

## "THE ROCKS OF VALPRÉ"

*The Rocks of Valpré*, by Ethel M. Dell, may best be described as the history of a young woman of much the same fluffy and irresponsible type as those heroines of the Duchess's novels, so dear to the hearts of an earlier generation. It was among the rocks of Valpré, on the French coast, that Chris Wyndham committed her first serious indiscretion by scraping an acquaintance with a good-looking young Frenchman, meeting him surreptitiously on several occasions and finally allowing the tide to overtake them while exploring a certain magic cave, in consequence of which they found themselves prisoners for the rest of the night. This escapade, coupled with the duel which the young Frenchman afterward fought in her defense was destined to pursue her in one form or another throughout life; and notwithstanding the fact that she is afterward happily married to an English husband, her happiness carries a heavy handicap of secrecy, blackmail, forgery, and the persistent and dangerous devotion of the Frenchman. Altogether, this is a well-intentioned little story, with which it would be an unkindness to find fault for its extreme lightness of weight,—because it is so very evident that it is precisely the light, inconsequential thing that its author meant it to be.