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of him. One glance, and I knew it was from Baker.

"It's all up, Jim," he said. "I'm going to give in. Look at this."

I picked up the letter. It was short but to the point.

"DEAR CHIEF,—Until Friday noon I rest. Then—you know. BAKER."

No more, no less. But that was enough.

"This is Wednesday night, Jim," muttered Williams. "I'm down and out. Write and tell him to report at the office to-morrow."

"Yes, sir," I meekly replied. In his present mood I did not want to have needless conversation.

I was in the office prompt on time in the morning. So was Baker. He did not seem the least perturbed. Williams and he were closeted for over an hour in the private office, and what transpired there, I never fully learned. Still, when Baker came out with a slip of paper in his hand and a smile on his face, I knew he had come out on top.

I read the slip of paper which Baker had smilingly turned over to the cashier. It read:—

"November 3rd.—Pay R. Baker a sum equal to my month's salary, and charge to my account. Also reinstate him in his old position, his salary starting from this date. S. WILLIAMS."

I looked up and observed Baker inspecting me with a look of amusement on his face.

"Jim," he said, "I beat the Boss that time, but you can take it for granted that in the future you will have no kick coming about my work. The Boss and I parted good friends a few minutes ago, and perhaps it would not be good policy to tell him what I am going to tell you, but—I never worked for Holmes & Boyd in my life."

"Never worked for them in your life," I gasped. "Well, then, how is it that they have so many of our clients going to them now, and how is it that you were around their office so much?"

"Jim, you poor old innocent," he replied. "Some of the boys are too good friends of mine to go back on me, and you should have known that well enough to suspect some of the reports they have been turning into you. I had to win some way, old man, and that is my only excuse for the way I have acted. Old Mr. Henshaw, who is a personal friend of mine, and has been ever since I did that lucky piece of work for him two years ago, obligingly leant colour to the story by saying that when his friend telephoned for a Holmes man, I walked into the office. You will remember, perhaps, that he did not say that I was the Holmes man, so please don't censure him. Oh, Jim! You were very unsuspecting. Then, when I sent that order in for ten men, for rush work, why didn't you stop a minute and think that the voice over the 'phone sounded like mine. Williams says you were listening at one of the 'phones while he was talking to me. Look what a lot of trouble you would have saved. And then—"

"I guess that is about all we can stand to-day, Baker," said Williams, and as Baker and I glanced quickly around, we saw him standing in the centre of the room with an indescribable look on his face.

"I—I—I didn't know you were there, sir," faltered Baker, totally losing his self-control.

"It's all right, old man. We're quits," was the reply. "I am willing to take your promise of future efforts in repay for the worry you have caused us in the past. Come in the office. I have a case I want to detail you on. Get any blanks you might need and come in and talk it over."

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