

CORRODING GOLD

reverting to the astounding news she had heard. "Why, mother, if it is true it will open up a wonderful vista."

"There can be no doubt about its truth," her mother replied. "But, at any rate, to-morrow your father and I go down to Bloomsbury to the lawyers' office, where we will hear every detail and have everything settled beyond dispute. By to-morrow evening at this time we shall know much more about it. I hope I comported myself with dignity in that interview to-day, but of course it was rather overwhelming to be confronted with such a stupendous announcement without even a moment's warning, and with the working-party going on in the drawing-room."

"Oh, my! Were all the tabbies there?" cried Kathleen. "And did you tell them? I should have loved to have seen their faces beyond everything!"

"I dropped a judicious hint," said Mrs. Rodney, with a reserve that was quite new to her; and Estelle smiled broadly at her words and manner. "But we must behave with reticence and discretion until we are perfectly sure of everything. Meanwhile let us go and consume our nondescript meal. Very soon I hope we shall be able to sit down as a family to a proper late dinner, beautifully cooked and exquisitely served. It has been the dream of my life!"

"Tommy-rot!" muttered Jack irreverently from the background, still smarting under a sense of the inhospitable treatment that had been meted out to his idol.

It is necessary for the young, untrained heart and mind to set something on a pedestal and worship it. Kathleen has thus glorified her employer, who had undoubtedly shown her considerable kindness, while Jack had set up good old John Glide as a fit object to receive the homage of his boyish heart. Louie worshipped Jack, and they had many happy hours together, the little girl being always willing to fetch and carry most docilely