

so than any "asides" ever are on the stage, and his hurried dash to open the door for the ladies, when Mrs. Marston with a "Julia, my dear," rose from the table and went to the drawing-room, from which ere long resounded the beautiful melody of the "Message," which caused him to look exceedingly eager to be off, though Mr. Marston was evidently keeping up the conversation as long as he could, to bother him "just a little." And certainly that was not a very great revenge for a cut nose, a black eye, and a good deal of bad temper; and I know that that is the only one he ever took.

However desirous I might be of enjoying the music, and of taking part in it, I was still more curious to know the promised solution, and I accordingly pressed Mr. Marston to fulfil his promise. In this I was warmly seconded by Dick, and even the amorous Ned became clamorous on the subject. After the old gentleman had badgered us for a moment, he let out the secret—which was that my father, nowise daunted by the ill-success of his first attempts, had renewed his attack upon him, and after a great deal of reasoning and talking, had finally convinced him of the injustice of his conduct towards his wife and daughter. My father's arguments were greatly strengthened by an event wholly unexpected by any one either at Marston or Wortley, namely: a gratifying change in Mr. Marston's fortunes. It was only now that it became known that he had for several years been in very narrowed circumstances, which fact was at the bottom of his dislike to calls and ceremony, and the anxiety which he naturally felt on the subject had been sufficiently great to sour his temper, and lead him to adopt a gruffness which was calculated to repel any but the most determined visitors, and which drove even these away after a few hours. The old and tried friendship my father bore him, and which was amply repaid in kind, had won for me the favour of being the only young man admitted to the intimacy of the family.

A few months since, however, he had been advised that the large fortune of a distant relation had fallen to his lot, and had been called to London suddenly to take measures to secure the inheritance, some other family having laid claim to the estates. It was on his return from this business that he had reached the Bower and come