

But w're's de war? I can't mak' out, don't see no fight at all!
She's not'ing but *une Grande Piquique*, dat's las' in all de fall!
Mebbe de neeger King he's scare, an' skip anoder place,
An' *pour la Reine Victoriaw!* I never see de face.

But dat's not ma biz-ness, ma fren', I'm ready pull *batteau*
So long she pay two dollar day, wit' pork an' bean also;
An' if she geev me steady job, for mak' some more *l'argent*,
I say, "Hooraw! for all de tam', on Queen *Victoriaw!*"

William H. Drummond.



UNDER SENTENCE OF DEATH.

BY RAYMUND H. PHILLIMORE, M.D.

CHAPTER I.

HAD always known that my father, at one period of his life, had undergone some very dreadful experience.

As long as I can remember, his hair was as white as the snow that caps the pine-tree top; but he would never tell us—his children—what that experience was; my mother also was equally reticent. When, however, he died, I found, in a secret drawer in his cabinet, a well-worn document, upon the front of which was pinned an English five-pound note. There was a short introduction to the manuscript, which was written on a separate sheet.

It was on Christmas eve, 1884, some months after my father's death, that we opened the document. There was the usual family gathering present at our home in Nymphsfield, Gloucestershire,

and we were all assembled together around the blazing fire, telling Christmas stories, and awaiting with eager expectation the appointed hour when I—the eldest son of the family—should make known my father's strange revelation.

A dead silence fell upon the group, as I slowly proceeded to unfold the pages, and, amid a breathless interest, commenced to read the following:—

"For my children's perusal after my death."

"My dear children," began my father, "you have doubtless suspected, on many occasions, that at one time or another of my life, I had suffered some terrible trouble. The evidence which you possess has been my prematurely white hair; my strict injunctions to you never to speak of any murder, which you may have read of in the papers, in my presence; and also the manner in which I