

be her nurse and companion. Her ser-vant had shown me into this wretched

vant had shown me into this wretched trap, as I now called it, in anguish of spirit, though it was really a pretty, cheerful little room, opening by a cur-tained arch from the parlor, informing me that the housekeeper would be there immediately to conduct me to my aunt. And here me L on utter stranger assist

position in the world.

And here was I, an utter stranger, assisting at a loyers' quarrel. Two persons had entered the room an instant after I had seated myself. It was

twilight, and the lamps were not lighted. I was wholly invisible, and they evidently imagined themselves to possess the

ly imagined themselves to posses in solitude befitting their conversation. "The farce may as well end here," had said a woman's voice at the moment of, her crossing the threshold. "For my part, tham weary of the play. I no longer love you, and I will not pretend affection merely to feed your vanity, which is as limitless as your impertinence

in persisting in attentions that you see

It was the most intolerably proud voice

that could be imagined. "I still love you, and you know it. And I have far too much faith in your former professions to credit the words put into your mouth by the anger of an unfortunate moment. You are utterly

"I threw it toward the cistern. Possibly D that shoped through some ir from or other, and gone down inte the water. I

that the sight of it can ever again insult me with the remembrance that I have worn it. [Remit me to wish yon an ex-ceedingly good evening!"

It was easy to imagine the mocking reverence of the courtesy she now awept by him; then she was gone. Immediately after, and silently, he also left the apart-

ment, by and a solution of the solution of the

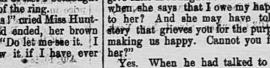
tainty feit by the actors of their complete isolation, and my own innocent guilt in overhearing, all quite overpowered me. Half a minute did not elapse after the last sound of the gentleman's footsteps before the parler door again opened, and a prim little woman entered, with a lamp in her hand. She looked in all the context for a dramad

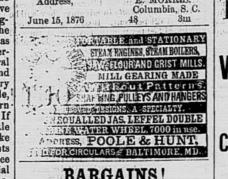
corners, as one might search for a dropped pocket handkerchief, and at last perceived the new-comer. "Ah, miss, I have kept you waiting quite a time, to be sure! But your aunt

head or feet." I received the refreshments she brought

me gratefully, after which I was con-ducted to my aunt's room. Consideration for the feelings of other people was not one of the old didy's characteristics; and after a few disparag-

flittations with two gentlemen, who were each dark, and, like the ladies, dressed with care a little too exquisite. The third lady, Miss Huntingdon, was a little person, with a soft, pleasant, vivacious manners, in whose conversation was always a concealed sarcasm. But it was had no right to know. Day followed day, and the days method gradually into weeks. When the novelty of my position was over, it proved not so terrible as it had seemed at





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