



There was nothing especially remarkable to contemplate about Claude Melnotte Dabbs, village grocer, unless it were the first two-thirds of his name. When his delectable parents prefaced the cognomen of Melnotte Lorraine's here in the drama, 'The Lady of Lyons', to his family name, it may have been an surgery or at least an infidelity for C. M. Dabbs, while stooping to the hard facts of life and wringing success from his career as a tradesman, nevertheless had romantic yearnings—desires to see existence through 'the mists of alabaster lamps'.

THE STORY

CHAPTER I.—With a stranger, whom he introduces as Ned Carter, Claude Melnotte Dabbs returns from New York to his ancestral home at Peace Valley, Pa. 'Aunt Lydia', his housekeeper, explains that Carter is a change agent, a man of the World War, whom he had met and taken a liking to.

CHAPTER II.—Mrs. Polly Johnston, returning from an aimless walk about the piazza, was told by the elevator boy that he had just been given a message to the effect that a gentleman was waiting for her in the lounge.

CHAPTER III.—Next day Ned commences work as a 'grocer's boy.' At a residence, the 'White House', he delivers an order and meets 'Johnston'. There he meets a girl who tells him she and her mother are alone in the house, the servants having left them because of the 'loneliness'. His promise to try to procure household help, meeting Dorothy Selden, his erstwhile sweetheart, he decides he will attempt to discover the reason for his presence in Peace Valley. Arrangement is made for a cook to go to the 'Johnstons'.

wrong about Claude, years ago. There was 'a something' about Claude Dabbs. Polly sat down. 'Make it brief as you can,' she asked, again looking past him. 'This sort of thing is—tiring.' 'I didn't choose it,' Claude told her. 'It was forced upon me. I understand just how you feel. I'm here solely on Mary's account.'

CHAPTER XIV.—Mrs. Polly Johnston, returning from an aimless walk about the piazza, was told by the elevator boy that he had just been given a message to the effect that a gentleman was waiting for her in the lounge.

CHAPTER XV.—Claude, a meeting with Mary, is overjoyed when the girl gladly acknowledges their relationship. He has for some time been convinced she is his daughter. She tells him her mother is in financial straits, but declines his offer of pecuniary assistance, believing him a comparatively poor man.

Claude might be happy. Mary's hands came away from her face now. 'But for me! Why, I'm all that holds them together.'

CHAPTER XVI.—Claude, a meeting with Mary, is overjoyed when the girl gladly acknowledges their relationship. He has for some time been convinced she is his daughter. She tells him her mother is in financial straits, but declines his offer of pecuniary assistance, believing him a comparatively poor man.

CHAPTER XVII.—Next day Mary tells Ned of her mother's financial straits.



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CHAPTER XVIII.—Next day Mary tells Ned of her mother's financial straits.

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CHAPTER XX.—Next day Mary tells Ned of her mother's financial straits.