

In the hope of shaking off his annoyance he started for the Metropolitan Club, pausing in the hall to snub a group of newspaper men who were clamoring to see him.

When he entered the Club he noticed that there was a figurative drop in the temperature. Members who were wont to fawn upon him nodded coolly, and the few whom he addressed were visibly constrained.

It was a new and painful experience. He had always been a leader of men, — a king in his little world, and now he was made to feel like a pariah ! But he gave no outward sign of surprise or discomfiture. His head, on which the frost of fifty-five winters had left its mark, was held as proudly as ever, and he scanned the evening papers with his accustomed placidity, not flinching even when the scare headline loomed up before him. He did not remain long, however, for the covert glances and frigid silence got upon his nerves.

As he descended the steps he heard a familiar voice saying, " I guess it's all up with Raymond. Well, nobody will fret over his losses. He was always a selfish brute, and it's about time he went under ! "

" Yes indeed, — the old skinflint deserves all that's coming to him ! " chimed in another voice, " I hope he won't try to do a borrow from us. For my part I wouldn't give a dollar to save him from starvation. "

Mr. Raymond recognized the two as men who by aid of his advice and guidance had reached a pinnacle in financial circles only a degree lower than his own. He had shown them how to achieve success merely because to do so added to his sense of importance, but it stung him now to discover that having used him as a stepping-stone to power and wealth they were ready to cut his acquaintance at the first whisper of trouble. He knew that his other associates would adopt the same attitude, and for the first time he realized that he was practically friendless. Hitherto, in his arrogance and self-absorption, he had not felt the need of sympathy and companionship, but at the present moment he was very lonely and depressed.

He walked briskly from the corner of 60th Street to 59th Street, and was about to go into his hotel when the