

ADOL.—Ah, Harding, I think I've been having a nap—good heaven, man! What is the matter? Are you ill?

HARD.—No, no,—it is nothing.

*(Drops into a chair.)*

ADOL. Has anything happened? You are deathly pale?

HARD.—No; sit down—there.

*(Pointing to sofa ADOL. complies—HARDING rises, and walks to door, locks it, putting the key into his pocket. ADOL. rises.)*

ADOL.—Harding, what are you doing? Why do you lock the door?

HARD.—You will soon learn. Sit down. Sit down, I tell you!

*(ADOL. sits on sofa, looking scared.)*

Now we are secure from interruption.

ADOL.—But what do you mean, Harding? Your words and actions terrify me!

HARD.—I will tell you what I mean. We are alone in this room, and you shall not leave it alive, if you will refuse to bend to mine!

ADOL.—My will bend to yours? I do not understand you.

HARD.—Then I will speak plainly. You were sleeping when I entered, yet your tongue was loosened—

ADOL.—An! What did I say?

HARD.—*(Looking steadily at ADOL.)* You mumbled some words; then your voice became more distinct, and you pictured a scene—a terrible scene—of murder!

*(Advances nearer.)*

Answer me—what do you know? Speak or I will kill you!

ADOL.—*(Cowering on the sofa.)* Mercy, mercy! I know nothing. Take your eyes off me—they glare so!—They burn me like coals of fire!

HARD.—Speak, fool! Tell me all and I will not harm you.

ADOL.—Oh, spare me, spare me and I will tell you. I did not mean to be a witness to the—the struggle; it was an accident—no, no, I cannot tell you!

HARD.—Then I will repeat the substance of your unconscious words. You pictured a meeting—a struggle—a death! A gypsy was the victim. A man lay on the ground, you said. Who was that man?

ADOL.—Maurice O'Donnell.

HARD.—No, you lie! It was I who lay there. Do you hear?

ADOL.—No, no; you were struggling with the gypsy—

HARD.—Stop! O'Donnell had seized the gipsy. I ran to separate them. I was too late. O'Donnell threw the gipsy into the river, and struck me to the earth. Do you understand!

ADOL.—No, I saw the gypsy strike O'Donnell, and you—you—the gypsy attacked you and he fell into the river.

HARD.—No, he did not fall—he was thrown in. Listen to me: You will appear in court, as a witness; you will testify to what you have