

prove it, Gardiner wouldn't prove it, so the secret rested with me. And, in spite of my sex, I have learned that there is just one way to keep a secret. I kept it."

"Even from Miss Vane?"

"Even from Miss Vane."

"Polly, you're a wonder—you're a brick." There were tears in his eyes as he spoke. "I won't forget you—I won't forget." For a moment he held her hand in his. And there were tears in her eyes, too, when she turned away.

The Grant boys almost ate him when he reappeared from the little office, but a clerk from the Sempter Trading Company forced his way to Burton. "Mr. Sempter would like to see you in his office at once, Burton," he said.

"I will be there in ten minutes," was the answer.

Burton found Mr. Sempter in his private office at the back of the store. The merchant received him cordially and placed a chair for him. "You might step down and get the mail for us, Miss Jones," he said to his stenographer, and as soon as the young woman had left the room he plunged into his business with Burton.

"I have no doubt, Mr. Burton, your time is