

# CRUEL

## AS

# THE GRAVE;

## The Secret of Dunraven Castle.

BY ANN ASHMORE,  
Author of "Faithful Margherite," Etc., Etc.

### CHAPTER VII.—Continued.

She rose, deeply agitated, quite unconscious of the beseeching expression of her proud eyes, and only feeling that she might betray her thrilling hope and fear unless she changed her position.

"Still holding her hand, she rose with her, and spoke in a low, imperious urgency. "Speak, do you grant my request, or must I take my own?"

A stifled sob came from her very heart; she could not comprehend him. "The name?" she stammered.

"What is it?"

"What you do not guess?" cried he, with fierce incredulity—then a glance of satanic mirth crossed his pale, anxious face. She tore her hand from him in wild confusion of shame and wrath.

"How should I guess the new object of your vagrant fancy?" demanded she, disdainfully.

"No, no, this is no fancy," exclaimed Merrion, forgetting every lesser emotion in his fervor, "this is the best love of my life; I grow nobler merely by musing on her; she is my peace, my happiness; without her I can never be complete—my golden-tressed Aurora!"

"Her name?" breathed Mrs. Delamere, with hooded eyes and dilated eyes, like one fascinated by terror.

"Oh, true, you calm a formal announcement," said Acerrington, recovering himself. "I love your daughter Loveday, dear madam, and crave her for my wife."

The tide of Mrs. Delamere's feelings reached its highest point of horror.

"My daughter your wife?" she exclaimed bitterly, with a receding gesture. "I shall never consent! Such a union would be abhorrent to every natural instinct!"

"You refuse?" said Acerrington with flashing eyes. "Is the past, which I have outlived, so sweet to you that it renders such a union unpalatable to you? He could not get on; he had consented; it was her child's happiness she was defending—she could suffer humiliating taunts for her sake."

"It is impossible, so that and every ground," said she, her voice shaken with passionate indignance. "You are a treacherous man; there have been falsehoods in your life that even I have seen. You cannot have my daughter. Also, her heart is engaged."

She shook off his grasping hand from her casement, and hastened away.

But not far; before she had taken a half dozen steps he was by her, looking into her face with a laughing devil to each of his eyes.

"There can be but one explanation of this resistance," said he. "You love me yet!"

She stood looking up at him, her eyes flashing with fierce scorn; her hands locked together to crush down the wild forces within her which threatened to leap out in some vengeful act.

"You are a creature," she said, with something grating in her sweet tones. "If my heart could still cling to a man like you I should tear it from my breast. You are false, I shrink from you, I despise you, is that love?"

"You are a creature," she said, with glowing eyes fastened upon him, for any reply he might venture to make, but as he made none, only gnawed his lip in speechless humiliation, she turned quickly, and passed from his view with her eyes bent, and streaming grace.

He returned to the fountain and threw himself once more upon the stone seat with a muttered malediction.

He had not believed she could defy him; he had not prepared himself for this open exhibition of her scorn.

Conscious of his powers of management, he had thought to manipulate Mrs. Delamere through her wounded pride until she would give him her consent to win Loveday to save herself from the suspicion of loving him yet.

She had laughed him to scorn, and he was vulnerable to the shame of being scorned. He began to fear and hate her.

His thoughts passed through his dusky brain. He recalled his various losses, and how sincere each had been in its time. How much this proud, imperial beauty, Laura, had been to him in her days! How sweet and warm had been that early love! and how he had suffered when she cast him aside for a richer mate!

Alas! she deserved to suffer in her turn; he should not spare her.

Then a wild memory of Enzeleinde Incheape flew like a red-hot bolt through his soul, her majestic purity, her unassailed fidelity, and her bitter fate.

She clenched his hand and drove the blighting thoughts away with a heart-felt imprecation.

Then stole the image of Loveday Delamere upon him, tender, soft; no shadow of mortification or reproach, but a memory that memory, he mused, upon her dawn-like youth and innocence, her sunny beauty, which radiated pure joy, and he craved for her with passionate intensity as the wret had craved for happiness.

He reviewed the resistance just as he desired, and laughed sarcastically at his own folly.

"To brush a lid this opposing will be a desire, and laughed sarcastically at his own folly."

"To brush a lid this opposing will be a desire, and laughed sarcastically at his own folly."

