Kate Coventry.

CHAPTER XII.

(CONTINUED.)

When I wiked at of the drawing rem to day, I felt that for once I had obtained the victory in a contest with my aunt; that Aunt Horsingham is always very civil to himself, by the temporary loss of his apparel, in future I should no longer be the 'wild, John, and so is Cousin Amelia. People whilst he was disporting in a the bring," the scape goat on whom were laid the faults and misdemennors of all—but thomas—faults and misdemennors of all—but thomas—in request we bout wives and children. to day, I felt that for once I had obtained to receive me. taken place, and Cousin Amelia to be undecrived in her groundless expectations. That notwithstanding. Flushed with my triumph, it written there in seven consonants and one with heightoned color and flushing, I stalked vowel.

If towards my chamber, and met Cousin Lloyd! said I, Lloyd. Wasn't there a John in the hall.

Good heavens! Kate, what is the matter? What has happened?' exclaimed John, in obvious perturbation.

'A picce of news! was my reply, 'a conquest, Jo'm! What do you think? Mr. Haycock has just been here, and pro-

and then go to bed.

CHAPTER XIV.

I need quote no more from my diary, as the next tow days offered no incident worthy of recording to break the monotony of our life at Pangerfield Hall. Drearier than ever the knife' between myself, my aunt, and the knife' between myself, my aunt, and to nothing was so wild and extravagant as to all, and my aunt, whose defeat was rankling appear impossible to my heated fancy.

I was always expected, and always disapnotice of me as was absolutely necessitated pointed.

The tourth morning I got a letter from Why is he not now with his Lady Seapesecrety. Poor Aunt Deberah required to be kept very quiet, and free from all worries and anneynness. The more she slept, the doctor said, the source she would get well measure to London for turther admostle equally by letter as by word of mouth? I give the epistle of Mr. Lumley on reading her letter over again, which I worked a party of fashionables during the frost?" Not a controlled to the miserable equally by letter as by word of mouth? I give the epistle of Mr. Lumley on reading her letter over again, which I worked to London for turther adverted to the controlled to the miserable equally by letter as by word of mouth? I give the epistle of Mr. Lumley on reading her letter over again, which I worked to the controlled to the miserable equally by letter as by word of mouth? I give the epistle of Mr. Lumley on reading her letter over again, which I worked to the controlled to the miserable equally by letter as by word of mouth? I give the epistle of Mr. Lumley on reading her letter over again, which I worked to the miserable equally by letter as by word of mouth? I give the epistle of Mr. Lumley on reading her letter over again, which I was no hunting—the frost got harder and notes of admiration with which it was studied and comfort in my voluble correspondent's statues kept veering from north to north-east state a kept vecting from north to north east the growing with the case case wrapped up in great coats and showl handkerchiefs, and stayed out as short a time as was compatible with the indest stable discipline: there we are, settled comfortably at Brighton, much to the benefit of my poor dear husband, whom you have never seen, but who knows you well by name, and having with the indest, and his debts, and his recklessness, and it was close to that I should have but wish. The only drawback to me is the loss thought it all ever diving the limited for a point for either of the ladies, to both of whom the world gave him so unhesitatingly. Well, with the mildest stable discipline: there we are, settled comfortably at the world gave him so unhesitatingly. Well, with the mildest stable discipline: there we are, settled comfortably at the world gave him so unhesitatingly. Well, with the mildest stable discipline: there we are, settled comfortably at the world gave him so unhesitatingly. Well, with the world gave him so unhesitatingly. Well, and it was close to the moon for a week, we will be needed to the world gave him so unhesitatingly. Well, the world gave him so unhesitatingly. Well, with the world gave him so unhesitatingly. Well, the wo

Oh! the hop-lessness of a real bitter black

41, f Lady Harsingham will be good enough

Miss Lloyd you used to dance with last sea- way she goes on with Frank is rather too son in London? John! John!—I've found brazen-faced even for her; taking him everyyou out at last; now I can account for the where in her carriage; setting him down at splendor of your attire-now I can see why his club after the opera; walking with him you post off to Wales in such a hurry, leaving in Kensington Gardens; his cab always at your and

see his face again.

