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a sort of inattentive nonchalance when her father had made some very just and practical observations upon the latter subject, and pursuing his own conversation as if he either did not hear what Mr. Graham said, or thought it quite unworthy of notice. That was not the way to the daughter's heart ; but Mrs. Graham rather admired it.

The second course was nearly concluded, and a great part of the usual subjects of a dinner-table had been exhausted. The country gentlemen had done all they could on the topics of pheasants, hares, grouse, and partridges. It had been declared that not one woodcock had yet been seen in the country ; which those who wished for an early winter pronounced a bad sign, and those who desired a late one a good sign. The markets and the weather had been discussed. Some of the ladies had enjoyed a little bit of scandal, delicately administered by Captain Hales, and it was over. The sucking politician's oratory began to fail. The Honourable Captain Somebody amused himself with an orange-wood toothpick, and looked as if he were about to be led to the block. His sister sat in patient insipidity ; and Mrs. Graham herself was beginning to find