

(Concluded from first page.)

"YES OR NO." taught her the lesson without trying. But though so kind, and polite, and considerable, he was nothing more, and conversed as if he was making himself agreeable to a mere acquaintance. Margaret could not help enjoying the drive in a measure, though not as she had hoped, for the fear that it was perhaps the last she would take with him saddened her. At first Mr. Raymond had asked her to ride and drive often, but being usually either refused or else ending that Margaret preferred being left alone, had ceased to do so, and to-day was the first time for more than two months that he had done such a thing. Then, again, her face tinged as she thought, "I wonder if I can ever have courage to ask him to go with me?" And the sudden resolve that would bring the light back to her eyes, and she laughed and chatted as she had not done since the marriage, nor for some time before it. And when they returned home she said, as Raymond helped her out: "I do feel better; it has been such a pleasant drive."

preference having the pleasure of seeing your beaming countenance; but, by-the-by, it is not so beaming this morning." "No, I had a wretched headache nearly all night, and one does not usually look particularly brilliant after that." "I suppose not, I am happy to say I seldom have one, and so know little about it from experience. I came this morning to ask you and Mr. Raymond to dinner to-morrow evening. Sister and her husband will be here, and we want two or three friends to meet them." "That means that you are going to have a big dinner party?" "No it doesn't; do you suppose we would invite you the day before to a big dinner party?" "Yes, I don't think you would mind; how many do you expect, and who? But come take a drive with me, and tell me all about it. Mr. Raymond," and her face colored, as it always did now when she mentioned his name, or spoke of him in any way, "gave me a beautiful little horse yesterday."

"What did you finally name him? or did some one do it for you?" "No, I named him at last, but not very satisfactory. I called him Imp." Margaret laughed, as she said: "What a name—but I believe I rather like it, so will christen mine Imp tomorrow." Mr. Raymond looked up quickly, but turned away again, as he said: "I did not mean to suggest that name for yours. I think you could find a great many prettier; indeed, that is not pretty at all." "No, but it will do; it has the advantage of being short, and I like that." "Mr. Raymond," said the servant, opening the door, "Mr. St. Clair is in the library." "Very well." Then, as the man closed the door, he turned to his wife and said: "I will not see you again, Margaret. Mr. St. Clair has come on business which will take us all evening, so good night." Margaret did not raise her eyes, she was afraid to, as they were swimming in tears, and only said, "Good-night." She went to her room, in a few moments, vexed that the evening which had begun so pleasantly, should have been interrupted. As Mr. Raymond had said that he would be pleased to go to Mr. Loring's to dinner, Margaret wrote a note to Carrie to that effect, which she sent early the next morning. They had a pleasant evening, for people always enjoy Mrs. Loring's home, whether it was a dinner, a tea, a party, or merely a call, but of course they did not have any conversation together, and Margaret was looking forward to the walk home, but the Grants, who lived just around the corner from them, sent home at the same time, and she, somehow, got with Mr. Grant, and Mr. Raymond with Mrs. Grant, so poor Margaret was disappointed. Several days passed; she tried to be bright and chatty, but John was now the unresponsive one, and a woman cannot make love to a man (even if he is her husband), though, according to Bellamy, she will in the future. So Margaret, after one or two little efforts, which John did not understand subsided. At last one morning, after an almost sleepless night, Margaret determined that she would end it one way or the other. She would either know that John had ceased to love her, or he would show that she loved him. She could stand it no longer. She went down to breakfast with this determination, but with not the slightest idea how she was going to carry it out. It was a glorious morning; she had not been very well, it was in truth that she was unhappy, and had not been out for some days. So when John said: "Are you going out this beautiful day?" A sudden thought seized her. They were waiting for breakfast to be brought in, which was rather late this morning, and Margaret had sauntered out into the hall, and was pretending to brush some imaginary dust from the banners, which Peter had cleaned most beautifully. She looked up with a brilliant color flaming her cheeks. "I think," he continued, "Imp would enjoy it, too." "Will you go with me?" She was so frightened when she had said it that the color quickly vanished and left her pale and trembling. He turned suddenly. "I? what do you mean, Margaret?" His tone was stern, not tender, and poor Margaret felt as if she would die. "I thought perhaps you would go with me," she faltered. "I—I do not like going alone." "Can you not get Miss Loring?" Tone and manner were as usual now. "I do not want her," said Margaret; and the miserable tears would come, though she tried so hard not to let them; for she used to say that she hated those women who cried on all occasions. But poor child, she was so weak and miserable that she could bear up no longer; so she sat right down on the steps, and John with a glad happy look in his eyes, picked her up in his big strong arms, and put her tenderly on the sofa. Then drawing a chair close to it, sat down, and taking her hand, said: "What is it, Margaret?" "Oh, John!" she said. That was all; but it was enough. He knew all; and folded her in his arms, he kissed her lovingly, tenderly, passionately. She just clung to him, and as the breakfast-gong sounded, said with an April smile: "John, will you go with me?" It is unnecessary to chronicle the glad reply.

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