

however, she saw only that he was an attentive listener, and knowing the circumstances under which most of her father's treasures had been acquired she exerted herself to narrate them for his amusement. Listening to her low, sweet voice, that "excellent thing in woman," Gilbert found the afternoon pass too quickly, and indeed it was not without some show of reluctance that he responded to Guy's inquiry on the subject of his being ready to go.

"Miss Varcoe," he said, "I must thank you for your kindness in explaining everything, and ask you to pardon my dulness. I am not in the least scientific, you know, and not much of an antiquarian, but under your direction and with your explanations I have really, I hope, shown a little of the interest which I have felt."

Had he been insincere in this her large, penetrating eyes would have read the falsehood in his, in which event Gilbert Arderne well knew—for he was quite physiognomist enough to recognize that Amy Varcoe hated deceit and regarded the deceitful man as a coward—she would have scorned him in her heart. But Gilbert was sincere, at least in one point, and that to him the principal one,—namely, that he had taken an unusual interest in the museum, although it is not at all necessary for us to inquire why one who had gone through national museums unmoved should have been so delighted with this comparatively insignificant collection. There was, however, enough of compliment in his expression of thanks to bring a blush to Amy's face. She made no other reply than to say she was glad to know that what she had shown him had possessed some interest for him, but Gilbert thought she looked pleased at his words. In the meanwhile Sir Guy, to whom Mr. Divilbiss, with his quaint Americanisms and pithy observations, appeared a person worth knowing, after a brief colloquy with Mr. Lear extended a cordial invitation to the traveller to visit him at The Place.

"The Place, eh?" said Divilbiss,

"that's a rather funny name for a man's house, isn't it? Built probably in the good old days when every man's soul was the fee simple of his feudal lord, who took the firstfruits of field, orchard and fishing nets, and sometimes even took a minotaur's interest in the nuptial festivities of his retainers. The Place, eh! no doubt because in those times it was the only place in the district at all fit for a Christian family to live in."

For a moment a sort of angry flush overspread Sir Guy's goodnatured face, while Mr. Lear undoubtedly showed his annoyance, but the unaffected baronet, quick to see that Mr. Divilbiss meant no discourtesy, and himself a lover of candor and straightforwardness in man and woman, at once recognized the lawyer's innocence of any thought of giving offence.

"No doubt," he replied, "it sounds rather vainglorious; I do not know but that I myself have thought so now and then. But I am not responsible for the name, I assure you, though, out of respect to those who have gone before, I would not change it. As to the good old days, Mr. Divilbiss, who shall say that in many respects they were not worthy of being so called? But good or bad, if you will come to my house I shall be glad to welcome you as the first of your countrymen, so far as I know, to stand under its roof-tree."

"You are very good, Sir Guy Bodrugan,"—Mr. Divilbiss seemed to delight in giving the baronet his full name and title—"and I accept your offer with pleasure."

"In that case, then," said Sir Guy, "dine with me to-morrow; Mr. Lear will be there, and it will probably be my last dinner at home for some time, for something tells me the wind is changing. If you will allow me, I will call for you in the afternoon,—say three o'clock,—for I shall be in town in the morning with Mr. Arderne."

Mr. Divilbiss having assented to this proposal, the vicar's party took their departure, leaving, it must be confessed,

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