

"Oh, of course ; to begin with, there is Keith : to see a man so guilelessly, completely, and absolutely happy is something, and his career is more interesting to me than any case I ever had," she said, with a lovely blush. "I am even ambitious, I believe, within certain limits. Why, who is that coming up the avenue ? Do you recognise anybody, dear ?"

I stood up and looked out between the heavy hangings, to see a solitary figure coming somewhat wearily up between the bare, wintry-looking trees. A woman evidently, and young, walking slowly and with effort, as if her limbs were weary or unaccustomed to the exertion.

"I don't know her," said Elizabeth. "But she is in trouble, that is quite evident, and a mere girl. I wonder what it can be."

"We shall see presently. How natural it is that the troubled and the sad should seek the gates of Flisk, even as they used to besiege your door in Rayburn Place !" I said ; and before Elizabeth replied there was a knock at the door, and Margaret looked in.

"I thocht I'd come mysel, ma'am, to explain. That's Jeanie Falconer that was ; she cam to the kitchen door."