

looked up frankly—"I have some news for you, Captain Lugard. We shall have a visitor here in a fortnight—some one whom you would be glad to see."

"Is it Lathom?"

"Yes."

"I thought so," said the American kindly; "and he is coming for you?"

"He says so," and she blushed deeply. "I have just heard from him. He says he feels that he ought not to have left the service just as we are going to war with China."

"Ah! he will not think so in another fortnight," said Lugard, with a laugh. "Well, he is a lucky man, and as neither Hewitt nor I could win you, we shall feel sincere pleasure in knowing that you are marrying one of the best fellows that ever wore the King's uniform. I must write to him."

"Do, and I will give him the letter myself. He has never yet failed to speak of you in any of his letters, and I know he will be sorry to miss seeing you."

"Ah, well, I shall be back from the East Indies in another year, and we shall meet then. How is Hewitt doing?"

"Very well indeed." Then she told him how Hewitt, accompanied by Montgomery and Cole, had been sent by her uncle to take charge of a stock farm in Pennsylvania, and had done so well that they were in a fair way of becoming rich men in a few years.

"And who else do you think is coming over with Captain Lathom?" she asked.

"The big doctor?"

"No; I wish he were. It is some one who one day came to me when I was very, very unhappy, and he