

"Now, Sir, as I am about to be immediately allied in marriage to Miss Lucy here, and shall so become a connection of the lady you have so grossly ill-used, I take it upon myself to offer this unprotected woman my assistance to shield her from your brutality. and as such is the case I warn you to take care of yourself."

"He ought to be severely punished," said Luey, who forthwith sank in the Doctor's estimation from summer heat to zero.

"He shall be!" cried the gentleman, "a magistrate's summons shall be immediately issued against him."

Saying which and offering his arm to the lady, he led her from the room, and banged the door to with an explosion like the discharge of a park of artillery.

Poor Dr. Winsom? He feels that the brightness of his respectability is dimmed for ever. At every knock that comes to the door his heart beats, every policeman he meets he thinks is looking suspiciously at him, and he goes about in a daily dread of exposure.

But up to this period he has received no notice of an action, nor the return of his rubies, but he has been much cheered by a report that has just reached his ears, that Miss Euphemia Dodd is going to bless with her heart and hand a Baptist missionary lately returned from a ten years' residence in Africa, and of strange, ancient-maidism proclivities.

Frank Barrington was the only one who hesitated to begin a story, but at last he overcame his innate modesty and said "My life has been eventful enough but at the moment I can think of nothing more interesting than an incident of my boyhood which I shall entitle

THE SHADOW.

AT the age of fifteen I left the grammar school of my native village to take my place at the desk of a distant relation of our vicar, one Arthur Grindley, who traded in a dingy, slippery, bye-street of the City of London, under the style and title of Grindley and Co., Accountants. It was very little accountancy that I saw carried on during the two years that I was there, for the truth is that "old Grab," as we called him, was neither more nor less than a bill discounter and money lender. I say as we called him, and by we I mean Mr. Archibald Hare, Sneaking Jemmy, and myself.

Mr. Archibald Hare was old Grab's chief clerk and cashier, and was about the last man you would have expected to find occupying such a place. He was young, handsome, genial, and open-handed, and but ill-adapted by nature for the unclean ways of usury, but, as Fate had driven him into such muddy paths, he trod over the mire as gingerly as he could, and contaminated himself as little as possible whilst diligently doing his master's bidding.