"To brush a lid this opposing will be a desire, and laughed sarcastically at his own folly."

"To brush a lid this opposing will be a desire, and laughed sarcastically at his own folly."

"To brush a lid this opposing will be a desire, and laughed sarcastically at his own folly."

"To brush a lid this opposing will be a desire, and laughed sarcastically at his own folly."

"To brush a lid this opposing will be a desire, and laughed sarcastically at his own folly."

"To brush a lid this opposing will be a desire, and laughed sarcastically at his own folly."

"To brush a lid this opposing will be a desire, and laughed sarcastically at his own folly."

"To brush a lid this opposing will be a desire, and laughed sarcastically at his own folly."

"To brush a lid this opposing will be a desire, and laughed sarcastically at his own folly."

through an intricate figure with Aubron Creech, her passionate, dashing glances and heightened beauty betraying the triumph of the moment to her! and here was Loveday, gazing in and out among the dancers unattended, her wild and brilliant graces fresh as ever, as if to prove a full free independence of Aubron's smiles.

Toward her Acerrington wends his way with melancholy sweetness, and, catching her eye, without a word wends her to him by his side, his dominant conduct toward her struggle against him, whirl past with defiant glance, circle round the grassy mead, and hit back a little nearer each revolution, hurled by his eyes—those deep, dark, mournful eyes that seem to brood over grief and to plead for sympathy—till at last she is close to him, laughing out a sly echo of the waltz! She sweeps him the "presentation courtesy," and comes up to recover with fairly feet pointed, and a look of petulant waywardness, crying:

"Here I am, Colonel! now speak quickly, for my turn comes next to dance."

"I did not summon you, Sprite," said Acerrington, very softly, and looking deep into her upraised eyes, without a smile.

"But—yes, you did! You—"

"Looked at you, that was all!" murmured the gentle tones in her ear; "but perhaps I mesmerized you a little."

"Perhaps I did," she said.

She tried to look at him independently, but could not endure, without emotion, the earnest beseeching of his gaze.

"I thought mamma had sent for Loveday, and she was here," said Loveday, looking at him with a smile.

"You will give me one waltz?" asked he, staving her in spite of herself.

She hesitated, glancing involuntarily at Aubron with a trace of anxiety, which Acerrington instantly divined as she would not do anything which might not be to Aubron's taste.

"It is but a little thing for a carefree man like me to ask from your buoyant wit," that you should give me back five minutes of my bygone days of happiness, and I will be satisfied. "Shall you dislike it so much?"

"No, no, no," faltered she, abashed; "I shall waltz with you for my next partner." And with that he let her go.

In a few minutes Merrion Rae was disengaged, and Acerrington seized the opportunity.

"Her grace sent me to amuse you, Queen of Scots," he said, airily, leading her for a promenade.

"I am queened," returned the lady, absently, "do you best."

"Fair queen, I beseech your aid!"

"This yours, Sir Colonel. Speak!"

"I love a lady."

"Oh, yes! So do most men."

"Yes, I have a rival."

"Impossible. Who could rival Colonel Acerrington?"

"Sweet demoiseille, you are pleased to laugh at me; yet I am in trouble."

"Did you not offer to amuse me?"

"True. Well, you may laugh, yet help me. I will waltz with you, if you will."

"I help you! Is it possible?"

"Are you not as wit as you are witty—as good as you are pretty? You certainly can, if you will, do much to extricate me from a dilemma."

"At what?" she asked, with a look of flattery so sweet. "Only show me how I can be of use to you."

"Suppose a cavalier, much like that dark-browed fellow Acerrington, loved a sunny-tressed Aurora like—"

"I do not know," she said, "I suppose this lady was half promised by the parents, to a young man who loves her"—(Merrion started and changed color)—"but only with a fraternal love," proceeded Acerrington, who had not lost this sign of emotion for a single moment. "It is evidently given to another, and that other—"

"Ha! ha! ha! quite a 'Comedy of Errors,'" laughed Merrion, defiantly meeting his significant glance, though her brilliant face glowed with rich blushes.

"And now, what part do you play in all this?" he asked, "or have you yet to come to that point?"

"And that other," resumed Acerrington, boldly, "has only to accept his attentions for a few days, during which she may be engaged to her father, and then she is free to respond to his. Thus the first-named lady will feel herself free to love me, and all will end well."

