

and a decided foot went down, "leave Captain Trevalyon and myself to conclude our interview."

"You forget the proprieties, Kate, and though I like not the fruit, I'll play gooseberry," and seating himself he coolly poured out a glass of champagne.

"Shall I make my adieux, Mrs. Tompkins ; it grows late ?" said Trevalyon, about to rise from his chair.

"No, stay awhile," said his hostess slowly, for she thought Delrose might go and she might so act on the feelings of Trevalyon by the magnets love and gold as to win. In the meantime he thought as he stroked his moustache lazily, "a dashing handsome woman, pity she has let that dare-devil Delrose get some hold over her."

Major Delrose drank like a thirsty man, then folding his arms glared defiantly at Kate who returned his gaze while trembling with wrath, her eyes flashing.

"George Delrose, you are a coward to force yourself into a woman's presence. Go this moment ! I command you, or I shall summon the household. Are you going ?"

"No, by the Horse Guards ! *I am not !*" and the flush of anger deepened on his cheek. "I tell you, Kate, I am not a man to be made a football of ; don't, if you have a remnant of pity in your heart, drive me mad by talk of marriage with another."

"And why not, pray ?" inquired Mrs. Tompkins, recklessly, the next instant regretting her foolhardiness, and before the eyes of the men, one of whom she had a passion for ; the other who had a passion for herself, that she had outlived ; and now with quick resolve and latent meaning, knowing the intruder's love for coins, continued : "Even did the Sultan of Turkey fancy me to adorn his harem, when I pined for freedom, he would not despise the American eagle done in gold as an exchange for my liberty."

"Cold, glittering metal *versus* warm, loving heart of woman, and such an one as you, never-!" he answered, following her cue and looking her in the eyes.