

congenial society, that I forget appearances. You must be aware that in my home (as I must perforce call it) there is no society for *me*."

"Certainly, old May and his—I mean Mr. and Mrs. May—are very different from you. When he told me that first Sunday that you were his daughter, I could not believe it."

"I *am* different," answered Sophia. "And how I shall manage to drag through my days in a place and position so unsuited to me, I cannot tell. I have been miserable ever since I returned. As a child, my social unhappiness did not strike me, but now I feel it deeply. I require refinement, Mr. Lyvett ; it is as necessary to my nature as air ; therefore you may judge what my home is to me. I believe, if I have to stop in it, I shall die of chagrin."

"I am sure I wish I could provide you with a better," said Mr. Lyvett, in an impulse of genuine sympathy.

Unfortunately, the young man was already falling over head and ears in love. The bright vision which had burst on his astonished senses that Sunday afternoon in his father's private room had made a lasting impression. Every interview strengthened the feeling. He had never been in love before ; but now his time for it had come. Frederick Lyvett was of a gentle yielding nature. He had not the strong, sharp intellect of his brother James, but he was not deficient ; his feelings were strong and tender ; in all his impulses he was strictly honorable, and Sophia was as safe with him as she would have been with a brother.

What with talking, and walking slowly, and looking at the fountains at Charing Cross, at the Horse Guards, and other points of interest, all of which he was delighted to show her, they arrived at Westminster Abbey just as the gates were closing after service. So all they had to do was to find their way back again, which they did with rather more speed ; for Mr. Lyvett called a cab, the best-looking he could see on the stand, and escorted Sophia home in it, lest she should be tired.

Thus the acquaintance had begun, and thus it continued. Continued until the infatuated young man was really and truly in deep love with Sophia May, and had formed a resolve that when his time for marrying came, no other than she should be his wife.