

Such a display is perfectly absurd. The child will not be fit to be seen at the church."

"Yes, yes, mamma dear," said the girl cheerfully. "There, there, Maude will put me straight in a few moments. Kiss me, dear, and I'll go upstairs again; it must be nearly time."

For the sake of the dresses of herself and daughter, her ladyship did not let the bride come too close, but brushed the cheek lightly with her lips; and then the girl turned to her brother, holding out her hands.

He took them, gazing at her at arm's length with mingled pride and sorrow. Then the bridal dress was once more forgotten, and brother and sister were tightly locked in each other's arms.

Her ladyship uttered a wail of dismay, but it was not heeded, as Tom said in a low tone—

"Keep up your pecker, Di, old girl. It's all nonsense about love and that sort of thing. It's duty toward your mother, catechism fashion, and you've done it. You're sold into bondage, eh?"

"Yes, Tom dear," she said, cheerfully. "I shall not mind."

"With all Googie's money to play with I should think not."

"I did not mean that, dear," said the girl, gravely. "I seem to be going right away from you, but there is Maude; don't let her be married like I am, Tom."

"What can I do?"

"I don't know; only try to help her and papa. Be more at home for both their sakes—and Tryphie's."

Tom started, and looked sharply in his sister's face.