

THE DOCTOR'S MISTAKE.

Old Benjamin Westlake was a very eccentric old man. He was wealthy, but lived unostentatiously. He had never been married, and was not known to have any relative in the world save a nephew, who lived on a farm some five or six miles away. About five years ago the old man and his nephew, Allan Eastly, had quarrelled, since which there had never been bridge over. Allan was of a proud nature, never given to toadying, and he consequently determined to carve out his own fortune independently of dead men's shoes.

beginning to fall as he entered. He was speedily ushered into old Westlake's room, and the old man motioned to the nurse to retire. This woman had been his housekeeper for many years, and held high hopes that she was mentioned in her master's will. She was quickly aroused into suspicion when Allan Eastly entered, and although she left the room, she lingered outside, with her ear to the key-hole.

The one who seemed to be most effected by old Westlake's death was the medical man who had attended him—Dr. Marchant. True, the two had been very intimate friends, and in spite of his patient's eccentricity, the doctor was much attached to him. But after old Benjamin's death, the doctor seemed to lose all buoyancy. His face more a haggard expression, and he absented himself from his usual haunts. He quickly developed an insupportable desire for solitude, and could not be induced to interest himself in anything connected with the neighbourhood. At the trial he appeared to give his evidence in a semi-reluctant manner, and it was observed that his voice, as he spoke, shook with extreme nervousness. He left the court before the jury retired to consider their verdict, and seemed unable to summon sufficient fortitude to enter again. He lingered outside, walking up and down with his eyes fixed on the ground, started at the least sound from the court, and when it was announced that the prisoner had been condemned to death, Dr. Marchant had to be assisted to a cab.

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