

to whether he might allow himself to accept the tempting invitation. His eyes sought Amanda's, but she would not meet them.

"It was just 'for Christmas' I was going in," he answered. Then, rather hurriedly: "I have no reasons half as great for wanting to go to the Settlement as I have for wanting to stay here."

"Then please stay!" said Amanda, getting up quickly from her place by the lamp to hide the flush which she felt mounting to her cheeks.

THE END.