I can't make John out. At dinner he was just as if nothing had happened; but at all events I'm glad I've refused Mr. Haycock; so I shall read Frank's note over, once more, so I shall re windows, and used to watch it with a painful interest. Every time a servant came into the room, I thought something impossible was going to happen. If a carriage drove up to the house—if a horse's tramp was heard in the approach—if the door-bell rung, I fancied it must be Captain Lovell coming to windows, and used to watch it with a paincied it must be Captain Lovell coming to call—perhaps to explain everything—possibly to request an interview with my aunt, that, althouch undeclared, there was 'war to the knife' between myself, my aunt, and of madness, then was I undoubtedly mad—

'Too de

verbatim, omitting only that the dashes and did many times during the day, I found a

'MY DEAREST DEAR RATE.

your dear merry face.
'I am leading a nightly virtuous and praise Oh! the hop-lessness of a real bitter black frost coming on early in the season, especially with hie, and have not done the least bit to bed, I am afraid I felt more inclined than over to forgive him all that had gone before, and more determined to find some means of the dans wife palous, which I can nardly forwarding him the answer I had written to the dans wife palous, which I can nardly forwarding him the answer I had written to the dans wife palous, which I can nardly forwarding him the answer I had written to the dans and a yellow bonnet—the dans not come at last; to see the dry slates, and the chart norteen, and the tron-bound arth, and to accitain an your own proper parts that the wate, gets colder and colder to your years ache, and study the thermometrial your eyes ache, and study the thermometr

breakfast in a suit of wondrous apparel, that his wig, and, would year believe it? an in-I knew in ant a move in some direction, and strument for ourling his whiskers! I ght I attacked him accordingly.

Is that known 'get up' entirely for our self with his broad brimined white hat, felt I attacked him accordingly.

Is that kinding 'get up' entirely for ou self with his broad-brimined white hat, felt benefit, John?' I asked; 'or are you bound in his pockets, which were full of gold and on some expedition that requires more fascinations than common?'

John c lored—he had taken to blushing bathing-man, and walked off undiscovered lately—'I'm going down to Wales for a few to my own machine. The fat old she-Triton lays' she oting. Kate,' was the reply. 'I laughed till she cried. I dressed in my property is the first breaks are costume leisurely enough, and was amused to hear afterwards of the luckless

ter-spirit, the bold, resolute woman, whose 'Always happy to see you,' said Aunt weeks of the London season, always to my value others were able to appreciate, and Horsingham, with an emphasis on the promind the pleasantest part of the year. I was who was ready and willing to assert her own houn. 'By the way, what is your adsorry you left town when you did; we had independence. In the meantime, poor Aunt dress in Wales, that I may forward your lets such a number of charming little dinners and Deborah had to be informed of what had lees in Wales, that I may forward your lets such a number of charming little dinners and expeditions in our own set. Dear Frank ers?'
ers ?'

expeditions in our own set. Dear Frank

John looked rather guilty as he handed an Lovell was the life and soul of us all. I envelope to my aunt, and begged her to copy never know him in such spirits—quite like a it exactly. the latter would never forgive me, I was it exactly.

well enough acquainted with my own sex to be convenient of the convenient of the task required to be done, friend Lloyd's place, be said, but you'll find Richmond, or Windsor or Vauxhall; and of the convenient of the convenient of the task required to be done, friend Lloyd's place, be said, but you'll find Richmond, or Windsor or Vauxhall; and of the convenient of the task required to be done, friend Lloyd's place, but you'll find Richmond, or Windsor or Vauxhall; and of the convenient of the task required to be done, friend Lloyd's place, but you'll find Richmond, or Windsor or Vauxhall; and of the convenient of the task required to be done, friend Lloyd's place, but you'll find the task required to be done, friend Lloyd's place, but you'll find the task required to be done, friend Lloyd's place, but you'll find the task required to be done, friend Lloyd's place, but you'll find the task required to be done, friend Lloyd's place, but you'll find the task required to be done, friend Lloyd's place, but you'll find the task required to be done, friend Lloyd's place, but you'll find the task required to be done, friend Lloyd's place, but you'll find the task required to be done. Scapegrace. I must say, that although no-body can accuse me of being a prude, the way she goes on with Frank is rather too hores, and your hunting, the door, and her ladyship "not at home" your cousin, sir, for the beaux even to me. To be sure, he is almost as bad,

are may core mas just been nere, and proposed for me! and your cousin, sir, for the beaux even to me. To be sure, he is almost as bad, of Miss Fann,—isn't that her name? if it is true, as everybody says it is, that her name? Well, John, I give you joy; she is a pretty is to marry Miss Molasses. Well, John, I give you joy; she is a pretty is to marry Miss Molasses. Well, John, I give you joy; she is a pretty is to marry Miss Molasses. Well, John, I give you joy; she is a pretty is to marry Miss Molasses. Poor Frank! he must get hold of somebuty in the money, or he will soon be in the body with money, or he will soon be in the body with money, or he will soon be in the body with money. Well, kate? And I have refused him, John, I said, meetly, but in a time that showed him there was no mistake about it.

