

frightened, that the eyes looking out from under the greasy old felt hat glared upon her with unpromising ferocity. Involuntarily she stood still in the path ; to leave its light and comparative safety, and to plunge into the dark shadow of the woods with such a creature behind, even although she was but a few hundred yards from her father's door, seemed impossible. She felt inclined to cry out, but her better judgment told her that it would be a needless proceeding, since no sound she could utter could possibly reach either Halliwell or the cottages farther up the bank. She hesitated only a moment, and then, bidding the man a civil good-evening, took a step forward. He glanced round, evidently to make sure that no one was in sight, and then stood on the path straight in front of her, and in a low thick voice demanded money.

"I have no money," she answered, and though she was terribly afraid her voice scarcely faltered. "I have only been calling on a sick friend. I have nothing I can give you. You had better move on and allow me to pass."

"Perhaps you've got something that will do as well as money," said the man. "Anything in these hard times will do. Just show me what you've got on your pretty fingers, and you'd better give 'em to me quietly if you don't want to get a fright."

Adair hesitated a moment, looking round almost in agony, wondering if God would not send some one to her succour. She was totally at the mercy of the brute, who was so near her that she could almost feel his vile breath on her cheek. She had several valuable rings on her hands, gifts she had received at various times from her father, and which were there-