

Faith and Unfaith

By "THE DUCHESS."

CHAPTER IX.—CONTINUED.

"I myself shouldn't hesitate about it, if I only got the chance. And indeed where could any one get a more charming husband than the dear vicar?" ... "Well, well, it was a foolish match notwithstanding," says Mrs. Redmond, with a smile and a wan sort of blush; "though certainly at that time I don't deny he was very fascinating. Such a voice, my dear! and then his eyes were remarkably fine."

Outside on the avenue, she encounters the vicar, hurrying home. "Then with me," she says, putting her hand through his arm. "I have something to say to you." ... "Going to be married?" asks he, gayly. "Nonsense!"—blushing, in that he has so closely hit the mark. "It is not of anything so paltry I would burden my mind."

Imagine. Surely these are disagreeable people, misanthropists, misogamists, and such like heretics; or else, poor souls! they are in a bad strait, without present hope and without any one to love them! This last seems, indeed, a misfortune. ... Yet, why abuse a lovely world? How bright the day is, how sweet and fresh the air, though evening is nigh at hand!

sounds untrue. Yet it can't be. What could any one say against Horace? "My dear, I said nothing." "No, but you insinuated it. You said Dorian was his superior." ... "Well, I think he is the better man of the two," says Mr. Peyton, desperately, hardly knowing what to say, and feeling sorely aggrieved in that he is compelled to say what must hurt her.

He is so profound, and earnest, and serious. "What on earth has he done to you that you should call him all these terrible names?" says Mr. Peyton, laughing. "He scolds me," says Clarissa, "he lectures me, and tells me I should have an aim in life. You have been my aim, my darling, and I have been very devoted to it, haven't I?"

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