

father's will he doesn't come of age till next year. That was so ingenious of old Mr. Gerard; it gives him four extra years. I wish somebody would give me four extra years and a million pounds. But why do you class him among the *nouveaux riches*?"

"I don't know. I suppose because he is so rich. That sort of fortune can't last long, and so it must be *nouveau*. Oh, yes, don't correct me. I know I have contradicted myself. Is it true that he is engaged to Lady Sybil?"

"So her mother says," remarked Lady Stoakley, acidly.

"No doubt. Her mother would say anything. Now, I like Lady Otterbourne; there is no nonsense about her. She knows what she likes, and she says so."

"She doesn't like me," said Lady Stoakley, in a meditative tone.

"No, dear, and she says so," remarked Mrs. Montgomery, signalling violently to Percy Gerard.

"Oh, dear! there is the bell, and I wanted to talk to Percy. How tiresome this opera is! It always begins again when one is talking, like the trains that always go on when one is in the refreshment rooms. I always wondered why she didn't like you. Are you going on to Lynn House later? Yes? Let us go together."

Lady Stoakley gave the last act only a scant attention. She thought Wagner as a whole was