could, of Maje im hours entertain comdoubts on that head, when he finds your we conclude a implicated in the lattempted Merryn sunder keepers, who are now in ] stones, Lord Maccolin, as her nearest rola tier, has resolved that Blanche shall remain mear my protection, as I also am her guarthen , but should you think proper to ques tion our authority for so acting, last highly transactions small be laid before the Lord Chancellor, and we do not fear the result."

'On 'I suppose, and Mrs. Harcourt, eneringly, Mrs. Gordon intends to keep hermic here to marry her favorite, Mr. like a minepin. Beauch cup.

'Lyen if I did, with d Mrs. Gordon, 'it replied Beaucuamp. would not be quite o bad as committee at her being carried away by a married man!

Lord Vancourt is not a married man, and , I defy you to the proof, madam!

had entered the room with Bob Convers, your protection." and heard the last sentence. Here is to selemn zed at Florence five years ago, and Constance for me. duly attested by witnesses. I have seen the 'No fear of t already written to a friend at Florence to staircase. send me all further particulars."

dignation from her chair.

'It became my business, madam,' replied Melville, when my word was questioned the other night by Lord Vancourt at the ball, and it shall be my business still, to prove him what I then asserted he was-a married man.'

\*Oh, very well, sir, said the lady, ringing the bell violently for her carriage; 'but you shall not marry my niece, notwithstanding."

'Were I so disposed,' replied the captain,

· I should not be obliged, after what occurred the hely bounced out of the room into the inil, followed by her husband, where she remamed until the carriage came round.

Now, Aunt Gordon, said Convers, 'as that worthy pair have decamped-where is Will Beauchamp?

' In the blue room up-stairs with Malcolm, having leeches applied to his side; but mind Robert, you do not excite him by talking too; Mobert, you do not excite him by talking too much, as Mr. Morgan says there is much in-much, as Mr. Morgan says there is much in-formuch, as Mr. Morgan says there is much in-court in assisting to carry off Miss Douglas. flammation about his wound, and he must

You need not fear me, replied Bob, · and, in the meantime, Melville will tell you more of fast mehr sudventures, and Vernon's emperient with Miss Mervyn, that's a capital joke, by Jove ! - the ofter bit.

The Captain stated that, having arrived that evening at Cherrington, he was standing; in the had of the hotel, waiting for his horse, when a carringe and four drove up, and Lora Vancourt stagg red up the steps, supposted by ms vant, with mis arm in a sling and a true model, no state and the model is a state of the continuous and a continuous to make them to state and the model is a state of the continuous to the hard of the continuous to the model is a post of the continuous to the model is a post of the continuous to the model is a continuous to the model is and th V a court had assumed).

is a agone, repried the main

vact, so now can that be ?

may need with an-

'A young hay along with him!' repeat- plans, of the valet. 'Wan, sort of looking person. From was see .

to trees and subsemme of hail the i Harcourts that I have sent for all my traps, al dacti n of his cousin, as well as Lord and do not intend just yet, if ever again, to enter their house.

\* Quite right, Malcolin, replied Bob, tit is the most shameful, disgraceful affair I have the most shameful, disgraceful affair I have ton, where they found Will Beauchamp lying Harcourt and Mervyn had some concern in the plot; and my dear pet Blanche ' what a fate has she escaped with that d—d ras william, said Aunt Gordon, for going yescal! Melville say, you served my lord out terday to the magistrates' meeting, which, for it, however, Will, with a split nose and a Mr. Gor lon tells me, was a very imprudent broken arm. Gad I should like to have seen you hat him off his legs, as Mark tells, your side. Indeed, if your father cannot

'I was mad enough to have killed him,'

'And I wish you had,' interpos d Mal-celin, 'as he tried hard to murder you.'

