

pronounce sentence. Henceforward you shall labor from sunrise even unto sunset. Cook shall you, sew and scrub, yea and wash dishes; and in the sweat of your brow shall your wives and families eat bread, yea and pie and cake, from now till the end of time. We have spoken it. In order that no moment of precious time be lost, upon these stoves shall you at once begin your labors. Them shall you black-lead, and these dishes, pots and pans even to the last one, shall you cleanse. In our clemency we have not given you the full penalty of the law.—Lead him away."

A chorus of approval came from the other four, and the hall suddenly filled with female forms who joined hands and circled round in fiendish dance, shouting "Begin, begin at once." Some tried to drag him to the piles of dishes; others thought the stoves should first benefit by his labors. They gave him no chance to remonstrate or defend himself. He cried, "I have no wife." They answered, "But your mother and your sister, how you tortured them! Away with him!" A cry of despair burst from his lips; he tried to wrench himself free.

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"Why Mr. Anvers, what's the matter? You're shouting terribly in your sleep. Are you ill?"

"Oh no," groaned Anvers, "but I've had a narrow escape. Never mind the table now. You look tired. Sit down and take a rest."

IMPERATRIX.

Reserve.

No mental quality, probably, can be exactly defined to the satisfaction of all, and our admiration or dislike for any man's peculiarities must to a great extent bias our judgment in the proper definition of those peculiarities.

No quality of mind is more differ-

ently estimated than that of reserve. Some praise it and others condemn it. Those who admire it would paraphrase it as modesty and decent caution; its disparagers use it as a synonym of closeness, and oppose it to favor-winning frankness. Like all other qualities it is good in moderation but an evil in excess.

It leads a man to think before he speaks, and to reflect before he acts, and is thus, generally speaking, a sign of strength of character. No man can be great who has not a great amount of reserve. He who can not keep his own counsel can be neither great king, nor general, nor statesman. The air of mystery which surrounds the reserved man prevents the many from penetrating to his utmost purposes and ultimate resolve: otherwise must he fail in his intent.

Nothing has greater influence in the lowering of our estimation of a man than to be unduly intimate with him. "Familiarity breeds contempt." Nothing human is perfect, and the illusion we have indulged in towards the object of our far-off worship is soon dispelled by a nearer sight. The beautiful stage scenery we so admired in the distance loses its color and proportions as we approach it. It is not well to know our friends too well. Reserve, which is caution and prudence and depth, is necessary to insure success, and the man who would shine as diplomatist or lawyer or politician must practise the quality in all his dealings with the world. He will never be great without it.

But what is worth more than fame? The friendship of a true man is worth it all, and he who always takes and never gives must grow poor in friends, for so friendship runs by contraries. And we see those who attain the highest hope of early ambition, live, and often die without friends.

How often do we see that hateful reserve that blocks the way to making friends, that keeps a man within him-