

# Dr Bruno's Wife.

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## PROLOGUE.

THE whole town was in a panic, the streets all but deserted. Children had been suddenly hustled indoors and locked in, and scared faces were staring apprehensively out of the windows. These saw a few men running wildly hither and thither, with fear in their looks and guns in their hands, ready cocked for firing at something they dreaded, yet looked for at every turn.

At the gate of the Royal Arms, which stood back from the street, and was fronted by a fine carriage entrance, stood two young men, and the unusual sight of the frightened townsmen, thus armed hurrying past, at once roused their curiosity.

"A mad dog!" was the hurried answer to their questions, as the men ran on.

"By Jove!" simultaneously responded both, and turning they were about to enter the gate, when one suddenly uttered a cry of horror and fled into the hotel. The other, a stalwart, dark-eyed youth of eighteen or twenty, turned pale as death; but springing into the middle of the road, and stripping off his coat, he held it by the shoulders outspread before him, and stood with knitted brows and white, set lips, awaiting the onset of