

Pauline.

"I must say 'No' again. I considered the twenty-first my only free evening, when I proposed it to you. Of course the twentieth is now disengaged. Would it be possible for you at this late date to plan for that?"

"I understand. Then the utmost that I can do is to promise to put you first on the winter list, if you care to have me."

"I can readily imagine your annoyance. If there were anything I could do, be sure I should be ready. My own embarrassment is extreme. I assure you I am not in the habit of blundering in this manner."

As he turned from the telephone, feeling that he had incommoded and annoyed some very influential people and given them a false impression of himself as a business man, he told himself that it was a very disagreeable complication, and that Henry deserved to be discharged.

A suggestion had come to him to telegraph to Deepwater and ask if they were sure of their dates, but he had abandoned it as absurd. Of course the secretary of a local society would know the evening that had been selected for the closing lecture of the course. He had also thought of telegraphing to Henry, but had remembered that he was twelve miles removed from railroad and telegraphic communication.

The situation was undoubtedly annoying.