

"I'm sure she didn't do my mama any good," was the dogged rejoinder, "and I hope she won't ever try to do me any good, because I'd be naughty just to vex her. I wish she had never come here."

"Hush, Pearl, hush!" her father returned, crushing down the thought that was in his own heart. "Come, let us go in."

She took his hand resolutely.

"Yes," she said, "we'll go to dear mama and tell her that Lady Stapleton is never to come back to make her feel bad again. Never—never!"

Herrick felt that the words uttered in fervid love were fraught with tragic import.