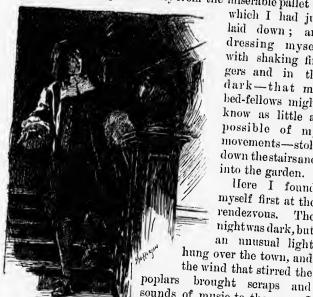
After that, though I made a last effort to dissuade her, there was nothing more to be said. Obedient to her behest, I made my preparations, and at the appointed hour next evening rose softly from the miserable pallet on which I had just



INTO THE GARDEN

dressing myself with shaking fingers and in the dark-that my bed-fellows might know as little as possible of my movements-stole down thestairs and into the garden. llere I found

laid down; and

myself first at the rendezvous. The night was dark, but an nnusual light

the wind that stirred the poplars brought scraps and sounds of music to the ear. I had some time to wait, and time too to think what I was about to do; to weigh the chances of STOLE DOWN THE STAIRS AND detection and dismissal, and

even to taste the qualms that rawness and timidity mingled

with my anticipations of pleasure. But, though I had my fears, no vision of the real future obtruded itself on my mind as I stood there listening: nor any forewarning of the plunge I was about to take. And before I had come to the end of my patience Dorinda stood beside me.