presence is as much needed by Parliament as of Commons in questions involving the ex-by his bwn followers. There is, however, an impression shread that, either with him or with—wright is on hand. Nova Scotians are always impression shroad that, either with him or without him; the Minntry cannot survive the expiration of this Parliament Should he not lead them again they are doomed beyond hepe of salvation. His illness has already half paralyzed his party in the House, and the Lord knows what would become of them if he goes South. I observe that some of your Tory con-temporaries are making much of the fact that A HALF DOZEN HIRH CATROLICS

in the House voted against Landry s resolution.
Of these, Mr. Thompson, Minister of Justice, is an English convert, who has never claimed, and has never been considered in any sense, as representing Irish Catholics. Mr. Costigan chose to remain in the Ministry despite the opposition of Irish Catholics to the Riel execution. Mr. Bergin has had a lat office as Surgeon General of the Militis bestowed upon him. He aspires of the Militis bestowed upon him. He aspires to a seat in the Catinet, and, being a turnouat reformer, he voted confidence in a Ministry with which his political fortunes are bound up. He cannot go back to the Liberals, so he remains with the Tories. Mr. Curran has his hopes fixed on the Bench, and as his only chance of getting there is through the Tories, he stands by them. Mr. Conghlan and Mr. Burns, al-though Irish Catholics, are merely holding seats at the pleasure of the Government, whose nominees they are. Sir John took great credit for bringing these men into Parliament, but for bringing these men into l'arliament, but while doing so he leit no means untried to defeat much abler, more independent and far more representative Irish Catholics. All these half-dozen are Tories first, Irishmen afterwards, when it auits them. Is it astonishing that those men should vote in favor of hanging a madman on a charge of high treason, when they persist on a charge of high treason, when they persist in supporting and belonging to a party controlled by the Orangemen and who e press is wolent in its epp sition to the principle of Irish Home Rule so dear to every Irishman. These men no more represent Irish feeing on the Riel question than by their votes in parliament they represent Irish sentiment regarding TORY HATRED OF HOME RULE.

Tory subserviency to Orangeism, and Tory turests to overthrow Catholicity in Quebec. Inshmen in or out of parliament who adhere to and defend the Tory party must accept and bow to these leading points in the Tory programme. But by doing so they place them elves apart from their people and nust look to Orange and Tory influences alone for the future. They have chosen their side, and when next they appeal to the people for election they find their countrymen and co-religionists on the other side they can only blame themselves should they suffer repudiation. It is no uncommon thing at Oftawa for men belonging to the majority to vote against their convictions and the interests of their constituents. Party discipline is very strong. Other influences are also very strong; such as patronage and the numerous axes which every member has to grind, but never can get ground till the last vestige of independence is taken from them, and it is sink or swim with Sir

took place in the Commons this afternoon. arose from a question of privilege raised by Mr. Kirk calling attention to the fact that members of the House had used the official reports with the regular imprimatur and put false headings on it for party purposes, misrepresenting and falsifying the divisions. Mr. Thos. White defended the action of his Tory friends on the sended the action of his Tory friends on the senderal ground of "party exigencies." A number of members took a hand in, and there was a lively half hour. Hassard is an institution which has frequently been used for party purposes. Reports have been altered, and some-times the words and meaning of speeches altered to agree with more mature reflections.

ASSISTED IMMIGRANTS.

Few persons outside the parties interested will deny the impolicy of the system of assisted passages to immigrants carried on by the Department of Agriculture. A great amount of money is spent this way every year, which is simply thrown away. It has been proved that numbers of men who attend cattle, or go on their own business, to England, secure return tickets as in migrants. It is also well known that many more take that means of getting to the United States. But worst of all is the importation of artisans and mechanics to compete with our own workmen in our already overcrowded labor market. With the object of fixing the extent of these abuses, Dr. Wilson moved for returns. In doing so, he pointed out the evil and absurdity of spending money in this way, and urged the Minister of Agriculture to discontinue the practice. Mr Carling made a general denial of the allegations, and declared that artisans were not assisted. He promised, however, to bring down the returns. When they are to hand we shall be able to get at something like the truth of the matter A RELIC.

