

"There you are again, Arthur," said Joker. "Surely you know I do not need to say that about her."

"Then who in the world do you mean?" asked Arthur, now quite sober.

"I mean the girl in Ireland," almost shouted Joker, putting on his sternest look. "I mean the girl who was one of the truest and best friends I ever had. I mean Kate, call her what else you will."

"Joker," said Arthur, in a low voice, "I see you are in earnest. Who told you what you now tell me?"

"Dr. Terrence Varro told me," replied Joker. "He said that both you and he were mistaken about some young Squire, whom you supposed to be Kate's lover. The Squire was married shortly after you left. Dr. Varro said there was no one else but you in Kate's mind."

"You gentlemen will please come to dinner," said Mr. Daysmore, appearing at the door, and the conversation ended.

When Arthur and his mother returned to his charge they found a letter from Kate informing them that she and her father had decided to visit them in about a month.

But close upon the letter came a cablegram to Arthur, which ran: "Father dead; received a stroke. Come for me, Arthur."

Before Arthur left he had a long talk with his mother. He repeated what Joker had told him. Mrs. Medford's reply was characteristic:

"Arthur, if you and Kate love each other, I see no