

considerably mortified, however, to find that the greater part of his sarcasm had been apparently lost on his intended victim, who was engaged in conversation with his host, though Maud saw by the contraction of his lips and the pallor which spread itself over his face, that he had heard the whole of the insulting speech. Mr. Brereton saw nothing, except that his shaft had failed. Turning to his daughter, he said, "My dear, let me introduce Sir William Dinacre to you. He has been persecuting me all evening for an introduction, and now he has got it."

Maud gave a cold inclination of her head, as she looked up and saw before her a young man who bowed low to her greeting. He was pale, tall, red haired, high shouldered, but powerfully built. This Maud saw at a glance, and during the course of conversation she had leisure to observe the low receding forehead with its line of large bumps over the eyes, the high cheek bones, and the square lower jaw with the large coarse mouth. Such was Sir William Dinacre.

"It is an unexpected pleasure, Miss Brereton," he began, seating himself upon the sofa beside her, and fixing his colourless grey eyes, with their white lashes upon her. "It is an unexpected pleasure to meet you here to-night." Mr. Carlton's words, but how different the effect of them upon Maud, but she answered quietly, "It was my father's wish that I should come."

"You see she has contrived to make herself look as sparkling as she can, with her bugles and nicknacks. It is what women call mourning," said her father.

"That is hard, papa, when you ordered the dress yourself, and I never heard of it until it came home," returned Maud, with flashing eyes.

"Miss Brereton requires no jet or bugles to make her appear sparkling. She has other ornaments of her own which shine bright enough," cried Sir William with a would-be fascinating smile—to Maud it seemed bold and ill-bred. A pause ensued during which Mr. Brereton moved off, and Maud was left alone with Sir William.

"You believe in the Bible, then, Miss Brereton?" he began. "I see you act up to its precepts."

"I don't understand you," was the reply, in a half indignant tone.

"Well, at any rate, the fifth commandment is your special weakness." As Maud made no reply, he continued, "Now, pray answer me. I don't ask the question in a carping spirit. Do you think that a wife is bound to obey her husband to the letter?"

"It is a point I have not considered."

"You might, at any rate, have been civil enough to ask me my views on

that point.' gratify me and you can't would obey I have seen solemn look this last ten here he comes as Mr. Carl

Maud was dislike to the expressing her lately returned of calling upon

"You father went on, with thinks it is to me dangerous

Maud turned moment came for a few seconds deep voice in Carlton, who Miss Brereton cut out by himself between the lady to come

Five minutes his way bene to deep reflection said to himself walk leading she can be me self to that very simply for the clenched his hand he sighed heavily him? I, a person—but what a right should I circle, to my