

best educated, best behaved girl in the parish—that you can't be trusted to have a young man call on you, with fifteen respectable old family servants in the house, at your back?"

"I daresay it's just because she's an old maid, and has old-fashioned ideas," said Jeanne, soothingly.

"So have I old-fashioned ideas. But I never heard that a respectable young man couldn't call on a respectable young woman; nor I don't hold with such notions at all. This is what comes of living in rich men's houses; imputing evil where none exists."

"If *you* didn't think it wrong, Uncle Roberts—and as he's a cousin of Aunt Caroline's, I would like to see him now and then—that is, if he ever does come again—for I find London very lonely. It is a very dull place."

Uncle Roberts considered. A quiet, lame young man did not sound very dangerous, and Jeanne was a steady sensible girl. Also he was indignant that Miss Marney's servants should venture to criticise his niece.

"I can't see no harm in your seeing him now and again, Dunham or no Dunham," he said, obstinately.

## CHAPTER X

### CECILIA

So Jeanne found herself once more alone in the Grosvenor Square house; but this time fortified by her Uncle Roberts' opinion that here, and here only, lay her duty towards her brother.

As she entered the hall, she was surprised to find that, again, she experienced not a little of the pleasant sensation of home-coming.

She opened the door of the morning-room, and looked quite affectionately at the familiar furniture. After all, how pretty and luxurious it now appeared to her!

Even though she might consider it far more delightful and