

we sit in the dark. When Dad's been in luck we have plenty of everything. I hope he will be lucky now! I do want a new frock, and he promised he would bring me one if he was. See, this is all in rags!" and the child held up a silken skirt which was, as she expressed it, all in rags.

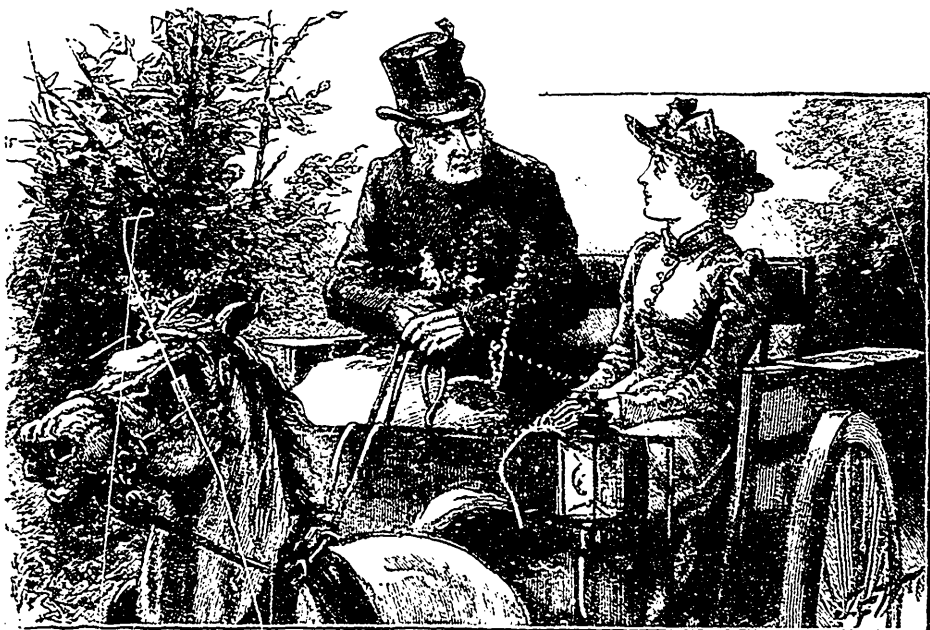
Ruth had little time to bewail her old friends, or even to think of her strange new experiences; she was kept busy until she went to bed.

"Miss Stella, hadn't you better go

bogie thing with great eyes like fire, and horns and claws. Oh, I can't bear to think of it!" and the child caught Ruth tightly by the arm and held her.

"Well, you shall wait for me if you feel frightened," said Ruth, "only I'm afraid you will be tired. But, Miss Stella, don't believe any such nonsense; those wicked girls must have told you these tales to frighten you."

"But I've heard the noises—dreadful noises," said Stella, shuddering.



"SHE'S GOT HER TROUBLES, TOO."

to bed now? Do you know it is almost ten o'clock?"

"Oh, I stay up till any time!" answered Stella carelessly; "and I don't want to go up till you or mother comes up. I can't go to bed in the dark; I hate it! Why, do you know, this house is haunted. I never saw anything myself, but I've heard it lots of times, and I can't go to bed alone; I shall sleep with you to-night."

"Miss Stella, you don't believe in such nonsense, do you?"

"Why, of course I do; and, besides, the maids say they have seen it—a big

"I can't sleep in my room any more; I hear them there, and I daren't tell Dad; he would laugh, and so would mother. I think she would be glad. She likes to say something nasty about the old house; she hates it, but I don't. I love it, so does Dad, but mother hates it, and hates us too."

"Miss Stella, you must not say these things to me; it is not right."

"But it's true, and you'll find it out." Then the girl laughed as she saw the shocked look on Ruth's face.

"You'll see. Oh, we're a bad lot, we Atherfields; but you are good,