

"Eveleen, Eveleen! am I forgiven?" he asked, in a thrilling whisper.

"I have nothing to forgive, Mr. Ardenne," she said, in a voice that all her efforts could not render steady.

"Then I may yet hope for this dear hand," he said, taking it in his.

Every trace of color faded from the face of Eveleen, as, lifting her eyes for the first time to the eager, handsome face bending over her, she withdrew her hand from his, and said:

"I thought this subject was dropped forever between us, Mr. Ardenne. Surely, you cannot mean to mock me now."

"Mock you, Eveleen?" he said, reproachfully. "Dear, brave, generous girl, far more than ever before I love you now. All obstacles to our marriage are forever at an end. My father never objected to our union, as you are doubtless now well aware; and since he has learned of your self-sacrificing heroism, he positively commands me to win you, on pain of disinheritance. O my darling! speak; when may I hope for this little hand?"

"O Gustav! it cannot be—could you marry me now?"

Her voice failed, and she covered her face with her hand.

"Yes, dearest, you are to my eyes far more beautiful now than ever before. What! tears, Eveleen! Let me wipe them away, and lift your head and smile."

"Humph! matters seem to be progressing," exclaimed the voice of the captain at this instant, "That's right, Gusty, girls always have to be coaxed on such occasions. When's the wedding to come off, Eveleen? Oh! she's gone. All's right, I suppose, eh, you handsome dog?"

"All right, sir," said Gusty, laughing, "and with the blessing of Providence, before another month I'll be a respectable married man."

Two weeks after the great cathedral of — was crowded to suffocation to witness a most interesting ceremony. All the *elite* of the city were there, for it was known that the governor's son was about to marry the heiress of rich Captain Hinton.

"For this occasion only" the vivacious Josephine had consented to act as bridesmaid, and, on being asked for an explanation, she whispered to Eveleen that it was her intention to enact the part of a principal in a similar ceremony three months later.