

pleasant and perfectly under Mrs. Hunter's control. It was useless."

"I should think that a threat to contest that amazing codicil would bring Mrs. Hunter to terms."

"Yes," said Archer, "it might, but Miss Kitty has the obstinacy of the weak, and, besides that, the family would not willingly act against Mr. Fairthorne's will. On the whole, they are wise. You, of course, know that he left Miss Morrow, to our surprise, only as much as he left Mrs. Hunter, and then divided his large estate between Mrs. Swanwick and Miss Mary."

"I heard as much. What becomes of his autographs?"

"Thereby hangs a rather queer story. They are left to the university. In making a valuation of them, the experts found that a good many of those lately acquired and set down at high figures were of more than doubtful authenticity, some of them obvious forgeries."

"Mrs. Hunter again," said Grace, laughing.

"Possibly," said Archer, "or probably. A word as to Blount, Mr. Grace."

"Well?"

"Do not help him too much. Don't make life too easy for him."

"I owe him much, Archer; more than you know."

"And yet, I think I am right. He has a very stoutly held belief in himself."

"That is so. I will keep it in mind. But the problem of how to help and not to harm is not always an easy one." For a moment he did not speak.