To-day some workmen unearthed the tablet where D'Arcy McGee was shot. It is somewhat defaced. About a year after the tablet was placed the building, which contained the Queen's printing office, was burned down. Ever since the tab et has remained in a heap of rubbish on a back lot. It is said the Government will take possession of the stone for pre-BBrvation

OTTAWA, April 11.—If I had my choice of an easy billet in the civil service I should choose to be a director of the geological survey. It is a branch of the public service of which most people know very little. The salaries are good, the work required consists of summer picnics, with geologizing as an object, fishing, shooting and a general good outing as incidentals. What common people who can afford it regard as a delightful holiday, is to geological surveyors employment with the advantage of having their salaries and expenses paid all the time. But although a great deal of money is annually expended in this way and in keeping up the museum, the institution cannot be said to be a success. Persons engaged in running matters tell me that it is about the worst place in the country to apply for information. It appears to be run on close communion principles, and is regarded as either possessing very little knowledge or having a mighty clever way of knowledge or having a migury occur. ..., concealing it. Reform in its methods, or its staff, is much needed, for more than giving trips something more than giving trips to Europe and pionics to favorites should be obtained for the large amount of money expended. However, it is likely to get a pretty lively shaking up Mr. Holton is after the fossils with a sharp stick-the living fossils, I mean. He has a notice on the paper. It is doubtful, however, that anything in the way of good will result, except, perhaps, exposure of existing abuses, incapacity and useless expense. It seems extraordinary that four or five high salaried officials should be required to take charge of the geological section at the Indian and Colonial Exhibition, with all the expenses connected with their passages and maintenance.

THE MINISTER OF JUSTICE did not shine particularly bright in the House th s afternoon. A question of order was taken | Easter Monday.

OUR OTTAWA LETTER

On a bill which proposed to make a grant for a second railway to this town of Proton, N.S., remain law till the road was completed and paid for. The point was that the bill made the grant a parmarist statistically paid for the point was that the bill made the grant a parmarist statistically paid for the point was that the bill made the grant a parmarist statistically paid for the point was that the bill made the grant a parmarist statistically paid for the point was that the bill made the grant a parmarist statistically paid for the point was that the bill made the grant a parmarist statistically paid for the point was the bill made the grant to a southern climate. This, if the power take the state of the specially parmarist to prolong his life a journey infinite for the specially parmarist and compared to the South from Ottawa, especially in the special words wars stroke of the bill. It is not to the special parmarist and single specially parmarist and contact of the bill. It is not to the parmarist and parmarist and parmarist and parmarist and parmarist statistically parmarist and par

to-day, but his physicians would not hear of it.

These reports are somewhat conflicting, but I give them as they come. Everyone would be gad to see the Premier tack in his place. His presence is as much needed by Pattern A. It does not do to fool with the reports. amusing, if not instructive, when they get up a fight among themselves. PARTY FRELING

is very bitter among them and they hit hard. For some reason the Opposition seems to take delight in badgering the new minister, who was taken from the bench to illuminate the Commons with his legal wisdom. So far he has filled his place acceptably, but a few mistakes like that of correct it. When referring to opposition members from his own province, he seldom refrains from a sneer uttered with an irritating air of superiority that is very offensive, and regularly arouses a sharp rejoinder. It is a good plan to keep on a level in the House, even with those opposed to you, for there is no telling what may happen. Nova Scotlan politicians especially have a re-cord for long memories, though times may change and men change with them. It may be noted here, to Mr. Kirkpatrick's credit, that he has several times during the session given very impartial rulings in spite of Ministeria, pressure. This is probably the reason of that article appeared censuring the Speaker might have noticed a slight nervouse for not keeping better order in the House a his manner—diffidence there was none decided coolness has arisen between Mr. Kirkpatrick and Mr. T. White. Mr. Daly. the Deputy Speaker, also shares the resent ment of his chief. It is also said that quite

a number of Conservative members are offended at Mr. White's airs of leadership during Sir John's absence. The number of the Gazette containing the chnoxious article has been removed from the tile in the Commons reading room by order of the Speaker. The question now arises at a loss in what fushion to shape her Has the Speaker the power to remove newspapers from files in the reading room? It is held that he has not. It is likely the matter will come up in the form of a question of privilege, when a lively time may be expected.

