

*Mrs. Timkins*—Timkins has a strange aversion to Dr. Pills. It would be most unfortunate if the two were to meet at this time, especially in 'Timkins' present state of mind ; but I have great faith in Susan's judgment.

*Enter SUSAN, ushering in DR. PILLS.*

*Susan*—The doctor, ma'am.

*Mrs. Timkins (rings and shaking Dr. Pills by the hand)*—Ah ! doctor, it is very kind of you to be so punctual.

*Dr. Pills*—Always am punctual, madam (*takes his note-book out and makes a memo.*) (*Aside*) Five guineas—important consultation !

*Mrs. Timkins*—Susan, you may go.

*Susan (aside)*—If master only knew that *he* (*pointing to Dr. Pills*) was here, wouldn't there be dixie. (*Exit.*) (*Mrs. T. and Dr. P. seat themselves close to each other.*)

*Mrs. Timkins*—Doctor, it is very good of you to come, you are so punctual—so considerate !

*Dr. Pills*—Don't mention it, madam. (*Aside*) Sorry now I didn't make it ten guineas—think I will (*pulls out pocket book and makes memo.*).

*Mrs. Timkins*—It is about my poor husband I wish to consult you.

*Dr. Pills*—Ah ! a bad one altogether.

*Mrs. Timkins*—Doctor !!

*Dr. Pills*—I mean, a bad case. (*Aside*) A hard case.

*Mrs. Timkins*—Oh ! doctor, you cannot mean what you say ? Have you, then, observed poor 'Timkins' strange conduct of late ?

*Dr. Pills*—I never knew his conduct to be anything else but strange.

*Mrs. Timkins*—Ah, I fear you are prejudiced ; you don't like my husband.

*Dr. Pills*—Madam, you forget perhaps how on one occasion he applied the toe of his boot to—ah ! but such things are painful—to relate.

*Mrs. Timkins*—Professionally, doctor, you should forget such incidents.

*Dr. Pills*—Professionally I do, madam (*takes his note-book out and looks at it*) ; physically I cannot.

*Mrs. Timkins*—Well ! well ! doctor, forget the past, and only remember that I, a poor troubled wife, apply to you for advice and assistance. I am, I assure you, in a distressed state of mind.

*Dr. Pills*—My dear madam, I am your humble servant.

*Mrs. Timkins*—I have persuaded Timkins to go to the country for a week, in order that I may consult you quietly as to his state of health. For some time past he has been very strange in his manner ; talks in his sleep, walks up and down muttering to himself, knocks his hat over his eyes, has destroyed no less than a dozen hats in a fortnight, and altogether behaves himself so strangely that I have become alarmed. What if he were going