

counselled a different course; but she remained obstinate. On the occasion of this last interview, she gave him a small diamond pin as a slight token of her appreciation of his unwearying services. This he put in his cravat. As he left her, and went down the stairway, face to face he met my father, returned by a late train. Immediately the husband recognized the former lover; but of him he took no notice, for, as he afterwards told his wife, he considered the man too mean to be noticed by a gentleman. He learned from the servants that, during his absence, this man had been in his house several times; he went direct to my mother's boudoir, and there ensued the scene that Fenton had partly overheard. On my father's part a cool accusation against my mother to the effect that she who would not help her husband to redeem his honour, had received in his house her former lover; had, as he knew, given him one jewel; perhaps, had lavished on him all those jewels which, in themselves, would have set her husband right with the world; and oh! Lily, how can men be so blind, so wicked? then followed an insinuation that my mother was purchasing silence concerning some former secrets between the two; and a defiance of her to refute the charge by showing him the jewels!

"He did not know the impossibility he had suggested; but she, who knew it only too well, who knew what she had done for him, who felt that of all his insults this was the last and greatest, without answering, walked from the room, and that very day left his house.

"In the correspondence that followed, he never modified nor retracted what he had said; on the contrary, he stated that, with the aid of expert detectives, he had discovered that she had raised large sums of money on her jewels; that the man who conducted the negotiation was identified with her former lover; and that unless this transaction was satisfactorily explained by her, he could only account for her silence in one way. It angers me still, Lily, to think of the blindness and stupidity of the man. He consented without demur to my mother's keeping her child, and indignantly refused to accept a part of her income. Of that I was always glad, although his lofty spirit may have been saved from an ignominious fall by the death of his cousin and the bequest of a fortune. By living economically at Ste. Cécile, my mother, in a few years, redeemed her jewels. After that she had