

began to recall the things he had heard of her. Other days these two would meet, always in a hap-hazard way down on the beach between office closing and dinner time. Thus Jimmy, finding Miss Carre sympathetic concerning his life and doings, confided his tragic love story to her. The Maori strain in the girl swiftly answered to anything in the form of reckless, lawless romance. She was astounded at Jimmy leaving Dunedin in such a lame, half-hearted fashion! Why had he not induced the lady to fly with him? Why had he left her with that wretch of a husband, when she must be pining her life away for her lover in Wellington?

Jimmy was rather taken aback! He was not at all sure that his lady love was pining her life away for him. Indeed he very much doubted it, and that was where the sting lay. Certainly she wrote him beautiful letters, and had promised that none of the other very young and foolish men, who dangled after her at dinners and dances, should ever take his place in her estimation; but his friend Graham had advised him to accept this kind of declaration with salt. Graham was close on forty, and not given to dealing in illusions, so Jimmy had unwillingly admitted that very likely the advice was good. Beyond his salary in his father's office, Jimmy had no visible means of support whatever, and though there were many things he had not yet thought out, he knew he could

not take upon himself the responsibility of annexing another man's wife without having some capital to work upon. Besides there might be legal complications with the

husband, thereafter, and he knew his father would make a fine fuss over that sort of thing in their family. Jimmy had not outgrown the influence of home opinions, which was well. There was a good deal of caution in the lad, more than his parents gave him credit for, but Hoipini of the eloquent voice, the big passionate eyes, and the strain of a former barbarism in her blood, made him promise to do things which his soul would have abhorred weeks ago down in misty, sleepy Dunedin. Without any more to do he was to take the lady he loved away from her lawful husband. If she declined to go, then of course she must be abducted. The pair were to sail off to the Fiji Islands or thereabouts. Hoipini was to supply funds for the undertaking out of ground rents in Wellington, which were to be in her own hands very shortly, for she was nearly twenty-one. Jimmy was much averse to being under an obligation to anyone, let alone a girl, he said, and so Hoipini suggested that he might grow kumeras or bananas



A PETTISH JERK, AND A FACE TURNED AWAY.

after a while, in order to refund her money.

This idea settled the question, Jimmy thought, and one day he took a ticket to Dunedin as directed, and met