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The Strickbridge Mystery.

By A. SHERWOOD.

It was a raw November night. Fog, with a tendency to a drizzling rain, had prevailed throughout the day, and the roads of Strickbridge were saturated and the cobbles darkened with moisture.

"The master's been taken ill," he gasped, his breath coming quick and fast. "Very ill. They think it's cholera."

"I don't see how it can be avoided," replied the doctor. "It is tolerably clear that you cannot be well."

"What is the matter?" he asked, his eyes fixed on the doctor's face. "I feel all right. I am well."

"You are not well," he said, "but I don't see how it can be avoided."

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mistaken," she continued, vehemently, "I know Mr. Brotherton by sight when I was a girl. I remember him as plain as ever. It was him or his ghost I saw up in the mist last night. I could take my dying oath of it, sir."

"Nonsense," replied the doctor. "You foolish girl, you have let your imagination run away with you."

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