

been offered the situation of English master in the—Academy, Edinburgh?"

"No, I did not; is he going to accept it? I hope not, I should miss Maude so much."

"He is not sure yet. He is a clever fellow. I wonder if it is true that the sickness which keeps him from school occasionally is not sickness at all, but intoxication. I do not think it can be; he is always very reluctant to drink with me."

"I hope not, for Maude's sake. Poor child, she looks as if something were troubling her very much. It amuses me very much to see the championship Graham takes over her."

"Yes, it is amusing; but it's a good trait in him. But I must go. Good bye, dear. Good bye, curly head. Good bye, baby."

"Would you like me to go with you, Arthur?" Graham asked; "it is so dark and stormy."

"Well you may come. I may be the better of your company coming home."

And so they went together, preceded by the man who had brought the summons, down, through the snow with sleet and wind right in their face, till they came to the village. In the bar-room of the "Weston Arms" the smallest of the three taverns Weston supported, a knot of men were gathered round the blazing peat fire. At the entrance of Mr. Russel and Graham they made way for them, respectfully saluting them. While they warmed themselves, the doctor came out of an inner room and coming up to Mr. Russel shook hands with him, drawing him a little aside. "I am glad you have come," he said, in his methodical, drawling way of speaking. "My patient is sinking fast; yes sir, very fast. Painful case, illustrates human depravity."

"Who is it? What does he want of me?" Arthur asked a little impatiently.

"We must look to you for information. I do not know who he is. His business he has not thought fit to communicate."

"When did this man that is dying come here?" said Mr. Russel, turning to the landlord, who was impatiently waiting for an opportunity to speak.

"He came here three days ago, your honor, and asked if there was a Mr. Russel in this neighborhood the first thing. We

asked him if he knew you, and he said, no. The very first night, sir, he drank deeply and in the morning he had the 'blue devils.' He has remained so ever since, enough to frighten anybody out of their wits to go near him; only about an hour ago he 'peared to get a little sensible, and asked me if I would send for you. He would like to see you before he died. He appears to be a gentleman, sir, and talks French or Latin, I don't know which, occasionally; got some Gaelic, too. Won't you take a glass of 'usquebaugh,' sir? It will warm you. Dreadful night, this, sir."

"No, thank you; I don't wish any. I am ready now. You had better stay here, Graham, he said, in a whisper; "if I want you I will call you."

He followed the doctor into the close bedroom, followed by the landlord, who whispered: "We were very full, sir, you see, and had to put him in here. Very sorry, sir; of course if we had known we have better accommodation."

Mr. Russel took no notice of the apology, though he thought it was required. The bedroom was situated in the back part of the house, and had only an earthen floor. A small square for the admission of light could not have let in much, for three of the four panes were of wood. The bed itself was of that kind still common in rural districts in the Highlands. It was built up in the wall, and had shutters to it, which were closed during the day-time, giving the impression that they were merely the partitions. Lying tossing on the bed, with only a coarse coverlet thrown over him, was a man of large, powerful frame. The doctor approached him softly.

"My dear sir, if you would only be quiet it would be much better for you."

"You're wrong!" the patient said, almost fiercely. "The more I toss the better it is for me."

"Well, my dear sir, I won't reason the point with you, though I could prove from undoubted authority that I am correct."

"Leave me, sir!" the sick man again spoke. "What is your authority or you either? Is Mr. Russel—Arthur Russel of Graigse Lea—sent for?"

"I was just going to inform you when you interrupted me," the doctor again be-