

thought it was just a sort of — of church name. But he was wonderfully moved. I left the tea with him, and we had a long talk — I came from him to you. I never saw anybody so changed.”

“But why?”

“You see, he thought I was going to be killed right there before his eyes, and seeing it with his very own eyes made him feel responsible. He told me, afterwards, that when he found out who was in the cage, he thought of mother in a different way, — he saw how his desertion had driven her to earning her living with showmen, so I could be supported. All in all, he is a changed man.”

“Then will he acknowledge you? — but no, no”

“You see? He can't, on account of Mrs. Gregory. There's no future for him, or for her, except to go on living as man and wife — without the secretary. He imagines it would be a sort of reparation to present me to the world as his daughter, but he thinks it would give him happiness — but it can't be. Grace Noir has found it all out —”

“Then she will tell!” Abbott exclaimed, in dismay.

“She would have told but for one thing. She