

me in all kindness put a word in your ear. You are really a good hearted fellow, and the best mechanic in town, but let me tell you once for all; I have quit the infernal stuff, and if you ever invite me to drink again, I'll flog the ground with you. You hear me! Now, go!"

"They're comin'," said Dick to himself as he staggered away.

Tom glanced at the fragments, and turning to look for a broom to clear the sidewalk, met the kindly glance of Mrs. Lee who had, unheard, entered the back-door, and been a witness of the interview."

"You here, Mrs. Lee?" said Tom. "I beg pardon, but ——"

"No apologies, Tom," said the lady. "You have done nobly. It is your first victory. The second will be more easily won."

As she said this, another shadow of ampler proportions fell athwart the door, and Doctor Doremus, a jolly, good-natured, fat physician, skilled in his profession, stood there, and gaily said:

"Good evening, Mrs. Lee! Good evening, Tom," and while speaking he had entered the office, taken a seat at the table, and proceeded to draw forth a small medicine case and compound some powders, his tongue running volubly all the while.

"You see, Mrs. Lee, my profession is so different from your husband's. I have to do with men's and women's physical and mental weaknesses and infirmities. He has to guard pockets, rob the defendant Peter to pay his client Paul, that Paul may pay him. Your minister cares for souls, the most mighty responsibility of all, but, as a general rule, most poorly

paid. Law is the most lucrative of the three professions to him who climbs to the top. Do you ask why? I answer: Men will sacrifice both soul and body to fill their pockets, or keep them filled. My most obstinate cases are strong business men, and gossiping women; The one wants to work, the other to talk, and it requires an iron hand to keep them under control. Here, Tom," he exclaimed suddenly, as coolly, as if Tom had sent for him, "take one of these powders every two hours in a little water, commencing at once. To-morrow morning, at nine, call at my office, and let me feel your pulse. How is Miss Rose, Mrs. Lee?"

"Quite well," replied the lady, smiling at the well-known eccentricity of the physician, while Tom mechanically took the powders, conjecturing truly that he had been directed to call by Mr. Lee.

"Those powders, Tom," said the doctor, "have the merit of steadying one's nerves better than whisky, and they have the additional virtue of not leaving an appetite for more. Take forty-nine of them, and you will never spend your last dime for the fiftieth. But, good evening, Mrs. Lee; good evening, Tom; my best regards to Miss Rose, Mrs. Lee;" and the doctor was at least a rod away before he ceased speaking.

Mrs. Lee talked an hour with Tom, then he read another hour, and retired to the bed which had been prepared for him, but not to sleep. Long after midnight he fell into troubled, dreamy slumber, and wild, weird visions of the night came upon him, and left him worn and unfreshed.