

back to old Dan's daughter; and take a sneak into the hazelbrush when she turns you down! Say, you know what *I'd* a-done?"

"No."

—"I'd a-held on to the mine and told the girl how much it was bringin' in—that's *my* system. Then I'd a-got the mine and the girl both, maybe!"

—"Maybe."

"Well, that's the system I'd a-played. I wouldn't a-took to the tall grass, me."

"On the other hand, I played a system invented by myself and Henri L'Olonnois."

"I never heard of him. Well, anyhow, you were rich enough to afford to do what you liked. But as to keeping it secret, you can't do that any longer. Those newspaper fellows are the devil to get hold of things. Since all this stuff came out about you running away with your own boat—I can see now why you did it, and I'm glad you did—why, your whole life history has been printed, including all that restitution business about the Sally M. Fellows came to me and asked me about you, asked if I knew you. Said, yes, I knew you—said you were a romantic chap, and a good business man, too—and the best old scout in the world—what?"