

fell upon his ear, a shade of anxiety covered his handsome face and soon after he arose to go. Mrs. and Mr. Carlen looked anxiously at their daughter as if trying to read her decision in her calm, proud face.

"Well, Alan, my boy," said Mr. Carlen, "is everything irretrievably gone; have you no hope of getting any recompense for your losses?"

"None whatever, Mr. Carlen. My opinion is that a Commercial Bank shareholder will never receive a cent from it."

"It is hard indeed," murmured Edward Carlen. "And have you fully decided to accept Grant's offer and go with him to New York?"

"I have fully decided, Mr. Carlen. The offer is too excellent a one not to be taken advantage of."

Eva Carlen stood leaning against the piano, her face expressing nothing but decision. She was one who, though not wanting in affection and obedience to her parents, had always been accustomed to deciding momentous questions for herself. She was tall and slender, graceful, and the majority of people would say, beautiful. Her hair was of a deep golden hue, the face very fair, with scarcely a tinge of color in the round full cheeks, but this absence was made up for by the vivid red of her lips and the darkness of her brows and long, thick lashes. The eyes were not the color that usually goes with blondes, they were of such a dark blue as sometimes to appear almost black. She was capable of a wonderful amount of self-control; her manner was rather proud and reserved. She was a girl whom few could understand. She had few friends and many acquaintances, the greater number of whom thought her cold, calculating and mercenary, but those who knew and loved her knew also that inside that calm, proud exterior was a loyal, faithful heart, capable of love and constancy that could last till death.

"Well," spoke Mr. Carlen, "I suppose you must be the best judge. I hope you will meet with success, Alan. When do you expect to go?"

"In about two weeks from now," he answered, "and he then bade them good-night."

"Eva, my dear," said Mrs. Carlen, "be sure and put something around your shoulders if you are going to the door."