

that as she attempts to do with any other natural deficiency she is conscious of. Luckily she is not given to speech so she is not a disturbing element in our society, which silence is attributable partly to an instinct that speech might betray something better hidden, partly to an absence of ideas, & partly (or principally according to the malvolence of the observer) to a notion that she is gifted with such a fine pair of eyes that she can trust them to speak in a much more unmistakable way. To have done with her for the present, she is about 28 & would probably wish that fact unknown along with the rest. Of the

gentlemen Mr. Miles chief-engineer presides when duty does not call him away - a rough good hearted fellow - fond of a joke & a yarn, but rather a bore when he gets on the subject of his engines which are his pride. On his right comes Mr. Leather with whom I struck up a great friendship, after a while, at first appearing, a quiet gentlemanly young fellow, too much of a gentleman one would say for the position he holds, that of walking gentleman to Mr. Baird's man's Star. Opposite to him Mr. Tichhurst gentlemanly & pleasant though short of words: next him Mr. Smythe, a mystery at present not to be unravelled for some time, but-