"But by what caprice do you confide all this to me?" demanded the high-spirited young man, who, in the meantime, had perceived that permit any one to guess the state of her heart toward Aubron.

"Ah, well—perhaps only to amuse you! Let us talk of something else," said the Colonel, carelessly. And quite unconvinced that he had done all that was necessary, he soon led her back to her friends.

They danced together, Richard Acerrington and Loveday Delamere.

He held her in his arms, as at her waltz, his left hand clasped her finger tips delicately, firmly. They floated round among the others, light as shadows flickering, and upborne by the wild measure of a waltz-whirlwind. His warm breath fanned her cheek, and his eyes softly shined down upon her, his gentle strength supporting hers as if one will governed their motions. A singular sensation gradually took possession of Loveday, as if she was being borne out of herself, a feeling as dreamy and delicious as inexplicable. Perceiving by the relaxing of her self-poize his growing power over her, Acerrington softly tightened his grasp of her waist, stole a firmer hold of her hand, and timing his movement to the long-drawn, longing notes of the next musical bars, he bent lower over her, and allowed his dark eyes, charged with unutterably beseeching tenderness, to feed upon hers. All his strength streamed forth, and that enraptured gaze. It could not startle or repel her, it was so very humble and imploring, and there was the music, passionately wooing her for him, telling of his devotion, and of his ordinary straightforward in his own native land—wooing her to believe in him and forget her first repulsion.

And Aubron had only loved her as a sister, while she had refused to love him, she thought to him who had no love for her!

Loveday's maiden pride was walking with her knowledge that Acerrington sought her out from among all the other fascinating ladies; she had looked forward with blind trust to Aubron's return, when he would tell her that he loved her, and claim her heart in reward.

He had not spoken of love; he had been just as tenderly fraternal as of old, and no more; and she had borne the sharp surprise proudly, hid her smart and waited the future patiently; but

lately she had become aware of Merrion Rae's strange heightened beauty and fascination when in Aubron's presence, and with love's jealous quickness, had guessed her secret.

And to-day, closely watching, she had seen his eyes so intently gazing at her absorbed in her; he and she had been together so much and had been so brilliantly responsive to each other's sallies—ah, foolish little Loveday, why should she hope any longer? It was a relief to her to see her so intently gazing at her heavy heart by seeming engrossed with him.

And if Aubron did not like it—well, it was far better to vex him a little than to show such slavish obedience to his slightest wish that he must perforce do for her misera and hopeless love for him.

On then in the whirling waltz, to the thrilling music, which spoke to each soul in its own language, and now Acerrington begins a soft murmuring in her ear, delicate yet impersonally and intensely interesting, to which she listens with innocent admiration. Well he knows how to please; the sunless young creature glances with little pride that she is easily pleased; she has no bias to suspicion in her sunny nature, and she is grateful to Colonel Acerrington for exerting himself to entertain a hermit who has been shut out from Loveday; yet, this ignorance leaves her more freedom to observe and enjoy his manifold graces.

He has quite overcome her instinctive mistrust of him before that wonderful light of his smile glances with little pride that she is easily pleased; she has no bias to suspicion in her sunny nature, and she is grateful to Colonel Acerrington for exerting himself to entertain a hermit who has been shut out from Loveday; yet, this ignorance leaves her more freedom to observe and enjoy his manifold graces.

He has quite overcome her instinctive mistrust of him before that wonderful light of his smile glances with little pride that she is easily pleased; she has no bias to suspicion in her sunny nature, and she is grateful to Colonel Acerrington for exerting himself to entertain a hermit who has been shut out from Loveday; yet, this ignorance leaves her more freedom to observe and enjoy his manifold graces.

He has quite overcome her instinctive mistrust of him before that wonderful light of his smile glances with little pride that she is easily pleased; she has no bias to suspicion in her sunny nature, and she is grateful to Colonel Acerrington for exerting himself to entertain a hermit who has been shut out from Loveday; yet, this ignorance leaves her more freedom to observe and enjoy his manifold graces.

He has quite overcome her instinctive mistrust of him before that wonderful light of his smile glances with little pride that she is easily pleased; she has no bias to suspicion in her sunny nature, and she is grateful to Colonel Acerrington for exerting himself to entertain a hermit who has been shut out from Loveday; yet, this ignorance leaves her more freedom to observe and enjoy his manifold graces.

