

# The Honourable Mrs. Garry

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## CHAPTER I

"Journeys end in lovers' meetings."—*Shakespeare*.

ERICA, sitting opposite her mother, glanced at the jewelled watch on her wrist, and observed that their journey was drawing to a close. The train was due at Paddington in half an hour. This, she judged, would give her time to make her explanation, and to receive her mother's ejaculations thereon, without leaving a margin for too much repetition on either side. She had to allow, also, for the cajolery or persuasion that might be necessary to ensure Lady Clow's perfect docility in following out the course of action upon which her daughter had decided; but experience had taught Erica that it was easier to surprise than to argue her parent into acquiescence with her schemes; Lady Clow was, like most persons of weak character, much given to after-thoughts, remorse, and the impulse to go back upon any given decision.

Erica looked at the face opposite—large, flabby, yet cherubic; with light blue round eyes,