

He came ostensibly on a friendly visit, in reality, to remedy all the difficulties that rumor had by that time loudly blazoned abroad. After a few hours frank, kind communing with myself, in which I was as sincere with him, as I would have been with you or Carry, he ascertained the exact amount of my numerous debts, and not only advanced me money to discharge them all, but even to refund the different sums old Snaith had lent me at such ruinous rates of interest, and which were steadily and surely eating up every acre belonging in reality, or in prospect, to Augustus Huntingdon. What called forth my gratitude more strongly than all the rest, was the generous kindness with which he commended my conduct from the period of my marriage, declaring it's perfect irreproachableness gave me a claim upon him, which it was a pleasure and happiness to acknowledge. Carry and I, however, were not so graceless as to take credit where we deserved none, and then, and there, was recorded to him the long tale of all your own generosity, your kindness and your patience. With true feminine minuteness, Carry descended into particulars, and as Arlingford stopped a month at the Cottage, there was not a single domestic quarrel you had made up, not a single good counsel imparted to herself, or kindness lavished on me, but was fully detailed, and to do him justice, he listened as eagerly and interestedly as we narrated. About the time of his visit, four months after your departure, this little hero was born, and of course, was called after him. Carry wished to append Augustus to his name, but I feared similarity of titles might induce similarity of conduct, and I had no fancy for his turning out, in his youthful days, what poor Lord Huntingdon so often, with justice styled myself, a graceless young dog."

"How long is it since you saw Mr. Arlingford?" asked Eva, her head still bowed over the little Edgar.

"Nearly four months. He spends the greatest part of his time at Arlingford Castle, in complete seclusion. He was abroad when our little Eva was born, and having learned through some of the home journals, the accession to our family, brought the little lady on his return, the most regal gift that ever baby received, a complete set of diamonds of great beauty and worth, and really one would have thought the little coquette understood the value of the gift, for baby as she then was, she manifested from the very first, the most marked predilection for him. Doubly, trebly, did he return her partiality, and his namesake, Master Edgar, often loftily declared that only he loved his little sister so well, he would shoot her through

jealousy. Last winter, Arlingford accompanied Carry and myself to London, for you must know, Eva, the heir of all the Huntingdon's has regained his former position in society, notwithstanding the desperate efforts of Lady Mary Lawton, seconded by a few others, to keep him out, and his wife has as many Countesses and Marchionesses on her visiting list, as she could desire. It was the first time Arlingford had made his appearance in society from the period of your departure, for his relative, Lord Arlingford, having died in Ireland, leaving him his princely estate there, he secluded himself entirely under plea of mourning, till he went abroad. His re-appearance then, in fashionable life, excited a great sensation, and when it was publicly known that he was staying with us, that we were his particular friends, aristocratic Dowagers, who had before refused to recognize 'that Mr. Huntingdon, who had married the young person without a name'—exclusive Duchesses, whose gawky, stupid daughters, seldom danced or associated with aught below a baronet, became suddenly and singularly attentive to us. We were asked everywhere, and as Carry always appeared in public with Mr. Arlingford at her side, in my presence, or leaning on his arm when I was absent, sunnier smiles were lavished on her, than if her infant cradle had been surmounted by a Coronet. I often think he accompanied us to town, solely for the purpose of re-instating us in society, and nobly, indeed, did he accomplish his generous purposes. From the very first, he made it clearly understood, that where his friends the Huntingdons' were excluded, he did not go, and as his invitations were countless, we soon became the most popular couple in London. To impart to you the secret of all this, dear Eva, you must know that Arlingford is considered one of the first alliances of the day. Even before the death of his estated relative, whose heir he became, his wealth was very great; Arlingford Castle, and its princely domain—Greville Park—the estate of Hillingdon—all separate fortunes in themselves, whilst as to his family, though untitled himself, the Arlingfords' have ever ranked and mated among the highest in the three kingdoms. Strawberry leaves and Coronets have been as plentiful among them, as griffin's heads and claws on our own respectable crest."

"But Augustus, you have forgotten Mr. Arlingford's noblest, highest, qualifications," interrupted Mrs. Huntingdon, "His own mental superiority, his irreproachable, faultless character."

"All very well, Carry. They may be indeed, in your estimation, the most important item in his long list of perfections, but believe me, the young