

with her into the house. A few minutes later the maid appeared again, and invited Seaton to be good enough to step in likewise. Seaton remembered that he had not the least idea as to whose abode he was thus about to invade. He thought of asking his conductress; but he let the opportunity slip. He was ushered, in all his ignorance, into the presence of an unknown host; and Glanville, in accordance with a much too frequent practice, mentioned only one name in introducing him, and that name was Seaton's own. The room was furnished as a dining-room, but it was plain that its present occupant not only ate but lived in it, for many of the chairs were loaded with the reports of learned societies; and the sideboard was adorned with an ink-stand, in addition to a cheese and a biscuit-tin. A still more striking appearance was, however, afforded by the table. There, on the green-baize cover, stood an air-pump with a glass bell; and close beside it was an ordinary kitchen weighing-machine, with some weights in one scale, and a raw mutton-chop in the other; and close to the table was a blushing and fluttered young lady, who seemed anxious to escape, like a bird, through the first available aperture. Seaton's entrance seemed to give her the courage of desperation. "I'm afraid I can't wait," she gasped. "Some gentlemen will be coming to croquet."

"I will then," said her host, "wish you good-bye for the present. And don't forget, at your croquet, that the balls, in all their movements, however erratic and unexpected by you, represent the exact results of a long catena of causes."

The young lady, when she reached the door, appeared to recover her assurance. "You would not think that," she said, "if you saw young Mr. Maxwell. I'm sure his balls, when he hits them, follow no law at all."

Seaton, when she was gone, was able to examine his host. He was dressed in a long frock-coat, and a waistcoat flecked with bread-crumbs; but his tall and commanding presence transfigured both his dress and the room, and seemed to diffuse around him an atmosphere charged with power. So much was