

"Tomorrow all will be discovered, and I must escape. Such fear, such agony—oh, mother! what have I not endured? No punishment man can inflict will ever be half so severe. I deserve it." "But the sin, my child—the conscious degradation?" inquired Mrs. Lane, with reproach in her kind eye. "What will you do with that?"

"I never meant it should go so far. I believe me, I never did. I meant to pay it before now, and I thought I could. I have won some moments, but not just scarce little bits of what I ought to have. You have given me but flight and dispersion. You do not answer, mother. I know I should break your heart, I know."

Mrs. Lane made a strong effort, and murmured brokenly. "The morrow—tomorrow? Oh! my poor, poor boy!"

"I know, I know," she sobbed, commiserating mother; but if a life of recollection, Mrs. Lane paused suddenly, and started to his feet. "I know that step, mother!"

"At least, my son, hush!" Mrs. Lane had time to exhort before her husband entered the apartment. A cloud instantly overspread the countenance.

"You here, sirrah! What business bring you to the home we have desecrated?"

"I came to see my wife," Robert replied.

"Now?" interposed the lady, anticipating the storm that seemed gathering on her husband's brow. "Let the fault be mine. He is my own child, and I must see him—a little while—while you remain to leave me a little while with my own heart."

"It is the last time, then," said Mr. Lane, sternly.

"The first time," echoed Robert, in a tone of melancholy.

"The last time!" whispered the white lips of the mother, as though she had but that moment comprehended it; and as the door closed upon the retreating form of her husband, she slid to the floor like a reed, trembling.

Robert did not attempt to call for assistance, but he raised his eyes to his bosom, and covered her face with his hands.

"I have killed her! my poor, poor mother!" he sobbed. "I was away from her, and had a wrench at her heart, and all her love! Oh! if they had but given me a chance!" A groan would have been a blessed thing; but it was late now—too late!

"I am sorry for you, my son," said Mr. Lane, but had never supposed his daughter could be so far gone.

"The last time," he said again, and stretching his arms around his wife, she clung to him wildly, she entreated him to go. "Every moment is precious!" she exclaimed, gasping.

"You may not make your escape if you do not go now," said Robert, again, and again, before she had time to speak again.

"Is that the way to make him better?" inquired Ella, raising her head and fixing her gaze upon him resolutely.

"Yes, Ella, you will become an honor and a useful man—prosper this, Robert, and then go to your country, where you will find a home and friends."

"Ella, you have grieved me, who has loved you, but you have given me a home, a home forever!"

"I cannot go, though. I wanted to see you, and so lost the opportunity; but there is danger. It is too late to take a boat now. I have left the port in the longings go above the first boat that passes."

Again the mother required the promise of safety; and it was given earnestly and solemnly.

Then he again sat down on the ottoman at her feet, and laid his head low upon his hand, and his sister clasped in both of his, she spent an hour in soothing, caressing, admiring him. So deeply were both engrossed that neither the noisy voice of Ella in the doorway, nor the sharp knock at the door, disturbed them.

"If my mother returned?" said he, first inquiring.

"No, miss; she is in the back sitting-room," and before the girl could add that she was engaged with a stranger, Ella had bounded from her chair.

"Robert, you here, Robert! If I had only known it! I should have been long ago. You are sorry you quarreled with us, and have come back to a good boy, and go out with me again. It is a nice house, and all that. Well, it does look nice."

"Robert, you here, Robert! If I had only known it! I should have been long ago. You are sorry you quarreled with us, and have come back to a good boy, and go out with me again. It is a nice house, and all that. Well, it does look nice."

"Robert, you here, Robert! If I had only known it! I should have been long ago. You are sorry you quarreled with us, and have come back to a good boy, and go out with me again. It is a nice house, and all that. Well, it does look nice."

"Robert, you here, Robert! If I had only known it! I should have been long ago. You are sorry you quarreled with us, and have come back to a good boy, and go out with me again. It is a nice house, and all that. Well, it does look nice."

