

not it is the most sensible thing a woman can do to break her heart over a trial of this sort. I think, for example, Miss Leeds' wisest course will be to shake off dull care, and go on her way rejoicing!"

"You are a very heartless girl, Inez!"

"On the contrary, my dear, I am supposed not only to have a heart, but a very large one. I am speaking now of what I know. Amy Leeds has a right to congratulate herself, if she was ever engaged to Colonel Ellisson, that she is so no longer. He is not worthy of her!"

"What do you mean, Inez?"

"Simply what I say; that, with all his wealth, little Amy Leeds is fortunate in losing him. He is a worldly man in every sense of the word—addicted to gaiety, to strong drink, to worldly amusements, and consequently could never make her happy."

"I do not quite comprehend you, Inez. Many women marry men with all the objectionable traits you credit Colonel Ellisson with, and yet are happy with them. What is there in Miss Leeds that constitutes her case such an exceptional one?"

"This one fact, Annie, since you press me so closely for an explanation. Miss Leeds is a Christian—at least, *professes* to be such—and that, if real, sets her and Colonel Ellisson as wide apart—how wide?—furnish me with a suitable comparison, will you?"

"Inez! Inez! —"

"Why, Annie, cousin there are tears in your eyes!—how have I wounded you?"

"Inez, there is one who is as much to me as Colonel Ellisson ever was to Miss Leeds, who is not a Christian! I have thought the question all over, and studied the Bible; and I don't think I will be doing wrong to follow my own heart in this matter. Still your words distress me. I hope I want to do right."

"Well, dear, I did not suppose my words were having any sharp edge for you; but they are spoken now, and I do not know that I regret saying them. It is a question every Christian woman must settle before