

THE MAN UPON THE PAVEMENT 317

"Mr. Gessner is still away?"

"On his yacht, sir. We think he is going to visit South America."

Alban waited for no more, but went straight on, his eyes half blinded by the glaring lights, his hands outstretched as though feeling for other hands to grasp them.

"Lois, I am here as you wished."

A deep sob answered him; a hot face was pressed close to his own.

"Alban," she said, "my father is dead!"