

ESMERALDA

things I and my friends are doing," admitted Mrs. DeWynt, "and that I do not care for the tone in which you refer to them. I think it most unmannerly!"

"And I don't think much of the things you do," said Esmeralda with some asperity. "I don't care to learn them, because I don't think they matter a damn!"

"Esmeralda!" cried her aunt. "I forbid you to use such language!"

"Forbid!" said Esmeralda.

"Yes!" said Mrs. DeWynt angrily. "And, my dear niece, while you are here, I must insist that you try to make yourself more like us, and that you endeavor to be useful to me in my war work. Further, I demand that you cease interfering with my servants. I am your aunt, and I am the proper authority as to what you shall and shall not do!"

"You may be my aunt," said Esmeralda slowly; "but you mustn't blame me for that. It's not my fault!"

"Because of your youth and lack of