

sight, than a head might have been seen peering cautiously forth from a clump of foliage.

A few rapid words were exchanged; a hand was flung up, and a shining object sent flying through the air, which, being cleverly caught by the Frenchman, was instantly secreted. A second more, and the latter was out of sight.

Instantaneous as had been this whole transaction, it had been seen notwithstanding.

The dreamy, abstracted gaze of the youth in the bay window, with the fair girl hanging over him and lulling him by her blandishments, had unconsciously dwelt upon the expressive bit of pantomime we have described. Still, no impression whatever was left on his mind by the manœuvre.

But the flash of the flying object, and the hasty action of the Frenchman in concealing it, coinciding at the moment with the significant word and act of the sister, as her hand closed on his own wrist: all this revealed to him as by a sunburst the whole dark intrigue.

Retract then, if it please you, fair reader, your virtuous indignation at the want of gallantry displayed by our hero, and his flagrant insensibility to female charms, when, with the by no means courteous remark we have quoted, and the equally discourteous act that accompanied it, he broke loose so summarily from the siren's witching enchantments.

You can better imagine than I describe how a thoroughly incensed and humiliated beauty can look and feel.

Only I should not like to have been the exciting cause of the greenish glitter that burned luridly in those eyes' speaking depths, nor of the upward curl of the lip that showed the white, clenched teeth like the snarl of a tigress.

Only one word hissed out from the ruby lips, now white and distorted by passion, and that word, I am sorry to say, was a hearty commination, unfit to be recorded here.

Very naughty! you will say. But then, lovely woman at times does take a naughty fit! and, only think of the provocation, a woman, very lovely, very French too, with all her dread artillery of love-glances, wreathed smiles, silver tones, and inebriating caresses brought into play; and to be repulsed, to be outraged, and with the heinous aggravation of an opprobrious, insulting epithet superadded, and this too by a youth a mere boy, hitherto