

spirit moved me, with her elbows on the morocco arms and her chin in her hands. She was so sitting as I made my statement, and she looked at me keenly with the merry, penetrating, lovely eyes which gave such character to her face.

"I believe," she said, solemnly, "that you came for that purpose. Indeed, Keith said only this very morning he believed you had designs upon me; that he entirely mistrusted your seeming innocence. He believes you to be insatiable for copy."

"I shall make copy out of him presently, to punish him for such an aspersion on my character," I said. "May I ask you a question, Elizabeth?"

"You may, though it must be something more pronounced than usual to call for such rare humility."

I was looking very earnestly at Elizabeth as she spoke; and somehow the need for the question seemed to disappear. She had now been married eighteen months, and there was upon her sweet face a look of absolute content such as is seen on very few. Sometimes in the old days there had been lines of care and worry on her broad brow; these were now all smoothed away.

"Elizabeth, you are an unutterable fraud. You'd pass for one-and-twenty any day. Don't you think