

remaining part of the year the unoccupied property was guarded and kept in order by the blear-eyed vigilance, and sweatless industry of two servants, one of whom we have already introduced to our readers in the person of Frank Curdzon.

By unusual diligence on the part of the above persons, the house and its surroundings were in a short time prepared to receive their owner; so, having transacted all necessary business at Martville, Squire Morton with his wife and two daughters, departed for their new home. At first the change of residence produced the desired effect upon the merchant's health. The beauties of a naturally picturesque country were a source of pleasant contemplation for one accustomed only to the monotonous routine of business life, while the fresh invigorating country air acted as a stimulant, which partially restored to the depressed invalid his usual health of body, and characteristic buoyancy of temper. But the change was only temporary. Few weeks had passed before he relapsed into his former condition. Time only aggravated his malady. In a short time symptoms appeared for which the attending physician could not sufficiently account. Consultations were held but without effecting a satisfactory diagnosis. The real nature of his disease being unknown every treatment proved useless. Each day saw his health decline. But five months had been spent at Marklyne, when, notwithstanding the frequent attendance of practised physicians, and in spite of the loving care of his wife and daughters, Squire Morton died and was buried in the family burying plot, from which we have already seen his remains to have been shamefully removed.

During the merchant's illness Dr. Merden viewed proceedings with an interested eye. It is still a matter of doubt whether it was for the sake of science, or for some unknown personal motive, that the doctor conceived an intense desire to fathom the cause of his patient's death. Baffled until now he determined to yet learn the secret. "I'll search it out," he said to himself, "even though imprisonment be my reward." It was in consequence of this decision that Frank Curdzon, along with Tom Hardy, a young medical student in the confidence of Dr. Merden, was hired to procure the Squire's body, probably for purposes of dissection.