

now seated himself near to Damaris, still looking bewildered and perplexed.

"Dear boy," she said, softly, "you do not really mind, do you? If you do I will give it all away. I will——"

"Found a lunatic asylum with it," suggested Frank, gravely. "That will be the most appropriate thing to do, and Oswald shall have the first nomination to the benefits of the institution."

There was a general laugh at this, and Oswald's face cleared as he saw the pleading glance in the eyes of his little betrothed shining through all the mirth and laughter. He drew her fondly to him.

"I shall get used to the idea. I think I shall learn to be very glad and thankful in time, only I am very much surprised; and I had no idea that I was aspiring to the hand of an heiress."

She suddenly pulled her hand from his and stood up before him, looking very proud and glad.

"Do you think I should have loved you as I do if I thought you were?" she asked. "Was it not because it was the hand of Olga de Witt—not the hand of the heiress you wanted, that I was so happy, so glad, so satisfied? Do you think I would divide the honours with my senseless gold? And has it not been my horror all my life that I should fall a victim to some one who would deceive me, loving my fortune, whilst