

all,' said Alice, quietly. 'My mind and my soul have a wide life, and that is enough.'

'Mrs. King was silent for a minute, then she remarked: 'I never know until Mr. Graham told me that your adversity is not the result of misfortune, but of dishonesty, in your father's business partner. It seems to me that would make it harder to bear.'

'Mr. Graham appears to take a singular interest in telling that story,' said Miss Percival. 'How did he possibly chance to tell it to you?'

'It was apropos of young Thornton, Mrs. King answered. 'He came in one evening when you were singing altogether, and the sight did not seem to please him. To account for his evident disapproval, he told me why he thought it an undesirable association.'

'Mr. Graham should certainly allow me to be the judge of that,' replied the other coldly. 'Is it not strange that even Christian people think resentment in some cases an absolute duty!'

'A remnant of the heathen in us all,' rejoined Mrs. King. 'But it has been on my mind ever since to apologize to you for introducing Philip Thornton. If I had ever heard of this matter, of course I should have asked your permission—though I believe he came in upon us one day when we were sitting together, and there seemed no alternative.'

'There was no alternative,' Alice answered, 'and I assure you I had no objection to knowing him. Why should I have any? He had nothing to do with his uncle's conduct in a business transaction.'

'Very true,' said Mrs. King; 'but most people would not remember that. However, you are not like most people. You are made of quite special clay, as I always knew. By the by, have you seen him lately?'

'Only in the choir, and once or twice at Mr. Richter's. I have been struck by a change in him.'

'There is a great change. That is the reason I asked if you had seen him. I hear that he has broken with his uncle, or been discarded by the latter. And on what ground, do you suppose?'

Alice shook her head. 'I can not even imagine.'

'Did you ever see Constance Irving? You know what a beautiful girl she is. Well, she is Mrs. Thornton's niece, and it has always been understood that the two young people would marry. But suddenly everything has been broken off; Philip has left his uncle's house, cut society, and gone to studying law. Naturally people were curious to know the meaning of such conduct; and since everything is known sooner or later in this delightful world, it has transpired that he declined to fulfil his part of the contract unless Constance would become a Catholic. She refused, his uncle and aunt were indignant at the demand, and the young man was dismissed, to come to his senses or lose his fortune. How people do surprise one sometimes! Who could ever have imagined that it was in him to take so firm a stand on such a ground?'

Alice did not answer for a moment. She was thinking of some words of Graham's uttered a few months before: "He is one of those characters that float with the current, but have no strength to go against it. At present he is a Catholic—after a fashion—but some day the world will offer him an inducement, and he will give up his religion as his uncle has done." She had doubted the accuracy of his judgment at the time, and now she felt how much truer was her instinct than Graham's knowledge. A moment of trial had come, and instead of floating with the current, Philip had stood firm on a point where many Catholics, of much more apparent fervor, fail.

(To be continued.)

WHAT MRS. GRUNDY SAYS.

That there would be no sewing societies if only deaf and dumb women could attend.

That a small line of good ancestors is better than a long line of creditors.

That some of the best of fashionable starts have been made from the laundry tub.

That it is very evident that some people intend to have all their happiness in this world.

That justice would look funny, but might see more clearly with spectacles on.

That the difference between a subscription and the cash is sometimes wide.

That the "haughty stare" never conveys the idea of refinement or gentility.

That it is a splendid plan never to speak of persons to whom we feel a dislike.

That a pleasant day is an annoyance to people who love to complain of the weather.

That they are wise parents who supervise the literature their children read.

He who despises his neighbor in adversity, may rest assured that he did not love him in prosperity.—St. Gregory the Great.

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