

and covered by a thick, black veil; her dress was rusty black, and her mantel, also thrown aside, was a shabby water-proof cloak.
It was not, however, for money or help of any kind that Hester Ransome came to Vida Carolan. She was a donor rather than a recipient.
"See," she was saying, leaning back in her chair, and surveying with more than proud satisfaction—with triumph, the form before her, "you are going to Lady Mansfield's garden-party. Do you know who you are going to meet?"
"A few of them," Vida answered. "I dare say I shall meet some new acquaintance. I was told—"

some's face. She stretched out her hand impulsively.
"Vida!" she said.
The girl turned and knelt beside her. "Mother!" she pressed her quivering lips to the hand that clasped hers. The woman was silent a minute, gazing into the girl's glowing eyes, then she said slowly:
"Vida, has it ever crossed you that there is peril to yourself in this work that lies before you?"
"Danger! do you mean that I shall forget the wrong Dare Devereux has done to you?"
"Aye!"
Vida's answer was characteristic: "I do not believe there is peril, but if there is, it must be braved, and if I should so forget your wrongs, I should deserve to suffer; and let my heart bleed or break, his shall bleed."
"Why do you not finish the sentence, Vida?"
"I have finished it; men's hearts do not break," said the girl, rising to her feet with a short, scornful laugh.
"Not for most women's sakes, Vida, but for yours. That do not start and look at me like that! Do you not yet fully realize your power?"
"Hush!" Vida said, trembling; "you wound me."
Certainly Hester Ransome could not understand her child's nature, but she had tact, and could be silent, but she sighed audibly, a half impatient sigh, as Vida turned away to the window. She almost immediately recovered self-command, and came back from the window, but at that moment the roll of carriage wheels was heard outside, and a footman's thundering knock resounded through the house.
"Is it Lady Marvyn?" said Vida quickly, and Madame Ransome began to assume her waterproof and bonnet.
Vida Carolan came out to the carriage in her cream-white cashmere and satin and ostrich plumes, and the odor of dainty perfume floated around her as she passed onwards.
[To be Continued.]
Lydia E. Pinkham, whose benevolent face is shadowed in almost every paper we pick up, appears to have discovered what Addison calls "The grand elixir, to support the spirits of human nature." It is quite evident that she has the patent and has secured the contract for making over and improving the invalid corps of American Womanhood—Globe.



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and I was to close my doors against him for his morals' sake? Would it have saved him if I had done so? Was not the world before him? and with the gambling fever on him, he would have played, do what I might to stay his hand, until he lost all. Yet it was I who lured him to his ruin, as though he had been a headless boy; I, who drove him to his death; and for this Dare Devereux has pursued me from city to city for fourteen years; for this I am here in hiding; and if he knew where I had found shelter, he would hunt me still—hunt me till I begged my bread in the street, or in my despair took my wretched life as did Percival Claremont. She had hurried on, speaking not loudly, but with a frenzied excitement in voice and mien terrible to witness, and the more so that it was partially suppressed. As she paused, Vida, who had listened without word or movement, said under her breath: "And now it shall be his turn to suffer—and it will be cruel suffering; for he is a proud man, proud of his noble lineage; and he is the cynosure of all eyes, the glass of fashion and the mould of form; and I am nameless; he knows nothing of me or my parentage; yet I will make him forget to ask for my patent of nobility—forget his pride—bring him to my feet—then tell him who it is for whose sake he has trampled on all the traditions of caste which he held so dear." She laughed as she almost flung the chair from her and commenced to walk rapidly up and down the room; but there was as much pain as triumph in the laugh; the nobler element in that complex and perverted nature was ever struggling to assert itself; the woman's heart was shrinking from the unwomanly task revenge had set it. She went on, speaking more passionately: "You say well, how are you worse than others? Why is the man or woman who keeps the roulette-table worse than those who stake their gold? Nay, with the one it may be a living, with the others a fancy or a vice. Do they live such pure and holy lives that they can cast the stone? Adventurers! What, then, are these girls who surround one in the world of fashion—the world that decks itself in certain outward conventionalities, and in them poses as Virtue's self. I call that woman an adventuress, be she the daughter of a hundred earls, who makes of society a marriage market, and lives, moves, and has her being for no higher motive than to win a rich husband, and cares not what his life has been or is, so long as his purse is deep, and his settlements ample. After all, there is everything in a name. Run through the whole gamut of life, and we shall find that we are all holding up our hands in horror at those things which we ourselves do under other names, and other superficial conditions." "True, Vida, true," said Madame Ransome; "but beware how you carry your argument too far; for there are both men and women who are good and noble, though my life has shown me mostly the black side of human nature; and, alas! your life has not been one to teach you faith in your kind." "Vida stopped, her hands were locked, and her bosom heaved. "I wish I could have faith in my kind," she said, with an abrupt change of manner. "I am young to be so cynical, so bitter; but I have seen little to give me that sunny view of things which belongs—so they tell us—to eighteen years." A strange look—a flash of light from the far-away youth that, perhaps, had been innocent, swept over Hester Ran-

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