

EDITH YORKE.

CHAPTER XX.

Having given their consent to Edith's engagement, the Yorkes immediately adopted Dick Rowan as their own. They were not people to be friendly by halves. Even Melicent was prompt, and when she saw with what pleased surprise she met her advances, she became still more amiable. Clara, who lived in a rare atmosphere, enraptured more readily, and could not enough praise her cousin's choice. He insisted that she should leave the hotel, and stay at her home. She was completely won by the almost boyish affection and respect with which he treated her husband, his first and only former friend in Boston, and by his fondness for her children.

There is no necessity for any such banishment, my dear. Edith is very friendly to him, but she surrounds herself with a fine reserve which he could not break through if he would. I could as soon fancy a gentleman approaching familiarly the Queen of Sheba. They are very little alone together. "They are very delicious coffee!" Carl exclaimed, and immediately began to tell some incidents of his journey.

No, I'd rather fight wind and wave than men. I could attack a man if he were doing anything absolutely wrong, but to kill him because he belonged to a foreign nation and carried a different flag, that would be too cold-blooded for me. The two sailors, with Edith and Clara, visited the Osthello school, carrying gifts for the children and encouragement to the teacher.

With a laugh and a toss of the head, Clara rose from her lowly seat, and stepping out through the window, began to promenade up and down the garden-walk. She saw through this great, transparent creature perfectly, and was amused, and she knew not what else. One could not be angry with the fellow, she said laughingly to herself.

Looking at the question in that light, I would say that no one has the right to dogmatize one way or the other. Let each woman follow the bent of her own mind, and be as learned as she will. I only stipulate that she shall not be loud voiced nor indiscreet, but wear her learning with a grace, as an ornament, not a weapon, when there is need.

Let us confine ourselves to the case in hand. Your sublime generalizing has done you very little credit if it has led you to disturb the peace of a good honest man, and put our own cruelty in question. Occurs it not only cruel, it is mean and vulgar. Of course you are ready with the childish excuse that you meant no harm.