OTTAWA, April 15 .- It is somewhat currous, if Mr. Costigan has the earnest support and en-tire confidence of that portion of the Conservatire confidence of that portion of the consolventives which pretends to represent the Irish knows it, but intends to be occurrent, in creating to put overlooks the superiority of his position.

Catholics, that an intrigue should exist to bring overlooks the superiority of his position.

"My dear madam, I was not alluding to your daughter to be considered." about his retirement, in order to put Dr. Darby Bergin in his place. I do not believe that the Cabinet is of very formidable proportions, or represents anything more than the witless ambition of the Cornwall doctor. When Dr. Bergin tat in Parliament as a supporter of the Liberal Government of Mr. Maukenzie, he never ceased to urge his claims to a seat in the Cabinet. He insisted that Hon. R. W Scott and Hon. C. F. Frasec we e not representative Irish Catholics, and that he was the only man in Parliament that really did so. Mr. Mackenzie's failure to recognize his claims, and a quarrel with Mac-donald, of Cornwal, brought about his change of allegiance from the Liberals to the Tories, by whom he has been twice elected. Of course, every man has a right to change sides it politics, but people expect the act to be justi-fied on satisfactory public grounds.

CNDER TORY COLORS

Dr. Bergin's ambition was the same as when he fought on the other side. No one can say it is not an honorable ambition. To represent the Irish Catholics of Canada in the Government of the country is a proud position for any man to fill. Dr. Bergin's ability is admitted. He is also energetic, he sistent, a strong par-tizan on whatever side he may range himself; he lacks, however, those qualities which win, establish and retain confidence and friendship He is apt to treat all who do not agree with him in everything as enemies, and as a consequence forfeits regard that otherwise he would have. That he would make a first class administrator of a department has been proved by the masterly thoroughness with which he organized and managed the Surgeon-General's branch of the militia during the North-West campaign. These things stand to his credit, and if he has patience, and the Tories remain in office, he may yet secure the object of his ambition. As matters are at present, it is not at all probable that he will replace Mr. Contigan. His contention that the representative of the Irish Cathol cs in the Cabinet ought to be an Ontario man is of no account Although that province may have the largest Irish Catholic population of any of the provinces, that population is not sections. So long as their representative really represents their views and feelings, it matters little to them what part of the Dominion he comes from. Beaides, MR. C STIGAN HAS A RECORD

of service which his heir presumptive has not Otherwise there is nothing to choose between them, and Sir John Macdonald's well known dislike for changing his colleagues gives the sitting minister a great advantage. When the general election comes on no one knows what changes may take place. Should Mr. Costigan desire to retire then, he could do so, I have no doubt, with a choice of positions in the gift of the Ministry. To the Irish Catholics generally the struggle for office between them is of very little moment. They have both taken ground and given votes abhorront to every true Irishman, and they may recken with whom they will for place hereafter. Mr. Costigan has the advantage of a safe constituency,—he holds the fort and is personally popular. On the other hand he has the disadvantage, in Sir John Macdonald's eyes, of having kicked over the traces once or twice, and Sir John is one who never forgets or forgives independence in a colleague or a follower. This, I think, is a fair presentment of the situation as regards these gentlemen. It is very bad taste, however, in Dr. Bergin shewing his jealousy of Mr. Costigan by pitching into his measures in Parliament. It does not advance his cause, and only serves to exhibit his motives. At any rate they may both take what consolation they can find in the certainty that after the elections the Irish Catholics will be represented in the Cabinat by a man superior

RIDEAU.

to either of their in all that our people regard as essential to the character of one occupying

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The Rev. Father P. Prevost, O.M.I., has been appointed Superior of the College of Ottawa, in place of the late Rev. Father Tabaret, O.M.I. He will assume charge on

WHO FIRED THE FIRST SHOT?

