pleasure of seeing you? But we have heard of you. You have been made Captain and it seems the honor is not undeserved; you have been distinguishing yourself, and even exposing yourself too much.

CHAMBERS.

That is wrong, Mr. Madison. If you got killed, I know some persons who would be inconsolable for your loss.

MADISON.

Really, Mr. Chambers? And you are doubtless of the number. In that case, I will take care of myself, as I should be loath to cause you any distress.

CHAMBERS.

I am sure of it.

NELLY *(to Chambers)*.

How your mind is turned to pleasantry this evening, Sir. Perhaps you are even ironical?

CHAMBERS.

Are not these war times?