

to receive her, reserving everything, as usual until someone should take a lead, and lifted his hat to the little group. The girl's hand had scarcely left Mr Liscard's when she made an impulsive movement to retain it, urging him into the breach of explanations and introductions.

'This is the Doctor,' she said, dragging at his sleeve '—you tell it, Mr Liscard—Mr Hickman—' and the beautiful shy face glowing with the double exhilaration of the drive and of these possibilities, besought their extrication. There was such a rapturous look of triumph in the eyes with which she relinquished every further initiative to George himself, he transferred attention immediately to the courtesies of the moment.

'Surely,' he said, as Liscard introduced him to the Minister, 'if I had known we were to have the honour of a visit from you, Mr Hickman, and these friends of yours, the Committee would like to have received you. As it is I have only to send word down the hill——'

But the other waived this aside.

'Time enough for that later on,' glancing from Liston to the girl's live face at his side, '—take us as you find us, Doctor. We're only out on a pleasure trip this time and it's this young lady's doing that we remembered you had a Hospital here. She tells us you're up against a certain amount of difficulty. Sorry to hear that. Thought