CHAPTER XIX. - Continued. With a light step she sprang to the window

With all the step she sprang to me window, which had not been entirely closed, cold as the night was. As she stepped out into the darkness, Lord Elmsdale shouted after her, mad with rage at being baffled by a girl—"1'll keen my word to you—by —— I will; "1'll keep my word to you-byand we'll see what chance your lover will have at the trial. Confound you for an im pudent girl, but you will rue this night's

work. I'll be at the trial-by - I will." CHAPTER XX. AN UNEXPECTED VISITOR

Colonel Everard, my lady. He says he wishes particularly to see your ladyship; and he hopes you will excuse his calling at such a time. I. was to be particular to give the rage exactly as he gave it, my lady." The speaker was the exact and conscien tions Barnes, Lady Elmedale tried to look resigned. She had hoped for a day's quiet before leaving

the home where she had spent so many years—the home which was home to her in sense in which no other place could be. to day will spoil his reputation. He has Here she had been brought, a young, fair another fault of which he should be re-bride, by a hasband who loved her tenderly, minded, so that he may make an effort to who had always loved ber, and with whom she had never nad any of those quarrels which, if all we hear of the outer world is true, seem to be a necessity of the habits, and a normal condition of life in the nine-

teenth century.

To Mary Elmadale, to the twins, the change was painful, but they could not feel it as the mother did. To them it was the first wrench of the fires which had grown and intensified in growth year after year until they had be-come almost a part of that which supported

Lady Elmadale descended slowly to the apartment where Colonel Everard was awaiting the interview which he had solicited with the Montreal Gazette's attacks upon him. Since his usual self-possession. An acute observer might have noticed a slight nervousness in

"I have done myself the hunor, Lady Elmadale, to wait upon you, even at the risk of causing you some inconvenience, on an important subject "-

He pauseu. Manifestly he thought he had done the lady an honor as well as, or perhaps rather more than, himself. "We are just in the unpleasant bustle of preparation for leaving," she replied, feeling that some reply was required, but very much

answer. "I have come to request your interposition

vour interference, in fact "Indeed, Colonel Everard, you must excuse me, my son has left Elmadale-left Ireland, in fact, this morning; and even if he were here, I could not open the subject again,"

The Colonel smiled with the air of a man knows it, but intends to be benignant, and

your son, I was alluding to-your daugh-

Lady Elmsdale had never been indifferent to the prospect of marriage between her daughter and the wealthy Colonel. Even when Lord Elmedale had spoken of the disparity of years, and the stern, reserved manner of their neighbor, she had treated these obstacles lightly. He was a gentleman, a man of good position, but above all he was a man of wealth. I do not think Lady Elmsdale was more worldly minded than her neighborsindeed, I am quite certain she was less than many; but she had no idea of marriage as a sacrament-how, indeed, could she ?-and she had suffered herself, in ways known only notions about them to hold their position on a perfect equality with their fellows. She wished to save her daughter from these trials, and, thinking as she did, perhaps we cannot blame her overmuch.

But whatever golden opinions she may have had of the Colonel in the past, at the present moment, undoubtedly, she thought him extremely tiresome.

He did not seem to expect a reply, which

afforded her considerable relief, for his observation was one which it would have been difficult to answer.

"You are doubtless aware, Lady Elmsdale." he centinued, with a self-confidence which would have been amusing if it had not been so entirely characteristic,—"you are doubt-less aware of the preference I have long entertained for Miss Elmsdale. Have I your permission to express that preference to the young lady herself?"

Was this love? Notwithstanding her sorrow, notwithstanding the preternatural gravity of her visitor, Lady Elmsdale could have indulged, then and there, in a hearty fit of laughter, if the usages of society, which for the nonce take the place of Christian charity, had not interfered to compel silence. Ah ! those usages of seciety !-- what do they not oblige us to do and to suffer, and with what patience they are obeyed, with what exactitude they are fulfilled ! Lady Elmsdale was obliged to answer. Her

reply was certainly not very connected. "I really-that is-I suppose-I believe"

Colonel Everard interposed with courtly condescension. He would have been equally polite and equally dignified at the execution of half a dozen Indian rebels, or the hanging of Ned Rusheen, which he would have considered a holocaust due to the offended dignity of British law, without any very particular reference to the innocence or guilt of the person sacrificed.
"I quite undestand, Lady Elmsdale."

never occurred to him for one instant that her hesitation could proceed from any indifference to himself personally, or that she could be indifferent to the importance of such a connection for her daughter. "I can assure you I have thoroughly considered the It did not appear to have occurred to him that any consideration on the other side was necessary. Possibly he acted on the principle, "When the gods speak, let

men obey. "Mits Elmadale is young," he continued, with the air of a man who saw objections, but considerately waived them; "but I can make all necesthem: sary allowances. She will find me indulgent, Lady Elmsdale, within all reasonable limits"-(Lady Elmsdale wondered what he would consider reasonable)—"and I may add, I think—I really think, under the circumstances, that it is my duty to add-that she may find herself elevated in rank by her marriage. I am correct, Lady Elmsdale"—(who ever doubted his correctness?)—"I am speaking strictly within the limits of truth, ducal coronet if she consents to honor me with her hand. I have not said much about it—in fact, I prefer being received everywhere on my own merits; but I am next heir to a dukedom, and I feel it right to inform you that it is so."

