

“Sir!” responded the accomplished actress, with an inimitable air of surprise, and wounded feeling.

For sole response the youth strode to the bell-rope, and stood with blazing eye, waiting till the door opened in answer to his loud, hasty summons, and gave admission to the startled housekeeper.

“Madam,” said he: “Have I not desired that you, and you alone should watch here? What means this lady’s presence? and why is there not a regular physician called in as I ordered, should the case appear serious? I find my father in a most dangerous condition.”

“Monsieur,” cried Marie, hotly, “your words are insults. I fling back your injuries on yourself. How could you expect to find your father otherwise, after the cruel anguish you have caused him?”

Deigning no reply, Calvert again accosted the abashed domestic;

“Do you hear? Let the doctor be sent for, directly. I remain here till he arrive. Do you return instantly.”

The poor woman flinging up her hands with a deprecating gesture, murmured;—

“You see, Miss. You *would* have your own way. I misdoubted what would come of it. Dear knows what ye’ve been a-doing of!” and shaking her head dubiously, she went out hurriedly.

“*Mon petit garçon!*” began Marie, loftily; “you forget that you are not the master here. Must I remind you that you are under arrest? One little word of mine, and you will be chased with ignominy to the fit society of your lady-love!”

The look she met suddenly stopped her vile tirade, brazen as she was. The disdainful silence of the youth, more eloquent than words, henceforth restrained her.

He seemed absorbed in counting the feeble throbs of the patient’s pulse, and watching the livid lips that voicelessly seemed to syllable forth his accusing plaint.

It was not long before the housekeeper returned, and took her silent station near the still group.

Marie had turned towards the *commode*, and with an air of solicitude, indicated a potion to the old domestic, as the one proper to be administered to the patient. In doing this her hand wandered casually among the vials; then she rose as if to leave the apartment.