

interrupted by the opening of the door of the box and the arrival of their friend the architect.

"Hobby!" she cried, "Do clap, Hobby, we *must* make him come out again! Bravo! Bravo! Bravo!"

Hobby responded by emitting a piercing guttersnipe's whistle.

"Hobby! Hobby! How dare you!" And she stamped her foot indignantly. But the conductor reappearing at this instant, she began elapping afresh.

Hobby waited until the noise died down.

"They've all gone stark staring mad," he said with a ringing laugh. "My whistle was only to add to the row. But how are you, Maud, old girl? How are you, Mae, old ehap?"

It was their first opportunity that evening for having a real talk together.

The friendship between the three was a very genuine and strangely intimate one. Allan knew all about Hobby's former relationship with Maud, and although the two men never diseussed it, it constituted a peculiar bond between them. Hobby was still a little in love with Maud, but he was tactful enough not to display it. Maud's womanly instinct, on the other hand, did not allow her to be ignorant of the fact. Indeed, she derived not a little satisfaction from the knowledge, as the tender warmth in her brown eyes seemed to show, and she rewarded him with a sisterly affection. All three had been able at different moments in their lives to be of use to each other, to render each other real serviees, and Allan in particular felt under a deep debt of obligation to Hobby, who had enabled him to raise a sum of fifty thousand dollars for teechanical experimnts and the starting of his factory, giving personal security for the loan. It was Hobby, moreover, who had submitted his great projeet to Lloyd, the Railway King, and arranged for the fortheoming interview. Hobby was a genuine admirer of Allan and was glad to do everything he could to help him. In the days when Allan had invented nothing but the diamond-stone "Allanite" the architect used to go about asking his acquaintanees, "Have you met Allan, the inventor of 'Allanite'? That's a man of whom more will be heard presently."