

enquire into the truth of this 'find' all the same. For the time being we can only await the progress of events."

"Then the friendly council is over?"

The solicitor looked at Alicia as though his decision rested with her.

She bowed.

"Yes. You know my resolve, Mr. Perry. I shall adhere to it."

"Very well. We shall have to proceed without you, that's all."

Eric glanced at Alicia. "Shall we go?" his eyes said plainly enough. She shook hands with Mr. Perry and Graydon opened the door. He followed her out.

Naturally they turned to the quietude of Grays Inn rather than to the turmoil of Holborn. They found themselves in South Square and the old world surroundings were pleasant and reposeful. Very few words had passed between them, yet both felt they had much to say. Eric regarded her silence as a good sign. Had she determined to adhere to the compact of farewell she would have lost no time in telling him so.

"Is it worth while keeping up this make-believe, Alicia?" at last said he with nervous desperation. "You no more want to say good-bye than I do."

"It isn't what we want that matters."

"I'm not so sure about that. If we were not continually in want of something what would be the use of living? It seems to me that we've never yet talked heart to heart. That's what *I* want, Alicia."