"I was wanting so much to ask you, if you had seen that misgnificent altar-piece of Perugino's in the Church of St. Peter, Perugis. You were in Italy last winter, were you not?"

ot?"
on ensued a long account of Mr.
Italian tour, stimulated by Mrs. were you not?" Whereupon ensued a long account of Mr. Magnay's Italian tour, stimulated by Mrs. Mortlake's peculiar form of questioning. Esperance meanwhile had recovered herself, and sat proudly erect, without betraying any desire to join in the conversation. She was wounded by her cousin's most unfair speech, for it had assumed that she was in the habit of talking about her sufferings in the siege, whereas the subject had soarcely been mentioned since her arrival, and she had, moreover, made an unjust instination as to her good taste.

"Horrors at the dinner-table!" the very idea of being suspected of mentioning anything of the sort made her blush anew.

Her indignation gradually died away, however; the mention of Paris, and other

thing of the sort made her bush alow,
Her indignation gradually died away,
however; the mention of Paris, and other
familiar manes, had recalled all her sad
memories, and it was as much from this
sadness, as from the effects of Mrs. Mortlake's snub, that she answered all Claude's
further attempts at conversation in

sendors, and it was an moch, from this maches, and all Chandre in the state of the control of th

swas grew more despairingly miserable—her whole face was expressive of the sense of isolation and injustice.

Claude drank in her whole aspect and bearing almost greedily, thrilling through and through with the delight of thus grasping almost greedily, thrilling through and through with the delight of thus grasping and through with the delight of thus grasping in the subject. It was not till a mist of tears dimmed those bright eyes that his human nature began to be touched by the sight of suffering, and half ashamed of his artistic rapture, he turned eagerly to Mrs. Mortlake

"Pray don't think you are wasting my time; and as to Miss Bella's face, I expect it will soon be sunny again. Ah II thought so," as Bella, who was the most arrant little flirt, looked up smilingly, and inclined to be propitisted by his attention.

There was some little difficulty about the placing. One chair was too high, afd another too low, and it ended in Mrs. Mortlake's sending Esperance to the library to test one of the large books for Bella to sit on.

Claule, who, after his momentary for claule, who, after his momentary for cetuless, had suddenly become very through the placing on the respective pluing not vary energetically at "Webster's Dictionary."

"Let me help you," he exclaimed; "this is a famous book indeed, but too heavy for you."

She thanked him, and would have turned away, but he detained her.

"I want to tell you how sorry I am to have been partly the cause of all this—sodo". He would have said "this soolding," but predently refrained.

"You was to tell you how sorry I am to have been partly the cause of all this—sodo". He would have said "this soolding," but predently refrained.

"You was to tell you how sorry I am to hope less "Mariana" look again.

"You will not forget our walk yesterday, and the bequare that he should at trying untouched on the resperance was the hope less "Mariana" look again.

Claude was full of sympathy, but only ventured to say, "Miss Bella is somewhat trying, I should fanoy. I hope you will give

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"No. Change."
"Yes, indeed (slapping his pooket), whe we do need is change." "Mr. Gould, how is your canal stock to day?" "I have no canal stock, sir."
"I beg pardon; my mistake. For the moment I imagined that the large amount of water in your railways had converted them into canals."

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tramp to another.
"Yee," was the sad reply, "we get winter now when we were expecting spring,"
"Yes, but, after all, that's what we

