

told her in a gentler tone than he had hitherto used to sit down and rest quietly. She obeyed and remained silent and dazed until Shagford walked in.

"This is Miss Bassett about whom I spoke to you through the telephone," said Mr. Perry.

"Miss Bassett and I have met before I fancy," said the inspector affably.

Jenny remembered him. It was two years ago. Shagford was then a sergeant and Jenny was in service. She was suspected of having taken some trinket belonging to her mistress, and the sergeant was called in while her box was searched but nothing was found.

Jenny was indifferent to the detective's recognition. A careless shrug of the shoulders was all the acknowledgement she showed. Shagford talked in whispers with Mr. Perry for a few minutes, then he turned to Jenny and announced that he was ready. The girl heard him with the dazed air which had never left her; the two departed and Mr. Perry went back to the documents and was examining them through a magnifying glass when the expert arrived.

"I've formed my own opinion, but I should like to hear yours before I say anything," said he.

Dolamore went over the will and the letter. He knew nothing of the circumstances and he formed his judgment on the writing alone. The solicitor, with his elbows on the arms of his revolving chair, and his chin resting on the tips of his fingers awaited his decision.

"The letter is written by one hand and the postscript and the will by another," said the expert at last. The paper has been in water and the skele-