

THAT NORWARD BUSINESS ROMANCE

Parkerman of Lilleydale Manor near New York City — Parkerman of Thomson, Parkerman & Co.?"

"Never."

"You never had any dealings with him or the firm of which he is senior partner?"

"How could I, having never heard of either the man or the firm."

"That is, you are prepared to deny everything."

Mandeville bit his lower lip until the blood came.

"If that be the case," continued the broker, "I may as well tell you that by to-morrow morning the matter will be out of my hands, and the documents that have been placed in my possession corroborating—"

"You would inform my creditors, I suppose, that I am a liar and a swindler and everything that is bad."

"I am not likely to tell anything but the truth about any one. But no one belonging to me will ever be associated with a man who is not a criminal simply because he has not yet been publicly exposed."