

have it. She shall be married in my house or I'll never stir from this spot. What claim have you that she should be married here?"

"If it comes to that," replied the Earl, with a smile, "I shall make a claim straightway."

With that he took from the table a legal looking document and handed it to Miriam.

"Unfold, my child, and read what has been set down therein."

"What, what is this?" cried Miriam, as she cast her eye down the ponderous instrument. "This is the title to the estate of Hanging Rock. What have I to do with that? You told me that my father had resigned it into your hands as an act of justice."

"So he did. Read on, my dear."

Suddenly the bright spots came out upon her cheeks.

"Can I believe my eyes? It is new engrossed and in my name. Do you mean that the manor-house and park belong to me?"

"Ay; to you and to your heirs forever."

"Oh, Sir Richard! How can I thank you!"

"Now does the King's fort deserve the honor of your wedding?"

"Miriam, you will choose Marmaduke Hall."

"Choose the fort," said the Earl.

"Let me speak to Vincent."

She came across the room and whispered to me for a moment. But her mind was already made up, and she soon returned.