

his lips to Christie's cheek as gingerly as though he was afraid of burning himself. Evidently relieved when this was over, he edged off toward the door, and, at the invitation of Sybil, took a seat, and sat down on the extreme edge of the chair.

And then, when Mrs. Tom had hugged and kissed Christie to her heart's content, and laughed and cried herself into something like composure, her first demand was to hear all that had happened "sence that there awful night." And Sybil, fearing to further agitate Christie, who had now fallen back, completely exhausted, on her pillow, led the bustling little woman over to the window, and seating herself near her, related all. Mrs. Tom listened with many "lor' sake's!" and "gracious me's!" and "oh's!" and "ah, Lord's!" until Sybil began relating the maniac's story. As she proceeded, Mrs. Tom grew violently agitated; and before she could reach the end, the old lady had jumped up, and, pale and trembling, bent over Christie.

"Christie, look here," she said, excitedly; "that there crazy woman had a little child, had she, the time she was walled up in that room?"

"Yes," replied Christie, wonderingly.

"That there little child was left in Campbell's Lodge long o' Mark Campbell, was it?" continued Mrs. Tom, more and more agitated.

"Ye I believe so. Why, Aunt Tom, what's the matter?"

"And they never could find out what 'came of it after, could they?" again asked Mrs. Tom, sinking into a chair.

"No. Why, what in the world does ail you, Aunt Tom?" said Christie, in still increasing surprise.

"Oh, my Saviour! Oh, my dear Lord! Only to think on it! Christie, that there crazy woman is your mother! You are the little child that was left with Mark Campbell."

In a moment every one was on his feet, gazing in wonder and amaze on Mrs. Tom, and at the others, as if wondering what in the world they were destined to hear next. Christie, too weak now to betray any emotion, lay still, with her wondering blue eyes fixed on the old woman's face.

"Yes, you needn't stare, all of you; it's jest so," said