

“‘Oh, do,’ I cried, all interest at once. ‘They want men like you in the House. I hope you’ll go in and win.’

“He turned to me with a sudden light in his eyes.

“‘I will, Elizabeth, if you bid me,’ he said quietly. ‘I told my father what I came for. I know very well if I do go in I shall be the successful candidate, and I’m not going to exist six or eight months of the year in clubs; nor am I going to inhabit that big house in Belgrave Square alone. What do you say, then?’

“I could not speak, dear; I knew the turning point of my life had come. He did not seem to resent my silence or to wonder at it. He took a turn or two across the room, and then came and stood in front of me.

“‘I know that you have now a successful and influential position here, Elizabeth,’ he said quietly. ‘I have heard of you in a great many unexpected quarters. It is asking a great deal, that you should give it up for such ordinary things as I can offer. Only my love is not ordinary, Elizabeth; my very soul cleaves to you, as I knew that bitter day at Lucerne when we met face to face, and I realised what I had done in asking another woman to fill