

ELIAS WIDECOMBE – DEVONSHIRE

Elias Widcombe accuses Robert Blanchard, who is in love with his daughter Beth, of a love affair with Molly Caunter.

“You listen to me, and then go and call on the hills to cover you. I say this: you be following the wicked footsteps of your dear Uncle, Andrew Blanchard. He was a traitor with women; and so be you. He came between two that loved each other, and he stole the girl away and broke the man’s heart and let the woman go to the devil. That’s God’s truth about Andrew Blanchard; and you’re as bad – your blasted Uncle over again. Is it a lie you be now from carneying and cuddling with Molly Caunter? Is it a lie you was with her in the wood nigh her father’s cottage after dark, two nights agone and her father saw you! Is it a lie you’re out to ruin the woman if you haven’t done so a’ready? Is it a lie you was giving her money not half a hour since? And that I saw her counting it by the stile? You think to blind all eyes, your Maker’s included, but you don’t blind mine. Now we know why for you took back that scamp Jack Caunter when he was in disgrace. For Molly no doubt. And why you gave him another chance after he’d robber you at *Twelve Trees*. For Molly again. A fool as well as a lewd rascal you are. The first Blanchard that was a fool anyway. And brag no more of your honesty or decency. Be off of this; go to your hussies; keep in the mire where you belong.”