

was laughing, and wasn't noticing and—and—(*hushed*) the machinery caught him——

(*A little cry from MRS. WHITE, her face shows her horror and agony.*)

MR. WHITE (*vaguely, holding MRS. WHITE's hand*). The machinery caught him—yes—and him the only child—it's hard, sir—very hard——

SAMPSON (*subdued*). The Company wished me to convey their sincere sympathy with you in your great loss——

MR. WHITE (*staring blankly*). Our—great—loss——!

SAMPSON. I was to say further—(*as if apologizing*) I am only their servant—I am only obeying orders——

MR. WHITE. Our—great—loss——

SAMPSON (*laying an envelope on the table and edging towards the door*). I was to say, the Company disclaim all responsibility, but, in consideration of your son's services, they wish to present you with a certain sum as compensation. (*Gets to door.*)

MR. WHITE. Our—great—loss—— (*Suddenly, with horror.*) How—how much?

SAMPSON (*in the doorway*). Two hundred pounds
(*He exits.*)

(*MRS. WHITE gives a cry. The old man takes no heed of her, smiles faintly, puts out his hands like a sightless man, and drops, a senseless heap to the floor. MRS. WHITE stares at him blankly and her hands go out helplessly towards him.*)

TABLEAU CURTAIN.