

## COLONEL TODHUNTER OF MISSOURI

and his friend. If Mrs. Todhunter had a fault it was that she tacitly regarded all Nineveh as being vassal to her social suzerainty and bore herself something as might the ruling monarch of some little principality. But this manner was not apparent in her bearing toward old Judge Bolling, whom she knew as being of her own caste.

"I'm very glad you've come, Judge!" she said laughingly. "And especially right now. It may take you and Colonel Todhunter both to make our Mary and young Tom Strickland behave themselves, sir. Tom has already kidnapped Mary away somewhere, after I put them to work spreading tablecloths, and I've been vowing all sorts of vengeance on both of them. I don't approve of Tom's behavior at all, Judge!"

"It pains me to disagree with a lady, madam," replied the white-haired old judge gallantly, "but I must say I approve of Tom's conduct in getting Miss Mary Todhunter off to himself at every chance, ma'am!"

"That's all very fine, Judge," said Mrs. Todhunter, laughing and shaking her head, "but Mary has no business permitting Tom Strickland to