

~~I have not been able to give you the exact information you required, but real property in London and Surrey is so increasing in value every year that it is really difficult to state within ten or twenty thousand pounds what Miss Cardew's little fortune exactly is.~~

LADY B- (~~Stopping short~~) Within ten or twenty thousand pounds! (~~Looks at her watch~~) I see that we have more time for catching our train than I had at first supposed. (~~Sits down~~) Speaking broadly, Mr Worthing, what estimate would you give of Miss Cardew's fortune?

JACK Oh! ~~at present~~ about a hundred and thirty or a hundred and forty thousand pounds. That is all. ~~But the property is sure to increase largely in value in the course of the next six or seven years.~~

LADY B- Miss Cardew seems to me a most attractive young lady, few girls nowadays have any really solid qualities, any of the qualities that last and improve with time. We live, I regret to say, in an age of surfaces. (To CECILY) Come over here, dear, (~~CECILY goes across~~) Pretty child! your dress is sadly simple, and your hair seems almost as Nature might have left it. But we can soon alter all that. A thoroughly experienced French maid produces a really marvellous result in a very brief space of time. I remember ~~once~~ recommending a French maid to young Lady Lancing, Lord Shoreham's daughter, and after three months her own husband did not know her.

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JACK And after six months nobody knew her.

LADY B- (Looks angrily at JACK, but controls herself) Kindly turn round, sweet child. (CECILY turns completely round) No, the side view is what I want. (CECILY turns her profile) Yes, quite as I expected. There are distinct social possibilities in your profile.

CECILY Really, Lady Brancaster? How very gratifying!

LADY B- Child! never fall into the habit, so unfortunately common nowadays, of talking trivially about serious things. The two weak points ~~that one observes in people are their want of principle and their want of profile.~~ The chin a little