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## CUPID AND THE CANDIDATE

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shall be in a position to thank you all for your confidence in me and your unfailing kindness. Good-bye."

"Good-bye." They pressed his hand and crowded round him as they rushed him downstairs with kindly haste and into a waiting carriage.

As he was driven away he cast a rapid glance along the upturned faces in the street, but the one he was looking for was not there.

While Prue and her father and Dick Dollinger waited in the crowd to learn the result of the Middleworth election, Mr. Stainsby alone of the three remained normally interested. Prue's small face grew white as the time wore on, and her eyes glowed darkly with suppressed feeling. Dick watched her jealously, his heart filled with sore fretting and misgivings. In vain he argued with himself that Prue intended all along to marry him, that Johnston's success or defeat could make no difference, and that she had attached a condition to her promise in a spirit of coquetry, proving her power over him by causing him to use his influence for Johnston in the face of his avowed intention to do otherwise. She had had her way, and now self-respect declared against being put off any longer. Dick decided that the time had come for a final understanding.

He saw her suddenly close her hands round her father's arm, as if bracing herself to receive a shock. Following her eyes, Dick, too, beheld that which the pushing, swaying crowd bent in one