

never entertained a doubt as to the final issue of the debate, knowing well that her father would refuse her nothing on which she had so strenuously set her heart.

“And how about the jacket?” he inquired, when she laid before him her financial scheme, in a business-like manner which greatly amused and delighted him.

“O, you know, I can do without that quite well. You don’t imagine, surely, that it is because a sealskin is warmer or for any reason of that description that I want it. It is only because it looks finer, and it is so great a satisfaction to have such a thing that I wanted it—in fact, only to gratify my vanity, which is gratified too much already by a certain old gentleman who evidently thinks there never *was* such another girl as his daughter.”

“Come, now, young lady, don’t abuse your old father in that insinuating manner, for he won’t stand it, and as for your vanity, you don’t overstate it a bit; but we’ll see whether the inhabitants of Hollowmell won’t contrive to rid you of some of that.”

“Just one thing, papa,” said Minnie, as she kissed and thanked him again, before retiring for the night. “Please keep it a secret from the boys. You know how they would tease me about it if they knew.”

“Very well, it is not likely it would have occurred to me to mention it to them, but it is just as well to be on guard. When do you begin operations?”

“As soon as we can have everything in working order.”

“Well, here’s some money to start with, and see you make