What Colonel Everard said was literally true. He was not a man to lay claim to an honor of which he had not a fair prospect.
Different minds have different was a of maniwas a life between him and his expectations a frail, uncertain life, but still a life.

If Lady Elmedale had been fasoinated by the prospect of wealth, she was not altogether unmoved by the prospect of rank. Strange that that which can at best last but a few years should so enthral our imaginations and sokindle our desires! If rank and wealth could be kept in the possession of the one individual some thousand years and more, we might be excused for rating its value so

highly. scarcely opportune, but you will kindly remember the draumstances. had in-tended to address you on this subject imm-diately after Miss Elmsdale's return from England—in fact, I only waited for the conclusion of her educational pursuits to say what I intended; and then Lord—I mean' -He hesitated, with some little degree of feeling. "Of course," he continued, almost ashamed of a departure from his usual dignity,-" of course I could not have spoken sooner, and I could not have spoken now, had I not feared that new scenes and new influences might render your daughter less favorable to my suit."

Lady Elmadale was distressed, perplexed, and somewhat pained. Never since her husband's death had she felt his loss more keenly. Who was to advise her? whom should she consult? It did not occur to her that her child might in after life need help, and a friend on whom she could rely, who could be at once adviser and comforter; and that she could scarcely find such a resource in the cold, stern, self-sustained man who wished to unite his lot with hers. What was she to do?

Colonel Everard saw her embarramment. He scarcely attributed it to the right cause, but he observed it.

He took out his watch, a faultless repeater, studded with precious stones, -- it never varied a second in the twenty-four hours; his watch could not be guilty of such an impropriety. He looked at it methodically, as if he were calculating the time for a courtmartial. "I shall wait in the grounds, Lady Elmadale, for an hour, and at the expiration of that time, if you will permit me, I shall return and await your reply. If it is favorable, I shall hope for the honor of an interview with your daughter."

Lady Elmsdale felt as if she almost hated her intended son-in-law, but she did not say so, -indeed she did not may anything, for there was nothing to be said. The Colonel seemed to consider himself the master of the whole affair; and it was a condescension on his part to allow even an hour for reflection. His manner, his tone, his quiet assurance, had almost persuaded Lady Elmsdale to take

his view of the case.

Mary was in her mother's room, which she seldom left now. Large packing cases were scattered here and there through the apartment, and all the paraphernalia of a lady's wardrobe lay in the disorder of preparation for a long absence from home. Harry and Freddy were both with her. It was long since the twins had been together; perhaps the approaching apparation from home had revived old recollections, and banished for the time more recent troubles. Discord there had never been. and where discord is abjent re-union is very easily affected.

They were talking almost with their old boyish impetuosity, when Lady Elmadale opened the door, and they did not discontinue the conversation, neither did she by sign or look interrupt them-she was but too happy to witness any approach to their old freedom.

"But I say, Fred," Harry was observing, it's all that horrid old fogy, Colonel Everard. He has got some Indian notions about hanging men as an innal reply in the negative. You know all opinion might be; and the began to have some example, and all that, you know, as they do out there; and I suppose it's hard when it of course, the marriage cannot take place for be so blind to the advantages he offered to those who move in the higher circles of example, and all that, you know, as they do comes to a fellow like Ned that you know a time, under our present painful circumor care about."
"' \Vell, I don't see what's to be done,"

replied Fred, rather dolefully, "I'm sure I'd take half a dozen of Buine's worst canings with pleasure if it would save him. By Jove, though, I've thought of it. I say, Mary, I think the Colonel used to be a trifle sweet on you. Now, if you'd speak to him, maybe he'd hold his tongue; and that's all he is wanted to do, it seems, in the present Case."

