

and confidence. "They are sure to get on together," he thought with satisfaction. "Bring any two thoroughly womanly natures in contact, and they instinctively chum up—safe to do it."

Under the influence of the glorious weather, and utter freedom from work, Errol and James threw off all the restraints of city life, and abandoned themselves to the complete enjoyment of the present. James seemed entirely to forget the estrangement which had of late arisen between himself and Errol, and the pleasant familiar intercourse of former times was renewed. They boated, bathed, and dreamed away the long summer days. We say "dreamed," for these lazy young men actually spent hours lying on the shingly beach, in all the luxury of absolute idleness. When reading was voted a bore—chess, worse—sometimes Mildred was graciously permitted to read aloud, a privilege which no doubt was gratefully appreciated!

Ericson joined them sooner than they had expected, but was obliged to return to London at the end of the week. The day before his departure he was sitting on the beach with James.

"This has been a pleasant week," he said, after a short silence. "I wish I could stay longer, but my work is waiting for me. Men must work in this work-a-day world."

"Of course they must," grumbled James. "It is the natural order of things. Fancy being shut up between four walls such an afternoon as this! It makes one feel inclined to resign existence at once."

"I should be sorry to resign existence," replied Ericson. "There is too much to be done first."

"Oh, you make work! I don't believe you are obliged to go back to-morrow, but you fancy some of your blessed patients will take the wrong medicine, or do some other ridiculous thing, if you don't go and look after them. How's Mrs. Nelson?"

Mrs. Nelson was a standing joke. She was an elderly lady, with a strong predilection for drink and the doctor. When she could not get the one she ran after the other, and Ericson was her especial favourite. To him she was constantly sending descriptions of the most marvellous symptoms of unheard-of diseases, begging him to go and see her at once, or she should surely die.

Ericson made no reply. He was anxiously debating within