

A Debt of Honor.

Scene: Mrs. Stockson's flat. Mrs. Wilkings who has just come in, was shopping with Mrs. Stockson a month previously and paid an account for her amounting to eight and nine pence. Mrs. Wilkings having waited some time to give Mrs. Stockson the chance of settling up of her own accord has now decided to drop a gentle hint by way of refreshing Mrs. Stockson's memory.

Mrs. Stockson (greeting her visitor effusively): O, it is so good of you to call, dear. You haven't been here for a long time. I began to be afraid I had offended you.

Mrs. Wilkings: What an absurd idea! We have known each other too long for that I should hope dear. I was only thinking yesterday what a pleasant time we had shopping together a short time ago.

Mrs. Stockson: Wasn't it lovely. We must go and have another round together. Witty and Watt have got a sale on, and I hear the bargains are wonderful. And I want some cretonnes, and some short curtains—

Mrs. Wilkings (seizing her opportunity): Why, you bought some short curtains at Brown and Thompson's last month with me. I remember that distinctly because—

Mrs. Stockson: O, those things. They've worn shockingly. They went threadbare the first time they were washed. I forget what I paid for them, but—

Mrs. Wilkings: It was eight and nine pence. I'm sure of that, because, if you remember—

Mrs. Stockson: Did I give as much as that for them? My, I shan't go to Brown and Thompson's again in a hurry. But I had so many things to buy that day that I

was ready to take almost anything they gave me at the finish. It's a great mistake, and I shan't—

Mrs. Wilkings: Yes, I remember you saying you had spent nearly all your money, but the curtains looked so cheap—

Mrs. Stockson: Did I? Then, I'm very sorry I bought them now. However, it's no use crying over spilt milk, is it dear?

Mrs. Wilkings (sticking to her guns): And so I went up to the cash desk and paid for them.

Mrs. Stockson: O, Yes. That was very kind of you, dear. I remember, I had so many packages to carry, I could not get to my purse.

Mrs. Wilkings (affecting to be doubtful on the point): Let me see, did you pay me again when we came out of the shop?

Mrs. Stockson: Of course, I must have done surely. I could never overlook a matter of that kind.

Mrs. Wilkings: But you remember you had your arms full of parcels, so that you couldn't get to your purse, and when you got into the 'bus you said to me—

Mrs. Stockson: Yes, you paid the fares, didn't you? But then, I paid them going down, so that makes it quits, doesn't it?

Mrs. Wilkings: O, I know we're quits about the fares, but I couldn't remember you paying me the eight and nine pence and—

Mrs. Stockson: But, my dear, I've always so careful about money matters. I wouldn't owe anybody anything for worlds.

Mrs. Wilkings (a little desperate at the prospect of losing her money): It's a funny thing that when I got home I should have found I was just eight and nine pence short, isn't it dear?