

she was somewhat in disgrace with her own husband, and dreaded while she looked forward to meeting him. Of course she must obey the summons; but she looked wistfully at Erskine, and was half-ashamed to think how much she would like to be able to make herself think it sensible to take the child with her. He, too, was wistful. He never approved of his mother's absences from himself. He asked her the same question in many forms: "Was she sure and certain and positive that she would return that very truly night?" and "Would she bring papa home with her?" Over this last Ruth considered. The telegram was ambiguous, after the manner of those two-sided messengers. Did it mean that she could return that night or that they both would? She did not know; the utmost she could say to Erskine was, that she would come, unless something which they could not foresee, or help, prevented; and that she would certainly "bring papa home" if she could. And then she went away with all speed.

Judge Burnham was on the platform before the train fairly halted; his greeting was warm, but he seemed preoccupied and in great haste. He hurried her into a carriage.

"I have to go at once to an important gathering," he explained. "Will you mind coming in with me? I shall not be detained over a half-hour?"

"Is it a court house?" she asked, as the car-