

cigars, there was very little conversation, except that each one, in a few words, told his plans for the summer and expressed his anticipations of their meeting again in the fall.

Dr. Goodman perceiving that the talk languished, said — "I have lately heard a strange story about a violin, from one of the actors in it, if you care to hear it, I will tell it, since you all seem unwilling to talk." They all assented warmly and the Doctor, producing a small roll of manuscript, said, "I have written the story out, fearing I might spoil it if I attempted to tell it." With this remark he read as follows:

"Halstrom is a large town in the iron district of Sweden, black and grimy with the smoke of huge blast furnaces that cover the hillsides, sending forth day and night their black clouds of smoke, lit occasionally by the glare from the tall chimneys that stand like the blasted trunks of a fire-swept pine forest, all over the district. Scattered here and there are the cottages of rough stone, with steep thatched roofs, where live the stalwart iron-workers, whose incessant labor transmutes the stubborn iron ore into the thousand and one useful shapes that find their way to all the world. A splendid race are these workers, tall, fair-haired and blue eyed, like their Viking ancestors, like them, too, stanch and true-hearted, brave and tender. Among the bravest and truest was Oscar Sweynsen, only son of his widowed mother. A prince among his fellows was Oscar at either work or merry-making. He had long loved Hilda, one of the fairest maidens in the town, and now, having reached a position in the iron works that brought him sufficient means, he proposed to her. She, not insensible to his good looks and well-known character, accepted him, but alas! when Hans Petersen, the son and heir of the rich old notary, sought her, dazzled with the glitter of his gold, she broke her faith with Oscar, and became the wife of Hans and went to live in the large stone house at the end of the town. Poor Oscar bore his disappointment bravely, as became him, he never