

THE MONKEY'S PAW

SCENE I

SCENE.—*The living-room of an old-fashioned cottage on the outskirts of Fulham.*

Set corner-wise in the left angle at the back is a deep window; farther front, L., three or four steps lead up to a porch. Farther forward is a dresser, with plates, glasses, etc. R.C. at back is an alcove with the street door fully visible. On the inside of the street door is a wire letter-box. On the R. is a cupboard, then a fireplace. In the C. is a round table. Against the wall, L. back, is an old-fashioned piano. A comfortable armchair is on each side of the fireplace. There are other chairs. On the mantelpiece are a clock, old china figures, etc. An air of comfort pervades the room.

At the rise of the CURTAIN, MRS. WHITE, a pleasant-looking old woman, is seated in the armchair below the fire, attending to a kettle which is steaming on the fire, and keeping a laughing eye on MR. WHITE and HERBERT. These two are seated at the R. angle of the table nearest the fire with a chess-board between them. MR. WHITE is evidently losing. His hair is ruffled; his spectacles are high up on his forehead. HERBERT, a fine young fellow, is looking with satisfaction at the move he has just made. MR. WHITE makes several attempts to move, but thinks better of them. There is a shaded lamp on the table. The door is tightly shut. The curtains of the window are drawn; but every now and then the wind is heard whistling outside.

MR. WHITE (*moving at last and triumphant*).
There, Herbert, my boy! Got you, I think.

HERBERT. Oh, you're a deep 'un, Dad, aren't you?