He has quite overcome her instinctive mistrust of him before that wonderful light of his smile glances with little pride that she is easily pleased; she has no bias to suspicion in her sunny nature, and she is grateful to Colonel Acerrington for exerting himself to entertain a hermit who has been shut out from Loveday; yet, this ignorance leaves her more freedom to observe and enjoy his manifold graces.

He has quite overcome her instinctive mistrust of him before that wonderful light of his smile glances with little pride that she is easily pleased; she has no bias to suspicion in her sunny nature, and she is grateful to Colonel Acerrington for exerting himself to entertain a hermit who has been shut out from Loveday; yet, this ignorance leaves her more freedom to observe and enjoy his manifold graces.

He has quite overcome her instinctive mistrust of him before that wonderful light of his smile glances with little pride that she is easily pleased; she has no bias to suspicion in her sunny nature, and she is grateful to Colonel Acerrington for exerting himself to entertain a hermit who has been shut out from Loveday; yet, this ignorance leaves her more freedom to observe and enjoy his manifold graces.

He has quite overcome her instinctive mistrust of him before that wonderful light of his smile glances with little pride that she is easily pleased; she has no bias to suspicion in her sunny nature, and she is grateful to Colonel Acerrington for exerting himself to entertain a hermit who has been shut out from Loveday; yet, this ignorance leaves her more freedom to observe and enjoy his manifold graces.

He has quite overcome her instinctive mistrust of him before that wonderful light of his smile glances with little pride that she is easily pleased; she has no bias to suspicion in her sunny nature, and she is grateful to Colonel Acerrington for exerting himself to entertain a hermit who has been shut out from Loveday; yet, this ignorance leaves her more freedom to observe and enjoy his manifold graces.

He has quite overcome her instinctive mistrust of him before that wonderful light of his smile glances with little pride that she is easily pleased; she has no bias to suspicion in her sunny nature, and she is grateful to Colonel Acerrington for exerting himself to entertain a hermit who has been shut out from Loveday; yet, this ignorance leaves her more freedom to observe and enjoy his manifold graces.

He has quite overcome her instinctive mistrust of him before that wonderful light of his smile glances with little pride that she is easily pleased; she has no bias to suspicion in her sunny nature, and she is grateful to Colonel Acerrington for exerting himself to entertain a hermit who has been shut out from Loveday; yet, this ignorance leaves her more freedom to observe and enjoy his manifold graces.

He has quite overcome her instinctive mistrust of him before that wonderful light of his smile glances with little pride that she is easily pleased; she has no bias to suspicion in her sunny nature, and she is grateful to Colonel Acerrington for exerting himself to entertain a hermit who has been shut out from Loveday; yet, this ignorance leaves her more freedom to observe and enjoy his manifold graces.

He has quite overcome her instinctive mistrust of him before that wonderful light of his smile glances with little pride that she is easily pleased; she has no bias to suspicion in her sunny nature, and she is grateful to Colonel Acerrington for exerting himself to entertain a hermit who has been shut out from Loveday; yet, this ignorance leaves her more freedom to observe and enjoy his manifold graces.

He has quite overcome her instinctive mistrust of him before that wonderful light of his smile glances with little pride that she is easily pleased; she has no bias to suspicion in her sunny nature, and she is grateful to Colonel Acerrington for exerting himself to entertain a hermit who has been shut out from Loveday; yet, this ignorance leaves her more freedom to observe and enjoy his manifold graces.

He has quite overcome her instinctive mistrust of him before that wonderful light of his smile glances with little pride that she is easily pleased; she has no bias to suspicion in her sunny nature, and she is grateful to Colonel Acerrington for exerting himself to entertain a hermit who has been shut out from Loveday; yet, this ignorance leaves her more freedom to observe and enjoy his manifold graces.

He has quite overcome her instinctive mistrust of him before that wonderful light of his smile glances with little pride that she is easily pleased; she has no bias to suspicion in her sunny nature, and she is grateful to Colonel Acerrington for exerting himself to entertain a hermit who has been shut out from Loveday; yet, this ignorance leaves her more freedom to observe and enjoy his manifold graces.