· I am taankful no hyes are lost; and now e will go down till the governor is ready; Here it is, then, exclaimed Melville, who but recollect. Malcolm, Blanche is now under

\* It is not likely I shall forget either her copy of the marriage certificate of Edward, interest or yours, old fellow, replied Mal-Lord Vancourt, and Signora Marinetta, colm; and I expect you to take care of

'No fear of that,' was the reply, as original from which this is taken, and have the two triends and Conyers descended the

Mrs. Gordon was much vexed at hearing And what business is this of yours, sir? Beauchamp's intention to leave the Priory demanded Mrs. Harcourt, rising in great in- with his father, but on his motives being made known, she was constrained to admit their force, and a compromise was effected by Constance remaining in his place.

The rage of Lord Mervyn on the discovery of his daughter's elopement with Vernon would be difficult to describe. This agreeable piece of information was communicated to him at breakfast next morning, when the housemed, entering the young lady's room to light the fire, found the bird had flown. and her bed had been unoccupied. She had tast night, to obtain your consent; at which pleaded a bad headache the night before, and when, immediately bolting the door, she descended the back starrease whilst the ser-vants were at supper, and running across two fields, through which a pathway led to the dreadful night." high road, she was there met by Vernon with a carriage and horses all in readiness. The head-keeper also now acquainted his lordship with the capture of his three watch-Lord Mervyn raged and stormed about the girl, I will not presume on your confidence. house like a madman, accusing his servants of communice in his dauguter's escape, and vowing vengcance on the whole household. He saw at in gline, that pursuit would now, after the lapse of so many hours, be flids own participation in the contemplated

The contract of high together doors and the state of the contract of the contr

would be soverely punished for daring avowal he deemed necessary, to prove, as he expected, his entire ign rance of Lord Vancourt's intentions.

The next morning, Mrs. Gordon, with on the sofa in the library. \* I am over on purpose to give you a severe lecture, William, said Aunt Gordon, for going yesact, and has increased the inflammation in couch. keep you at home, I shall insist on taking you back to the Priory to see what I can do with such a wayward boy.

'My dear aunt,' replied Beauchamp, 'my presence was absolutely necessary yesterday, or I should not have ventured out on so cold day; but I will now be a good boy, and will remain in the house until my wound is healed.

Will you promise me to keep this resolution?'

. Yes, certainly, dear aunt. if it will afford you any satisfiction."

' Very well, sir; and now, Constance, we will take off our bonnets, as I intend remaining here till after luncheon.

As they were leaving the room, Beau-

'Oh, no, she replied, turning back and

with me a few minutes till Aunt Gordon re- eafe, dear girl. turns.' A deep blush mantled in her cheek, and her eyes were cast towards the door, as if wishing to escape. 'Go, then, dear left alone with her lover; and their happy, Blancue, said Beauchamp; I read your confiding looks, when Mrs. Gordon returned thoughts—you would leave me; but why should you thus avoid me? Have I ever actired with her maid about nine o'clock, uttered one word in your presence offensive or repulsive to your feelings?'

'Oh, no, William, never; but I have been so nervous and agitated ever since that toms, Mrs. Gordon took her leave, forbid-

'That you fear to be left alone even with again. William Beauchamp ; but there is another cause of dread. Blanche, from which I would release you, and it you will shut the door and sit with me only a few moments, that cause shall be explained. Don't fear me, dear

closed the door, and returned trembling to

ettied, in short, I am so disgusted with the I ave then places on such an errand. This plants, while the rest are enjoying themselves in the open air.'

· I think, said Constance, looking archly at her brother, 'Blanche is decidedly the most prudent and silent of our party, and therefore I propose her remaining with Wilham, only on the condition that the does not allow him to speak on any exciting subject; do you both agree to this?'

Most willingly and cheerfully do I submit to these conditions, if Blanche will not think it too great a penance to sit by a sick man's

' No, William, indeed I shall not; so now, Constance, you may run away as fast as you please with Aunt Gordon and Mr. Beauchamp.

