

CAPE TSHANT.

By William Allingham.
Our ship, the stout Bellesophon,
Of Redcoat Harbor lay,

A SHY AUSTRALIAN.

Mrs. Osborne, of Dalmore House, Ainerley, was giving a dance.

Dalmore House, being a jerry-built suburban villa of the kind advertised by house-agents as "A desirable residence, with two reception-rooms, six bedrooms and a bathroom," was not eminently adapted for that form of entertainment.

Mrs. Osborne was a woman of determination and her guests were usually, and with reason, considered by all concerned a very successful enterprise. She generally managed to have, not only enough of the male sex, but a good proportion of prominent, full-grown specimens.

"I'm quite glad we came," said Lady Langholme, when her daughter was beside her for a new nutcracker.

"I'm very glad we came," returned Frances, "for Cousin Laura's sake. It is disgraceful that we should never have had the civility to come here."

"Not dancing, Frances, dear," exclaimed Cousin Laura, coming up at this moment. "Isn't your card full?"

"Yes, my dear," said Frances, "but I can assure you I'm not accustomed to have a partner for every dance."

"Oh, but, my dear, you must," said Mrs. Osborne, sternly reflecting with rather a distressed look.

"I'm sorry I can't dance with you," said Frances, "but I don't think it is fair to ask me to do so."

habit of doing—I was made a great deal of, my dear. And they could dance, taking them all round, as well as most of the men we are accustomed to dance with."

"And mother, asked one of the twins—"is she so terribly disgusted? Or does she think it is worth while?"

"Oh, Dolly, dear," sighed Frances, "I'm sorry to say she does think it worth while."

"Well, Frances paused, and turned her face so that she was half-hidden in the shadow."

"There is nothing to tell you," answered Frances impatiently. "He is an Australian who gives himself airs."

"I don't see the necessity," said Frances. "I am sitting-room for a moment."

"I'm sorry we have missed him," observed Lady Langholme. "I suppose now we must ask him to dinner."

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The day the arrangement was concluded Mr. Fanshawe called, and it was imparted to him.

"I'm so sorry," he said. "I have settled to go to Switzerland in August."

"Oh, go to Switzerland in September," cried the Crystal Palace and help us to improve our minds."

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"I almost think we had better try and get into the palace," Mr. Fanshawe said.

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