He has quite overcome her instinctive mistrust of him before that wonderful light of his smile glances with little pride that she is easily pleased; she has no bias to suspicion in her sunny nature, and she is grateful to Colonel Acerrington for exerting himself to entertain a hermit who has been shut out from Loveday; yet, this ignorance leaves her more freedom to observe and enjoy his manifold graces.

He has quite overcome her instinctive mistrust of him before that wonderful light of his smile glances with little pride that she is easily pleased; she has no bias to suspicion in her sunny nature, and she is grateful to Colonel Acerrington for exerting himself to entertain a hermit who has been shut out from Loveday; yet, this ignorance leaves her more freedom to observe and enjoy his manifold graces.

He has quite overcome her instinctive mistrust of him before that wonderful light of his smile glances with little pride that she is easily pleased; she has no bias to suspicion in her sunny nature, and she is grateful to Colonel Acerrington for exerting himself to entertain a hermit who has been shut out from Loveday; yet, this ignorance leaves her more freedom to observe and enjoy his manifold graces.

He has quite overcome her instinctive mistrust of him before that wonderful light of his smile glances with little pride that she is easily pleased; she has no bias to suspicion in her sunny nature, and she is grateful to Colonel Acerrington for exerting himself to entertain a hermit who has been shut out from Loveday; yet, this ignorance leaves her more freedom to observe and enjoy his manifold graces.

He has quite overcome her instinctive mistrust of him before that wonderful light of his smile glances with little pride that she is easily pleased; she has no bias to suspicion in her sunny nature, and she is grateful to Colonel Acerrington for exerting himself to entertain a hermit who has been shut out from Loveday; yet, this ignorance leaves her more freedom to observe and enjoy his manifold graces.

He has quite overcome her instinctive mistrust of him before that wonderful light of his smile glances with little pride that she is easily pleased; she has no bias to suspicion in her sunny nature, and she is grateful to Colonel Acerrington for exerting himself to entertain a hermit who has been shut out from Loveday; yet, this ignorance leaves her more freedom to observe and enjoy his manifold graces.

He has quite overcome her instinctive mistrust of him before that wonderful light of his smile glances with little pride that she is easily pleased; she has no bias to suspicion in her sunny nature, and she is grateful to Colonel Acerrington for exerting himself to entertain a hermit who has been shut out from Loveday; yet, this ignorance leaves her more freedom to observe and enjoy his manifold graces.

He has quite overcome her instinctive mistrust of him before that wonderful light of his smile glances with little pride that she is easily pleased; she has no bias to suspicion in her sunny nature, and she is grateful to Colonel Acerrington for exerting himself to entertain a hermit who has been shut out from Loveday; yet, this ignorance leaves her more freedom to observe and enjoy his manifold graces.

He has quite overcome her instinctive mistrust of him before that wonderful light of his smile glances with little pride that she is easily pleased; she has no bias to suspicion in her sunny nature, and she is grateful to Colonel Acerrington for exerting himself to entertain a hermit who has been shut out from Loveday; yet, this ignorance leaves her more freedom to observe and enjoy his manifold graces.

He has quite overcome her instinctive mistrust of him before that wonderful light of his smile glances with little pride that she is easily pleased; she has no bias to suspicion in her sunny nature, and she is grateful to Colonel Acerrington for exerting himself to entertain a hermit who has been shut out from Loveday; yet, this ignorance leaves her more freedom to observe and enjoy his manifold graces.

He has quite overcome her instinctive mistrust of him before that wonderful light of his smile glances with little pride that she is easily pleased; she has no bias to suspicion in her sunny nature, and she is grateful to Colonel Acerrington for exerting himself to entertain a hermit who has been shut out from Loveday; yet, this ignorance leaves her more freedom to observe and enjoy his manifold graces.

He has quite overcome her instinctive mistrust of him before that wonderful light of his smile glances with little pride that she is easily pleased; she has no bias to suspicion in her sunny nature, and she is grateful to Colonel Acerrington for exerting himself to entertain a hermit who has been shut out from Loveday; yet, this ignorance leaves her more freedom to observe and enjoy his manifold graces.

He has quite overcome her instinctive mistrust of him before that wonderful light of his smile glances with little pride that she is easily pleased; she has no bias to suspicion in her sunny nature, and she is grateful to Colonel Acerrington for exerting himself to entertain a hermit who has been shut out from Loveday; yet, this ignorance leaves her more freedom to observe and enjoy his manifold graces.

