

DISSOLVING VIEWS

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649563319

Dissolving Views by Mrs. Andrew Lang

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MRS. ANDREW LANG

**DISSOLVING
VIEWS**

Alfred

Nahant

July 25th 1884

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DISSOLVING VIEWS

BY

MRS. ANDREW LANG

*"Il faut un peu légèrement et superficiellement
couler ce Monde: et le glisser, non l'enfoncer"*

MONTEIGNÉ, iii. 10

NEW YORK

HARPER & BROTHERS, FRANKLIN SQUARE

1884

Dedicated to

THE RIGHT HON.

LORD JUSTICE BOWEN

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DISSOLVING VIEWS.

CHAPTER I.

ELEANOR.

"WELL, dear, what sort of an afternoon have you had?"

"Delightful—the last part, that is, when the Gordon boys came, but at first it was very dull. Mother, I do hate playing lawn-tennis with girls! They never attend to what they are doing. They will keep talking, and apologizing for their bad strokes, and entreating somebody to take their place, till I long to throw my racket at their heads."

Eleanor Winton looked very fierce and martial as she spoke. She not unfrequently expressed a desire to use her racket as a tomahawk for the destruction of evil-doers. Now she was leaning back in a low chair, resting comfortably after her game. But there were dangerous remains of energy in Eleanor, as she showed by flicking her racket to and fro at imaginary shooting balls. As the weapon tapped the floor both Eleanor's action and her style of language might have seemed rather too vigorous for the comfort of her mother, who not only looked, but was, an invalid. But nervousness was not a malady of Mrs. Winton's. The slow decline of her health had been hidden from Eleanor as much by Mrs. Winton's unflinching spirits as by daily custom, which makes change almost imperceptible.

"Oh, mother!" the girl went on; "Katie Russell is