

sensuous sort which attacks and subdues at first sight; needing no wiles of subtle allurements, no attractions of intelligence or amiability, to establish its claim to allegiance. What sort of mind dwelt in that beautiful body might become, when longer acquaintance had dulled the first impression produced by her face, a question of interest; but in a creature of so much loveliness it was of necessity a secondary matter, and although every woman of her acquaintance bewailed what one called a lack, and another a sameness, of expression, and united in regretting that this variously-described defect "quite spoiled a face that would otherwise have been good-looking," the less discerning sex overlooked this blemish with generous unanimity, and yielded her that unquestioning homage which has been man's tribute to royal beauty, and the thorn in good plain women's sides, since the world began. The young stranger was conquered at once, and the words he had had ready failed him. On her side, however, the lady seemed to be as much struck with the appearance of the supposed tramp as he was with hers; the pink colour in her cheeks grew a little deeper, and she held out her hand for the handkerchief with head bent as if in humble apology, while her full blue eyes looked up in his face with a deprecatory expression which would have washed away the memory of a hundred insults.

"I beg your pardon. I'm so awfully sorry. I made a dreadful mistake," she said, in a low winning voice that had a strangely moving quality.

"Not at all, madam," answered the stranger, recovering his voice, but not all his self-control. "You were quite right. The times are very hard, and I am in search of a night's lodging, though it is true I had no intention of waylaying you for the means to pay for it. You dropped your handkerchief, and I picked it up; that is all."