

"Why?" I asked.

"With a double object," she replied. "Paul had discovered that Jules, who had been posing as the inventor of the new system of controlling the Hertzian waves, was a swindler, and he had denounced him. Further, Paul had found out that Jules had been paying undue attention to you, Iris, and in consequence, he had given him a sound thrashing. This had happened a week before in Paris. Jules, smarting under the indignity, had returned to England and taken up his old quarters with one object—revenge."

"But why did he desire to avenge himself upon Miss Almond?" I queried.

"Jules Bérard wished to have revenge upon us both," her father said. "I had only a few weeks before refused to be a party to a desperate plot formed by Pontifex and himself, to attack a bank at Lyons, where the life of the night-watchman must be sacrificed, if success was to be obtained. This had incensed him, and furthermore, he suspected Iris of being the cause of my refusal to allow the dastardly plot to be carried into effect. He believed that my daughter, tired of this mode of life, might confess to the police. I see through it all now!" he added, with a fierce imprecation. "The infernal black-guard foresaw that, by his ingenious plot, which he carried out single-handed, he could have his revenge upon the young Count for his pluck in