

"It is indeed. Let me introduce my dear uncle, Dr. Methvin, to you."

She motioned to a thin, gray-haired old gentleman, with a massive head and a kindly face, who bowed and raised his hat, greeting his niece's friend with old-fashioned but well-bred cordiality.

"We have been fortunate in securing a pleasant suite of rooms for you, and as soon as we have inducted you we shall leave you to the repose you no doubt need," he said.

"I was greatly surprised to hear you had appeared in these remote regions," said Mrs. Fane to Sir Frederic, when she had courteously thanked the old professor for his attention.

"Were you!" elevating his eyebrows. "Well, I am rather surprised to find myself here. It is some seven or eight years since I visited this scene. You know I am a Drumshire man; but, alas! parted with all my interest in the county long ago—threw the cargo overboard to keep the ship afloat in stress of weather, eh?" he laughed pleasantly.