"Robert, you here, Robert! If I had only known it! I should have been long ago. You are sorry you quarreled with us, and have come back to a good boy, and go out with me again. It is a nice house, and all that. Well, it does look nice."

"Robert, you here, Robert! If I had only known it! I should have been long ago. You are sorry you quarreled with us, and have come back to a good boy, and go out with me again. It is a nice house, and all that. Well, it does look nice."

"Robert, you here, Robert! If I had only known it! I should have been long ago. You are sorry you quarreled with us, and have come back to a good boy, and go out with me again. It is a nice house, and all that. Well, it does look nice."

"Robert, you here, Robert! If I had only known it! I should have been long ago. You are sorry you quarreled with us, and have come back to a good boy, and go out with me again. It is a nice house, and all that. Well, it does look nice."

"Robert, you here, Robert! If I had only known it! I should have been long ago. You are sorry you quarreled with us, and have come back to a good boy, and go out with me again. It is a nice house, and all that. Well, it does look nice."

"Robert, you here, Robert! If I had only known it! I should have been long ago. You are sorry you quarreled with us, and have come back to a good boy, and go out with me again. It is a nice house, and all that. Well, it does look nice."

"Robert, you here, Robert! If I had only known it! I should have been long ago. You are sorry you quarreled with us, and have come back to a good boy, and go out with me again. It is a nice house, and all that. Well, it does look nice."

"Robert, you here, Robert! If I had only known it! I should have been long ago. You are sorry you quarreled with us, and have come back to a good boy, and go out with me again. It is a nice house, and all that. Well, it does look nice."

"Robert, you here, Robert! If I had only known it! I should have been long ago. You are sorry you quarreled with us, and have come back to a good boy, and go out with me again. It is a nice house, and all that. Well, it does look nice."

"Robert, you here, Robert! If I had only known it! I should have been long ago. You are sorry you quarreled with us, and have come back to a good boy, and go out with me again. It is a nice house, and all that. Well, it does look nice."

"Robert, you here, Robert! If I had only known it! I should have been long ago. You are sorry you quarreled with us, and have come back to a good boy, and go out with me again. It is a nice house, and all that. Well, it does look nice."

"Robert, you here, Robert! If I had only known it! I should have been long ago. You are sorry you quarreled with us, and have come back to a good boy, and go out with me again. It is a nice house, and all that. Well, it does look nice."

"Robert, you here, Robert! If I had only known it! I should have been long ago. You are sorry you quarreled with us, and have come back to a good boy, and go out with me again. It is a nice house, and all that. Well, it does look nice."

"Robert, you here, Robert! If I had only known it! I should have been long ago. You are sorry you quarreled with us, and have come back to a good boy, and go out with me again. It is a nice house, and all that. Well, it does look nice."

"Robert, you here, Robert! If I had only known it! I should have been long ago. You are sorry you quarreled with us, and have come back to a good boy, and go out with me again. It is a nice house, and all that. Well, it does look nice."

"Robert, you here, Robert! If I had only known it! I should have been long ago. You are sorry you quarreled with us, and have come back to a good boy, and go out with me again. It is a nice house, and all that. Well, it does look nice."

"Robert, you here, Robert! If I had only known it! I should have been long ago. You are sorry you quarreled with us, and have come back to a good boy, and go out with me again. It is a nice house, and all that. Well, it does look nice."

"Robert, you here, Robert! If I had only known it! I should have been long ago. You are sorry you quarreled with us, and have come back to a good boy, and go out with me again. It is a nice house, and all that. Well, it does look nice."

"Robert, you here, Robert! If I had only known it! I should have been long ago. You are sorry you quarreled with us, and have come back to a good boy, and go out with me again. It is a nice house, and all that. Well, it does look nice."

"Robert, you here, Robert! If I had only known it! I should have been long ago. You are sorry you quarreled with us, and have come back to a good boy, and go out with me again. It is a nice house, and all that. Well, it does look nice."