My dear, kind-hearted, and affectionate girl,' said Beauchamp, when the others had quitted the room, ' and do you think I would trespass on your gentle nature by detaining you here, when Constance and Mrs. Gordon are enjoying this beautiful sunny morning? No, no, dear Blanche, you will be happier with them.'

\* Do you wish me to leave you?'

. What a question !

' Well, then,' she said, ' I would rather remain with you, if I may, and as I promised to do.'

And you shall, my own dear Blanche, champ said, in what was intended for an in- and now sit down in this chair, and tell me jured tone, Blanche, you have not shaken all about your friend Vernon's runaway hands with me; have I offended you? match with Miss Mervyn, the particulars of match with Miss Mervyn, the particulars of which I have not yet heard. Come nearer, offering her hand; ' how could you think Blanche, -indeed I won't bite, ' said Beauchamp, laughing; 'and having promised so, William?' champ, laughing; and naving promised.

Then I will not think so,' still holding Constance not to speak on any exciting subher hand, . if you will shut the door and sit ject, I must not make love; so you are quite

Encouraged by his frank though gentle manner, Blanche no longer dreaded being from her walk, convinced her how pleasantly had passed the time they had been left together. Lord Malcolm arrived in time for luncheon, soon after which, in consideration of Will Beauchamp's inflammatory symp ding him to leave the house until she called

## CHAPTER XVI.

The breaking up of the frost, the same Blanche, without saying another word, evening, set the fox-hunters once more in motion, and the first open day being as usual his side, sitting down on a c air near him. advertised for the kennels. a large assem-'You fear being left alone with me, blage of sportsmen mustered at Bampton, Blanche, because you apprehend a renewal , where cenume hospitality always awaited useles. B trayed, fill d, and cutwitted by of that subject, which from this day shall them, and sincere congratulations were offer-vertex imprecations lead. The failure of the other night, in his excited state, placed cape. The failure of his day of Vancourt, with the capture of his your hand in mine, noping and believing our ham Beaucamp walked out on the lawn also of Vancourt, with the capture of his men, and the probable exposure to the world love was mutual, and at the moment, no among them, pressed round him, all eager

temples in the fresh air.

Ay, to be sure, and gone up the read an argument to make a spen tree. The policy of the fresh air.

Not even a cransient a coing of regret for will not be so selfish as to fetter you with an all the staggers. Sure enough I have had a sure and sure a sure and some that anger only, and the transfer to make the do so. Storewer, you are an aspen tree. Why, master, said some, young and inexperienced in the world, and I what's the matter will be? You do look a sure, and gone up the read an aspen tree. Why, master, said some, and the stagger in the fresh air.

Not even a cransient a coing of regret for will not be so selfish as to fetter you with an flatbergasted loike—shakes like old Trooper when the first and some tree. Why, master, said some, and in the to do so. Storewer, you are an aspen tree. Why, master, said some, and in the to do so. Storewer, you are an aspen tree. Why, master, said some, and the what's the matter will be? sty master is Major. Sinkly, said the brinst, but abgerous, an incree, a uplacable tair opportunity of judging whether, on mixing more than was more tain was more than was more tain opportunity of judging whether, on mixing more in society, you could still prefer me and swallowing a wine-glass of brandy, rode to all others.'

The against her and Vernen for the distingmore in society, you could still prefer me and swallowing a wine-glass of brandy, rode to all others.'

Then, William, said Blanche, saily, wants thinking I were gone clean out of my and anong with aim.' Young lady along with him!' repeat
Not have your donot love me as you have professed the doctor, who told me all about the Wint alls. Then, which is a plant. It is the plants.

Not have your now own door derived the doctor, who told me all about the Wint alls. Then, which is a plant of the lane I nearly unhorsed the doctor, who told me all about the Wint alls. Then, which is a plant of the lane I nearly unhorsed the doctor, who told me all about the winter of the lane I nearly unhorsed the doctor, who told me all about the winter of the lane I nearly unhorsed the doctor, who told me all about the winter of the lane I nearly unhorsed the doctor, who told me all about the winter of the lane I nearly unhorsed the doctor, who told me all about the winter of the lane I nearly unhorsed the doctor. A young had along with him; repeats plants.

d to valet. What soit of looking person From the monster in human shape we will then to the so it more kindly feelings.

