

with him, ma'am? You'd be a lot wiser if you did."

"John doesn't always understand," said Mrs. Cheston slowly, she gave a little sigh: "besides," she added, "I've got so much, why shouldn't I pass on a little to Angus Kurtiss or to anybody else?"

Payne shrugged her shoulders. "Well, you're one for giving as everybody knows, but I don't think as Mr. Angus has any right to keep on coming to you in the way he does, and that's a fact."

But Mrs. Cheston made no reply and she let her maid remove her gown and put away her jewels in silence.

"There's a message come for you," Payne remarked after a little while. "I near forgot to tell you. It's from Garth Court, Mrs. Ambrose's compliments and she'll be very pleased to have tea with you to-morrow. *She's* got her hands full if anybody has," the maid talked on. "Such tales as they tell about that boy! And Mr. Ambrose shut up in the library working the whole live-long day, whilst his girl! . . . well there, if I hadn't seen it with my own eyes I wouldn't have spoke of it, but I came across her three days ago sauntering along the roads after dark with some chap as I'd never seen in these parts before."

Olivia Mary's beautiful eyes dilated a little. She turned in startled fashion to her maid.

"Do you mean Silvia Ambrose? That child?"

"Her well enough," said Payne; "and I wondered how they came to let her out by herself at such a time. If you've got Mrs. Ambrose coming here to-morrow I should think you'd be doing a kind action if you was to let her know of this."