

THE CONFEDERATE DAUGHTERS

no. It's me she wants. And I'll bet she's got the hardest job on the grounds picked out for me right now!"

Then he turned to the amused girl. "Thank you, Miss Louise," he said ruefully. "Please tell Mrs. Todhunter I'll be there in two or three minutes. Oh, of course, you got to laugh at me. There's nothin' you women like better than to see a man ordered around by his wife. And I'm a-goin' to obey orders, too. But I'll get back there by mighty slow degrees, I tell you!" With which he began a dignified retreat.

Suddenly, but a little distance ahead, he saw Tom Strickland parting from Mary. They were a handsome couple, the Colonel's daughter an exquisite type of the well-born southern girl, her hair and eyes a rarely pure brown, her skin of almost baby fairness, a proud little mouth, a joyous bearing; the youth a tall and well-built young country-bred gentleman, his eyes a clear blue, his hair a sun-burned yellow, his mouth and chin clean-cut and firm. Colonel Todhunter approved heartily of both.

As Mary left her companion and went to join her mother, a second girl, with obvious intent, crossed