have evolved from such proportions and stolidity as had constituted her forebears, was a continual enigma to the ethnologists of Revanho. However, there she was, a constant burr in the side of the inner-circle, which she was continually trying to not only penetrate, but lead, in spite of the information vouchsafed on a rather trying occasion, when she was using her van as a kind of spear and war-horse, that if she insisted on this talisman as a sesame, a suffix would be added, and she would be promptly sent to the rear. Miss Van Ecbur, although given to assuming the rôle coy maidenhood, had imbibed the deeply rooted opinions of the village as to the limits of the strictly proper, and living so long "in maiden meditation, fancy free," had accumulated a feeling of delicious wickedness as to the propriety of even naming, above a whisper, the two-legged creature, man. Occasionally she was brought to bay before one of these animals, but generally contented herself with listening to a recital of their habits and customs, making an occasional remark when the subject seemed about to be dropped.

At this time there appeared on the scene a gentleman who had been invited by the students to deliver a lecture. He was a man of fine presence, and withal a person who would impress one as a more than ordinary character. His lecture was a decided success, and he was invited to repeat it. The professors, desiring to pay him some attention, gave a state supper in his honor, to which all the invitable were invited. Miss Van E. was among the number. In due course of time she was presented, and in some way attracted the doctor's curiosity; for he exerted himself to please, and so effectually that the mighty barrier of partition between the two sexes was so far broken down as to admit of their sitting on the same sofa, it is true, far apart, but still on the same seat,—a thing not heard of before in the annals of the town. Gossip was open-mouthed. The ice thus broken, the doctor and Miss Van E. met each other in society, and once she was so bold as to receive him in the general parlor of her boarding-house. On one never-to-be-forgotten afternoon a rap summoned her to the door of her sitting-room, before which stood Dr. G., very red of countenance, and very smiling, who, with extended hand, welcomed her appearance.

"What could I do?" she said, in recounting the story, "so completely was I taken back, that I found myself shaking his outstretched hand, and before I knew it, saw him seated on my sofa; a live man in my room—a thing that had never happened before during my occupancy!" But here let her tell her own story.

"The day was rather warm, but not sufficiently so for me to account for the extreme redness of his countenance, which seemed to be fairly reeking with moisture, requiring the continual application of his handkerchief. I ventured some few remarks, quite stiffly, as I desired that he should see that I considered his presence an intrusion, to which he only answered by smiling, and waving his hand in the air. I was about to ask him to excuse me, as I was engaged, when, to my horror, he arose and began to disrobe. Yes; actually disrobe before me! He first took off his coat and laid it on a chair, then his collar and tie,—the brute! I mustered all the blood of the Van Ecburs that flowed in my veins, and said with dignity, 'Doctor Girand, you pollute my room!' There he stood in his shirt sleeves, grinning like a baboon, and still waving his hand. I went toward the chair to hand him his coat, when he sat down and took off his boots; after which he reclined at full length on my sofa. My dear, if I had not thought of the Van Ecburs, from whom I am descended, I should have died. I now perceived that he was intoxicated, his breath having filled my apartment with the odor of whiskey. Throwing open the door to its full extent, I said, 'Man, leave my habitation! I command you!'

'He opened his arms, and still smiling, said, 'Come to my arms, Vanessa!' I was dazed—thunderstruck! I! Vanessa! that swift creature! Could it be that I had heard aright? Yes, for he repeated it; and actually, in his stocking-feet, arose, and began to approach, as