

difficulties, and of your being in the hands of one who will not hesitate to exact the utmost of his bond. This mutual friend wishes to have the privilege of helping you, and he has sent you money enough to clear your feet, and give you a fresh start. He wishes to remain anonymous, and the only condition he attaches to the gift is that you will not coerce either Mrs. Garland or Elsie into sympathy with the Hanoverian crew, and that while you may not wish to declare yourself on the Prince's side, you will at least remain outwardly neutral. Believe me, my dear friends, I have had nothing to do with this proposal; I am only the messenger of a mutual friend, whom you will not try to discover."

To say that both Mr. Garland and his wife were astonished would be but to feebly express the state of their minds. They looked at one another with eyes brimming with tears, neither of them for a brief space being able to speak. At last Mr. Garland turned and grasped the hand of their young friend.

"Charlie, laddie, ye can never ken what a load ye hae taken off my shoulders this night. I have been a proud man, and have not treated my friends with the confidence they deserve. I shall not ask the name of my generous friend, but accept the noble gift in the same spirit in which it is given; and, God helping me, I will try to make myself more worthy of the esteem of my friends."

"I think it would be well, Mr. Garland," said Charles, "if you wrote a kindly letter to Elsie, letting her know of all that has taken place. I will take it upon me to see that it reaches her safely."

Here the motherly heart of Mrs. Garland could no longer be restrained.

"It has been a sair, sair thocht to me that my lassie should na have the chance of choosing her ain husband,