



MONTE CARLO—EAST END

Mrs. Campbell got through dinner before the rest of us, and said that she thought she must go, as she was very tired. Jack slapped his napkin down to go too, but she protested earnestly. He was not through, and it was sheer nonsense for him to come with her. She was only going to her room. He sat in perplexed, shame-faced indecision. Plainly he wanted to go with her and comfort her in some foolish "lovers' laney" fashion; but he had the grace to be ashamed of it. "Now, you stay," she said emphatically as she got up; but he took the words to mean "Come," and sprang up and went off with her. As they passed down the table on the other side, she looked at us; and there was a budding content and a timid pride on her face. Jack did not look at us, but there was apology in the bend of his neck.

For a few moments after they went nothing was said; and then we got to coldly comparing the Pitti with the Dresden galleries. We were all ashamed of the exhibition that two sane people had made of themselves. "All" is, perhaps, incorrect; for Miss

Alice Wilson said presently to her sister, *sotto voce*, "I am glad he had sense enough to go with her;" but, when I looked at her, she blushed furiously. It was as if I had caught her knowing something which a maiden should not have known.

We saw no more of the bridal couple that evening, and Miss Bertram and I were each conscious that the other thought them very silly—though, of course, we said nothing. I found it a great comfort to talk to Miss Bertram after my two weeks' exile from companionableness, but was conscious towards the close of the evening that she was very positive in her opinions, that she took more interest in the conversation when she was talking herself, and that she was limited in her interests. Still she could appreciate a humorous turn of expression, and she did not chill the sociability of the occasion with pointed reticence.

Next morning all was sunshine again with our party—just as it had been for a week overhead. So we walked down to the "place" on the sea-front and watched the Cannes fishermen and