Mistress of Darracourt.

CHAPTER V.

the same excuse. No time! No inclination, you mean! It's hard, very hard. Just look what I've done for you. Marie, have you forgotten?" and he came nearer, and looked down at her half savagely, half pleadingly, fool enough to let you. You knew I repeated trials of medicines and mixcouldn't refuse you anything."

"You have always been the dearest, the nicest of fellows, Sinclair." get so-so fidgety. Now, why couldn't down here in this absurd fashion? Do headaches ceased, appetite, good colyou know that you nearly startled me the bushes like a wild cat? Suppose any one had seen you?"

sullenly.

the end of the road just before you came. I didn't 'ear him until he was close upon me, and I tried to get out of his reach; but he saw me, I think. What does it matter?"

"Oh, it doesn't much matter," she said, lightly, with a sweet smile. "Now tell me about yourself. How are you getting on, how is the voice? asked. "I'm not very flush, but I can

Come and sit down beside me." - 1 and began plucking at the fern

restless, dissatisfied manner pecu-

liar to him.

"It's a regular struggle," he muttered. "Enough to make a man fully. chuck up the whole thing. But I've stuck to it, and I think I've got a footing at last. I'm the chief tenor at the Oriental Music Hall, Wandsworth," he added, stroking his mustache with self-complacency.

"Really! How splendid!" she exclaimed.

"Yes, I shall be famous-I feel it! and he struck his chest with a theatrical air, "and then you and me will be married and be happy, at last!" She drew a long breath, of inward

loathing really, though he took it for

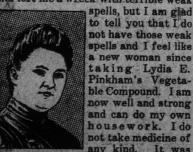
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tures, Dr. Hamilton's Pills gave me the first gleam of hope. From the very first I could see they were difcleansing my clogged-up system. My hurt?" spirits rose. I felt much better. The sluggish action of the system gave way to normal activity. Dizziness and and I thank Dr. Hamilton's Pills for Herne, was he not?" it all."

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"Ah, how happy we shall be!" she

He got up and fumbled in his pock

spare a little. Here you are-you He threw himself down at her feet, may want it," and he pressed a sovereign and a half into her palm. The fronds within his reach with the coins were hot, and seemed, like

everything about him, to be greasy, and smelt of hair oil; but Marie Verner took them and kissed him grate-

'and-and don't hang about the vil-

"Oh, you needn't be afraid," he said: "I'm steady enough as a rule It's only when I think of your playing me false that I break out! No, shall go straight back. I've got to

Then he took her in his arms and kissed her passionately, feverishly, and, as if with an effort, at last tore himself away. Marie Verner sank on

to the grass again, and sat quite still breathing with little short pants White and shuddering, she thrust

and wrung her hands, looking round her with wild, staring eyes, like some "What shall I do? How can I get rid of him? No, I can't! But I not increase your neuralgia!"

must, I must! All my dreams to come to this! I, Marie Verner, who might be something in the world, a singer at that has gone." a music hall and his wife!"

As if the thought made her desperate, she threw herself among the ferns, and lay there, catching at the long grass with her white hands. writhing and gnashing her teeth.

She was lost in her paroxysm of saw the Marquis of Merle standing looking down at her with his cold, steely eyes.

CHAPTER VI.

Marie Verner raised herself upon inder the steady regard of the cold eyes; then the flush died away from er face, and she smiled a plaintive ittle smile, and put her handkerchief

"I hope I didn't startle you, Miss Verner!" he said in his slow, soft and, hearing a cry of pain, as it seemed, I came to see what it was. I fear "Yes," she said. "I am so asham- drug stores.

tack of neuralgia."

etically. "I am exceedingly sorry. It him. "Therefore I have resolved to is an extremely painful malady. Are marry her!"

"Not very greatly," she replied; slowly. Proof That Health and Renewed Vi- tacks. It is very silly of me to have tality Quickly Return When Right come out; but I was tired of my own room, and thought that the air might do me good. I will go home now and

"Pray stay and rest a little while goes on at the Court." longer," he said, persuasively. "I ways clammy and perspiration on keep you company for a few min-

"Miss Darracourt is somewhere in my work, and this dread made my the park," she said. "She is out driv- He may seem beneath your notice, made a lady of, and I-well, I was sleepless nights perfect misery. After ing a pair of ponies. Did you meet but he is not; he is a man who may

left her. We had, I am sorry to say, him. If you can do him an injury"ferent in action from other pills. a slight accident. The ponies, badly his voice grew hard as steel—"don't she murmured, lovingly, and laying They didn't gripe and acted as natur- broken in little animals, ran away!" stay your hand, and don't spare ally as if nature and not the pills were "Oh, dear! Is Miss Darracourt him!"

"Not in the slightest," he said. "But she was much alarmed, I am afraid." "I must go to her." she said. "Ran or and ambition to work returned, and away, did they? Let me see, a young out of my life, sir, jumping out of have remained. I am like a new man, man was driving them-a Harry

"He was not with her," he said: "I him with covert scrutiny.

"Oh, dear!" with a little air of regret. "And Miss Darracourt was frightened! I am afraid she will nev-

He was silent for a moment, then the Catarrhozone Co., Buffalo, N.Y., main there while one could count twenty. Then he said, quietly:

ask you to persuade her to do so, Miss

"I!" she exclaimed, with a little laugh. "How can I persuade her, and-why should I?" shooting glance at him from under her lids.

He was silent for a second or two; then, with a faint smile that was almost a sneer curving his lips, he said: sat and thought.

neuralgia, Miss Verner?

"Yes," she replied, opening her eves innocently. "I said so just now

"Oh, dear me, very sad! And-was that-your regular medical attend-"Oh, he! He was a photographer, who was anxious that I should persuade Miss Darracourt to permit him to 'take' the house."

"Ah," he said. "For a photographer his manners are familiar, not to say friendly."

"Are all marquises spies and eavesdroppers, or are you an exception to the general rule, Lord Merle?"

"You have a happy gift of repartee. Miss Verner. The first moment of a young lady as clever as she was beautiful. And now I come to the point, without further circumlocution. Miss Verner, I have an object to attain, and I need your assistance. do trust that our conversation will

"What is your object?" she demanded. "Never mind my neuralgia;

"Oh, I am so glad. My object is this: Miss Verner, I am a peer, and a poor one. My father owned all this land, this estate which is now in the possession of your friend, Miss Darracourt. She is actually sitting, so to speak, in the seat of my father's. think you will fully understand me when I say that I am desirous of get ting it back again." He might have been uttering a moral axiom, so calm ly, and softly, and pleasantly did h put it. "There are only two ways of

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ed; but I have got an awfully bad at- was a pause for a moment, while he looked round as if he were admiring "Dear, dear me!" he said, sympath- the beauties of nature spread before

"Certes! But I think she will do worse at- that, especially if I gain your assist- a Catalogue Scrap Book of our Pat-

exert a great influence over Miss Dar-"I know," he said. "I have just racourt. Be on your guard against

> "Who is he?" she asked. "A young fellow called Harry

Marie Verner sat up and regarded

"He is no friend of yours?"

ever. 'Half an hour ago"-he smiled with sardonic enjoyment-"I flogged him before Miss Darracourt's face!"

"You flogged him!" "Yes," he smiled, and wiped his lips with his lawn handkerchief. "So "I trust she will. I think I must that you see, I-we-have an enemy Miss Darracourt, but you will be doing me almost as great a service if you get Harry Herne driven from the Court, like the hound he is!"

> She put her hand to her brow, and so hid her face from him while she

(To be Continued.)

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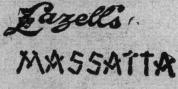
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