

neral. The girls were charmed with this story and often talked in abated voices of the loss of that noble young life.

One day, much to the surprise of those who learned it, she told that he was killed on a Western cattle-ranch; a few days later, according to her story, he had lost his life in rescuing a child from drowning. This discrepancy caused some comment, especially when it was found that many of her stories were inconsistent. The little English teacher shook her head and the principal looked grave. Incident after incident happened to increase the suspicion that had been awakened against Miss Devon. Several times her room-mate lost money very mysteriously; a story drifted back to school after a vacation, that she had claimed to be on intimate terms with a young man whom in reality she had never met. The teachers soon began to consider Miss Devon as a very artful hypocrite, but they could not condemn too strongly so gentle and sweet-tempered a deceiver.

"I don't care," maintained the girl of the bows to a group gathered in her room, "I believe it will turn out all right and I just hate anybody who says mean things about her. I'm going to stand by her no matter what happens. She's worth all the rest of the teachers put together. None of them could have graduated at nineteen." And the girls nodded a decided assent.

At last, however, the crisis came. Miss Devon called, one day, upon a maiden lady who lived near the school. Before leaving, she asked if she might speak for a few minutes alone with the lady's brother, an unmarried man of about fifty. Although the request was strange, the good lady called her brother and left the room. When he entered, Miss Devon approached him with a sad little smile.

"Mr. Benson," she said, "I am sorry to grieve you, but I must tell you that I cannot accept your offer of marriage. I have considered it well, and, although it pains me to give you such a blow, I cannot do otherwise."

The gentleman gave her a peculiar look, murmured some incoherent reply and ushered her out.

A few hours later Mr. Benson was shown into the office of the principal of Harmon Hall. He astonished that gentleman with the story of his recent encounter, and confided to him that he had never dreamed of marrying the young teacher and could hardly believe