pelled to submit to it. He superintended all the details of pelled to submit to it. He superintended all the details of "Pil be as deferential as you like, Lady Perriam; but you the household, or, as the servants said, "he had a finger in haven't told me why you keep her." every pie."

One day, soon after that evening walk upon Cropley Common, which had united Edmund and Esther with the sacred bond of betrothal, Mr. Bain took occasion to make some inquiries about Mrs. Carter.

"Why do you keep that woman, Lady Perriam?" he asked. "She is a very costly servant. I was surprised to find what heavy wages you pay her, and she can hardly be of any use

"She is a great deal of use," replied Sylvia, " and I have no intention of dismissing her."

The agent shrugged his shoulders, and gave Lady Perriam that keen look she both feared and hated. Her cheek had paled at his question. Was it anger that sent the sensitive blood from that fair cheek?

"Don't be angry, Lady Perriam. Of course I've no right

to interfere, but-

"Some people are fond of interfering without right," returned Sylvia, sharply. She was generally beaten in her battles with Mr. Bain, yet she never succumbed without a

"But I take a natural interest in your affairs," continued the agent calmly, without any notice of the interruption, "and I don't like to see you do anything foolish—out of good nature. For my own part I never keep more cats than can catch mice, and I really don't see what earthly use this Carter woman can be to you."

"Perhaps you will kindly remember that she began life as a lady, and call her Mrs. Carter instead of 'this Carter woman.'"

"She is useful to me in more ways than one. First and foremost, she nurses Mr. Perriam when he is out of

"But if Mr. Perriam is ill enough to want a nurse he ought surely to have the attendance of a medical man. Stimpson should take him in hand."

"Mordred is not ill enough to require Mr. Stimpson; but his head is a little queer now and then. Mrs. Carter has more influence over him than any one, and can soothe him, as she used to soothe poor Sir Aubrey."

"Yes, she is a clever woman. I always fancy those clever women with their soothing ways have a touch of the serpent

in their composition." "I trust Mrs. Carter and I like her, so you may suppose that she is not a serpent."

"But you are so innocent, Lady Perriam; any one might take you in. I'm sorry poor Mr. Mordred is so queer. He ought to come out of his hole oftener, get more fresh air, see the world a little, in short. It's enough to addle any man's brain to be shut up in two rooms from one week's end to the

"Mr. Perriam has never cared to leave his rooms since his brother's death. Pray don't suggest that doctors should see him. They might urge us to put him into a lunatic asylum. He is only a harmless, half-imbecile old man. He is well off as he is.'

"Very well, Lady Perriam. I will not interfere. Nothing pleases me better than to obey your wishes, if you will only express them plainly."

"Then I wish Mordred Perriam to be let alone, and not to be troubled by Mr. Stimpson or any other doctor." "So be it, as long as his bodily health gives no cause for

We must not let him die for want of medical care." "He is not likely to die yet awhile," said Lady Perriam, with something like a regretful sigh, as if Mordred's existence were just a little burdensome. "He is well cared for by Mrs. Carter, and he is as happy as he can be, allowing for his na-

tural grief for the loss of his brother."

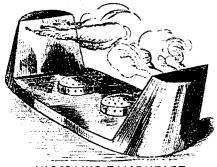
This settled the matter. For once the land-steward was conquered. Indeed his manner of late had been more deferential than usual. He seemed, as he declared himself, only anxious to please Lady Perriam, in all things.

He was not a little disturbed by the thought of this interview with Sylvia as he rode slowly homewards. He had never liked Mrs. Carter. Her placid countenance and her repose of manner worried him, for he fancied that beneath that smooth exterior she concealed an active intellect, and perchance a plotting brain, a brain that might counterplot his own secret plans. He would have given much to get her away from Perriam Place, powerless as she must be compared with himself. But he now perceived that it was vain to think of getting rid of her. She had some hidden influence, some firm hold upon Sylvia Perriam.

(To be continued.)

Some useful lessons or examples may be found in the most simple occurrences. At the Terre Haute depot recently, an old lady attempted to get off while the cars were in motion. A gentleman standing near the door prevented her. "Let her go," exclaimed a kind-hearted passenger; "if she gets killed it will be a warning to somebody else."

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