

"I would not like to show any disrespect to Aunt Caroline. I will write and explain," said Jeanne.

Dunham instantly relented and took the opposite view.

"It isn't likely the Duchess would wish to show disrespect either, Miss Jane, you may be very sure of that. You see how careful she has been to write 'very small.' That means there's but a few invited; not half London crowding to her house as she'd have if she was giving a real party. Being a relation and nothing formal about the invitation I don't say you mightn't go. I'm sure my poor lady would have liked to think they remembered the connection, however late in the day."

"I wish I had been at home when she called; I could have asked her all about it," said Jeanne regretfully.

"Bless me, ma'am, you don't think she asked for you!" said Dunham, reproachfully. "The footman just handed in the card. But she was in the carriage, for I saw her myself from the window. 'Tis a great compliment her coming at all. You being but young, as one might say, and her such a great lady, and the penny post so handy for invitations. Depend upon it, she repents not having shown more civility to my poor lady while she could, and is trying to make up for it. But to ask to come in on a first visit! I don't know, to be sure, what may be the fashion nowadays; but in my poor lady's time she would never have dreamt of anything but leaving her card at the door for that," said Dunham, tossing her head.

"Wednesday, and this is only Friday. What a long time to wait!" said Jeanne, excitedly. "However, it will be something to look forward to. And, Mrs. Dunham, I—I asked Uncle Roberts if it would matter very much if—if my cousin—I mean the Duke—called upon me now and then whilst I was here alone—and he said he could not see any harm at all in it."

"No more can I, ma'am, now his mamma have been," said Dunham, with great dignity. "It just makes all the difference in the world, as I told you, Miss Jane, if you remember. I'm