

CHAPTER I.

ONE OF THE DIVIDENDS OF "THE GREAT EUREKA MINE SHARES (LIMITED.)"

ONE of the prettiest little residences on East Avenue, Toronto, Canada, was occupied by Mrs Colonel Wyngate and her only daughter, a young lady of nineteen.

Mrs Wyngate was a *petite* elderly lady, a faded beauty, with a certain haughty dignity of manner, which compelled attention and was considered proof of high breeding. She had moved in a select society circle in the old land, but after the death of Colonel Wyngate, her consequent inability to entertain as formerly had constrained well-informed friends to advise her to remove to Canada; where, they were told, a lady with a limited income could live without any appreciable difference of the style to which she had been accustomed, and without running the humbling risk of being considered a poor relation.

No doubt Mrs Wyngate's relations were entirely sincere in their anxiety to ship her off to Canada. Their consciences were also at rest as to her future, for it was known that the late Colonel had left sufficient, with prudent management, to provide not only a comfortable living, but also a certain amount of quiet, aristocratic style.