"I hate to think he should come near her. She takes such a wrong view about Angus and his sister, at least it's what I call a wrong view. She's quite capable of giving him all he asks for."

"But I thought it was practically arranged your cousin was going abroad?" Belle said. They were speaking cautiously, although the room was very wide and the woman at the writing-table could hardly have heard what they said.

Cheston shrugged his shoulders.

"Well, there was some such idea, it crops up periodically, but it's only suggested because Angus knows he can work on my mother's feelings that way and after all why should he go abroad? He has quite a decent income and he could earn a good bit more if he chose but he simply won't work, Belle! The long and the short of it is," John Cheston said hardly, "my father made a great mistake when he did so much for his sister and her children. He put them in a wrong groove as it were. Upon my soul I honestly believe that Angus thinks because his mother was my father's sister he ought to share with me. A queer notion that, isn't it?"

"Very queer," said Isabel with a smile and a frown mingled. "Did you see Mr. Kurtiss to-day?"

"Yes. We met at my lawyer's. He'd got into some hole and came to me to be helped out. It wasn't a very pleasant interview! Honest Injun, Belle, to please her," he nodded his head in the direction of his mother, "I've tried to beat up a kindly feeling for Angus but it won't come . . I simply can't stick the fellow or his sister."

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