

Committed to his Charge

"But I do."

"But you don't. The majority of us wake up at thirty, at thirty-five we chant "too late," and at forty the worm begins."

"You are forty—I see no worm."

"You scotched him long ago."

"I'm glad it was him, not her."

The Rector turned to the fire and gave the logs a kick, a fresh shower of sparks rewarding his vigour.

"You are a different man, out of and in your own house," said his wife, returning to the attack. "I always think you lock your heart behind you when you close the hall door."

"This is worse than having one's hand read by a palmist."

"It is necessary—for your own good, my dear, as you sometimes say to poor Punch."

"Oh, I don't mind ; fire away. It is pleasant to spend one's time with a lady who never looks forward and who never looks back. There is great flattery to the male in the attitude."

"What does it matter what one *has* had, or what one is going to have—I want it *now*," and Helen's needle gave a vicious stab.

"Your practice is pleasant, dear, I bask in the