

The servant left his hiding-place : his master's secret was no secret now. He hated himself for eating that master's bread, and earning that master's money. One of the ignorant masses, this man ! Mere sentiment had a strong hold on his stupid mind ; the remembrance of the poor wounded dog, companionable and forgiving under cruel injuries, cut into his heart like a knife. His thought, at that moment, was an act of treason to the royalty of Knowledge,—‘ I wish to God I could lame *him*, as he has lamed the dog !’ Another fanatic ! another fool ! Oh, science ! be merciful to the fanatics and the fools !

When he got back to the house, the women were still on the look-out for him. ‘ Don’t speak to me now,’ he said. ‘ Get to your beds. And, mind this—let’s be off to-morrow morning before *he* can see us.’

There was no sleep for him when he went to his own bed.

The remembrance of the dog tormented him. The other lesser animals were active ; capable of enjoying their liberty and finding shelter for themselves. Where had the maimed creature found a refuge, on that bitter night ? Again, and again, and again, the question forced its way into his mind. He could endure it no longer. Cautiously and quickly—in dread of his extraordinary conduct being perhaps discovered by the women—he dressed himself and opened the house door to look for the dog.

Out of the darkness on the step, there rose something dark. He put out his hand. A persuasive tongue, gently licking it, pleaded for a word of welcome. The crippled animal could only have got to the door in one way ; the gate which protected the enclosure must have been left open. First giving the dog a refuge in the kitchen, the footman—rigidly performing his last duties—went out to close the gate.

At his first step into the enclosure he stopped, panic-stricken. The starlit sky over the laboratory was veiled in murky red. Roaring flame, and spouting showers of sparks, poured through the broken skylight. Voices from the farm raised the first cry—‘ Fire ! fire !’

At the inquest, the evidence suggested the suspicion of incendiarism and suicide. The papers, the books, the oil betray-