

do anything for your sake. Oh, Miss Vaughn, I love you, I love you so." Her eyes fell, and a hot crimson flush stole over her face.

"I did not, indeed, Miss Vaughn, intend telling you to-day that I loved you," he said, laying one of his hands gently on hers. "But now I am impatient. Oh, Miss Vaughn," he cried passionately, "tell me, tell me that you love me, if only a little."

She raised her eyes to his.

"Do not say no," he pleaded; "do not crush out the little hope I cling to. Only give me a hope to cherish, that some day you will love me as I love you! I want to make no bargain—in matters of the heart that would be a perilous business. But you will help me, I know."

"I will," she answered softly, and there was a soft, far-away expression in her eyes. For she saw as in a dream that some day she might give him the love that he craved for, and this impulse was seconded by another feeling, that together they might be a help and blessing to those around them. A new spirit pervaded the girl. Her eyes were opened to the realities of life, as if a curtain had been drawn aside.

"Thank you, Lily—that is all I will ask for. Now I can wait patiently even for years in the hope of gaining in its completeness such a love as yours."