

"How ridiculous, when I have never had a lover in my life but Dick, and he was married long ago. I do not think you need fear such a catastrophe."

"You will not be able to make that boast long, Mary. Stuart will have you secured long before I shall be fully settled in my new home, if he can have his way."

He looked down at the little woman by his side, and his keen eyes did not fail to see the sudden dropping of the long lashes on the brightly coloring cheeks.

"Ah, little sister, you have been snared at last," he gladly thought.

It had for a long time been a cherished wish of Robbie's that his friend and school-mate should one day claim a brother's relationship with him.

He was at home now, with his bride, spending a few weeks with his mother ere he again should leave them for another long period of separation.

His wife, already, was beginning to seem like