

CHAPTER V

REUBEN SHORE'S MESSAGE

It was astonishing how soon the little household in Yokohama street settled themselves into the new condition of things. Before a week had passed from the time of the accident, Elgar felt as if he had always been used to being the head of the business, and it seemed no trouble at all to comprise in his own person the offices of manager, errand boy, warehouseman, and outside messenger.

Bob Townsford did not recover consciousness until the third morning after the dawn in which he was brought home, and Mrs. Townsford found her hands very full indeed with the double work of nursing her husband, and caring for the household at the same time. Etta and May did their best to help her, and to keep the very irresponsible Miss Pinkie out of mischief, but the domestic burden was very heavy to bear at this particular time, and it would have been heavier but for the kindness of Dick Blore, who insisted on sitting up with the sick man every second night, because as he declared poor Bob's condition would never have been so bad, if it had not been for his own carelessness in not going to see if his