

to us, I noticed that at once, and told Captain Lathom that I was sure, whatever your past character had been, you were quite superior in your manners and looks to the rest of the unfortunate creatures who came out in the *Julia*."

"I thank you, madam ;" and the girl's hands clenched together in her lap as she bent her head lower, and set her teeth hard.

"Yes, indeed," resumed Mrs. Lathom complacently, "and Captain Lathom at *my* especial request, and on account of *my* interest in you, managed to secure your assignment to us, although the Governor, who is an extremely vulgar man, in spite of his being a soldier and a supposed gentleman, was very averse to military officers having female convicts assigned to them as servants. Now, I am sure you feel grateful."

"I *am* grateful to Captain Lathom. He has made me feel that I am still a human being, and not a brute beast." Her dreary monotone did not change, though her frame was quivering from head to foot.

"How very strangely you talk, Helen. I am sure I do not consider you a 'brute beast.' Quite the reverse ; and I am sure I have shown it on many occasions. Have I not ?"

No answer came from the girl beyond a mute inclination of the bowed head.

"Now, as I have said—or did I not say so ? I quite forget, you interrupt me so—Captain Lathom really does not understand that I am ill—really ill—and thinks that there is no necessity for me to return to Sydney, when Dr. Haldane is 'only thirty miles away'—as if thirty miles were thirty yards! And I detest Dr. Haldane, with his bushy whiskers, and his horribly