'God bless you. Kate!' was all he replied, and turned away muttering something about twet things and his 'dressing-room;' but he was going to the wrong door, and had to turn back, though he took care not to let me see his face again.

And I have refused him, John, I said, word to me till he jumped into his dog-cart. I am afraid utterly unprincipled. I do not to be the cares one snap of believe, however, that he cares one snap of bye, Kate, in a hoarse whisper, but he wrung the fingers for Lady Scapegrace, or Miss my hand very hard, and I even thought Molasses either, for the matter of that. I there were tears in his eyes! He is a good meant to have written you a long letter, but have said anything to hort his feelings.

After he went away, it was drearier than he is said.

After he went away, it was drearier than he is said. post will by that time be gone out, I must

> nigh broken my heart, day by day, for a man that was to prove so utterly unworthy sibly to request an interview with my analysis to have been thrown over the about such as Squire Haycock had urdergone, Scapegrace I or, worse still, to have allowed, but, as I said to myself with a beating even to myself, that I cared for one who was ready and willing to he sold to a Miss

> > 'Too degrading !' I thought; 'no, I'll never care for him again, the dream is over what a fool I've been! and yet—why did be send his horses down to Muddlebury? Why did he serenade me that night from the Park?

own opinion that Frank did not himself care and it was clear to that I should have but wish. The only drawback to me is the loss thought it all over during the whole day; and the use for Brilliant and White Stockings of your charming society, and the absence of by the time that I opened my window for my usual look-out into the night before going to bed, I am afraid I felt more inclined than

Here's the answer, was my practical re- besides, is not a position from which a Jehr ply, as I dropped my own missive into the darkness.

I know he caught it, because—vecauseheard him kiss it. At that moment I was aware of a stop in the passage, a hand on my to know that we might easily be placed in a door: down went my window in a twinkling, position of some peril, should anything out went my candles—the wick of the second occur to excite the misohiovous propers. one would keep glimmering like a light far one would keep gammering like it agus that clear of cather of the specimens now off at sea—and in came Aunt Horsingham, clad in flannel attire, with a wondrous headders, the like of which I have never beheld dress, the like of which I have never beheld than all other descriptions of vehicle put to off at sea—and in came Aunt Horsingham, clad in flannel attire, with a wondrous headbefore or since, just as I stopped into bed, and buried myself beneath the clothes as if I

had been asleep for hours.
Where can it be, Kate? said my aunt;
I have been in every room along the passage to find out where the light comes from. I saw it distinctly from my own room, streaming across the moat; there might be thieves in the house, added my aunt, looking valuant even in flaunel, or some of the men-servants caronsing, but I have been in every room on the ground-floor myself; and then I thought perhaps you might be sitting up reading.

Reading, aunt? oh dear, no! I assure you I wasn't reading,' I answered, every nerve ricked with suspense, lest Frank should get impatient, and wonder what become of me-perhaps throw a snowball up at the window to attract my attention.

As it to punish me for this gratuitous peryersion of the truth, the words, were hardly a rious results. But they never will sit sall out of my mouth when I heard a loud crack at least they won't in nine cases out of ten on the ice, and a splash as of the sudden imand the consequence is, that whilst near on the ict, and a splash as of the sudden immersion of some daring adventurer; then all was still—the snow-flakes fell softly against the window panes. My nunt, shading her candle with her long hand, talked drowsily an airing in his or her pony-carriage, many on, and finally persisted in my coming to all dearly lady and cautious gentleman a sleep with her in her own room, as she said not to be persuaded into entering one of I was 'the only person in the house that had the nerves of a lien.' I would have given all I was worth in the world to have one able feet.

