

All that Oswald appeared to know upon the subject was that the Baroness, in sanctioning the engagement, had told him that Olga would have enough of her own to dress herself upon, and that she would not be a burden upon him. He had been afraid that the change from the luxury to which she had been accustomed would be painfully felt by her, and had been very diffident of declaring his affections. But both the sprite herself and the Baroness likewise made light of this difficulty. Olga declared that she always had a yearning after a little house of her own, with only one servant, and a kitchen she could potter about in at will; whilst the Baroness had told Oswald plainly that, in her own very critical and uncertain state of health, it was an immense relief to her to see the child safely married to some good man, who would make her a loyal and loving husband, and protect her from the perils that might beset her had she been left alone in the world. As for the Baroness herself, it was arranged that she should remain as an inmate of the old house. Ella was eager to take Olga's place as the companion of the invalid, and Giles was glad to think that she would be under his immediate care, as her life now hung on a thread, and it was imperative that she should be spared all exertion or anxiety.

Matters were smoothing themselves out wonder-