



*Political Intrigue is in existence; calls to his lamb and his love, and all the misery now existing in the world; that those converts made easier to get in at, than to get out of; and again, "Last you, who has the power to interfere with Mrs. Freshingly? I am not a ward in Chancery, remember," she continued, smiling.*

*"I am a convert," or of my aunt, putting in her hand, "I want you. And nephew, it is upon the stroke of the dinner hour."*

*"So, Carry," I whispered, leaning over her chair whence she had left the drawing room, where she had stood, and thought you were to remain true for ever and a day."*

*Caroline tried to get up a blush. She had promised the like to a few score of admirers.*

*"Ah! you took yourself off so suddenly. Who was going to remain faithful to a runaway lover?"*

*"I thought myself off! I think the boat was on the other side."*

*"And you never wrote, or anything," pointed Carry, willing to attempt an excuse.*

*"It would have been all the same if I had, when the gallant captain made his appearance—oh, dear!"*

*"Get away here!"*

*"He is very handsome I suppose?"*

*"Yes, and Lina think so?"*

*"You can decide that point for yourself when you see him."*

*"A large fortune, now, I understand, and barely in prospect."*

*"Well, remain young, you are a happy woman. Am I to give you any?"*

*"You interested! Alfred's coming home, partly, for that, partly to make love to Lina."*

*"But Lina does not like him," I answered, desirous of saving face.*

*"Oh! I don't know. Those Kates, anything girls, such as Lina, seldom know what they do like. Alfred will make her as good a husband as any boy in the country. He has been extravagant lately, and he is looking for a place under the sun. I suppose he will get straight after a bit, and your sister has plenty."*

*"What is this whisper that I hear, of a convent boy? Lina's alternative if he rejects her?"*

*"What if she did?"*

*"She need not have brought up the subject now, when the house is occupied with more agreeable matters."*

*"Come along, Carry! I mustered."*

*"But how comes it that a Roman Catholic convert will admit her, a member of the Established Church, within its walls, or that its governing priests will receive her entrance?"*

*"It is a general way of action in Lina's case, in consideration of her past relationship to mamma. And from her residence in our family and constant intercourse with Father Ignatius, I date the time when she—"*

*"Now, Caroline, you cannot suppose that in this case, there is any secret. There is no lady who is going to be immured in a convent against her consent, and she a Protestant! The very land would cry shame upon it—queen, nobles, and people!"*

*"Well, if you have anything to say about it, for or against, just say it to mamma, without troubling me," said Carry. "I believe the affair is decided on, and for my own part I don't see any objection to it; but I have never interfered in any of my father's affairs, and I don't intend to do so."*

*"Nor yet speak the word that would keep her out. Come along, Carry!"*

*"She can keep herself out, by marrying Alfred. What end do they propose by residence there?"*

*"Her ultimate conversion, I believe. Father Ignatius will be pleased."*

*"Conversion of herself, or herself—not both?"*

*"Don't be absurd. I am very sure, of one thing, that if she knew half the comfort of the Roman Catholic religion, she would turn to it of her own accord. But I suppose anybody can remain in a different persuasion."*

*"Confounding it!"*

*"Very," repeated Caroline. "You may have into no end of little sins, that in your religion would be venial, but which would be mortal on the conscience; but in ours we're absolved from them all, as often as we like to go to confession."*

*"What a consoling faith would be to some of us blades of the town! We have perpetually deserved to have, some peccadillo weighing down our souls."*

*"Thus when in the world don't you all become Roman Catholics?" rejoined Caroline, sarcastically.*

*"You might do anything you liked then."*

*"I suppose the arms of Christ."*

*"Here they come, mamma and Lina. Don't get gathering now, cousin, about the convent! I keep peace until the wedding is over."*

*"I don't yet speak the word that would keep her out. Come along, Carry!"*

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