

sed  
e,"  
her  
ght  
ow.

## CHAPTER XLV.

### SUNSHINE.

PHILIP came into the alcove and closed the door carefully behind him. On the little rustic table in the middle of the room he placed the decanter and a glass. Then he proceeded to light a little taper by means of which it was just possible to see what was going on. Philip gave a sigh of relief as he saw Cleave sitting there white and shaky, but otherwise little the worse for his adventure. It was good to know that there was no chance of anything like an open scandal in connection with the night's work.

"I am glad to see you are recovering," Philip said. "Meanwhile, you had better have a liberal dose of this brandy."

Cleave grasped the glass eagerly and tilted a generous measure of the potent spirit down his throat. Gradually the colour came back to his cheeks and lips again. He stood up and protested that he was well enough now to look after himself.

"I am not going to make any apologies," he said. "Neither am I going to ask any favours at your hand. I came precious near to getting those