



When Mrs Forrester's first detective story "The Achilles Statue" was published, she had reached seven, and the number of her work[^] was considerable. Her great talent, however, remained undeveloped. Mrs Forrester was deeply interested in politics and even thought of going into Parliament. Her opinions were well known throughout the town.

A lot of people very much wanted to be invited to the parties she gave every Saturday, but only a few succeeded. The only person who spoiled these parties was Mr Albert Forrester, her husband. All her friends said he was a good man, but they did not know him well.

Albert, I should explain, was an ordinary businessman and not a very rich one. The suits he wore were not expensive, and his house was not large.

The event that had such a great influence on Mrs Forrester's literary activities happened towards the end of one of her most successful parties. The guests had just begun to arrive when a maid came running into the room.

"Well, Carter, what is it?" Mrs Forrester asked the maid. "Is the house falling down?"

"It's the new cook's box, ma'am," answered the maid. "The porter dropped it as he was bringing it up."

"What do you mean by 'the new cook'?"

"Mrs Bullfinch went away this afternoon, ma'am," said the maid.

"Does Mr Forrester know about it?" Mrs Forrester asked, for matters like that were his responsibility.

"Mr Forrester's gone, ma'am," answered the maid. "He said I was to give you this letter when you asked for him."

The maid left the room, and Mrs Forrester opened the letter. One of her lady friends told me that

Mrs Forrester read the letter and cried out: "Oh, how unfair! How terrible!"

"What is it, Mrs Forrester?" asked Mr Simmons, her agent. "Read it", she said. "Just read it."

The short-

sighted Mr Simmons put on his glasses, and holding the letter very close to his eyes read this: 'M'

I've hired a new cook instead of Mrs Bullfinch and I hope you will be pleased with her. Mrs Bullfinch is a good woman, but she is not as good as Mrs Bullfinch.'

The silence that followed was broken by Mr Simmons, who said:

"You must get him back."

"I will never see him again as long as I live!" Mrs Forrester cried out.