

WHERE IGNORANCE IS BLISS--?

By MARGARET DELAND.

Author of "John Ward, Preacher."

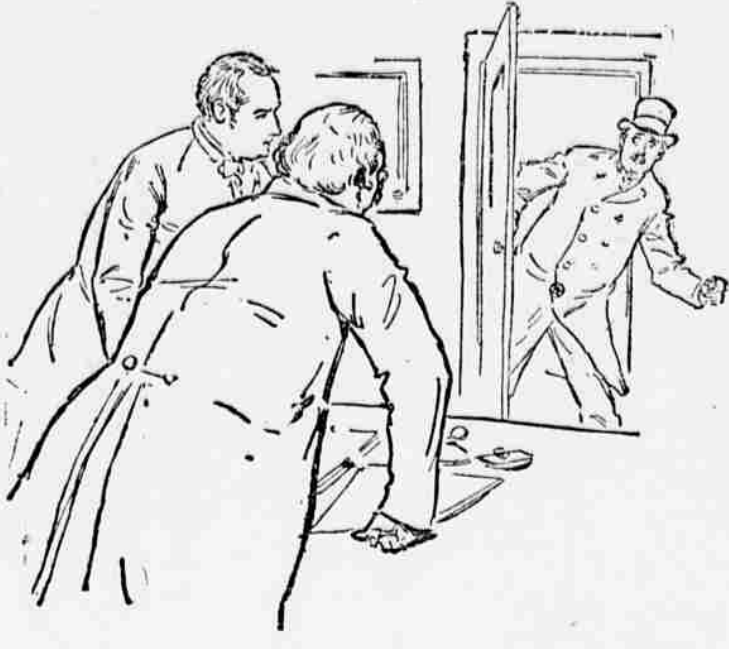
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SYNOPSIS.

William West has been settled as a clergyman in Mercer for fifteen years, and has taken his plenty as a man of judgment and character.

PART IV.

Her innocent pride gave him a moment of sharp discomfort; curiously enough, what he had to tell her had not connected itself, in his mind, with personal embarrassment.



JOHN PAUL SUDDENLY BURST INTO THE ROOM.

"I understand. Don't tell me, I understand." She bit her lip as she spoke, and her eyelids quivered as though the tears had risen suddenly.

"You understand?" he repeated, in a puzzled voice, "do you mean you don't want me to tell you?"

"William," she said, in a low voice, "I do not think a woman has any business with a good man's life in the past; it is his to do with as he pleases."

"Go on and tell me," she said; "I am not afraid to hear anything, nor do I care what you say."

"What! you don't forget anything?" he asked her, with his whimsical smile. She flashed a look of pride at him.

"Ah!" she said, "the things I could not forgive, you could not do!"

"This made him glow. After all, who would not confess anything, to be met by such confident love as this?"

"I had forgotten it," she said, "I had forgotten it. When I remembered it last night, it was a sense of astonishment, a sense of pity for the mad boy who did it."

"Dear, I had forgotten it. So little is it a part of my life that I had forgotten it. When I remembered it last night, it was a sense of astonishment, a sense of pity for the mad boy who did it."

suddenly absent; and, with a curt good-bye, left her.

Well, the day passed. In spite of a craving to see Amy that was almost agonizing, he held on to his common sense, and left her to herself.

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