

(which sometimes arrives) when the discovery is made that the glamour has gone, that the lute has a rift in it, or, more serious, that the lady is Leah and not Rachel.

The birth of the first child, a daughter, say, might similarly be considered a landmark; yet it is possible for a daughter to grow into a woman and never disturb or arrest her father's even tenor until the moment when she declares her intention of marrying a youth who is hateful to him. On the other hand, the loan of a halfpenny newspaper in a railway compartment may change a career.

The cinema will always have over mere writers the advantage of presenting the visible moving scene; but, with all this heavy artillery, not yet, I notice, has it been able to dispense with the assistance of our poor words. We still have to help it out. This being so, it is hard that we cannot share in the benefits of the alliance; for what novels could be set before our readers if only we could now and then resort to the ingenious and vivid resources of the film!

But this is a digression—in a book which was to have none. Let me forthwith introduce my hero and his mother, characteristically if not dramatically employed.

It was a winter's afternoon—one of many. The lamplighter had finished his round, and it was the best time of all: after tea. Scene: a Victorian sitting-room, with a whatnot in the corner. Dramatis