'A young had along with him; repeats plants.

'Not love you, my own dear, darling girll' it. 'What ails thee, Stiles?' shouted the exclaimed Beauchamp, starting up and seized doctor, hurrahing and waving thy hat, and can then moved up tight togethered doctor, though ans sufferings from the line her hand, 'dearer, fifty times dearer, frightening my horse into the ditch; drunk

recognized, these honest, kind-heart I fe lows could not suppress their teelings of light at her rescue from Lord Vancoun cowardly attack ; but see, Malcolm is now is turning thanks.'

Lord Malcolm had just ridden up as to cheers subsided, and learning the caus spoke thus : 'Gentlemen, I thank you a from my heart for your loudly expressed and, I am sure, warmly-felt congratulation on my cousin's escape from the dastardly attempt at her abduction by a cowardly attempt in the dastardly attempt at her abduction by a cowardly attempt in the second seco be'-(' Hear ! hear !' shouted Stiles - a: I take this opportunity,' continued Malcola of stating here publicly, that so far free Miss Douglas being a willing participater : this vile plot (which has been insinuated bri leading Radical paper in this county, the she would have preferred death to such fate; and for myself, gentlemen, as one o her nearest and dearest relatives, I amer that I would rather have seen her consume to the grave than married to such a man a Lord Vancourt.

At the termination of this brief haranger during which a dead silence prevailed, a loud hurrali !' again burst forth, amid cn-s o Shame! shame!'

' Now, then,' Stiles vociterated, 'one cheer more for Lord Malcolm and the young squire, with long lives and good waves to en both !' and another cheer, the strongest and loudest of all, echoed far and wide, making the very armor rattle in the old oak hall.

\* Eh! 'pon honor!' exclaimed Captait Markham, who was pouring out something brandy, ' those fellows make the very glasset dance on the table. Demmit, Bob, I wish you would stop their brazen throats; we shall have the old building about our care lize the walls of Jericho.'

'Ha! ha! not bad for you, Markham said Conyers : ' but these fellows are intent ou propping up, not pulling down, the House of Beauchamp; let them cheer on, and I only hope the sound of their sweet voice may be borne on the breeze to Marston

Whilst the old squire and Bob Conyen were doing the honors at the breakfast tack to a large party of visitors, Mark, with the underlings about the place, was occupied in distributing strong beer and stout to the asemblage on the lawn, making every man who quaffed the contents black jack drink to the health of the years squire.

The drawing-room also was filled and ladies who had driven over to see the generally large attendance when the fixture was made for Bampton House, and, on this ces sion, many more attended from currosity, to hear from Will Beauchamp and Constance s true account of Lord Vancourt's attempt at the herress. As Beauchamp entered the room, Selina Markham rushed forward to seize his hand, exclaiming, 'Will, Will, you are not such a sawney as I thought-aid a you gave my friend hooknose a good drafbing, I hear, and split his beautiful leak for him ?-this is charming news, pon least but eh ! aw ! the thief has paled your face, Will Beauchamp—this is as bad as a full over a five-barred gate, with a broken ab.

Not quite, Selina; I shall be all right again in a few days.

' Mind you are, Master Will, as we are to have a hop next week to a fiddle and fate, and I shall parade you on that night as the champion of the Light Weights. Ned say you are a demned plucky young fellow, and ought to be in the Life Guards.

Much obliged for the compliment, Sclina, although in time of peace a fer hunter's life is more exciting and periles than a soldier's."

The hounds now appeared, and were look ing eagerly about, in expectation of seeing their young master 'Oh, what a beautifa sight, exclaimed Blanche, who was standing with Mrs. Gordon and Beauchamp at one of