Well I was the poly-carriage, many an all given have one for the second of the second more look out of the open window, though even then it might be too late. I would willingly have walked barefoot in the snow all the way to Muddleburgh, only to know he was safe back at the inn. For a moment I thought of alarming the house, but I had not courage, so I followed my aunt to her room, and lay awake that live-long night in such a state of agony and sus-pense as I hope I may never have to endure again.

CHAPTER XV.

It may easily be believed that I took an early walk next morning before breakfast. No sooner had I made my escape from Aunt Iorsingham's room, than, in atter defiance of the cold thaw just commencing, I put my bonnet on and made the test of my way to the moat. Sure enough, large fragments of ice were floating about where the surface had been broken, close to the side furthest from the Hall. There were footprints on the snow though, leading away through the Park in the direction of Muddleburgh, and I came back to breakfast with a heart lightened of at least half its load. We were to return to London immediately. Aunt Deborah, pale and reduced, but undoubtedly better, was able to appear at breakfast; and Lady Horsingham, now that we about to take leave of her, seemed to value our society, and to be sorry to part with

us. My dear Deborah, I trust you are well wrapped up for this cold raw day,' said our hostess, pressing on her departing guests all kinds of provision for the journey. 'I have ordered them to put up a paper of sandwich-and some sherry, and a few biscuits, and a bottle of peppermint-water.

has much command over the animals in front of him; and although, as I have repeatedly said, I am not nervous. I had earned sufficiposition of some peril, should anything occur to excite the misobiovous propensities of airless of ties of either of the specimens now gether.

It is said that in the olden and goldendam of the road, the usual deach of a long coschman' was to be pitched out of a gig: and doubtless that two wheeled conveniency, particularly when going at any pace, is espa-ble of arriving at a large proportion of gnet. But even a gig, if properly constructed, atmits of the driver having a certain amount of control over his horse; he is well above the animal, and can get a good purchase to pull him up from, when the acceleration is becoming dangerous, or there is a tendency to the grosser insubordination of a 'kicking match.' Not so in a pony-carriage: low down upon the ground, even under the very heels, you are completely at the mery of your tam; and the facility of egres in the event of a runaway only temps you to the fatal expedient of jumping out—another form of expression for 'certain

tention.

'What o'clock is it?' I added, with a death.'
feigned yawn; 'I added, with a feigned To be sure, if people will but sit still, there yawn; 'I think I must have been asleep for is no reason. why, they should be men alarmed, as an 'ups-t' from so low an element.' tion need not necessarily produce any very

> Well, Lady Horsingham seemed rather uncomfortable on her driving seat, although far too proud to acknowledge so derogators feeling. We had no servant with us; and when I suggested that we might as well take one of the stable-men to open the gates, my proposal was met with derision and cortempt.

> 'I should have thought such a masculize lady as yourself, Kate, would have been above requiring any assistance. I am always in the habit of driving these pons quite by myself; but, of course, if your afraid, I'll have a groom to go with us ininediately.'

> Afraid, indeed! I scouted the idea; my blood was up, and I almost hoped something would happen, that I might fling the worl in my aunt's teeth, and ask her, 'Who's afraid now?" It came sooner than I bugained for.

The ponies were pulling hard, and had co their mouths so thoroughly set against aunt's iron hand, that she might as well have been driving with a pair of halters for any power she had over them, when a rais of colts in an adjoining paddock on on side of the lane, and n covey of partridges whirring up out of a turnip-field on the other, started them both at the same moment. My aunt gave a slight ccream, clutched at her reins with a jerk; down went the ponier heads, and we were off, as hard as eve could lay legs to the ground, along a deep rutted narrow lane, with innumerable twis-ings and turnings in front of us, for a cer-tainty, and the off-chance-of a waggon and bell team blocking up the whole passage be-

fore we could emerge upon the high-road.
'Lay hold, Kate!' vociferated my aunt pulling for her very lite, with the veins or her bare wrists swelling up like whipcord Gracious goodness! can't you stop there's a gravel-pit not half a mile further 03' I'll jump out! I'll jump out!'

My aunt began kicking her feet cleur of the sundry wraps and shawls, and the leather apron that kept our knees warm, though must do her the justice to say that she still tugged hard at the reins. I saw such an er pedient would be certain death, and I would one arm round her waist, and held her lore biy down in her seat, while with the other endeavoured to assist her in the hopeles by so much kindness.

'You'd better have the carriage all to your. It is a spainst us; the ground was slightly or the decliner the thorn had not re-