

do, you would realise what a big, irresponsible child he is. He knows perfectly that Anna has always been after him. You may trust a man for that. And he is so constituted that he can't bear to hurt a woman's feelings. He wrote that letter just to smooth Anna down, and I don't believe there was a word of truth in it, so far as his actual feelings were concerned. Won't you make allowances, Kitty, and give him another chance?"

"I should be afraid to marry such a man," said Kitty coldly. "One could never be sure of a moment's happiness or peace."

"And you have written, you say, breaking off the engagement? Did you send the letter to Glenlochan?"

"Yes."

"Posted to-day?" she asked with scarcely concealed eagerness.

Kitty nodded.

"He won't get it for a day or two, I'm afraid. He was leaving yesterday; unless some change of plan happened."

Again Kitty made no answer; and then Clare, as if tired of the subject, said she would like to go to her room. "Kitty would be so very good as to tell her where she could find it."

"I'm afraid it won't be ready yet. Mother wasn't expecting you. Of course, you haven't seen mother yet. But come up. I think I know where you would go."

They ascended the wide gallery stair together. Kitty showed her into one of the most spacious of the guest-rooms and immediately left her.

She did her duty and no more. She could not find it in her heart to be cordial to Cyril's wife.

Clare closed the door, and her expression changed to one of quick, resentful anger.

"Heavens, what people! Nothing can be done with them!" she muttered. "They have got the Noncon-