

than Barney will put the knife to their own heart, first!" and an expression of defiant menace swept over his countenance.

"I don't understand in the least what you are driving at," resumed Harvey. "I have no wish to penetrate your secret. But if it be what I suspect it is, my advice to you is to have as little to do with secret societies of the kind as possible. They can't do any good, and may be turned by designing villains into a means of harm. There would have been no attempt on the Colonel's life, and you would not now be fleeing for your's, if the existence of such illegal societies did not afford a cover for the villainy of such men as Delaval; for that he is at the bottom of all this, I am firmly convinced."

Beyond turning a puzzled face from the speaker to the others, Barney made no reply.

"Well, we haven't heard your adventure with Delaval yet. Go ahead, and tell us what you were laughing at a few minutes ago," said Calvert.

(To be continued.)

OPIUM DREAMS.

IT is not my purpose to enter upon a discussion of the evils of Opium, nor to hold up to public execration the eaters of Cheng—this I leave to moralists, remarking simply that however seductive either drug may be, however exquisite the pleasure it confers, I should earnestly dissuade any one from even experimenting with either of them, for the delight and ecstasy are purchased at too dear a price, the wondrous dreams are followed by too horrible a depression, and the struggle to free oneself from the intense craving after the poison is so fierce, so hard, that more than one fails and sinks back into the vice irremediably. Neither do I mean to plead ache, famine or misery, as an excuse for my first recourse to Opium and Cheng—I took to both because I wished to find out for myself how much of truth and how much of fiction there was in the accounts I had read of visions and dreams. Constitutionally of an excitable temperament and endowed with a vivid imagination, I expected that the after effects of the drug upon me would be extremely depressing, the more so that I hoped for strange, unexperienced emotions and sights. In neither of these