

never talk to him or any one without making many references to you and papa. I have thought that he even avoided speaking of his family.'

'We have not yet been made acquainted with Mr. and Mrs. Arnold,' said Mrs. Jocelyn, meditatively. 'It is true we attend the same church, and it was there that Vinton saw you, and was led to seek an introduction. I'm sure we have not angled for him in any indelicate way. You met him in the mission school and in other ways, as did the other young ladies of the church. He seemed to single you out, and asked permission to call. He has been very gentlemanly, but you equally have been the self-respecting lady. I do not think you have once overstepped the line of a proper reserve. It isn't your nature to do such a thing, if I do say it. She is a silly girl who ever does, for men don't like it, and I don't blame them. Your father was a great hunter in the South, Millie, and he has often said since that I was the shyest game he ever followed. But,' she added, with a low, sweet laugh, 'how I did want to be caught! I can see now,' she continued, with a dreamy look back into the past, 'that it was just the way to be caught, for if I had turned in pursuit of him he would have run away in good earnest. There are some girls who have set their caps for your handsome Mr. Arnold, who don't know this. I am glad to say, however, that you take the course you do, not because you know better, but because you *are* better—because you have not lost in city life the shy, pure nature of the wild flowers that were your early playmates. Vinton Arnold is the man to discover and appreciate this truth, and you have lost nothing by compelling him to seek you in your own home, or by being so reserved when abroad.'

While her mother's words greatly reassured Mildred, her fair face still retained its look of anxious perplexity.

'I have rarely met Mrs. Arnold and her daughters,' she said; 'but even in a passing moment, it seemed as if they tried to inform me by their manner that I did not belong to their world. Perhaps they were only oblivious—I don't know.'

'I think that is all,' said Mrs. Jocelyn, musingly. 'We have attended their church only since we came up town. They sit on the farther side, in a very expensive pew, while papa thinks we can afford only a side seat near the door. It is evident that

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