He has quite overcome her instinctive mistrust of him before that wonderful light of his smile glances with little pride that she is easily pleased; she has no bias to suspicion in her sunny nature, and she is grateful to Colonel Acerrington for exerting himself to entertain a hermit who has been shut out from Loveday; yet, this ignorance leaves her more freedom to observe and enjoy his manifold graces.

He has quite overcome her instinctive mistrust of him before that wonderful light of his smile glances with little pride that she is easily pleased; she has no bias to suspicion in her sunny nature, and she is grateful to Colonel Acerrington for exerting himself to entertain a hermit who has been shut out from Loveday; yet, this ignorance leaves her more freedom to observe and enjoy his manifold graces.

He has quite overcome her instinctive mistrust of him before that wonderful light of his smile glances with little pride that she is easily pleased; she has no bias to suspicion in her sunny nature, and she is grateful to Colonel Acerrington for exerting himself to entertain a hermit who has been shut out from Loveday; yet, this ignorance leaves her more freedom to observe and enjoy his manifold graces.

He has quite overcome her instinctive mistrust of him before that wonderful light of his smile glances with little pride that she is easily pleased; she has no bias to suspicion in her sunny nature, and she is grateful to Colonel Acerrington for exerting himself to entertain a hermit who has been shut out from Loveday; yet, this ignorance leaves her more freedom to observe and enjoy his manifold graces.

He has quite overcome her instinctive mistrust of him before that wonderful light of his smile glances with little pride that she is easily pleased; she has no bias to suspicion in her sunny nature, and she is grateful to Colonel Acerrington for exerting himself to entertain a hermit who has been shut out from Loveday; yet, this ignorance leaves her more freedom to observe and enjoy his manifold graces.

He has quite overcome her instinctive mistrust of him before that wonderful light of his smile glances with little pride that she is easily pleased; she has no bias to suspicion in her sunny nature, and she is grateful to Colonel Acerrington for exerting himself to entertain a hermit who has been shut out from Loveday; yet, this ignorance leaves her more freedom to observe and enjoy his manifold graces.

He has quite overcome her instinctive mistrust of him before that wonderful light of his smile glances with little pride that she is easily pleased; she has no bias to suspicion in her sunny nature, and she is grateful to Colonel Acerrington for exerting himself to entertain a hermit who has been shut out from Loveday; yet, this ignorance leaves her more freedom to observe and enjoy his manifold graces.

He has quite overcome her instinctive mistrust of him before that wonderful light of his smile glances with little pride that she is easily pleased; she has no bias to suspicion in her sunny nature, and she is grateful to Colonel Acerrington for exerting himself to entertain a hermit who has been shut out from Loveday; yet, this ignorance leaves her more freedom to observe and enjoy his manifold graces.

He has quite overcome her instinctive mistrust of him before that wonderful light of his smile glances with little pride that she is easily pleased; she has no bias to suspicion in her sunny nature, and she is grateful to Colonel Acerrington for exerting himself to entertain a hermit who has been shut out from Loveday; yet, this ignorance leaves her more freedom to observe and enjoy his manifold graces.

He has quite overcome her instinctive mistrust of him before that wonderful light of his smile glances with little pride that she is easily pleased; she has no bias to suspicion in her sunny nature, and she is grateful to Colonel Acerrington for exerting himself to entertain a hermit who has been shut out from Loveday; yet, this ignorance leaves her more freedom to observe and enjoy his manifold graces.

He has quite overcome her instinctive mistrust of him before that wonderful light of his smile glances with little pride that she is easily pleased; she has no bias to suspicion in her sunny nature, and she is grateful to Colonel Acerrington for exerting himself to entertain a hermit who has been shut out from Loveday; yet, this ignorance leaves her more freedom to observe and enjoy his manifold graces.

He has quite overcome her instinctive mistrust of him before that wonderful light of his smile glances with little pride that she is easily pleased; she has no bias to suspicion in her sunny nature, and she is grateful to Colonel Acerrington for exerting himself to entertain a hermit who has been shut out from Loveday; yet, this ignorance leaves her more freedom to observe and enjoy his manifold graces.

He has quite overcome her instinctive mistrust of him before that wonderful light of his smile glances with little pride that she is easily pleased; she has no bias to suspicion in her sunny nature, and she is grateful to Colonel Acerrington for exerting himself to entertain a hermit who has been shut out from Loveday; yet, this ignorance leaves her more freedom to observe and enjoy his manifold graces.

