

CHAPTER XXVII.

The Grand Pacific Hotel under the management of Mr. Southern still reigns triumphant.

Ancilla DeMontes and her three favorites had met in the parlor for the last time to come to a final decision. They had failed in their attempt to overthrow the master of the house, and they did not feel any longer at home there. They had been defeated in all their plans to get full possession of the place. They alone wished Mr. Southern to be removed, and Mr. Sails was their chosen man whom they expected to occupy the position made vacant by his (Luke) being ousted, as he would no doubt have lowered himself to gratify their wishes, whatever they might be. The three intimate friends of Ancilla DeMontis proposed that she leave the hotel and occupy the position of mistress of a neat little cottage they had rented, which is known as the Combination, limited. With a little persuasion she consented to leave and occupy the position offered. They informed her that it would be a home for her so long as she wished to consider it such. Accordingly, she left the hotel that had sheltered her for two long winters—where she had been taken in a stranger and in trouble, deserted by husband and friends. It was at this time she left the hotel to become mistress of the Combination Cottage, limited, which was occupied by her favorites, all of whom were batchelors. They worshiped her however, as if she had been the Goddess of Beauty. In closing, we will state that Mr. Southern was pleased when the friends of mischief left the hotel.