

when I left home was that I dared not see you to say goodbye. I dared not arouse suspicion by going to the Knowe; all I could do was to leave with my mother a little note for you, to be given when a favorable chance occurred. How glad I am to have this visit. But tell me now how it is that I find you here."

The young girl's reply was given with heightened color and in somewhat tremulous tones:

"When the news of the Rising reached us at the Knowe, I could see that both my father and mother were at a loss to know how to act. I really think that, in their inmost hearts, they sympathize with the Prince; but things have not gone well with them for some time, and

now that father has had to accept a loan of money from Alan Kilgour, Sir William's factor, to tide him over till better times come. They have an idea that Alan wants me for his wife, and my life for some time past has not been very happy. They have been so persistent in their efforts to bring us together that I could endure it no longer, and told them so. Of course, there was a scene, and I do not know how things might have gone if the laird had not stepped in at the critical moment and begged father to allow me to accompany the young ladies as their companion."

"Poor Elsie, and I never kent ought of all this. Well, I fear my time is up. I see Miss Forbes is coming this way. When shall we meet again? We leave Perth tomorrow for the South, and who knows what may take place during the next few weeks."

At this juncture Miss Forbes came into the room.

"I am so sorry, dear Elsie, to shorten Alistair's visit, but—needs must. Just throw this cloak over your shoulders and walk with him to where he left his horse. He can come this way and leave you at the door."

And then, turning to the poor young fellow, she said: