

he for the first time, without hesitation, called her by her Christian name. "Indeed," he replied, "the matter is altogether a curious one, and I, for my part, cannot agree with Major Ellis in his treatment of his son."

As he spoke he produced from his pocket-book a note which he asked Edith to read, and reply to at her earliest convenience, informing her, that, it referred to a subject at present having more interest for him than most others:—but one with which—if distasteful to her—he would not venture to trouble her again. "I have just had, he added, an unpleasant scene with my brother, and I intend to leave his house to-night for Montreal."

"So soon," was all the girl could say, as almost without a thought she took the note he held towards her. Presently, however, came the feeling that she had done wrong in taking it, and she would have given much to be able to return it, but further conversation was rendered impossible by the ringing of the dinner bell; that tocsin of our carnal nature which makes itself heard through all life's music of jubilee and lament, which must be listened to even through the funeral tolling and the wedding chimes.

It took Edith some minutes to get ready, and when she found herself seated at dinner, the first thought that occurred to her, was that in her haste she had left Cyril's note (which she had not had time to read) on the looking-glass which stood upon the bureau in her room. What if it should be lost—like the bracelet. Her first impulse was to rush up stairs to get it, and this impulse was so strong that she had already moved back her chair a little from the table, when she caught the eye of Julia Cadgett, who was staring at her with something of triumph added to her usual supercilious expression. Edith felt as if she would increase this triumph by any act which might excite remark, so she controlled herself and remained still, resolving to retire—as indeed was her custom—immediately after dinner. When grace had been said, however, Major Ellis requested her to accompany him to his study, where she was detained for nearly an hour talking over the question of Edward's innocence.

To her arguments in favour of Ned she found Major Ellis more ready to listen than she had expected. She put forward strongly her own view of the case, which was that the boy's story was simply and literally true, that the cross had come into his possession in some way involving no dishonour to himself. She did not undertake to defend his refusal to make known all the circumstances—but she submitted that the boy's previous character gave him the right to claim not to be considered a thief.

"Very well," said Major Ellis, "the boy must take his chance. If the others here or at school like to 'cut' him, believing him to be the culprit—I can't help it. He may come among us as before, for there is much justice in what you say, Miss Sorrel; but until he makes me acquainted with every particular of this affair, he may defend his character as best he can. I wash my hands of him."

Edith flew up stairs to tell her cousin the result of her interview and intercession with his father, nor, till she had been some minutes with him did she

again think to be found conclusion away. Wl about Julia had said of wonder if tl to do? To purloined a that she wo the questio from which very uncert

Meanwhi so short a note. He Montreal—l for the sons was already man's wife. his wishes, it is true, ad Ellis, when l praised her l severely to ts was also very good positio that "he saw To this, Ma friends, Mrs. Cadgetts we stay no longe of carrying o had happened and daughter deed there w served in susj very best, and almost to the gold threads i was to call for ture to Mont which women