

child, she referred me to her parents for a decision.

"But alas! 'the course of true love never did run smooth;' her parents closed their hearts against our entreaties. My want of fortune—the lowness of my birth—were insuperable objections. I could smile now to think what a pitch of indignation I wound myself up to! but it was of no avail,—I persevered till the doors were politely closed against me, and I could no longer contrive any means of communication with Fanny.

"Soon after this event, business called me to New Orleans. I remained there a year; but I wrote often to Fanny, and found means to have my letters safely conveyed to her. I was not willing to be forgotten, and I knew well that I had still great influence over her mind. I also heard of her, through my sister,—your mother, Frank, who, when I began to prosper in life, I had placed at school, and she was then, very well married in New York. I knew that Fanny had rejected Haliday; and a few lines from herself informed me that she was allowed a year of grace, her parents hoping that time might effect a favorable change in her sentiments towards him; she also wrote me, that they were about making their annual visit to Saratoga, where they would remain several weeks.

"My mind was soon made up, and I resolved to make one more desperate effort, to accomplish my wishes. A year and a half had considerably changed my appearance; I had grown stouter; the southern sun had somewhat bronzed my complexion, and I cultivated my mustachios so sedulously, that my appearance, on the whole, was sufficiently *à la brigand*, to justify me in losing my identity. I arrived at Saratoga, one day, in fine style, attended by my servant, booked my name as Count d'Orson, suited my accent to my foreign appellation, and passed for a traveller of distinction—in short, I was soon quite a lion among the gay parties at the Springs.

"Fanny had been apprised of my intentions, and knew how to act her part; and Mrs. Crumpit was well pleased that her daughter had so soon captivated the fancy of one who bore so aristocratic a title. A week passed away with perfect satisfaction. I played back-gammon with Mr. Crumpit,—listened to Mrs. Crumpit's music, and occasionally sang with her,—and, though I scarcely knew one note from another, she praised my skill, and declared that foreigners understood the power of harmony far better than her own countrymen. Above all, I had ample time, and opportunity, to make love to Fanny; but I was not quite decided whether it would be prudent to risk an avowal, with all the details it

must involve; or to make less ceremony of the matter, and persuade Fanny to elope with me. This I could easily have done; but I knew her father to have an obstinate, gunpowder temper, and I felt quite certain that I should get no dowry with my pretty bride, in that case; and as yet I could not afford to live entirely upon love. While in this perplexity, my evil genius took the affair into his own management, and saved me the trouble of deciding.

"I was one day playing the agreeable to Fanny, and her father and mother looking complacently on, when a gentleman was announced, and directly Jack Haliday entered the apartment. Fanny turned as pale as ashes, and, in spite of my assurance, I felt a little trepidation. However, I retained a bold air, and went through the ceremony of introduction very well. But Haliday was quick-sighted and suspicious,—he watched me so closely through the day that I was on the point of losing my temper and my prudence,—the truth must have flashed across his mind, but my metamorphosis was so complete he dared not assert it, without stronger proof.

"I resolved to leave Saratoga on the following morning, and trust fortune, for better success at some other time; but almost at the moment of putting my purpose in execution, I came in contact with Haliday,—he was rude, and some altercation arose between us,—in short he accused me of being an impostor, and called me by my real name. Fanny could bear no more, but dropped into a fainting fit; Mrs. Crumpit stared at me, with dilated eyes, for a moment, and then burst into a torrent of upbraiding wrath,—wondering that she had been so long blind, and blessing heaven that it was not yet too late. I raised Fanny, and given her to an attendant, and though I saw that the exposé was made, and that I could no longer trust to my disguise, or my assurance,—I stood with perfect composure, and waiting till the lady had ended, very coolly replied, 'Madam, you do me very great injustice,—that gentleman is mistaken,—were he worthy of the honor, I would chastise his insolence; but a scion of the noble house of d'Orson, disdains to take revenge of a plebeian republican.' So saying, I bowed with great condescension, and turned slowly away. My impudence overpowered them—Jack Haliday was too indignant to reply—Mrs. Crumpit was bewildered, and her worthy lord rubbed his eyes, as if doubtful whether he dreamed, or were awake.

"But, though I can laugh at it now, Frank, the adventure sorely disappointed me,—for I loved my little Fanny very dearly. I returned to New York,—the Crumpits went to their