

---OR, THE---

### **Mistress of Darracourt.**

CHAPTER II.

will call upon you. There are some nice people in the neighborhood." He ran over the names of some of them, all strangers to Lucille, of course. "Lady Farnley, of the Grange, leads the fashion here-or did, I should say; she was the principal lady in the place until you came."

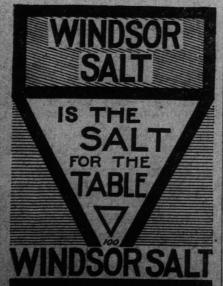
"And will remain so, I should think," said Lucille, smiling.

He shook his head.

course." he responded.

stone and into the stables. Every- signed to the dogs to go in. They thing was as clean and orderly as a barrack yard, the stone facings to the red-bricked buildings as white as snow, every door and window glistening with fresh paint. A dozen dogs I show them to Miss Darracourt?" ran out to meet them, and surrounded He addressed Mr. Head, but his and drew down the blinds, as if the Lucille, yapping and jumping up at

At this moment the ringing sound of an impulse. of a firm, quick step was heard on the



dious whistle. Lucille half turned ready laugh. and saw Harry Herne striding to-

cille, and came with crouching, but

riendly, servility to his feet. "Good-morning, Herne!" said Mr. Head, coldly. "I have brought Miss "I a few days the county families Darracourt to see the stables, but

your dogs have stopped further pro-"They are all Court dogs, excepting

this one," he said, pointing with his whin to the dog which had followed

"Then I should advise Miss Darracourt to lessen their number," said

"Oh, no," exclaimed Lucille; "they are all very handsome. I am fond of

"The mistress of Darracourt must Harry Herne did not look at her, rule in Darracourt, as a matter of and yet she felt as if he had. With a crack of his whip, he strode to one He led her under a tall archway of of the doors, and, opening it,

went in at once, and without a note.

headed, as if she had uttered some Salvia Will

important command "Yes, miss," he said, and the tone was so softened, compared with that in which he had addressed Mr. Head.

"There is the bell," he said, and they turned and went out under the of hair, free from dandruff, use SALarch, the servants standing like sol- VIA and watch the results. diers, with their hands to their foreheads.

them, her sharp eyes glancing from If you don't, you will sooner or later

"I know that, dear. My room overpulled by a string, the dogs left Lu- looks them. You weren't there long. prince-the one with the whip?"

"Oh, Harry Herne, you mean!" Mr.

"And who is Harry Herne?" she asked, quickly.

Mr. Head smiled. "Nobody of any consequence," he

Marie Verner looked from one

"Isn't he? Then he ought to be, if appearances deserve anything. don't think I have ever seen a handsomer man: have you. Lucille?"

"I have seen so few," said Lucille carelessly, and glided past her.

CHAPTER III.

An hour later the Marquis of Merle entered his study. The sun was pouring through the latticed windows, and most men would have thrown ther open, and allowed the fresh, pure air "I know all the horses here; shall and sunlight to flood in unimpeded; "I will see them after breakfast," mal aspect; and as he stood, with one

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"We have been to the stables," said hang loosely upon him, there was

If there had been a dash of color in Lord Merle's face, it might have claimed to be handsome, but it was so pale and cold, notwithstanding that he had just risen, that it looked like the plaster masks which the antique actors were when they played tragedy in the theatre at Athens.

For a minute or two he stood like a statue, looking down at his writing materials, his long, white fingers pressed against the edge of the table, his thin lips compressed into a

Then he took up a letter which lay open before him, and read it slowly, thinking between the lines. As he refolded it and dropped it on the ta ble, a servant in dark livery knocked at the door, and said:

"Mr. Slake, my lord."

The marquis, who never spoke unless compelled, nodded, and the footman stood aside, and allowed a gen-

bowing respectfully, and blinking little at the sudden change from the sunlight outside to the semi-darkness

ship. "Be seated, Mr. Slake. You re ceived my telegram. I see?"

"Came down by the night mail, my lord," said Mr. Slake, suavely. "This is bad news," said the mar-

quis, touching the letter with his white forefinger, his voice cold and measured, his face utterly impassive Mr. Slake shook his head, sympath-

"Awful bad, my lord! Couldn't b

eeting this demand?" Mr. Slake pursed up his lips, and

"I don't see any, my lord. You see MINARD'S LIMINENT CURES we didn't think this mortgage would

be called in, or we wouldn't have advised you to speculate with the money raised on it."

six months hence. Can no money be

come to repeat what your letter told me: that I am ruined. Have you any

Mr. Slake pondered. lord!" he said. "Marry Miss Darra-

The marquis looked up with a smile that was almost sweet.

"I intend to!" he said. "Then-then, why did you send for me?" demanded Mr. Slake, not un-

"Because I wanted some more

"More money!" echoed Mr. Slake. tended offering, I sent for you. I must have two thousand paunds, Mr. Slake. For that sum I will give you a bill for three thousand, due at six

"Three thousand," murmured Mr.

"It is good interest, and should satisfy even you, I think," said his lordship, with the suggestion of a sneer. "It's good interest enough, my lord; but the security-the security!" said Mr. Slake.

The marquis rose and drew up the

"The security is there," he said, pointing his finger at the Court. "In six months Darracourt will be mine." "You should have the money, my lord. I wouldn't do it for any other man, but, by Heaven! I think you'll

do what you say." "I think so, too," said the marquis; lips and the cold klint of the steely eyes that even Mr. Slake recoiled, and felt that he would have shuddered if

he had known how. All breakfast time while Marie Verner chattered to Mr. Head in the light. open-hearted fashion of hers, which made people who had heard her say what a frank, pleasant girl she was to be sure, Lucille thought of the promise she had made to Harry

(To be Continued.)

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