

of a couple of ladies, and as Ruth's and the master's names were mentioned, I pricked up my ears to listen.

"'You don't mean to tell me,' exclaimed one of the ladies. 'Why, I should consider him too much on the intellectual order to be attracted and caught by Ruth Hendricks.'

"'Well, they're engaged; I know that for a certainty,' answered her companion. 'She tried awfully hard to keep it a secret. It's money and position that she's after. You know how she fished after that millionaire, who was old enough to be her father. He is back in the city again, and she has been seen with him.'

"'Yes, and I heard last evening that she had finally landed him, that was what surprised me when you told me that she was engaged to Mr. Belmond.'

"They passed out of hearing, and I glanced up into the master's face to see if he had heard the conversation. His face was ghastly white.

"That night the master came home earlier than usual. I was sleeping on the sofa in his room, and he came and threw himself down beside me. I saw that he was in trouble, and I licked his hands and his face to let him know that I was still his friend.

"'Tige,' he sobbed, 'you heard what that lady said this afternoon? It is true, Ruth has broken with me, and is to become the wife of that millionaire. His money has bought her youth and beauty the same as it would buy a horse at an auction. She has sold herself to the highest bidder.'

"The master was never the same man after that night, his ideal had been shattered, his love had been trampled in the dust by that creature. I tried to cheer him but to no purpose. The iron had pierced too deep.

"She was married last month. The wedding was a grand affair, and the papers gushed over her beauty and praised her womanly qualities. She was beautiful, you can see that for yourself from yonder picture, but that is all one can say. You may call the master a fool for taking it so hard, perhaps he was, yet we might have done the same had we been in his place.