

### THAT NORWARD BUSINESS ROMANCE

abrupt way, that you have brought ruin on the Norward and on me as well?"

"If you have been doing what is right, young man, there is no need for any one being ruined by any action of mine."

"But what will people say when they learn that you have withdrawn your confidence in the Norward?"

"I cannot prevent people talking as they have a mind to. I needed the money, and the sale of my stock was a legitimate business transaction in a rising market; and nobody can find fault with that."

"You might have at least spoken to me before taking such a step, considering the relations existing between us, and which, as I have been hoping, would become even closer, if I could once get you to listen to me on the matter which has brought me in to see you this afternoon."

The latter part of Mandeville's speech took none of the excitement out of his manner, but rather added to his confusion.

"You mean about my niece, I suppose," said Amos Langton.