

daily bread, and showed by his actions that he believed God had given him abilities and strength to use for his own benefit. Then he urged some of those present to come forward and set a good example by being the first in Bruntdale to join. If they preferred to think the matter over first, and would like another meeting, the schoolroom was quite at their service any day this week. A committee would be formed before the meeting separated, to receive the names of those who proposed to join, and in the meantime he would beg anybody who wished to say a word, either for or against the project, to come forward and state their views without delay.

Then a great silence fell on all. Men who had come primed with a little speech for the occasion felt their courage oozing out at the tips of their fingers, and each would give an encouraging look to his neighbour to induce him to stand up and hold forth. The women openly expressed their disappointment, and the younger members of the audience tittered and giggled. Then suddenly from the back of the room a familiar form rose from among the crowd, and a voice was heard asking "if they meant to let pa'son have it all his own way?"

Mr. Denman stepped forward to the edge of the platform, and politely invited the speaker to come forward where he would be better heard. "I have heard," he said, "that Mr. Brodie is a most excellent speaker, that he has travelled much, and has used his faculties to great advantage in collecting general information, and for that reason alone he would be very welcome here; but as he is so closely associated with Bruntdale, and watches so carefully over the welfare of life and property, I am sure we all feel that he is doubly welcome; for though he does not live among us he has yet founded a right to be one of us."

Timmy stared. This was scarcely the reception for which he looked, or indeed for which he wished. Oppo-

sition on such an occasion as this, was as the breath of life to his nostrils, and the kindly welcome took "the wind out of his sails" in an unexpected and unwelcome manner. He hesitated; but there stood the Vicar smiling genially; and his neighbours were nudging and elbowing him up, and telling him "not to be 'feared"; and, feeling that to draw back now might be taken as evidence of lack of courage, he pushed his way through the crowd, and ascended the platform.

"Sims to me," he began, casting at the same time a suspicious glance at the Vicar, who was now seated, "sims to me as how you wants some one to git up and talk 'bout t'other side o' the question. We've bin a-hearin' a lot 'bout what you ought to do—how you ought to be keerful and 'dustrious, and how you ought to put by a bit for your old age; but what I wants to know is, how they," jerking his thumb over his shoulder towards the party on the platform, "means to help you. Sims to me, we might up and tell them what *they* ought to do. Just let 'em know that if we works for 'em, and makes money for 'em all the days of our life, that 'tis they should keep us, and not expect us to keep ourselves when we gets old. Rich folks lives on the poor man's work. Rich folks can't get on without us. The farmer can't till his ground, nor get in his harvest without *us*. Then if we be so useful to him, 'tis *he* and the likes o' he wi' plenty of cash that should give us enough to live on in comfort. What 'ud he do at harvest time wi'out us? That's what I wants to know." Here Mr. Ashford was observed to smile, and a reflection of the smile flitted across the faces of others present, who knew what were Timmy's powers for work in the harvest field. "This is the sort o' thing that Gov'nment ought to look after; and if Gov'nment was made up o' the right sort—nobody but working men—they'd look to it. Now they goes about stirring up a