Countess Westerleigh.

CHAPTER IV.

(Concluded.) "Don't you find this an awfully rough place in the winter—the depth of winter?" he asked, conscious of desire to hear her speak.

She raised her head and looked

round before replying. "I don't know," she said, in the clear, liquid tone. "I have never lived anywhere since I can remember I am used to it."

"Since you can remember? You weren't born here, then?" said Vane,

"No," she replied, succinctly; "but I don't remember-" She stopped. "Do you want to know about your horse? I have tethered him in the

you-thank you," said Vaue. "I have given you a tremer dons lot of trouble You will be glad to be rid of me, and you soon will be, I hope. I should think could go to-day

She shook her head.

"You could not ride," she said, with quiet and assured conviction. "You are weak still. No, I watched you walk across the beach.'

"Well, I do feel rather tottery," h

said; "but I shall get over that pre name?"

"You know it." she said. "Nora." "Nora." he repeated, and as he did so, it struck him he had never heard ed it. "But the other?"

"Trevanion." "That has the proper Cornish sound." he said. "And your aunt, is she called Trevanion?"

"Yes.

"And you live here, all alone, you you survey,' as Robinson Crusoe

her wonderful eves.

"No: I can't read." she said. sim-

Vane had some difficulty in pre venting himself from starting. Not read! And yet she spoke so correctly, and with that vague, indefinable accent of refinement!

"I have never learned to read or write," she said, calmly, and without a trace of embarrassment.

"I suppose there are no schools!

here?" said Vane, trying to speak as to her than otherwise, and by no means extraordinary.

"No," she replied: "the nearest i at Porth. I have never been there. I have never been anywhere but

She moved her hand slowly, bu with indescribable grace, in a sweep that took in the small bay and the rocks.

Vane tried to find something com plimentary to say. "There is too much reading and

"Can you read?" she asked, he lovely eyes scanning his face with

frank interest. "A little." he replied "small. words, at any rate. But I'm almost

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"La Sabrosa."

What's it matter? For instance, you seem very happy. I heard you singing away like a bird. I don't often hear other girls sing like that."

"Not where you come from?" she asked. "Where do you come from! "London," he replied, with a smile, and tilting his cap to the back of his or you would not say what you dohead.

In all his life he had never imag-

her dark eyes fixed dreamily on the some confession ; then suddenly a pesea. "Yes, I remember. I have culiar cry rang above their heads. It She looked at him steadily with heard aunt speak of it. It

> "That's right," said Vane; "and retty big city, with three, four mil lions-I don't know quite how many

> She sat silently taking in this fact her dark brows slightly knit. "How do they atl live?" she asked

Vane laughed. "'Pon my word, I don't know," he replied. "Nobody knows."

"Is it by the sea? Do they fish?" Vane was silent for a moment How on earth was he to give this girl who knew no other place than this outlandish Witches' Caldron who could neither read nor write

any idea of London? "No," he said. "It's a long way rom the sea: but a river runs thro t. But they don't fish in it to an ive jammed together, with scarcely enough air to breathe, and that, for he most part thick with smoke." Her glorious eyes expanded with

grave, delicious innocence. "I wonder you do not die," she

murmured in her musical voice. t." said Vane, with his short laugh "But I haven't given you an idea o it yet, and I couldn't if I tried, I'm afraid. Don't you ever be persuaded to leave this beautiful place and come to London, Miss Nora."

She looked round. "I shall never leave here," she said. "And you live in that great

city?" He nodded.

Where? By the river? I should like to live by the river-near the water-if I lived there."

"Well, not very near," he said, is called 98 St. James's Street.

She bent her brows and looked out o sea, and her lips moved.

Ninety-eight St. James's Street," he repeated.

"Do you think you can remember it?" he said, with a smile.

She looked at him gravely. "I never forget what I hear," she said "or what I see never. Is that because I can not read or write?" Miss Nora. Now, will you tell me whom you took me for the other

night?" came down into the ravine to me You know you asked me if I was the

excise man. You remember?" "I remember," she said. "Well, I should like to know what you meant. I have been puzzling over it while I have been lying in the

"Aunt said that you were a gen leman," she said: "are you?"

Vane laughed. "And that you would not ask

uestions," she said. Vane colored. "All right," he said; "I won't Anyhow, you have been extremely

deeply indebted to you." Her lips quivered and she glanced t him with something like distress

n her lovely eyes. "No one could have been kinder or nore hospitable," he went on. " can't tell you how grateful I am. consider you saved my life-"

She sprung upright and stretched

at her hand, her beautiful face working with distress and emotion. "Don't-don't!" she breathed. "You -vou don't know---"

"Don't know what?" he asked, with blank surprise. She put her hand to her lips, and then brushed the hair from her fore

head, as if in great distress. "I-I can't tell you!" she panted 'I-I dare not! But you don't know

would not thank me-" "What?" said Vane, astonished be-

yond measure by her agitation. She leaned toward him with hands outstretched, as if about to make resembled the "Coo-ee!" he had heard her make on the night of his journey.

It seemed to recall her to herself. She sprung upright and passed her hand over her eyes "Breakfast is ready," she said.

'Take my hand; you are weak still. Come!"

CHAPTER V.

On their way to the cottage, Vane

ouzzled over Nora's strange words nd stranger manner. What could they possibly mean? Suddenly he onnected the word "excisemen" with mugglers. But he scorned the idea mmediately. There were no smugglers nowadays. As well expect to neet a highwayman on Hampstead

effete" England, and the end of the ineteenth century, not the beginning of the eighteenth. Vane was

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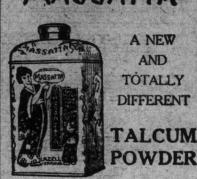
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not fond of mental exercise or puz zles of any kind, so he gave up the conundrum in his happy-go-lucky fashion as they entered the cottage.

The breakfast was ready, and he ate a very fair meal. Nora and Mrs. Trevanion had breakfasted at a much earlier hour, and the elder woman now and again casting a glance from her dark eyes at him, and listening intently as he talked.

Vane thought that probably Mrs. Trevanion would know his uncle, the squire, as he was called, and he ask-

She hesitated a moment, the shook her head.

he fishermen and the country people who come sometimes to buy our fish. she said, with a grave reserve; "and I do not suppose Squire Vale knows of the existence of this cottage," she

(To be Continued.)

Fashions and Fads.

At this moment do not trim you hat with a high standing feather cffect and aigrette or paradise. They are not in fashion's favor.

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true waistcoat fashion, you must attach a vest effect to your neckwear. With the summer afternoon dress white ratine hag is most charming being a delightful combination be

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restore themselves to favor. One of de chine, finished at the bottom with two ruffles of shadow lace, put on in festoon fashion.

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