

Sennen.

II. 8. 36.

My dearest Aunt

Thank you so very much for your letter, whose contents I have conveyed to Mr Swan. You can be absolutely sure that the Child's business affairs will be looked after, not only with good sense, but with even affectionate care. He was at school with Gabriel, acts for him; and indeed has the whole of this side of the family under his wing! He is, as you know, the junior partner of the ~~Exim~~ Firm, originally Warren Meerton and Miller, who used to act for my Father; whom my Mother left, actually, as the senior partner told me ^{about 6 years ago} when our money was lost, because they refused to consent, in the interests of Tony ~~and~~ ^{Camilla} and myself, to invest the Butts' money in the wild ^{Share} ~~investments~~ through which she ultimately lost it all. As he said to me: 'No responsible firm of solicitors could have allowed trust funds to be broken into ~~like~~ and ~~used~~ used for speculation like that.' Mother, alas, has persuaded herself into a very different story, but I know he told me the truth. Because, when it ^{first} ~~all~~ happened, before Camilla was born, ^{even} old Mr Miller, who has now retired, asked me to come and see him, and explained to me how all our fortune was at stake, and to try and persuade my Brother not to risk his share. I did try, and Tony was only furious. Then, as you know, about twelve years later, it was

all lost.

Mother is lying very low. (Unless indeed she has changed her mind and gone after all to Cannes; instead of waiting, as she ^{said} ~~ated~~ in her last letter, till the Autumn.)

About the time I ^{last} wrote to you, I wrote to her. Telling her about these untrue stories, ^{over} ~~about~~ my book, reminding her how she knew exactly what ~~he~~ ^{it} was, and had always known. Implying, tho' I did not say it, that, as Tony must have talked to her about it, why had she not put him right? Not a word, ^{in reply}. And there were other matters in that letter that demanded an answer.

Dear Aunt, write and make it clear to her that she is in honour bound to continue that £50 a year. She certainly made me promises, many times, repeated when I saw her last Christmas, once the picture was sold, to do that at least.

As to J.R. He has, as you know, married again. I am writing to him now, to see what shaming will do. Oh! the lies he has told about it!

Now the Child. Roses well restored, and her appetite, which was poor when she arrived, after a little petting up, changed to healthy hunger. Only one rather serious thing -- to her, poor little maid -- which I foresaw and hoped would not come true.

Oh, how I hoped the Parsons boy would turn out a reliable friend! A decent enough lad, or I would never have allowed those walks, but entirely unintelligent, far too good-looking and thoroughly spoilt. At the bottom of my heart I was nearly sure that Camilla wouldn't last ^{as a companion,} if anyone, stupider, prettier and more admiring came along..... And there has. The Lass was tactless with

him, his Mother silly, jealous and intriguing; so I'm ransacking the neighbourhood for other distractions, and after a few really rather miserably days, ^{he} called on her good sense and induced her to drop them altogether. For the time being, at anyrate.

It really has been hard on her, and he has behaved disgustingly. Writing to her all the ^{term} ~~holidays~~ about the wonderful time they would have these holidays, his new car, etc. Then to arrive, make one or two dates, break them; to be seen tearing round with a pair of other girls..... The father and mother expressed indignation with him; said he was vain, changeable and spoilt and always had been. They were very sorry, couldn't do anything..... Rather patronising and rather shame-faced. True, so far as it goes; I feared it when I saw the lad; had him here to lunch, etc. Just that sort. Only -- his precious mother has had some ^{thing} ~~there~~ in that pie, or I know nothing of human nature. (Rather like Mother with Tony on occasions I remember.)

She has behaved well. Put out of countenance, made to feel ashamed and cheap. Only she is showing real good judgment -- in cutting out the whole thing; and understanding when I ~~explain~~ explain that everyone almost when they are young makes that sort of a fool of themselves once. I mean gets taken in by sheer good looks and specious promises, forgetting that fine character - as in her other boy-friends, David Manning Sanders and Billy Filson Young, ^{who} carry real worth and wits and sense written large all over them -- are really gentlemen -- is worth all the looks and 'allure' that ever was. In fact, having, as she ~~admits~~ admits, been made a fool of, has taught her ^{quite a} ~~a~~ great deal. And better get it over at fifteen

with a mother close at hand, than at twenty five.

Indeed it has done one great thing -- brought us closer together than we have ever been. She found me there - to love and understand, and talk sense, and 'save face'. And was very glad of it.

There, Aunt Darling! This in strictest confidence. I am busy collecting substitutes. Unfortunately David Manning-Sanders is away. For, as is only right and proper, she needs boy-friends, the more the better, so that she can get used to them. Its sad about young Parsons -- but, as I said, rough lessons are best got over young.

Always -

your loving niece

Jany

