

avenue, and pulled up before their astonished eyes !

"Surprised I haven't been before, eh, Maldon?" he said. "Of course you expected me; but I've been so confoundedly busy in London and elsewhere, and I've got such a memory, that—I know you'll excuse me!—you were quite forgotten! Not quite, though," he continued, eyeing Marie significantly, "How could I?"

The Baronet replied, as politely as he might: He was glad to see his Lordship; he meant to have called at Dalton House, but —. And here he curled his lip, and broke off the sentence abruptly; for he was disgusted that common courtesy should sometimes be so closely connected with common lying!

Lord Dalton, blind to all this, was careless about the answers he received. "I see you're going to ride," he said. "Which way?—don't turn back: I'll ride with you.