

what to say yersel'. Do you think you'll ever be an elder? Not you."

"Wha wants to be an elder?"

"None of your blasphemy, Tammas Haggart."

"What's wrang with the prayer?"

"Gang through it in your head, and you'll soon see that."

Tammas repeated the prayer aloud, but without enlightenment; wherenpon Chirsty nearly went the length of shaking him.

"Did ye not pray this minute," she said, "'for the heads of this house, and also the children thereof?'"

"I did so."

"And have ye no' repeated these words every nicht for near three years?"

"And what about that?"

"Tammas Haggart, have we any bairns? Is there 'children thereof?'"

Tammas used to say that at this point he took his feet off the fender. When he spoke it was thus—

"As sure as death, Chirsty, I never thocht of that."

His intention was to soothe the woman, but