

free laugh of his. But it lasted only a moment, for soon his face grew grave again.

"Why, it is not possible!" he said. "I am looked upon as an outcast, a . . ."

"Do you mean to say," she interrupted, looking him full in the face, "that there is nothing in this world worth while but public opinion? Do you mean to say that two people, who have been bound together as you and I have, can be separated by the fear of public opinion? Is your nature no deeper than that?" She paused. "I would not say this—perhaps I ought not to say this—if I did not think that you really loved me. I can't tell you how much relieved I am to have heard your story from your own lips, to know that you are really the man that I had hoped you were. For if ever a girl in this world doubted the man she loved—yes, I admit it, I have doubted you. Of course when you were with me I believed you against all reason, but when you were away I could do nothing but reason against all belief. But, if you think," she continued in a lighter vein, "that you can escape from an entangling alliance by the argument that you have advanced this morning, you are very much mistaken. For there