

ESMERALDA

As it is, she is avowedly reducing; which fact disarms comment. Still, ideas come to her rather slowly, and I might almost say visibly. As this idea formulated she tapped the arm of her chair slowly, the magnificent Morton diamond showing to great advantage on her well-cared-for hand. At length she spoke.

"Allie!" said she—short for Aloysius—her playful way—years ago we had got beyond the Mr. Penny stage, though of course she will always be Mrs. DeWynt to me—"Allie," said she, "all this charitable effort we are making in connection with the war is giving me a vision of—of larger things—things even beyond our widespread horizon. Since we have been knitting and going regularly to roll bandages on Thursday mornings, and more particularly since we have been doing such earnest work—like this bridge drive of ours——"

"Yes?" I tactfully broke in, giving her the opportunity to catch her breath. "Yes, yes?"

"——it makes me feel that I have not,