

white lies, anyway, Mother, and will never be held against you."

At dinner Mrs. Smith made the announcement.

"I want to give notice," she said, looking around the family circle, "I am resigning from my official position of the family alibi. Henceforth I am going to tell the truth."

"Mother, you will ruin us!" exclaimed curly-haired Ronald, the beloved of women, who worked in the drugstore.

"I am ruining you now," said his mother. "You'll grow up to be the sort of man who will pad your expense account, turn back the mileage guage on your car when you go to sell it, and tell your wife you are at a conference when you are playing pool. At this late date I give notice of change of policy. I will tell nothing but the truth—maybe not all of it, but what I tell will be the truth."

"Don't worry, kids," said the doctor, laughing. "Our mamma will not leave us cold like this. She is too good an adjuster, and has been at it too long. She will continue to be the shock-absorber. Between ourselves, I believe she enjoys it, just as anyone enjoys the thing he can do well. Now I am off for an afternoon in the woods, far from measles and mumps. Here's wishing good health to the village of Brent and its environs."

When Alice was leaving she asked again for the note. Her mother handed it to her. On the way Alice read it, for the conversation at the table had disturbed her.

"Dear Mr. Thorn," she read. "Alice did not write her essay last night. She is forgetful, as no doubt you know. She has her music lessons at 4:30, and I am writing this note, not to excuse her, but to prevent Miss Grant from being de-