

quick, close grip, and a feeling of infinite love came nestling around his heart.

"Tom," she began wistfully.

"Yes, Mabel?" questioningly.

There was no time for another word, the door handle was slowly moving around.

"It's Miss Mccson," she whispered, her breath coming and going, for a sudden puzzlesome question had arisen in her mind. She had forgotten all about Miss Mccson—to tell the truth, she had not taken her into account at all. What was she to do and say? Introduce Tom as this afternoon's hansom cab driver, and nothing else? Goodness, no; it would not be possible. Introduce him as a friend only? Yes, but what it there were to come a reconciliation?

How horrid and deceitful it would look! But introduce Tom as her husband! (A quick throb at her heart.) What if he insisted on their remaining only friends? What if he should reject the projectol forgiveness? What if he should exclaim: "Pardon me; I was her husband at one time, but Mrs. Lancaster decided to dissolve the partnership?" What agony and humillation!

The door opened and the dear, humble old companion entered—far too meek of aspect to cow any ravening wolf except by her old-fashioned stately sweetness.

"Miss Meeson," said Mrs. Lancaster, falteringly, "Miss Meeson, dear, we have a guest at dinner to-night; let me introduce Tom-my Tom? The man who was ever, and ever will be the dearest and best of men. There-there was a slight misunderstanding, almost all my fault; but we have found, he and I-me-that's to say-I mean he-we"-There was a pucker on her face; she faltered and then said, tremulously and with exquisite tenderness, "He is my dear husband." Then she smiled up in his face and laid her head on his shoulder, as much out of the fullness of her love as to hide that awful cabman's badge, which blazed hugely on his breast. Then she laughed a queer little laugh, that had a glimpse of tears in it not so very far off.

"I left my spectacles in the other

room," said Miss Mecson softly, though she was peering through them as she spoke.

I think there was something very like a look of rapture on both husband and wife's faces.

"You have forgotten to pay me my fare," he said after a bit. "Do you chisel all your cabbies out of their fares, dear?"

She laughed up in his face with a murmur of womanly tenderness.

"Well, your real fare is two shillings, but I will give you a 'golden crown." She raised her face as she spoke. No need to explain the meaning of the words to one who loved her as did this strange cabman. He took the "golden crown" hetween both his hands and kissed her fair forchead tenderly.

Husband and wife were reunited, never to part again. It was not until their mutual tears of joy had ceased that the little urchin in the street was remembered. He and another little imp were found taking it in turns to watch the horse.

End.