

one hand heavily on the back of his chair he fixed his eye-glass in place and staring at his elder son said with emphasis: "One of your pleasant surprises, eh, Stanton? Will you introduce me to this young lady?"

The pleading, almost agonized expression with which Mr. Armour had regarded his father died away.

"Do you not know her?" he said in a harsh, sad voice.

"H'm—judging from a faint resemblance" (and here the suspicion of a sneer passed over Colonel Armour's features), "I should say that she might be related to a young man once in my employ."

Vivienne watched the two men with breathless interest. At last she stood face to face with her guardians, and to Colonel Armour, as head of the house, some acknowledgment was due. Therefore when Mr. Armour turned to her with the words, "Allow me to present to you, Miss Delavigne, my father, Colonel Armour, and my brother Valentine," she made them each a pretty salutation and said gracefully that she was rejoiced to have the opportunity of thanking them for their kindness to her through so many years.

Colonel Armour stared at her through his gold-rimmed glass and Mr. Valentine, after making her a profound bow, stood bolt upright and confided to his moustache: "No raw schoolgirl this; a most