

air of a man who has lucidly explained an abstruse problem in thermodynamics.

"Oh!" And Miss Bessie, with a toss of her head, settled herself into the corner by the window in a way that threatened danger to the springs of the car seat. There was no more conversation, but her nimble thoughts were busy; and before she alighted from the train at Oakton, the college station, she had shrewdly guessed the cause of Fred's preoccupation. At heart she was sincerely sorry for having caused him the pain. Of course she was not *sure*, but she had told him it was "what people said."

Fred had listened interestingly till she came to the word "engaged," and then suddenly everything seemed a blank. It was as if an icy hand had been laid on his heart, and for the first time he knew that he was in love with Carrie Warrington. He had never imagined it before, but now when the idea of her being another's suddenly burst upon him his whole nature rose in rebellious protest and he recognized it at last. He knew now why he had always looked forward so eagerly to his evenings with her, why he had always gone to her with his trials and troubles and why her sympathy had nerved him to greater and better effort; why in fact this whole summer her face and the memory of her voice had been with him, and why he had just now been so eagerly looking forward to seeing her again. But with his new found happiness came the blank, sickening thought that while he had, all unconscious, wasted his time, another had carried off the prize. She *must* be his—he could not live without her; and yet, if not already, it was only a little while till she would be engaged to Archie Custer!

In the light that had suddenly dawned upon him, Fred saw things in a different light that fall. Of course he occasionally called at Warrington's, and Carrie was all graciousness to him; but to his jealous eyes there was something wanting in her manner, and little kindnesses that he took as a matter of course in his own case were magnified into patent demonstrations of affection when conferred upon his rival. Custer's attentions were very marked; of course, everybody saw them and drew the natural conclusions, and Fred would have to bear the boys' talk about it and keep his secret in silence. Thus the term dragged out its weary way.

From his Freshman year, Stockton had been a regular player on the college football team, and this season, in game after game,