

with a ludicrous attempt at genteel sarcasm—and then, suddenly dropping her assumed stiffness, she continued. “But you don’t know what a genius I am going to turn out in the region of finances, and I can assure you, you will be astonished when I bring forward my first Budget.”

“I am certain I shall, one way or other; you are continually astonishing one with your ingenuity in various ways.”

“Well, to my usual task then—for I have framed several astonishing resolutions, which only await your sanction to become law—you see this is quite a different form of government from any presently existing, so you must not be astonished at the manner of its conduct.”

“So I perceive,” observed Mabel demurely.

“In the first place, then, you must tell me whether your further consideration has confirmed your decision of Wednesday night?”

“Well, I must confess, that the more I thought of the thing, the more difficult it seemed, and yet I am convinced more than ever of the necessity of our taking it in hand as nobody else seems inclined to do so. But how are we to begin?”

“That is just what we intend to consider.”

“Of course, education does not seem to have wrought any great result yet, for the children are compelled to go to school, yet they don’t seem to be influenced in any great degree morally by it. I suppose the reason of that is that they don’t know how to take advantage of it.”

“I’ll tell you what it is,” said Minnie energetically, “Edu-