He has quite overcome her instinctive mistrust of him before that wonderful light of his smile glances with little pride that she is easily pleased; she has no bias to suspicion in her sunny nature, and she is grateful to Colonel Acerrington for exerting himself to entertain a hermit who has been shut out from Loveday; yet, this ignorance leaves her more freedom to observe and enjoy his manifold graces.

He has quite overcome her instinctive mistrust of him before that wonderful light of his smile glances with little pride that she is easily pleased; she has no bias to suspicion in her sunny nature, and she is grateful to Colonel Acerrington for exerting himself to entertain a hermit who has been shut out from Loveday; yet, this ignorance leaves her more freedom to observe and enjoy his manifold graces.

Aliso, the wife of honest Squire Creech, the other was the beautiful Laura Delamere, a young widow. They both lived in the neighborhood, and came almost every day to me to assist me in entertaining the crowd of guests that thronged to my house.

At last one came, a fatal guest. His accented name was Richard Acerrington. He came to us preceded by a brilliant reputation. In the Indian mutiny he had distinguished himself gallantly; there were many records of his heroism and ability; we welcomed the young soldier among us with enthusiasm.

There were other whispers, too. It was said that Colonel Acerrington had been Laura's first lover—that she had sacrificed herself and him, at her needy father's command, to marry the wealthy commoner, Miles Delamere, and that he was suing her again in her widowhood to lay his laurels at her feet and win her hand at last.

It was no wonder, therefore, that he brought to our home—to lend the brilliant stranger to me. Let me overpass the loathed recollection. Enough to say that he was base enough to make a blind Mrs. Delamere believe him to be a virtuous widow, and we were thus thus affected should avoid draughts, cold, damp weather especially draughts upon the neck and upper part of the chest.

Another variety attacks some muscle in the wall of the chest, as it is on one side. Every breath causes pain, and this is sometimes eructating and spasmodic. A plaster or a bandage over the part will generally afford relief, by restraining the respiratory movement.

A third variety affects the lower part of the chest, and is usually accompanied by a dull, aching pain in the front or the back of the head.

A fourth variety attacks the upper part of the back and shoulders, and occurs chiefly in persons much exposed. In a fifth variety of the disease the walls of the abdomen are affected.

A sixth variety is known by the name of lumbago. Its seat is in the muscles of the loins—the small of the back. It may be on both sides, or only on one. As these muscles connect with the lower movements generally, almost every movement causes pain, and the patient finds relief only by remaining at absolute rest in bed. If he is able to keep about, it is with pain and in a stooping posture.

The treatment of rheumatism requires in the first place absolute rest of the part affected; and if relief does not come from that, the advice of a physician should be sought.—Youth's Companion.

One day accident disclosed what his pain would have hidden. The illness of his father recalled him home; he sought me in my private haste to say adieu, and my kindly wishes were soon taken by sudden burning words from him. Mistaking his agitation for grief on Mrs. Delamere's account, unwittingly I goaded him into a full declaration of his detested passion. He was stupefied, excess of emotion had me dumb.

"Your amendment is well acted, if it is acted," mocked he. "If it is sincere, then I am as lost and disgraced a man as lives to curse himself this day."

If I felt Laura's agonizing attention to her had been open and unequalled, to retract from them would most cruelly injure her.

He returned with the utmost deliberation—quoted the old wrong she had done him, and vented the completeness of his revenge.

In suddenly aroused wrath and scorn I drove him from me; as he hurried from my presence in writhing humiliation, my lord met him—marked his agitation as he passed with a hurried bow, and entered the room with a look of rapture on the face of his wife. Should I have confided all to him? Alas! I was but a girl—I was ashamed of the base love I had excited—I trembled for the consequences to my beloved husband should he have been so bold as to insult; I dared not confide the matter to Lord Incheape.

I gave a halting explanation of my emotion. Colonel Acerrington was leaving us, and by a careless word which he had dropped he had revealed that he had been but amusing himself at the expense of my friend, Mrs. Delamere. I had not concealed from him my anger, and he was leaving us forever.

My lord accepted the explanation at once; his heart had been so long on his suspension at the time; but he remembered the episode afterward. I did