

## MOTH AND RUST

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"I don't think she will."

"I want you to persuade her, Mary." Mary's heart swelled. This, then, was what he had come about.

"Aren't you her greatest friend? Do put it before her plainly. I'm a blundering idiot, and she seemed to think I had no right to speak to her on the subject. Perhaps I had not. I never thought of that. I only thought of— But do you go to her, and bring her to a better mind."

"I will try," said Mary.

"I wish there were more women like you, Maimie," he said, using for the first time for years the pet name which he had called her by when they were boy and girl together.

Mary went to Lady Francis next day, but she did not make a superhuman effort to persuade her friend. She considered that it was not desirable that Elsa should be reinstated. If there were no punishment for such misdemeanors what would society come to! For the sake of others, as a warning, it was necessary that Elsa should suffer.

All she said to Lady Francis was, "Are you going to divorce Lord Francis?"

"No, my dear," said that lady, with a harsh lit-