

She had a very charming face, he thought. —She looked half-frightened at his request, and then a brave, modest expression came into her beautiful blue eyes. "It is not worth making a secret of," she said. "I only thought—when I saw the golden light making those hills and buildings look so dream-like and unsubstantial—of Bunyan's 'Pilgrim's Progress,' and the Celestial City that the pilgrims saw from afar."

In the silent evening air, speech sometimes travels further than we know. The girl was quite unconscious that her clear, fine utterance had reached the ear of one other person beside her immediate auditor. A middle-aged man with a grave, keen face, who had been leaning over the bulwarks, with his eyes fixed abstractedly on the water, and his head turned away from the golden glow of the West, was struck by her words. He changed his position a little, so that he could see the girl's fair profile, studied it for a moment or two with a look of kindly interest, then rose up and walked away. But as he passed the couple, he heard John Hannington's reply.

An amused laugh came first. Then a half apology.

"I laugh from surprise, not from amusement, Miss Raeburn. The imagination required to convert smoky, whisky-loving, jute-manufacturing Dundee into a Celestial City is prodigious. Bunyan himself could not have possessed more."

"Ah, you do not understand," said the girl, smiling herself now and shaking her head. "I had forgotten Dundee altogether. But you must not abuse it; because it is going to be my home."

The gentleman who had passed them was out of hearing by this time.

"Do you know who that is?" said Hannington, looking after him with interest. "Moncrieff of Torresmuir; one of the wealthiest men in Scotland. Some people say, one of the most unfortunate. But I'm not among the number."

"Why?"

"Why unfortunate? or why am I not among the people who call him so? Well, I'll answer both questions, Miss Raeburn. In the meantime, won't you sit down?" He grasped a small deck chair by the back-rail, and gently pushed it towards her. "You can look at the sky while