

polite and radiant and normal. She was always wanting her friends to put themselves into dramatic situations for her amusement, and she considered it selfish if they did not. She and Percy were old friends, and she stated her view very clearly to him.

"It would be very striking if you came, Percy," she said; "and it is most disappointing of you not to. What reason can you have? You have quite got over it, and you ought to show the world that you have. Why don't you come?"

Percy sat up with a twinkle in his eye.

"I might be a professional beauty" he said, "and you a rising photographer. You are always wanting to pose one."

"Don't be rude; it doesn't suit you. Why don't you come?"

"I hate traveling on Bank Holiday," said Percy feebly.

"Tuesday after Easter is not Bank Holiday," said Mrs. Montgomery rather triumphantly. "The Monday is."

"Oh, but it's Leap Year," said Percy, "and that throws Bank Holiday one day further on."

"Well, if you won't come, you won't" said she. "And you'll have to entertain the Stoakleys if they get here before I am back. There are some people," she continued meditatively, "who always get everywhere rather before the time they are expected."

"Then I'll expect them to lunch," said Percy.

"If so, they will be here by one."