common consent, at the canoes not long after noon, and ate their lunch with many "high jinks." Then, also, by common consent, they separated again, and were seen no more by each other until quite late in the afternoon. It was about five o'clock that, moved by a spirit of restlessness, they left their nooks and wandered through the woods which thickly covered a portion of the little island. They met after a short while, and greeted each other effusively.

"Well, what have you two been doing?" said George to Grace, after the first few remarks. "You've been very wicked, I'm afraid, and very much in need of a chaperone."

"We've been no such thing, sir," she saucily answered. "We've been most decorous and proper; but I must admit that we have entertained grave doubts as to how good you've been."

"Indeed!" said George. "Thank you. But I don't wonder at it; that's always the way. A criminal always thinks everyone else as bad as himself. I will bet you, now, that we passed the time much more properly than you."

"There's no use in betting," she answered, shrewdly, "because we can prove nothing. But, George, you have just reminded me of something. Will you let me see your watch?"

He showed it to her, and she compared it with her own.

"There, I told you so!" she cried triumphantly. "Will and I had a dispute over our watches, and his was ten minutes wrong, but he wouldn't believe it. Will," she said, "my watch was right." But she got no reply; the others were too absorbed.

"Well, I never," she laughed, turning again to George; "just see that. Those two never get together but they immediately fall to disputing upon that time-honored subject of theirs. Just hear them. But come," she said, taking him by the arm; "if they're having such a fine time let's do the same. Show me that nook you boasted so much of at lunch time. Good-bye, you two," she called over her shoulder; "we're going to leave you. There," said she, pouting, as she still got no reply, "aren't they rude?"

Some time later the same two, still wandering, came to the place where they had left the canoes. George was instantly struck by the condition of the water. On our New England lakes, and especially on those surrounded, as was this one, by hills, it is likely to come on to blow with great suddenness, and often with considerable violence. Since lunch time a wind had arisen that had already covered the surface of the lake with whitecaps.

"By Jove!" cried George, as he first noticed this; "I don't like that. I don't like it at all. We must set out for the hotel at once, Grace," turning to her with a somewhat serious face, "unless we wish to spend the night on the island. There's no time to be lost."

He put his canoe in the water as he finished speaking, and quickly gathered up the things that were scattered around. Then he shouted to the others.