

CHAPTER XXI

H ELEN AMBROSE was just packing up to leave for the country when the message came through from Mrs. Cheston's house.

She had no hesitation, however, in making up her mind what to do.

A few days before she had brought Spudgins and his nurse away from Garth Court, for she had found it so very difficult to divide her time between her husband and the little boy.

The arrangements of his London house absorbed Mr. Ambrose: indeed for the time being he seemed to have forgotten his literary work altogether. He was staying at his club, and his wife still remained at the little hotel to which Silvia had been conveyed on that memorable occasion. It was when Silvia had gone to Italy that Mrs. Ambrose had paid a flying visit to Garth Court, and then Spudgins had been so glad to see her, and had pleaded so hard to go away with her, that she had carried off the child, although she felt quite convinced that her husband would object to the arrangement.

Within an hour of receiving the message that Mrs. Cheston was ill and would like to see her Helen Ambrose was in Olivia Mary's bedroom.

She was very much upset by the change in Mrs.