

said Mrs. Lathom ; and her voice grew sharp. " I will not put up with likes or dislikes from—from——."

" From a convict, madam."

" I did not say that. You are very rude to interrupt me when I am speaking, especially when I wish to confer a favour on you. But you must remember your position."

" I can never forget it."

The words were uttered with a quiet dignity, and the dark eyes met Mrs. Lathom's so steadily, that she felt slightly uncomfortable.

" Well, I'm sure I'm very good to you, Helen, and have done a great deal for you in many ways."

" For the *kindnesses* I have received from you, madam, I am grateful," the girl answered slowly, though her whole passionate nature was in revolt when she thought of the daily bitterness and ignominies heaped upon her by the thoughtless, selfish, and shallow-brained creature who sat before her languidly fanning her face with a dainty Indian fan. But distinct as was her emphasis on the word "*kindnesses*" Mrs. Lathom did not detect it.

" Now, Helen," she went on, " as you have no doubt seen, Captain Lathom is very peculiar in his ways, and . . . but he really is very slow to understand things. But he has quite a high opinion of you—quite, I assure you. In fact, he has *said* so distinctly."

" Captain Lathom has always been most kind and considerate to all the convicts under his care, madam."

" Quite so ; and I am glad you appreciate it, but then, of course, you are much superior to the—the——"

" Other convict women, madam."

" Exactly. And, of course, when you were assigned