

356 LADIES WHOSE BRIGHT EYES

The younger son inherited this place and took the name of Willam de Morant de Winterburne St. Martin. He was the ancestor of Dionissia."

"Well, I said I regarded her as a sort of niece," Mrs. Lee-Egerton put in. "I suppose the Egertons sold Tamworth and made what money they did make somewhere else. And the Morants stuck to this place and didn't make any money at all. That's the usual story of great families."

"That's about it," Sir William said; "they went on living in the place until at last they were only tenants where they had been owners, and now there is only Dionissia. Her father was rather a good farmer, and when he died two years ago he was able to leave her a few hundreds. She has been to Girton, you know, that's why she is so extraordinarily well educated. She knows more about history than any man I ever met, and I met a good few when I was having encyclopædias compiled."

"She's certainly an extraordinary young woman," Mrs. Lee-Egerton conceded amiably; "she doesn't even dress really badly."

"I should think she didn't," Sir William ejaculated.

"Oh, well," Mrs. Lee-Egerton said, "you can't expect one woman to say more than that of another." She remained for a moment in a slight reverie. "About the way you said the 'world appeared to you when you came to your senses,'" she continued, "I suppose what it comes to is that when you dreamed that Dionissia was in the fourteenth century you wanted to be back there; but when you came to find that she was here, you thought that, as they say in New York, 'Little old New York is good enough for me.'"

"Of course," Sir William said, "I have put it to Dionissia that any century that produced her was