

And he felt the light, timid touch of her lips on either closed eyelid. "I am so sorry,—I was so sorry then,—I have been sorry all the time," she murmured. "How cruel I was!"

And Philip, with his great happiness sounding in his voice, yet with the same lightness of manner which Leigh had assumed, to cover a strange depth of emotion, said,—

"That memorable blow did close my eyes for a time, it is true, but only to open them to new and wonderful radiance. My whole life shall show you my gratitude for it. Think to what honour it has raised me. My darling, my queen, it was my royal accolade."

THE END.