

The

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AN ILLUSTRIOUS B

AN AUSTRALIAN

A few years ago, I met
of an elderly lady, whose
as 1799, held an official
il and military, in the
Wales. Many anecdote
brated characters who
of them. "Well the count
good." With most, if
celebrities the old lady
personally.

"One morning," she
in my drawing-room with
who are now middle ag
families when a gentle
I gave the order for his
his entering the door
rose from my chair, and
now, which he returned
and courtly manner. In
was that of a man of fa
ing that of a person wh
highest circles of socie
rived from England, a
with passengers, and I
tlemen was one of the
seated. He took a cl
and at once entered in
ing the first topic the
day, and the second
ance of my charming
pressed to speak of t
mother liking to hear
there was such a refin
manner, such a seemi
said added to such a
expression, that I cou
would form a very val
list of acquaintances,
remaining in Sydney.
the interior of the club
"I expressed my reg
husband) was from he
that I expected him at
hour we took luncheon
pressed a hope that o
and partake of the me
ty smile (which I after
more meaning in it th
aware of,) he feared I
pleasure of partaking
my table, but with m
wait till the appointed
near at hand. Our c
ed; and presently he
to go to him. They
they were shy childre
that the stranger's
and gentle disposition
ren, seated them on
tell them a fairy stor
invention, and exten
listened with profoun
could not help being
so fanciful were the
the language in wh
ed.

"The story ended
the children on the
the table on which
lain vase, a banquet
admired, and he be
culture. I intended
ness, so profound w
We were standing a
eight or ten minutes
the skirt of my dress
then compelling me
lent.

"One o'clock came
received, however, a
in pencil on a slip o
detained at Governm
two.

"Again I request
er to partake of lun
on the table in the
with the same winn
As he was about, a
extended my hand;
he stopped back, m
clined taking it.

"For a gentleman
ed when he extends
ing enough; but I
sely describe what
he been the heir to
that penal settleme
the stranger's man
might have been th
he could scarcely li
stances, treated me
manner. I scarcely
Observing as the s
the blood rushed t
cognisant, eviden
through my mind.

"Madam, I an
give me the libert
ing the truth is, I
over me, and I co
tion, of satisfying
made me so conspi
try still remained
"I stared at him

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