"Robert, you here, Robert! If I had only known it! I should have been long ago. You are sorry you quarreled with us, and have come back to a good boy, and go out with me again. It is a nice house, and all that. Well, it does look nice."

"Robert, you here, Robert! If I had only known it! I should have been long ago. You are sorry you quarreled with us, and have come back to a good boy, and go out with me again. It is a nice house, and all that. Well, it does look nice."

"Robert, you here, Robert! If I had only known it! I should have been long ago. You are sorry you quarreled with us, and have come back to a good boy, and go out with me again. It is a nice house, and all that. Well, it does look nice."

"Robert, you here, Robert! If I had only known it! I should have been long ago. You are sorry you quarreled with us, and have come back to a good boy, and go out with me again. It is a nice house, and all that. Well, it does look nice."

"Robert, you here, Robert! If I had only known it! I should have been long ago. You are sorry you quarreled with us, and have come back to a good boy, and go out with me again. It is a nice house, and all that. Well, it does look nice."

"Robert, you here, Robert! If I had only known it! I should have been long ago. You are sorry you quarreled with us, and have come back to a good boy, and go out with me again. It is a nice house, and all that. Well, it does look nice."

"Robert, you here, Robert! If I had only known it! I should have been long ago. You are sorry you quarreled with us, and have come back to a good boy, and go out with me again. It is a nice house, and all that. Well, it does look nice."

"Robert, you here, Robert! If I had only known it! I should have been long ago. You are sorry you quarreled with us, and have come back to a good boy, and go out with me again. It is a nice house, and all that. Well, it does look nice."

"Robert, you here, Robert! If I had only known it! I should have been long ago. You are sorry you quarreled with us, and have come back to a good boy, and go out with me again. It is a nice house, and all that. Well, it does look nice."

"Robert, you here, Robert! If I had only known it! I should have been long ago. You are sorry you quarreled with us, and have come back to a good boy, and go out with me again. It is a nice house, and all that. Well, it does look nice."

"Robert, you here, Robert! If I had only known it! I should have been long ago. You are sorry you quarreled with us, and have come back to a good boy, and go out with me again. It is a nice house, and all that. Well, it does look nice."

"Robert, you here, Robert! If I had only known it! I should have been long ago. You are sorry you quarreled with us, and have come back to a good boy, and go out with me again. It is a nice house, and all that. Well, it does look nice."

"Robert, you here, Robert! If I had only known it! I should have been long ago. You are sorry you quarreled with us, and have come back to a good boy, and go out with me again. It is a nice house, and all that. Well, it does look nice."

"Robert, you here, Robert! If I had only known it! I should have been long ago. You are sorry you quarreled with us, and have come back to a good boy, and go out with me again. It is a nice house, and all that. Well, it does look nice."

"Robert, you here, Robert! If I had only known it! I should have been long ago. You are sorry you quarreled with us, and have come back to a good boy, and go out with me again. It is a nice house, and all that. Well, it does look nice."

"Robert, you here, Robert! If I had only known it! I should have been long ago. You are sorry you quarreled with us, and have come back to a good boy, and go out with me again. It is a nice house, and all that. Well, it does look nice."

"Robert, you here, Robert! If I had only known it! I should have been long ago. You are sorry you quarreled with us, and have come back to a good boy, and go out with me again. It is a nice house, and all that. Well, it does look nice."

"Robert, you here, Robert! If I had only known it! I should have been long ago. You are sorry you quarreled with us, and have come back to a good boy, and go out with me again. It is a nice house, and all that. Well, it does look nice."

"Robert, you here, Robert! If I had only known it! I should have been long ago. You are sorry you quarreled with us, and have come back to a good boy, and go out with me again. It is a nice house, and all that. Well, it does look nice."

"Robert, you here, Robert! If I had only known it! I should have been long ago. You are sorry you quarreled with us, and have come back to a good boy, and go out with me again. It is a nice house, and all that. Well, it does look nice."

