

## MOTH AND RUST

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fusis. "And what a hat! Exactly what one sees on the top of omnibuses nowadays."

Anne did not defend the hat. It was beyond defence. She supposed, with a tinge of compassion, what was indeed the case, that Janet had made a special pilgrimage to Mudbury to acquire it, in order the better to meet the eye of her future mother-in-law.

All Anne said was: "Very respectable people go on the top of omnibuses now-a-days."

"I am not saying anything against her respectability," said poor Mrs. Trefusis. "Heaven knows if there had been anything against it I should have said so before now. It would have been my duty."

Anne smiled faintly. "A painful duty."

"I'm not so sure," said Mrs. Trefusis, grimly. She never posed before Anne, nor, for that matter, did any one else. "But from all I can make out, this girl is a model of middle-class respectability. Yet she comes of a bad stock. One can't tell how she will turn out. 'What is bred in the bone will come out in the flesh.'"

"There are worse things than middle-class respectability. George might have presented you