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AND  
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Having resided 10 years between Europe and  
the United States, I have made many distinctions  
and have received much attention as did  
Miss Derwent. Describing her, a prominent  
society journal said: "Her face is of  
the pure Spanish type, though more  
rounded and less delicate than the American.  
Her eyes are large, brown,  
and bright with heavy lashes, her complexion  
yellowish, and her figure in every respect  
more commanding than the perfection of her head  
is her fullness of figure, which combines  
stateliness and grace both in carriage  
and movement."

The description in no wise exaggerated  
her beauty.

It is true that "every woman is fond  
of compliments," Miss Derwent had cause  
for rejoicing. Before she had been in  
the place a week most of the gentlemen  
had been attracted to her, and she  
had been continually exposed to their  
glances. Her beauty, however, was  
so much more than the perfection of her head  
that the compliment was given without any sense  
of jealousy.

"I am positive that, as my wife, I can  
make you happy."

"I have no doubt of it. But your pro-  
posal may be well founded. You must give  
me time to consider it, before definitely  
answering it."

"Certainly; you will not allow it to  
disturb our present friendly relations?"

"By no means," earnestly.

On entering some two weeks subsequent  
to the burglary, a young man named  
William Avery, a clerk in the  
Brookland Post-office, called at Mr.  
Maxham's residence and requested a  
private interview with him on important  
business.

"I have company this evening," said  
Mr. Maxham, when the two were left  
in his study; "but you may speak to me  
privately, if you like."

"Please, sir, may I speak to you  
privately?" asked Avery.

"Yes, you may," said Mr. Maxham,  
and they sat down to talk.

"I have come to you to speak of  
my wife, Mrs. Maxham. She is ill, and  
has been for some time past."

"I have no doubt that she is ill, and  
will be well again in a few days."

"I will tell you but a few minutes."  
Avery replied. "To come directly to the  
point, do you know anything of Miss  
Derwent's antecedents?"

"I do not," said Mr. Maxham's face  
flushed angrily.

"Please, sir, may I question,  
your knowledge of the lady's past life  
and her antecedents?"

"I do not," with ill-suppressed indignation.

"That foreign gentleman, Count Du-  
pert, has been confined to his room at  
the Hotel, ever since the burglary, has  
he not?"

"I believe so," sharply.

"Your teller informs me that you once  
allowed Miss Derwent to see you look  
over your safe, and that you did not  
neglect the emporor with a fatal caption."

"I do not," said Mr. Maxham.

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