

"Great heavens!" and then, "Clementina, what does this mean, child?"

"It means, dear lady," said Grace, "that I have what no man deserves less than I. Miss Clementina has done me this honor."

Miss Letitia put up her glasses and regarded him as a farmer looks at the culprit boy caught stealing apples.

"I am surprised, Clementina. I think I should have been consulted. This is very unexpected. I was not prepared for it."

"Nor I," said Clementina, meekly.

"You will have the kindness, Mr. Grace, to follow me. I desire a few words with you," said Miss Markham, with severity.

Grace, embarrassed and also a little amused, said: "Certainly."

"You had better go on dusting the books, Clementina," said her sister. She went down-stairs, followed by Grace. It is improbable that Clementina returned to her interrupted occupation.

What thereafter passed between Miss Letitia and Roger Grace it is needless to state, but, as he went back to the library and found Clementina, it is to be presumed, that Miss Markham was satisfied. Grace came out of the interview much the better for the mirth it aroused; but when, a few days after, he spoke of it to Clementina, she said: "You must not laugh at her. I never did. She thinks the Markhams belong to some angelic peerage. You must not mind what she said."

"I? No! I shall buy this house and give it to