

A LIFE FOR A LIFE.

BY

THE AUTHOR OF "JOHN HALIFAX."

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TO

MARGARET AND MARY.

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CHAPTER I

Her Story.

YES, I hate soldiers.

I can't help writing it — it relieves my mind. All morning have we been driving about that horrid region into which our beautiful, desolate moor has been transmogrified; round and round, up and down, in at the south camp and out at the north camp; directed hither and thither by muddle-headed privates; stared at by puppyish young officers; choked with chimney-smoke; jolted over roads laid with ashes — or no roads at all — and pestered everywhere with the sight of lounging, lazy, red groups, — that color is becoming to me a perfect eye-sore! What a treat it is to get home and lock myself in my own room — the tiniest and safest nook in all Rockmount — and spurt out my wrath in the blackest of ink with the boldest of pens. Bless you! (query, who can I be blessing, for nobody will ever read this), does it matter? And after all, I repeat, it relieves my mind.