"There's the mother," exclaimed Harry, with something of his old animation. "I say, mother, can't we do something to save Ned? I can't bear to leave him here to be hanged;" he added the last words with a touch of the very depressed he added the manner which had become habitual to him of late.
"If he is not guilty, it certainly is very

dreadful.'

"If he is not guilty; I know he is not," Harry added, impetuously; "and I know who ought to be where he is now."

Lady Elmsdale looked greatly surprised and greatly distressed. "My dear boy, take care what you say. I am pleased with your eagerness to defend poor Rusheen, but you have uttered very serious words. If any stranger heard you, they might think you

really knew who was guilty, and"——
"Perhaps I do know," the boy retorted defiantly, and then he darted out of the room, to save himself from bursting into the flood of passionate tears which he was trying to choke back.

Fully a quarter of an hour had passed since the departure of the exacting Colonel, and Lady Elmsdale felt extremely uneasy. There was not, there could not be, the very least ground for hope that he would be unpunc-

"Perhaps, Fred, you had better go after Harry. I do not understand his strange mood, and I wish to speak to Mary alone. You might tell Harry that I think she could interfere to prevent Colonel Everard giving evidence. Perhaps it will help to calm him."
They little knew that there was other evidence even then in preparation which would

be of infinitely greater importance. Fred left his mother's room with little hope

"I fear, my dear child, that what I have to tell you will be a surprise. I am not sure sisters, even when they are their seniors by a whether it will give you pleasure or not, but,' she concluded, abruptly, "it must be told."
Mary looked an inquiry, but did not speak.

She had some faint suspicion of the possible subject of her mother's communication. She knew Colonel Everard had been with Lady Elmedale that morning, but he had paid a similar visit a few days previously, and she had not heard that there was any reference made to her on that occasion. 44 You know, perhaps, that Colonel Everard

has been with me for some time to-day; indeed, he has only just left the house. You may, perhaps, guess the object of his visit." Mary looked anxious, but she did not attempt to help her mother even by a smile. "Lauppose, my dear, I had netter tell youst

once what his object has been. He has asked my permission to pay his addresses to you, and I have promised to give him a final reply when he returns in an hour. His conduct has been altogether most gentlemanly, and extremely correct."-(Perhaps Mary would have admitted it more if it had been a little less so.

RUSHEEN . festing their pride, and reticence was the but she spoke never a word.)—" Of course girl she thought he could not see her to better Colonel's fashion. He was too proud to pro- I do not wish to biss your choice in a advantage than in the very attire she then claim himself the heir to a title while there matter of such importance. You are very wore. young,—this is your first offer,—you are perfectly free to act as you please; but I think it right, at least, to point out to you the advantages of such a marriage."—(Mary knew vantages of such a marriage."—(Mary knew hand been kept up cortainly, and bright)—the only heldet least. them deriently, quite as well, or mearly so, as her mother did. "You know, my dear," continued Lady Elmedale, "this property has been very much encumbered, and his only late, been very much encumbered, and his only late, been cleared. You know, also, that your poor father died without a will, so that we are entirely in Edward's power, and I fear we cannot expect much from him. You will only have your share of the fortune accurate to younger children by marriage settlements, and Frear that your chances of a good marriage hereafter will be proportionately leasured as no mariner ever had, or ever could

"What would you wish me to do, memme !"

It was a strange question for a young girl under such circumstances; and the indiffer-

and luxuries of life, and to consider The expression would not come. The eyes, the possession of them rather a necessity than an advantage. She had certainly heard certain pages read from a Book, which she was taught to believe divine, about love of poverty, about desire of abjection, about the snares of riches, about the value of humility; but what of that? She came home and found all these things, against the exwarnings, esteemed as the highest possible good. How, then, could she think other-

The lessons of Holy Scripture might le intended for some people—for whom, she did not stop to inquire. Manifestly, as far as the opinion of those about her went, they were not intended for her; and we cannot wonder that she did not feel called upon to to be more correct, there was a brown object practice them. She had, indeed, heard of monks and nuns who carried out the precepts of poverty to their utmost extent; but they had been invariably described to her as fools or knavesthough why the former, when they followed for drawing and perspective at Miss Mounthe advice of Eternal Wisdom, or why the thrasher's establishment, we do not whether latter, when they sacrificed all that the world holds most dear, she never asked, and never was told.