"Robert, you here, Robert! If I had only known it! I should have been long ago. You are sorry you quarreled with us, and have come back to a good boy, and go out with me again. It is a nice house, and all that. Well, it does look nice."

"Robert, you here, Robert! If I had only known it! I should have been long ago. You are sorry you quarreled with us, and have come back to a good boy, and go out with me again. It is a nice house, and all that. Well, it does look nice."

"Robert, you here, Robert! If I had only known it! I should have been long ago. You are sorry you quarreled with us, and have come back to a good boy, and go out with me again. It is a nice house, and all that. Well, it does look nice."

"Robert, you here, Robert! If I had only known it! I should have been long ago. You are sorry you quarreled with us, and have come back to a good boy, and go out with me again. It is a nice house, and all that. Well, it does look nice."

"Robert, you here, Robert! If I had only known it! I should have been long ago. You are sorry you quarreled with us, and have come back to a good boy, and go out with me again. It is a nice house, and all that. Well, it does look nice."

"Robert, you here, Robert! If I had only known it! I should have been long ago. You are sorry you quarreled with us, and have come back to a good boy, and go out with me again. It is a nice house, and all that. Well, it does look nice."

"Robert, you here, Robert! If I had only known it! I should have been long ago. You are sorry you quarreled with us, and have come back to a good boy, and go out with me again. It is a nice house, and all that. Well, it does look nice."

"Robert, you here, Robert! If I had only known it! I should have been long ago. You are sorry you quarreled with us, and have come back to a good boy, and go out with me again. It is a nice house, and all that. Well, it does look nice."

"Robert, you here, Robert! If I had only known it! I should have been long ago. You are sorry you quarreled with us, and have come back to a good boy, and go out with me again. It is a nice house, and all that. Well, it does look nice."

"Robert, you here, Robert! If I had only known it! I should have been long ago. You are sorry you quarreled with us, and have come back to a good boy, and go out with me again. It is a nice house, and all that. Well, it does look nice."

"Robert, you here, Robert! If I had only known it! I should have been long ago. You are sorry you quarreled with us, and have come back to a good boy, and go out with me again. It is a nice house, and all that. Well, it does look nice."

"Robert, you here, Robert! If I had only known it! I should have been long ago. You are sorry you quarreled with us, and have come back to a good boy, and go out with me again. It is a nice house, and all that. Well, it does look nice."

"Robert, you here, Robert! If I had only known it! I should have been long ago. You are sorry you quarreled with us, and have come back to a good boy, and go out with me again. It is a nice house, and all that. Well, it does look nice."

"Robert, you here, Robert! If I had only known it! I should have been long ago. You are sorry you quarreled with us, and have come back to a good boy, and go out with me again. It is a nice house, and all that. Well, it does look nice."

"Robert, you here, Robert! If I had only known it! I should have been long ago. You are sorry you quarreled with us, and have come back to a good boy, and go out with me again. It is a nice house, and all that. Well, it does look nice."

"Robert, you here, Robert! If I had only known it! I should have been long ago. You are sorry you quarreled with us, and have come back to a good boy, and go out with me again. It is a nice house, and all that. Well, it does look nice."

"Robert, you here, Robert! If I had only known it! I should have been long ago. You are sorry you quarreled with us, and have come back to a good boy, and go out with me again. It is a nice house, and all that. Well, it does look nice."

"Robert, you here, Robert! If I had only known it! I should have been long ago. You are sorry you quarreled with us, and have come back to a good boy, and go out with me again. It is a nice house, and all that. Well, it does look nice."

"Robert, you here, Robert! If I had only known it! I should have been long ago. You are sorry you quarreled with us, and have come back to a good boy, and go out with me again. It is a nice house, and all that. Well, it does look nice."

"Robert, you here, Robert! If I had only known it! I should have been long ago. You are sorry you quarreled with us, and have come back to a good boy, and go out with me again. It is a nice house, and all that. Well, it does look nice."

</div