

cab of Theophilus Watson, Esq., drew up at the door of Dilbury Lodge, and the occupant thereof, with his face nicely done up in a sky blue silk handkerchief, made his appearance upon the scene of action. He was welcomed with a bustling, sympathizing, but withal a somewhat important assiduity by the amateur professor, who expressed a most affectionate interest in his sufferings, but consoled him with an assurance of speedy relief; and, with the undeniable axiom that a good deed could not be done too soon, proceeded at once to business. The patient, having divested his countenance of its envelope, seated himself in the old gentleman's easy chair, exhibiting a nicely adjusted expression of pain, just decided enough to awaken sympathy, but far removed from any thing like distortion. The magnetizer placed himself directly in front, with his knees touching those of the subject, staring him hard in the face, and looking as solemn and resolute as a judge, trying to keep awake on the bench; while the spectators occupied each an ottoman in a window, wearing a very becoming air of gravity, expectation and interest.

The gaze of Mr. Dilbury grew more intense — the eyelids of the sufferer began to droop; a few downward passes were added to the charm, and the form of Theophilus Watson gradually declined from the perpendicular. All were hushed in profound silence. Another pass, and the head of the patient fell a little to one side, resting in a comfortable position for sleep, on the high back of the easy chair; his limbs relaxed, his breathing grew long and heavy, and, in short, he was profoundly asleep. Mr. Dilbury looked around with a glance of proud satisfaction, and then, rising from his seat, desired his daughter to call in the apothecary. Hamilton would have sworn that at these words there was a slight movement on the part of the sleeper, but nobody noticed it save himself. — The professional man entered with his hideous apparatus. Hamilton felt *almost* sure that the eyes of the sleeper were opened the least bit in the world, but they closed again, and his slumber appeared unbroken.

"Now, Doctor," said Mr. Dilbury, "he is nicely asleep, and you can whip out the tooth in a moment. I'll warrant you that he shall know nothing about it, 'till he wakes again."

There was, undeniably, a sudden flush on the face of the somnolent gentleman. Hamilton saw it distinctly, and so did Harriet.

The doctor drew near, bearing his lancet in one hand, and an atrocious pair of forceps in the other. The footman appeared beside him

with a wash-bowl. He was in the act of placing his hand on the chin of the patient, to open his mouth, when his proceedings were cut short by an event not altogether unexpected by all the individuals present.

"What in the devil's name are you about?" roared Mr. Theophilus Watson, starting up from his chair, as broad awake as he ever was in his life, considerably frightened, and rather disposed to be in a rage.

* * * * *

Any reader possessing the least ingenuity can imagine the rest. All I have farther to say is, that John Wilkins, the tiger, was discharged the very same day, from the service of Mr. Watson, and taken at once into that of young Walter Hamilton. Moreover, a friend write me from England, knowing the interest I take in the family, that Mr. and Mrs. Hamilton's first-born son is to be named Dilbury, after his grandfather.



CURIOUS EXPERIMENT WITH A VIPER.—Many natural philosophers, in their eagerness to display the powers of science, have overlooked one of the first duties of life, humanity; and with this view, have tortured and killed many harmless animals, to exemplify the amazing effects of the air-pump. We, however, will not stain our columns by recommending any such species of cruelty, which in many instances can merely gratify curiosity; but as our readers might like to read the effect on animals we extract from the learned Boyle an account of his experiment with a viper. He took a newly caught viper, and shutting it up in a small receiver, extracted the air. At first, upon the air being drawn away, the viper began to swell: a short time after, it gaped and opened its jaws; it then resumed its former lankness, and began to move up and down within the receiver as if to seek for air. After a while it foamed a little, leaving the foam sticking to the inside of the glass: soon after, the body and neck became prodigiously swelled, and blistered on its back. Within an hour and a half from the time the receiver was exhausted, the distended viper moved, being yet alive, though its jaws remained quite stretched: its black tongue reached beyond the mouth, which had also become black in the inside; in this situation it continued for three hours; but on the air being readmitted, the viper's mouth was presently closed, and soon after opened again; and these motions continued some time, as if there was still some remains of life.