But there was no question now of celibacy, or practice of poverty, but of mar-riage — of marriage, which, by the law of Protestant nations, has been reduced to the level of a mere civil contract. Why, then, as such, should it not be made asubject of speculation like any other contract, and, like any other contract, annulled a pleasure?

Mary had simply to consider the question from its worldly point of view. She had not yet formed any attachment; she had suspected for several years that Colonel Everard admired her; she had heard his wealth the confidence of a person who is fully aware extelled, and made an excuse even for his that he is performing an act of condescension, peculiarities, or at least for tolerating them. She was on the whole prepared to listen favorably to his offer of marriage, but she wished to ascertain her mother's opinion of

the matter,
"What would you wish me to mamma? Colonel Everard would have highly ap proved of the question if he had heard it, able opinion will be confirmed by you, Such prudence, he would have said, was rare and that I may have an assurance from

in one so young. "Well, my dear, if you really wish for my advice, I think you ought to consider the question very seriously before you give a stances. If you wish, I have no doubt that Colonel Everard would give you a few months for consideration. There is one circumstance, however, which I have thought it right to withhold from you until I saw that you were at least not averse to the marriage. Colonel Everard has informed me that there is only

one life between him and succession to a duke-

iom, and that life is extremely precarious.

So you see, Mary, you may be a duchess some day."
"A duchess, mamma!"

No otner word was said, but Mary looked very thoughtful. Poor girl! she had yet to learn that duchesses were subject to sorrows like other people; that dukes must die; that the griefs and trials, and cross purposes, and family troubles which haunt the poor tradesman's family, are felt with equal keenness in the nobleman's household. If she had but thought, she might have remembered that a title had not saved her own father from a terrible and sudden death, nor her own mother from days and nights of anguish. But she did not think—so near may truth be to us, without having the least influence on our actions, in moments of the gravest importance.

A servant had already announced the return of Colonel Everard.

"I suppose I may tell him to hope, Mary?" observed Lady Elmsdale, with a smile, as she left the room. "You had better ring for Lucy to dress you. I will come for you presently.

But Mary Elmsdale did not ring for her maid, and did not change her morning dress, which she made every excuse for retaining as late as possible in the day. In this instance, however, she had simply taken no notice of her mother's words. She was absorbed in thought of the new prospect in life which awaited her. "A duchess, mamma!" She was even yet musing upon the charming, the fascinating possi-

bility.

Freddy came in suddenly. "There's old Everard below, Mary. If you would only go to him, I do believe if you could get him off giving evidence, it would be the best thing you ever did in your life, for I am sure it Fred left his mother's room wave the state of finding or consoling Harry, though he has taken all this so to nears. Go, now, would have been only too thankful if he could her with the half-patronizing, half commandher with the half-patronizing, half commandher with the half-patronizing has mission. would recover Harry. I cannot think why ing manner which boys will assume towards

> vear or two. "I think-that is, I believe-I meanmamma "--

"Remarkably clear, and most beautifully explicit! Hullo, Mary! what's up now? Why, your face is scarlet."—(An idea had begun to dawn on him of an entirely novel character.)-"Surely it's not possible. Mary, it's all in taste; but if you are thinking

great friend of your papa's."
"So it's true, then, Well, I'll shut up;" and then, with characteristic impetuosity, he added--" I say though, Mary, it sin't true-

Lady Elmsdale came in at the moment, and relieved her daughter from some embarrassment, but only to feel it herself still more. " dear, you have not changed your

morning dress, and Colonel Everard is so very exact; I am sure he will not like to be kept waiting;" but as she looked at the fair young

ore.

44 Well, perhaps it is best as it is; I can

such as no mariner ever had, or ever could

have, navigated. The rays of light from the departing luminary extended through space regardless of optics and circumstances. There it was a strange question for a young gur-under such diremstances; and the indiffer—was an unhappy young lady, in the costume ence with which it was asked seemed yet more of a country which has not yet atrange. But Mary Elmadale had been well taken its place in the ...cycle of educated, in the fashionable sense of the time, standing by the sad sen waves. educated, in the fashionable sense of the state, standing my the sad sen waves, word. She had been taught to believe in Her attitude was approved to express despair; money as the great and beneficent power has face was considerately surned towards which could confer unlimited blessings on the fortunate possessors. She had been taught to things being the result of several futile fortunate possessors. She had been taught to dread poverty as the most dire of evils, and to take every possible means of avoiding it.

