

which drew all attention from the anticipated journey, and put off for a time all arrangements.

Marjorie, hearing one afternoon that Marie was coming, found an excuse, as she often did, to be absent on the occasion of her visit, and returning at a late hour found Erica almost in tears and Jack brimful of mirth, which he could hardly restrain.

"Farewell, a long farewell to all my greatness!" quoted Jack.

"How can you, Jack, rejoice in another's downfall?" said Erica.

"I'm not rejoicing. I'm only preparing Marjorie for a shock. 'The boast of heraldry, the pomp of power'—ancestors all gone, Marjorie!"

"Jack, for shame!"

"What is it, Erica? Mary has gone, has she?"

"Oh, it's worse than that," said Jack; "although if Erica had not wanted to show off John we might still have been the victims of a strong delusion. As it was she actually had John come in to give him her photograph."