his hair, without danger of discovery. How I summoned resolution enough to leave him is to this hour, not clear to my mind. I think my mother-in-law must bave helped me, without meaning to do it. She came into the room with an erect head, and a cold eye; she said, with an unmerciful omphasis on the word, " If you mean to go, Valeria, the carriage is here."
Any woman with a spark of spirit in her would have " meant " it under those circumstances. I meant It-and did It.

And then I was sorry for it. Poor humanity! Time has got all the credit of being the great consoler of afflicted mortals. In my opinion, Time has been over-rated in this matter. Dis-tance does the same beneficent work, far more speedily, and (when assisted by Change) far more effectually as well. On the railroad to Paris, I became capable of taking a sensible view of my position. I could now remind myself that my husband's reception of me-after the first surprise and the first happiness had passed away-might not have justified his mother's confidence in him. Admitting that I ran a risk in going back to Miserrimus Dexter, should I not have been equally rash, in another way, if I had returned, uninvited, to a husband who had declared that our conjugal happiness was impossible, and that our married life was at an end? Besides, who could say that the events of the future might not yet justify menot only to myself, but to him? I might yet hear him say, "She was inquisitive when she had no business to inquire; she was obstinate when she ought to have listened to reason; she left my bedside when other women would have remained; but in the end she atoned for it all—she turned out to be right!"

I rested a day at Paris, and wrote three let-

tine to Benjamin, telling him to expect me the next evening. One to Mr. Playmore, warning him, in good time, that I meant to make a hast effort to penetrate the mystery at Gieninch. One to Eustace (of a few lines only), owning that I had helped to nurse him torough the dangerous part of his illness; confessing the one reason which had prevailed with me to leave him; and enticating him to suspend his opinion of me, until time had proved that I loved him more dearly than ever. This last letter I en-closed to my mother-in-law; leaving it to her discretion to choose the right time for giving it to her son. I positively forbade Mrs, Macallan, however, to tell Eustage of the new tie between ps. Although he had separated himself from me, I was determined that he should not hear of it from other lips than mine. Never mind, why! There are certain little matters which I must keep to myself; and this is one of them.

My letters being written, my duty was done. I was free to play my last eard in the game-the darkly-doubtful game which was never quite for me, nor quite against me, as the chances now stood.

CHAPTER XXXIX.

ON THE WAY TO DENTER.

"I declare to Heaven, Valeria, I believe that monster's madness is infectious and you have

This was Benjamin's opinion of me (on my safe arrival at the villa); after I had announced my intention of returning Miserrimus Dexter's visit, in his company.

Being determined to carry my point, I could afford to try the influence of mild persuasion. I begged my good friend to have a little patience with me. "And do remember what I have already told you," I added, "It is of serious im-portance to me to see Dexter again,"

I only heaped fuel on the fire, "See him

again?" Benjamin repeated indignantly, "See him after he grossly insulted you, under my roof, in this very room? I can't be awake; I must be asleep and reaming!"

It was wrong of me, I know. But Benjamin's virtuous indignation was so very virtuous that In re CLARK & GORDON, Insolvents. it let the spirit of mischief loose in me. I really could not resist the temptation to outrage his sense of propriety, by taking an audaciously liberal view of the whole matter.

offently, my good friend, gently!" I said.
We must make allowances for a man who suffers under Dexter's infirmities, and lives Dexter's life. And really we must not let our molesty lead us beyond reasonable limits. I begin to think that I took rather a prudish view of the thing reals. of the thing myself, at the time. A woman who respects berself, and whose whole heart is with her husband, is not so very seriously in-jured when a wretched crippled creature is rude enough to put his arm around her walst. Virtuous indignation (if I may venture to say so) is sometimes very cheap indignation. Besides, I have forgiven him—and you must forgive him, too. There is no fear of his forgetting himself again, while you are with me. His house is again, while you are with me. His house is quite a curiesity; it is sure to interest you; the pictures alone are worth the Journey. I will write to him to-day, and we will go and see him together to-morrow. We owe it to ourselves (if we don't owe it to Mr. Dexter) to pay this visit. If you will look about you, Benjamin, you will see that benevolence towards everybody is the great virtue of the time we live in. Poor Mr. Dexter must have the benefit of the prevailing fashlon. Come, come, march with the age!

instead of accepting this polite invitation, worthy old Benjamin flew at the age we lived

in like a buil at a red cloth.

