

some money of her own, seeing she has had to live before she ever met Cyril."

"Five hundred is a good income in certain circumstances, my dear," said Cyrus mildly, "but if Cyril is to enter Parliament and to live in London, I'm afraid it won't suffice."

"I never thought you would countenance extravagance, dear," said his wife in a surprised voice. "But to-morrow we must have a regular committee of ways and means. I thought I would be ashamed for you to know how much I had spent in a year. I've made a pretty big hole in poor Edgar's money."

"That was quite inevitable," said Cyrus good-humouredly. "But I hope you are not going to live in London. It is very pleasant here, Louisa."

"We can talk over that, too. I've had all I want of London, I do believe, unless the girls would like a few weeks next season. Then we can take a smaller furnished house. Then there's Kitty and Ted. He's another one who doesn't seem able to keep himself. That's one of the things in Society that surprises me. There are so many men—quite active, strong young men—who don't seem to earn anything! They just loaf about town and are kept by their parents. Don't you think it's a very bad thing both for them and the country as well? Where are the workers of the next generation to come from?"

"Oh, I suppose they are not all like that, Louisa. There must always be a percentage of workers. Nature takes care of that."

Cyrus Rodney was long in falling asleep that night, because his heart and mind were so full of engrossing thought. Wonder and gratitude undoubtedly were uppermost. For God was still leading them as a family, and he had no doubt but that in due time they would be brought by tortuous ways, yet surely and well, to the green pastures and the quiet waters.