

suppressing the little detail about Monte Carlo, you understand; "he'll go for a tenner and his own expenses." What's the result? The governor's delighted. Fishes out his purse—stumps up liberally. Claps me on the back, and says, "Charlie, my boy, I'm gratified to see you're turning over a new leaf at last, and mean to read hard, and get through with credit." And that's the real use, you see, of a vacation tutor.'

Paul listened somewhat aghast to this candid explanation of his own true function in the modern commonwealth; then he answered slowly:

'It's rather hard lines on the governor, I fancy. But I suppose I can't interfere with that. Your arrangements with your father are your own business, of course. As to myself, though, I always feel a little uneasy. It may be all right, but I'm not accustomed to such a magnificent scale of expenditure, and I don't want to put either you or him to any unnecessary expense in the matter of my living.'

Thistleton threw back his head once more on the easy-chair, and mused aloud:

'What a conscience! what a conscience! I believe you wouldn't spend an extra sixpence you could possibly save if your life depended upon it.'

'You forget,' Paul cried, 'that I have special *claims* upon me.'

The peculiar stress he laid upon that emphatic word 'claims' might have struck anybody less easy-going than Charlie Thistleton, but the blonde young man let it escape his attention.

'Oh, I know what you mean,' he retorted carelessly. 'I've heard that sort of thing from lots of other fellows before. Slender means—the governor poor—heavy expenses of college life—home demands—a mother and sisters.'

'I wish to heaven it was only that,' Paul ejaculated fervently. 'A mother and sisters I could easily put up with. But the claims upon *me* are far more serious. It's a duty I owe to Somebody Else not to spend a single penny I can help, unnecessarily.'

'By Jove!' the blonde young man exclaimed, waking up. 'Not engaged? Or married?'

'Engaged! Married! No, no. Is it likely?' Paul cried, somewhat bitterly.