"Ob, the new ideas! the new ideas! By all manner of means, Valeria, let us have the new ideas! The old morality's all wrong, the old ways are all worn out. Let's march with the age we live in. Nothing comes amiss to the age we live in. The wife in England and the husband in Spain, married or not married, living or not living together—it's all one to the new ideas. I'll go with you, Valeria; I'll be

worthy of the generation I live in. When we have done with Dexter, don't let's do things by halves. Let's go and get crammed with readymade science at a lecture -let's hear the last new professor, the man who has been behind the scenes at the Creation, and knows to a T how the world was made, and how long it took to make it. There's the other fellow, too; mind we don't forget the modern Solomon who has left his proverbs behind him—the bran-new philosopher who considers the consolations of religion in the light of harmless playthings, and who is kind enough to say that he might have been all the happier if he could only have been childlsh enough to play with them himself. Oh, the new ideas, the new ideas, what consoling, elevating, beautiful discoveries have been made by the new ideas! We were all monkeys before we were men, and molecules before we were monkeys! And what does it matter? And what does anything matter to anybody? I'm with you, Valeria—I'm ready! The scoper the better. Come to Dexter! Come to Dexter!"
"I am so glad you agree with me," I said,
But let us do nothing in a hurry. Three o'clock

to-morrow, will be time enough for Mr. Dexter. will write at once and tell him to expect us

---Where are you going?"
"I am going to clear my mind of cant," said Benjamin sternly. "I am going into the

"What are you going to read?"
"I am going to read-Puss in Boots, and Jack and the Bean-Stalk, and anything else I can find that doesn't march with the age we

live in."

With that parting shot at the new ideas, my old friend left me for a time.

Having despatched my note, I found myself beginning to revert, with a certain feeling of anxiety, to the subject of Miserrimus Dexter's health. How had he passed through the interval of my absence from England? Could anybody, within my reach, tell me news of him? To inquire of Benjamin would only be to provoke a new outbreak. While I was still considering, the housekeeper entered the room on some domestic errand. I asked, at a venture, if she had heard anything more while I had been away, of the extraordinary person who had so seriously alarmed her on a former

The housekeeper shook her head, and looked as if she thought it in bad taste to mention the subject at all.

"About a week after you had gone away, ma'am," she said, with extreme severity of manner, and with excessive carefulness in her choice of words, "the Person you mention had the impudence to send a letter to you. The messenger was informed, by my master's orders, that you had gone abroad, and he and his letter were both sent about their business together. Not long afterwards, ma'am, I hap pened, while drinking tea with Mrs. Macalian's housekeeper, to hear of the Person again. He himself called in his chaise, at Mrs. Macallan's, to inquire about you there. How he can contrive to sit, without legs to balance him, is beyoud my understanding-but that is neither here nor there. Legs or no legs, the housekeeper saw him, and she says, as I say, she will never forget him to her dying day. She told him (as soon as she recovered herself) of Mr. Enstace's illness, and of you and Mrs. Macallan being in foreign parts nursing him.

(To be continued.)

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AT STRATFORD.

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There will be offered for Sale by Auction, on the pro-There will be effected for Sale by Auction, on the permittee formerly occupied by the above named insolvents, at STRATFORD, on TUESDAY, the 16th FERBUARY, 1875, at TWO O'CLOCK, P. M.

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236 McGill Street, Montreal, February 4th, 1876, 11-7-1-95

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INSOLVENT ACT OF 1869

IN THE MATTER OF DESMARTEAU & BRISE-BOIS, OF MONTREAL.

INSOLVENTS.

Insolverts.

I, the undersigned, JOHN WHITE, of the City of Montreal, Official Assignee, have been appointed Assignee in this matter.

Creditors are requested to fyle their claims before me, within one month, and are hereby notified to meet at the Office of WHYTE, KERR & LEFEBVRE, in Merchants' Exchange Building. St. Sacrament Street, in the City of Montreal, on Thursday, the eleventh day of Mirch next, at eleven o'clock a. m., for the examination of the Insolvents and for the ordering of the efficie of the Estate. vents, and for the ordering of the affairs of the Estate

JOHN WHYTE.

Montreal, 8th February, 1875.

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LA BANQUE DU PEUPLE.

Dividend No. 79.

THE STOCKHOLDERS OF LA BANQUE DU PEUPLE are hereby notified that a SEMI-ANNUAL DIVIDEND of FOUR per cent for the current six months has been declared on the Capital Stock, and will be payable at the Cifice of the Bank on and after Monday, the 1st March next.

The Transfer Books will be closed from the 15th to 28th February, both days inclusive.

Monday, ...
The Transfer Books o...
28th February, both days inclusive.
By order of the Board of Directors.
A. A. TROTTIER,
Cashier.
11-7-3-90

LA BANQUE DU PEUPLE. NOTICE.

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the STOCK-HOLDERS of the BANQUE DU PEUPLE will be held at the Office of the Bank, ST. JAMES STREET, on MONDAY, the FIRST of MARCH next, at THREE o'clock p. m., in conformity with the 16th and 17th clauses of the Act of Incorporation. By order of the Board of Directors.
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