

when called into the room, timidly related what she knew of Hawksworth's relations with Miss Ransom, not omitting to mention the fact that the former had left the latter entirely to herself, except for an occasional chat when Miss Ransom walked out, and at dinner during a week past. She concluded with the remarkable statement that she revered the "good Monsieur" but thought it a cruel and unlawful thing that he had done to the "sweet lady," and then, observing that her utterance had provoked a smile, she retired in confusion.

Alberta was now requested to leave her charge with Colinette and come up to testify. Her story was brief and to the point. Her beauty, dignity, and composure, and her manifest desire to avoid exaggeration, made a profound impression on all present. "I must tell you," she said in conclusion, "that though this man is what he is and has done what he has done, his consideration for me after I was brought here left little to be desired. He said he wanted to win my love and, on the whole, he seemed really to try. His motive was selfish, you will say, but its influence was none the less fortunate for me. My life here was not the nightmare it might have been."

As Alberta rose to retire, Harold rose also, and