

COLONEL TODHUNTER OF MISSOURI

in one minute than he will love her in his whole lifetime!"

"Lottie-May!" ejaculated Tom angrily, "you mustn't talk like that! You ought to be ashamed. You've got no right to couple Miss Mary Todhunter's name—"

"No, no, that's it!" interrupted the girl hotly. "I mustn't mention Mary Todhunter's name in the same breath with mine. It ain't right, you think! Well, I will—and I hate her! I hate her!"

"I didn't mean that, Lottie-May," protested Tom. "You know I didn't mean that—"

But the girl was gone. Hagar-like, she moved with a sort of outcast pride, her pretty head held high, her eyes flashing. In a moment she had disappeared in the crowd.

"Tom," said Colonel Todhunter, advancing, "you'd better be hurryin' to where Mrs. Todhunter is, and make your peace for stealin' Mary away. You're in hot water, young man!"

Tom Strickland flushed consciously. "Colonel, I reckon you heard what Lottie-May Doggett was saying to me?"

"I couldn't very well help it, Tom."