

THE LIFTED VEIL

"If it's as far as I need to go, why isn't enough?"

"If it's as far as you need to go—then, sir, I'm afraid that I can't make any other suggestion."

The sympathetic carnal face looked blank. "What other suggestion could you make?"

"Only one that might help you to another idea of goodness."

The puzzled, uncomprehending look persisted. "What is it—the other idea of goodness?"

"Merely this, that goodness isn't wholly in doing or not doing certain things: it's in a point of view."

"And yet where there has to be a point of view there must be something to consider."

"Isn't there always something to consider?"

"Not always something mysterious and grave; and where a woman is in question we can only refer to the mysterious and grave to one particular."

"Whether the person in question is a woman or a man, our standard of right action has to be the same."

"Our standard of right action? I don't think I know what you mean."

"I mean nothing abstruse or far-fetched—nor more than the ancient law we call the golden rule."

"Oh!" The Canadian pondered on this. "That is, if—if what—what I'm afraid of should prove true I ought to stand by her as, in the same set of circumstances, I should want her to stand by me. Is that it?"

"I'm not applying the law; I'm only pointing it out. All I say is that it's there, and that life becomes very much simplified when we obey it. Whether you obey it or not must be for you to decide."

As the banker rose slowly to his feet he said, dryly,