

chances there are in this mortal life. Never mind, Sylvia, some day we will settle down into this beautiful home of mine, and you can't think how happy we shall all be."

"I can think how happy I should be if you were always with me," she answered with childlike simplicity, "it's when I remember about your going away that something inside me hurts. I can't bear the way it hurts sometimes." Her eyes darkened with swift pain, and Giles patted her shoulder caressingly, his voice taking on a caressing tone. "You mustn't think too much about hurting, only think all the time that I shan't be very long away, and that you must use every minute of the time to learn to be everything a grown-up young lady has got to be."

"The sort of grown-up young lady you would like?" she asked.

"Yes, just the sort I should like," he answered, "I shall expect something very splendid. And now let us go all round the garden and see how everything is looking. Grace may be coming down one day this week."

But Grace did not go down that week, nor the next, nor the next—and by and by Sylvia said sagely to Miss Stansdale:

"I don't believe Miss Cardew wants to come and see this lovely place. She is always too busy every time monsieur asks her."

"Have you always called Sir Giles, monsieur?" Helen Stansdale said, with a smile, "and why do you call him that?"

"Because, you see, I began it when first we met," Sylvia, curled up in the broad window seat of the schoolroom, looked across at her governess and smiled, "Mummy and I had lived a lot in France, and you say monsieur to every gentleman there. I think it pretty to say it. So when Sir Giles came, I said monsieur to him, and then, afterwards, when we got to England, I just still called him that, and I like it. It means, sir, you see, and Sir Giles is a knight, isn't he? I read the other day about somebody who was, 'a very perfit, gentil knight.' Monsieur is like that, isn't he?"

"Indeed, I think he is," little Miss Stansdale answered quickly. "I never knew anybody so thoughtful and considerate, and yet he is quite a young man. I should like to see the lady he is going to marry. To be his wife she ought to be almost perfect."

Miss Helen's gentle soul bubbled over with enthusiasm, and that highest sentiment which is far removed from sickly sentiment, and her small charge understood her.

"I think monsieur ought to have the best queen in the world," she said. "he thinks there isn't any queen like Miss Cardew. But she doesn't care about making him happy all the time, she lets him do everything for her. I wish she would come here, because it hurts him when she doesn't come. And when things hurt him, they hurt me," the child added quaintly. Helen Stansdale looked tenderly at the small white face and deep eyes. During the few weeks she had been at Manderby Court, she had learnt to love the little girl who was in some ways so old-fashioned and knowledgeable, in others than an absolute child. Life in Sir Giles' household was a real rest and refreshment to the gentle little lady who had found existence in her brother's suburban villa almost insupportable, and her brother himself a very sharp thorn in the flesh. That Robert had, as he himself put it, "washed his hands of her," she regretted, because in her gentleness of soul, she would have regretted anything that militated against peace; but it was an undoubted relief to be out of the sphere of Robert's blustering voice and Robert's overbearing masterfulness. And her own conscience upheld her in the course she had taken. She was sure it had been right to come away and earn money for herself, instead of being dependent on Robert's bounty, a bounty grudgingly and grumblingly bestowed.

In Giles Tredman's house she found congenial surroundings, and he himself treated the little lady with a chivalrous courtesy and respect, such as her brother would have considered quite superfluous to bestow upon a woman. She sometimes wondered whether the life at Manderby would be quite so peaceful and desirable when the master of the



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