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-OR, THE-

# **Mistress of Darracourt.**

CHAPTER XVIII.

Susie's knees trembled and gave way under her, and, overwhelmed by horror; she slipped to the ground, and, to hide her white face, bent as if to

cret, for I shall communicate to the myself!' police in an hour all I have told you. But perhaps you had better not mention the matter for a little while."

assented, in a frightened voice. "But before many hours are over, and I open with her foot as she spoke, and Harry Herne! It seems quite incred- have no doubt I shall recover my proible. Such a nice young fellow-a perty." gentleman he always seemed-"

He shrugged his shoulders.

should have committed this crime; that is, if it should prove to be him. Of course, there is only the fact of place at present. He may be innothan I shall be to find that my suspicions have been misplaced and that

## I have wronged him."

her mouth.

"Yes, yes," she assented. "Butbut, how could he get at the plate? How did he learn the secret word?" There was a minute's silence, during which Susie raised her white face and seemed to listen with her heart in

The marquis shook his head. "I cannot tell! There is only one any one, Susie?"

way which I can think of."

"What is that?" she asked. "I don't like to mention it---"

"Oh, please!-I am all on fire with never passed my lips."

ly. "Mind, you force me, Miss Ver- thoughtfully.

"Yes; do not mind me: speak quite



"He may have obtained the infortion from you!"

"From me!" exclaimed Marie Verer: then she dropped her head and

"Yes; you say you told Miss Darraourt. Were you alone when you told disorder as if-"

mered. "Were we alone? I quite for- was to come and find us! Oh, please get. I'm so confused that I can't re- let us go!" call-why, yes, I think so. I am not sure. Oh, dear, how dreadful this

"Don't let it trouble vou." he said. having told you anything about it."

word, then I couldn't have told it to though," looking round. anyone else," she said, fervently. "But there, it's too late now. Oh, dear, I rie!" prayed Susie. feel so dreadfully upset! I shan't dare to tell Lucille!"

"Yes. Harry Herne," repeated the self! Only think if it should turn out marquis, gravely. "It need be no se- to be my fault! I should never forgive her head.

"And I shall never forgive myself gone," she said, darkly. for telling you the word, in that case," he said, gently. "Pray, think no more "No, no, I won't say anything," she of it. We shall get hold of the culprit door of the inner room and pushed

> "Good-bye, Come up and tell Miss Darracourt all about it."

he walked quickly away.

tell him!" she gasped, clasping her town-

## "Tell him, the marquis, what?"

word, excepting you and Miss Lucille."

"Yes," said Marie, gravely. "And dear!" you are sure that you did not tell "Sure. Quite—quite sure," declar-

ed poor Susie. "I never mentioned it to a living soul, Miss Marie; it has "Then it is not from you that Har-

"Well," he said, slowly, reluctant- ry Herne got the word," said Marie,

Susie's face flushed and then grew pale again.

"Harry! Master Harry!" she exlaimed, indignantly. "Do you think quite impossible, Miss Marie!"

"Yes, I think so, too, Susie; but you heard what Lord Merle said: Harry Herne was seen lurking about the lace-close to the window of the

"Oh, don't say 'lurking' Miss Marie!" roke in Susie, made quite couragous in her defence of the absent man. Master Harry never lurks anywhere; ie is too much-too much like a genleman, Miss Marie! Besides, why hould he lurk? If he wanted to go to "And yet the marquis thinks he did ," said Marie, watching her close-

"The marquis. Yes. miss." assent d Susie, hesitatingly; "but the maruis is no friend of Master Harry's, ss. He-he struck him with a whip, Miss Marie; and there's ill blood beween them in other ways. It isn't

"Wait a minute," said Marie; " have never been inside the hut, let me

She went to the window as she spoke, and looked in. "Come here, Susie," she said. "This

is very strange; the whole place is in Tells How Lydia E. Pinkham's "Oh, no, I won't come, miss," said Susie, quite upset. "If Master Harry

"Nonsense!" Marie said, sharply.

in a kindly way, "or I shall regret other word she put the key in the door

"I wish you hadn't told me the state the place is in. A pretty roo

"In a minute. Books and drawings "Do not," he said, gravely. "Wait where he can be? It looks as if he had for a little while, at any rate. The been packing up—see how all the present the more chance we have of been packing, too; there's string and

"Your friend Master Harry has

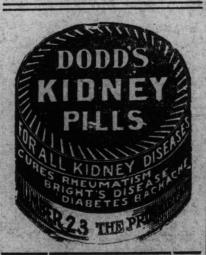
Susie. It is too true. The bed has "Oh, I hope so!" she exclaimed. not been slept in. He has flown!" Susie went and stared, pale and troubled. The bed had not been slept in as Marie Verner had said, and lice," he said, and raising his hat there were, too, palpable evidence o packing in this as in the other room Marie Verner gathered her flowers "I don't like the look of it, Susie," together, uttering little exclamations said Marie Verner, shaking her head "Let us go! We must say nothing

so about it-" intensely upset that I don't know "Oh, you are quite, quite wrong agitation. "Master Harry may have "Oh, miss, how good of you not to gone on a visit—he often goes to the

without a word to any one!" exclaim-

"That I was in the room when you ed Marie Verner. "Remember, he was

Susie dragged herself to her side and following the pointed finger with frightened eyes, saw an antique silver vase glittering under the table. (To be Continued.)



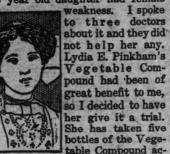
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"You think so, do you?" said Marie, in a voice of pretended concern. "Yes, miss," said Susie, wiping her eyes; "I do believe he would. And Master Harry's one that never did him ing to the treatment of Oils, Fats and the like, is prepared to bring the said

if an idea had struck her. "Susie, if what you think is true,

and the marquis is so great an enemy of Harry Herne's, he would not Address:have much mercy upon him if he had "Mercy! No, Miss Marie," said

Susie, with an air of troubled conviction. "The marquis wouldn't have "What, in the middle of the night, much mercy on any one he didn't

like; but, thank Heaven, he can't do

Master Harry any harm. And as to his stealing this plate, why, miss, I'd self. Which way are you going, miss?"

"I was just thinking of going and telling Harry Herne," she said.

"Tell Master Harry what the mar-

"Then, may I go back home, please

"No!" said Marie, sharply. "You Don't be so stupid, Susie, he will not

Trembling, her timid soul shrinking from the ordeal, Susie crept after her. Presently they came within sight of the hut. It looked strangely desc ate, and a dog of Harry's came fawn-

ing and whining to them. "Why, the place is shut up!" ex claimed Marie, with an air of su

"It may have fallen out of the lock

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