

could not let her out of my sight lest I should lose her.

Once she was beside me, I was struck dumb—so lovely and gracious a woman I had been ordering about like a lass in her 'teens! It was not until we had crossed broken bits of the wall, scrambled along gateways and over guns, far from the sight of houses and people, with only the sail-flecked harbour spread out before us, like an entry into Paradise, that I found speech to ask if I might pass within.

"Let us rest against this old cannon," I began. "'Tis too damp to sit upon the grass. See; there is snow yet in that cranny, but the ice has come down from the lakes, and I must start west to-morrow. The very heart dies within me when I think of saying goodbye to you, Mary."

"I was afraid you had gone away without saying it."

"That I could not do; but I have put off, and put off the farewell, because I feared I might ask you for something you were not ready to give. To take my refusal and ride away quickly seemed the better plan."

"If you were sure it was to be a refusal."

"Mary, Mary, have you even so much as a crumb of affection for me?"

"A whole loaf." She looked at me with swimming eyes.

"I can hardly credit it," but I was bold enough to