

Georgie out of his way," sobbed the poor woman, fairly broken down, and rocking to and fro, with her face buried in her apron.

"Dear, dear, this is very sad!" returned the Rector sympathetically. "I must see what I can do for you. Which is his favourite public-house?"

"He goes mostly to the 'Cat and Fiddle,' and he'll surely go there to-night, as soon as ever he's done his tea, and very like wi'out giving me his money, and I hav'n't a sixpence in the house, and Georgie's feet are on the ground, and I daren't let him catch cold, for I've had him in bed too often already."

The Rector pondered for a minute or two, and then suddenly lifted his head, with the air of a man who has taken a desperate resolve, saying,—

"I'll tell you what I'll do, Mrs. O'Flanagan. I'll go to the 'Cat and Fiddle' to-night about seven o'clock, try to get your husband out, and take him home with me for a serious talk. And—who knows?—by God's blessing I may induce him to sign the pledge. I thought something must be wrong here, for I have missed you from the mothers' meeting for some weeks past, and others said they had seen you out shopping, looking very pale and sad; so I thought I would look round and see what could be done for you."

"Oh, sir, I would be grateful to you all my life if you could get my husband to sign the pledge, for there's not a better

husband in all the town, nor a happier home, when he's steady and sober, and he do like Georgie to read to him o' nights out o' them beautiful books he's got at Sunday-school."

"Well, well, I'll do my best, God helping me, and don't you forget where to take your troubles, for there's One above able and willing to show us the way out of all our difficulties, if we will but ask His help."

So saying, the Rector took his leave and departed on further errands of mercy; for he gave himself up heart and soul to his people—toilers for bread amid squalid surroundings, and often in unsavoury occupations—and many a sick-bed was brightened by his genial manner and sympathetic



"'THOU ART THE MAN!'"