

OUGHT WE TO VISIT HER?

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CHAPTER I.

Those dear Herveys.

FOR he can no longer hide from himself in what position he stands. If he did not realise the truth before, this sweetness of reconciliation, this hour and a half spent at Jane's side, have brought him to see it in its very nakedness at last. As much mad passionate devotion as his nature is capable of he, Emma Marsland's lover, is lavishing upon a woman the tips of whose fingers he will never be allowed to kiss while he lives. Now, what does honour at a pass like this bid him do?

"All engagements may be broken, if one has moral courage—moral courage, and means sufficient to pay the forfeit-money."

Has he such moral courage and such means? Courage to break the heart of a good and amiable girl who, until she became his betrothed wife, was his sister and best friend; means to pay the forfeit (not the loss of Emma's fortune, let me do Rawdon justice, this is the lightest of his considerations): the forfeit of