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the attack on himself. There was nothing especially galling in the lines—only a piece of vulgar and decidedly bucolic ridicule of his personal appearance, winding up with unkindly reference to his "swelled head." The wit was that of the small boy who shouts "smarty" from the backyard fence, and Mr. Howard laughed gleefully as he flung the paper aside.

"Well, so much for that. Now tell me what you are crying about, Louise."

"I'm not crying," she replied in a quavering voice.

"Then they're the best imitation tears I ever saw—or felt," he answered, gently touching her damp cheek.

"Well—I'm tired—and—and that tiresome paper had no business to say such things about you. I—I just hate politics."

Mr. Howard laughed again, for by this time his left arm was around the teacher's shoulders, and the teacher's tired head was dangerously close to a gray sleeve.

"So you don't care for politics. Well, neither do I. There are much better things in the world." He proceeded to give a lengthy illustration of what he meant by the "better things," undaunted by the severe environment of blackboards and knife-scarred desks.

"You haven't any right," protested Louise rather faintly.

"They have rights who dare maintain them," quoted her lover. "I've read that in some old school book. Now, are you going to apologise, and—well, this will be the third time of asking, and you know what I said about it."

"You were very rude," said Louise, with a flush in her cheeks, that Mr. Howard considered extremely attractive,—"no, I'm not going to apologise, and I'm not going to ask about—about anything."

"Then we'll consider the matter arranged," said the gentleman calmly, "and if you don't resign the first week in December, I'll ask for your resignation, because you don't give enough attention to the backward pupils, the ones who need encouragement."

"I'm not going to resign," said Louise, firmly—"at least, not for a long time yet."

"Yes, you are," said Howard confidently. She raised her head imperiously to meet a glance just a little firmer than her own. Then she looked at the defeated candidate's determined chin, and with a sigh of mingled relief and shame, decided that it is just as well to know when one is beaten.

"I really was rude," she admitted without much show of repentance, "and I wanted you to get in all the time."

"My dear little girl," said George tenderly, as he wondered if the school janitor could be bribed to stay away for another half hour, "some day I mean to be Member of Parliament. But I am prouder of this victory than I could be of a province full of votes. And I'm awfully sorry for Wilder, who is too decent a chap to be ill-treated by a frivolous young woman, and I'm going to write to the editor of the 'Grant Tribune' to-morrow, and tell him that he's done me a great personal favour by abusing me in his miserable columns. I think I'll ask him to be my best man."

"Well," said Miss Delia, as Louise went upstairs that night at the unapproved hour of eleven, "do you think you can take care of my grandmother's china and the silver-teapot?"

"I don't know what in the world you mean, Miss Delia," stammered the prevaricating maiden.

"Didn't I say I was going to leave the china to George Howard? Well, when a girl comes home with her hair looking as if some one had been stroking it the wrong way, and with her eyes looking like brown diamonds, and when a man who was beaten for Parliament last week stays for tea and doesn't eat anything but biscuits, and yet keeps grinning as if he'd found a gold-mine, I'm not such a fool as not to know what's happened. I'll give you my recipe for mustard pickles if you like, and that India relish. George was always awful fond of them, and it's a queer world anyway, and men aren't easy to understand, but I've never known one of them that didn't take to those pickles."

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