

tions, elegantly bound in gilt cloth, published by Frederick Warne & Co., London and New York, and is sold by the Drysdale Company for one dollar. Its hero is John Comfort, a young Methodist minister, who, while a student for the ministry, after being brought up in a coal-pit, became engaged to Martha Blake, a girl older than himself, the vulgar but showy-looking daughter of a Turvinton shopkeeper who was also a circuit steward. He had been promoted, being a good preacher, and, despite, his colliery upbringing, a very presentable man, to St Mark's Church in a suburb of Northport. In Methodist circles, his church was deemed a fashionable one, and was presided over by a Mr. Bountey, the chief steward of the circuit, a man of wealth, the owner of a fine house and grounds, the husband of a not very cultivated but a kind-hearted wife, and the father of a beautiful, refined, and true-hearted daughter, Joan. John, all unconsciously at first, and by degrees, fell in love with Joan, association with whom made the vision of Martha Blake's coarseness repulsive to him. His manliness and undisguised honesty of purpose won a place for him in the heart of this pure-minded and high-principled girl, and their mutual affection was strengthened by intercourse in mission work, and finally by an accident that brought him near to death's door in her father's house. The great struggle that went on in his mind between what he deemed duty to an engagement and genuine love is well depicted, as is the way in which he was brought to time in favor of the former by Martha and her father, and by Mr. Fleet, the chairman of the district. So John left Northport and went to a valler charge, where Martha, now his wife, began to show the cloven foot. She was ill-tempered, jealous, disappointed in ambition, vulgarly obtrusive, a nagger of naggers, an everlasting thorn in his side. In successive stages of declension from low charge to lower, she drank, even the communion wine, stole, even the church monies, and reduced her sober and honest, patient, long-suffering husband to abject poverty. The only light of his home was their little daughter May. In the end he betook himself to London, but no more as a minister; Martha had implicated