

bake scones especially for my coming ; and that meant a great deal more than any mere words. She paused, privileged by her place in the household to inquire kindly for me and mine, and when she departed her mistress did not speak.

"Margaret will stand out beautifully—a kind of Caleb Balderston in petticoats," I said cheerfully, "and her devotion to you is one of the sweetest things I have ever seen. My dear Elizabeth, you can't escape your destiny. Your personality is too striking and too lovely to be passed over."

Still my friend did not speak, but I saw a wavering, lovely smile touch her mouth into exquisite sweetness. I took it as a sign that a thaw was approaching.

"Now," I said, "just do one thing for me. Tell me the story of your first patient, just as you told me it that memorable day, seven years ago, when we first met. I shall take it down in shorthand, and after I have manipulated it at home, read it over to you. Then I promise you that if you still entirely disapprove, I shall never broach the idea again."

"Very well. I'm called a strong-minded woman, but it seems to me when you talk to me that I have