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MONKS' FOLD.

In her childhood much notice was taken of her by kind ladies on account of her pretty face and her cleverness. She had opportunities given her for study and improvement, not often given to English peasant girls. Though she acquired knowledge she did not acquire sense, and her vanity led her to misconstrue some kind attentions. When she had reached her eighteenth year she had her fortune told her by a strolling gypsy woman. For a silver half-crown she was informed "that she was born to be a lady," also "that she was beloved by a young and handsome gentleman, but there was a dark-haired woman who would cross her path. Before she could marry her handsome gentleman she would have to get rid of her dark-haired rival." The poor, silly girl believed the gypsy's jargon, and, as Harold Fordyce always spoke kindly to her when passing her on the road or elsewhere, she came to the conclusion that he was the "handsome gentleman" by whom she was beloved, and thus thinking, she lost no opportunity of crossing his path and obtruding herself on his notice. In time she grew to love him with a passion and intensity that destroyed all peace and happiness in her simple life. In order to be near her supposed lover she sought and obtained a situation in his father's household, and, being neat and rather refined in manner, she became a favorite with the housekeeper, Hobson.

When Nancy first heard of the intended marriage she was filled with rage and chagrin, but when she heard also that the intended bride was a dark-haired woman, she, in her ignorance and wilful blindness, decided that her fortune was only working itself out as predicted, and that it only remained for her to rid herself, by some means or other, of her daring rival. Just how it could be done she had not yet decided, but, poor little fool, she concluded that as she had right and fate on her side she could bide her time, and meanwhile think out her plans. Certainly fate seemed to aid her in her unholy schemes by placing her at once in such a trusty position as Kathleen's own personal attendant.