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soothing," he said, with gratitude, and quoted some appropriate lines. "Don't know about being a minister-ing angel," she said, "and 1'm perfectly certain 1'm not 'uncertain, coy, and hard to please.'" "The port was speaking generally." "You say what you've got to say in your own language," recommended the girl. "A lot of tranhle, mother always says, would be avoided if everybody was straightforward and outspoken." "Not so since about that." "Not so since about that." "Mother is."

"Mother is." "There are some matters," he con-tended, reviving under the goad of argu-ment, and beginning to stride about the room, "some matters that needn't be told to everyhold. There's such a thing, as being too straightforward and too out-spaken. It isn't good for us to know too much. That's why I've never held with those people who profess to be able to tell you what's going to happen just by looking at your palm. There's no sense in it, for one thing, and, for another, if there was any sense in it, there'd be no advantage in ascertaining beforehand what was going to happen. The future's



The girl glanced first at the small mirror.

a sealed book, and it ought to remain so. Any attempt to break the seal can only lead to anxiety and unpleasantness, and so forth, and so on." "You're better!" she decided cheer-

"hourse better?" she decided cheer-fully. "Being allowed to talk always does a man good. Later on, when you come home tired of an evening, I shall let you habble away to your heart's con-tent."

tent." "Come home where?" "Well," explained the girl with some confusion, "wherever you and me hap-pen to be living." Mr. Cranston sat down heavily and re-sumed his inspection of the Japanese screen. "You must remember," he said, with deliberation, "that there's many a slip between the cup and the lip!" The cit on her knees heaved bin to

The girl, on her knees, begged him to splain what he meant by this; urged e should make his intention clear. He explain he the phrase. She implored him to remem-ber that during their walk on the previous Thursday evening, they had talked of nothing but the comparative advan-tages of various neighbourhoods in the

by infining the the comparative autom tages of various neighbourhoods in the north-west district of London: Willes-den, Brondesbury, Kilburn, West Hamp-stead, Maida Vale. "Your mother's a long time titivating herself," he remarked, changing the sub-ject restlessly." "Shari't be sorry when we're outside of the house." "Tisn't so nice as the place we had before we came here." "It's not the fault of the house." "I wish," she said, anxious to con-clitate, "I wish I knew where to find the photograph that was taken. I know "it's in the old album mystuirs. You slay here, and I'll fetch it." "Her mother called that she was nearly ready; the girl felt too much perturbed

Mer mother called that she was nearly ready; the girl felt too muck perturbed to answer. She found the album, blew the dust from the gilded edges, and, de-scending, tried to hum an air that would give evidence of self-composure. Enter-ing up and elasping hands over his eyes; but fear that, in his present humour, he might not respond in the correct spirif, endexed the gay intention. She coughed, and taking a hassock, sat down at a precise distance from bin. He was com-pelled to edge his chair nearce. precise distance from him. He was com-pelled to edge his chair nearer, "Allow me." And he took the album,



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