



CHAPTER XXXVIII

HUSBAND AND WIFE



WHEN she saw him she sprang up with a cry of mingled joy and apprehension. She did not love him with her whole heart, but she was his wife, and she had given up everything for him. She saw that he looked haggard and worn, as if he had passed a sleepless night, and the thought that he might be in trouble awakened in her heart a rush of tenderness towards him warmer than anything she had yet felt for him. He was still sufficiently in love with her to forget for a moment in the joy of meeting the desperate errand upon which he had come. He clasped her to his heart, assuring her again and again of his unaltered affection.

"But why have you come so soon, and without any warning?" she asked, anxiously. "You said when you left me that it might be a month before you could come again."

"I expected that it would be a month dearest, before I could get away comfortably and without suspicion."

At the word suspicion she winced. The idea of a