She had been taught to love the comforts which should have contained volumes of tenderness and grief, squinted at each other, and declined acting in concert; the mouth had an irrepressible tendency to the left ear. which did not contribute to the general effect so much desired. The face was therefore very properly omitted; and only that fearful and horrible sun, at which the lady was supposed to gaze (if you could have seen her), could tell what expression her counte-nance exhibited. Perhaps, on the whole, it was as good an arrangement as could

have been made. The sun was evidently too entirely occupied in a desperate struggle to get himself down straight into the water to make any very pungent remarks on his admirer. There was also a ship, -or, surmounted by a white sail; the sail was very white. Of the vessel in general it need only be said that it was not known at Lloyds'; and though the Honorable Mary Elmadale had obtained the first premium the ship would have been classed as A-I

elsowhere. Colonel Everard did not admire the appearance of the apartment, but he behaved very well on the whole, and bowed courte-ously in reply to some observations of Lady Elmsdale's on the subject of the disorder caused by "packing."

He handed Mary Elmsdale a chair, when

she entered the room, with characteristic combination of patronage and deference. She looked, as she was, truly beautiful; and her manner, at once timid and conscious of her power over a man whom few had ever subdued, gave her an additional charm.

Colonel Everard opened the campaign with who is, in fact, stooping to ask when he

might simply command.
"I presume, Miss Elmsdale, that Lady
Elmsdale has informed you why I have
solicited the honor of an interview." He paused; Mary Elmadale made no reply. What, indeed, could she say to such a question? "I hope that her favoryourself before you leave Ireland that I may persevere in my suit."

Mary was still silent. Neither by look, nor word, nor sign could he gather what her

But Mary was by no means blind. The words she had said just before were still ringing in her cars-"A duchess, mamma!" and she had no idea of losing a prize of which she knew, or fancied she knew, the

"If there is anything I can do to prove"-He paused, at a loss, possibly, for a word. But Mary Elmsdale spoke now. Her brother's pleadings were still ringing in her ears. She loved tuem, and for them she could do and dare what otherwise would have seemed impossible.

"If you would-if you will"strangeness and abruptness of the request she was about to make came before her, and she

knew not how to continue.
"If I will! Surely you know you have only to express your wish that it may be obeyed;" and the strange, hard man spoke with more real feeling than he had vet

shown. "O, Colone! Everard! My brothers are so anxious. I don't know what is the matter with poor Harry-it's all about Ned Rushand Mary looked fairly at him, in her een :

excitement, with her pure, sweet eyes.

The face she looked at was dark, and it darkened more than she cared to see. She shrunk back; and though Colonel Everard was not a keen observer of other people's looks or feelings—he was too much absorbed in himself for that—he could not help noticing her expression, and he hesitated between his natural habit of command and the new feelings which were actuating him almost un-

consciously.
"You surely would not have me interfere with the course of justice, Miss Elmsdale?' "Oh! not that; but I know, I am sure Ned is not guilty."

"Woman's logic," said the Colonel, to him-self—not her. "My dear Mary, I am afraid impressions in a person's favor would not be of much value in a court of justice; but" "Oh! if you would only stay away, and not give evidence at all !" impetuous manner was certainly very attractive -singularly attractive to this man, always accustomed to be obeyed, and pleased with the little contradiction of his will, as men will be wno, in greater matters, will not brook a word of opposition.

"And if I yield to you in this matter, will you yield to me?" He came near her, and

drew her gently to him.

He thought he heard her say "Yes," but it did not much matter.

CHAPTER XXI.

TRIED FOR HIS LIFE.

It was the night before the celebrated murder case was to be called, Ned sat cold and still in his lonely, lonely cell. To-morrow he would know his fate—possibly by that very time to-morrow. He would know whether he was to be once more a free man, free to go whither he would, to do what he liked, or-horrible thought !- whether the law would sentence him to a felon's doomto be "hanged by the neck until he was dead."

Can we even for a moment inquire what a man's feelings must be who thus awaits his doom? It he knows that he is guilty, he is perhaps bowed down by the allenness of despair, but he feels his almost certain condemnation as deeply, if not as keenly, as if he were innocent. What would he not give. new for a hope of escape ! Nay, there have