

just took the wrong way with me. I had trusted him before anybody with a secret which was almost sacred to me in those days, and to have one's most cherished ambition pooh-poohed is not very easy to bear. And all the time there was a secret soreness because I knew I liked Keith so much that it would nearly break my heart to leave him."

"Well, what did he say next?"

"Just the very thing, of course, which he ought not to have said. He began somewhat in this fashion, and I imagined a certain lordly, patronising air in him which made me wild.

"It would never do for you, Elizabeth, to go in for such advanced ideas. No woman who thinks anything of herself would or could go in for medical study. Why, it takes a fellow all his time to get hardened to it. Your father will never consent to it; and to me it is intolerable to think of you subjected to experiences which will rob you of that exquisite womanliness which makes everybody love you."

"'Exquisite humbug,' I said, for these were the very arguments Mary had prepared me to expect. 'If my womanliness is to be so easily damaged, Keith Hamilton, it is a quality not worth possessing, and I'm very much obliged to you for your very