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ald awaited the coming of his typist the next morning. Perhaps she would be angry at what he had done, but surely he had a right to furnish his own rooms as he pleased.

He ushered her in as if she had been

a princess.
"This an office!" she exclaimed in amaze.
"It isn't like the outer office," he re-

plied deprecatingly.
But she understood. "How kind! How good of you!" she said warmly.
"And books, too! I have longed for books of late. You will, no doubt, let me take these home one by one. I will be very careful of them, for I love books. I would almost as soon ill-treat

a child as a book."

"They are yours to do as you please When you are tired of them, or have left them at home, I will replace them with others. Tell me what books you like and you shall have them. I mean the office shall have them. I mean the office shall have them," as he foresaw a reproof from

"I cannot take any more presents from you. I have already accepted the very handsome present of the type-writer."

He had sent for this; it was on the

"Please tell me what my work is,"

she continued gravely.
"Don't make me feel like a culprit,"

he pleaded. "I haven't done anything wrong, have I?"

He wondered as he spoke why she was the only woman he had ever met who had the power to make him uncertain as to the wisdom of his acts.

He did not know that it was the hesitancy of love.
"You have been most kind—as you

always are. Now, please set me to

work.

He dictated a letter, but he was astonished when he read it over, and tore it up.

"I'm afraid I haven't expressed my

"I'm afraid I haven't expressed my meaning clearly," he said. "I have had other things to think of."

He produced some papers for her to copy, and, going into his own office, shut the door of communication until lunch time. Then he told her his mother was going to call on her.

She declined the honour firmly.

"Indeed I am most grateful to her for her kind thought," she said, "but I cannot let her come. Please tell her I appreciate her kindness notwithstanding."

ing.

He saw that appeal was useless. his vexation he revealed the fact that he had hoped his mother might induce her to come to lunch of a day. She thought of the farmhouse meals and acknowledged that the prospect was

"But I should have refused," she said, and added: "It seems to me that I am now, and shall be henceforth, obliged to refuse most of the good things of this life."

### CHAPTER VII.

### A Declaration.

M ARY WILLIAMS was now firmly established as established as a typist to Ron-ald Westlake. In a business point of view he declared that she was point of view he declared that she was invaluable to him. Punctual to a moment both morning and afternoon, orderly, methodical, quick, clever. Although their acquaintance was of so recent a date, he consulted her about accorning connected with the busieverything connected with the business, exactly as he would have consulted a very clever wife who was greatly interested in his work.

It is true that she was ignorant to begin with, but she quickly acquired a vast deal of knowledge, and her experience amongst the mill hands, as one of themselves, helped her in making suggestions to him when he formed plans for their welfare or amusement. plans for their welfare or amusement. He now gave her only bare drafts of his letters; she amplified them with the ability of a skilled clerk, and presented them to him, neatly typewritten, for signature; thus saving him hours of work. She had really toiled to gain speed in her writing, and was now a rapid typist. He watched her white fingers flying over the keys of the typewriter with admiration. "I am going to increase your salary by fifty pounds," he announced one day, "for you are fully worth it to me." "The question is, am I worth it in

the market? You know that I am not."
"I know nothing of the kind. If you were to leave me I should never again employ a woman. I couldn't after have ing had you, and a man would cost £150 to £200 a year. I can't do with-£150 to £200 a year. I can't do without a typist after being accustomed to one, and he would not be nearly so useful to me as you, for I should not trust him with the letters I give you to write. Now, do you see that one hundred and fifty pounds a year—vast income!—is only your due. Whether you see it or not, however, I intend to give it you." give it you."
She liked this masterful tone from

him; her only fear was when his tone became soft, for she was not sure that she could always hold him in check. "If you are sure I earn it I must ad-

mit that the extra money will be very useful to me." But it was not of herself she was thinking in connection with it.

"I am quite sure. Resistance is use-

Notwithstanding, in spite of the value of her services (and this was real, not imaginary), the extra fifty real, not imaginary), the extra fifty pounds was not inserted in the office accounts. Ronald paid it out of his own pocket, and said to himself it was a luxury he could well afford.

66 DON'T want my father to be telling me what is the ordinary rate of pay for female clerks," though, indeed, Mr. Westlake, as a matter of fact, would have said nothing of the kind, and was wiser than his son imagined. He had felt some amount of curiosity concerning this typist for whom such preparations had been necessary, and had in his heart laughed to scorn the idea that she was an elderly dragon. He watched quietly one day until she had left the office, and followed her some little distance, unknown to herself, noting her appearance, her gait, her style, all of which he declared to be "tip-top." For

which he declared to be "tip-top." For though not of the highest class, he had of late years mixed with it a good deal, and could rightly estimate a lady.

"No wonder expensive carpets were necessary!" he chuckled to himself. "Well, I shan't say anything to the missis. Let her find it out for herself. A proud girl, I can see, but a good girl. A proud girl, I can see, but a good girl, too. If he doesn't fall in love with her too. If he doesn't fall in love with her he's a greater fool than I take him to be, though he ought to look much higher for a wife. It isn't my business, though, to meddle with a man of Ronald's age; he must conduct his own affairs."

It was with no slight wonder that Mrs. Westlake had heard of Miss Williams' decision not to be called on-She could not understand so great an honour being refused.

honour being refused.

"Ah! poor thing!" she exclaimed one day. "I dare say she's not accustomed to any society, and is afraid of me. Still, its a pity she wouldn't come to lunch of a day, poor soul! I would have taken care she should at all events have one good meal a day."

"Yes, poor old soul!" Mr. Westlake replied solemnly, but there was a twinkle in his eye, which made his son sure he knew the typist was not old.

Sometimes of an afternoon when there was not much work on hand, Mary would allow Ronald to take an easy chair in her office and talk to her. He kept her supplied with all the her. He kept her supplied with all the new books and periodicals, which were her. He kept her supplied with all the new books and periodicals, which were a great solace to her in the lonely evenings, and they discussed them afterwards together, his clear-cut intelectual face lighting up with pleasure. Occasionally they disagreed hotly, when the conversation would end with a laugh. He discovered all her tastes and opinions, and revealed his own as he had never done to anyone before. The more he saw of her the more he realized how wisely his admiration and respect had been grounded, while on her part she turned to him and found comfort in his unfailing friendship and care of her. He informed her that the chocolate and French sweetmeats had been entirely Mr. Haselfoot's idea, and impressed upon her how ungrateful it would be