The time for operation has long gone by. We have a doctor now, but the verdict is the same. You have only to look at her face to see that the enemy is in full possession of the citadel.'

He sat looking on the floor, swinging his hat between his knees. 'And no Dr. Heriot to attempt the impossible this time,' he thought to himself.

'No doubt,' Judith went on, 'it was the beginning of this trouble that made her take to drink. It often does.'

'Is she drinking now?'

'She!' said Judith proudly. 'Do you know she has not touched a drop for two years, with the exception of that one night when you found her in your room?'

Dugald looked at her fixedly. 'Good Lord!' he said. Then, 'What a mercy you were here to be good to her!'

'Oh, I! She doesn't need me. The chapel people are as kind as can be; and, as for the Pastor—she says the sight of his face is like a light shining in darkness.'

There was a long silence. 'I am glad you told me,' he said wearily at last. 'Not that it makes any difference. My mind was made up.'

'Made up to what?'

He laid the bank-notes on her writing-table, and gave them a little push. 'Oh, to face the music,' he said.

Slowly he went across to the other flat. Like men who live through some terrible danger—plague, or earthquake, or siege—he felt himself surrounded by an atmosphere of greatness.

It was easy to see that kind hands had been at work. Miss Brown's room was neat, and bright with flowers. She leaned against fresh p⸱⸱   , and her grey hair was brushed smoothly on her fore   Dalgleish had never seen her look so attractive.

She saw in his face that he knew. 'Puir laddie,' she said affectionately. 'Ye'll hae to seek anither hame. The auld haverer is played out.'

He laid his hand firmly on her shoulder, and the boyish voice she loved rang out in a sort of fierce triumph.

'You're a grand old soldier,' he said, 'that is what you are. Nobody in all my life has taught me such a lesson as you have.'