

as good as gold!" he replied with some warmth, and evidently nettled.

"If it was wholly my own affair, Craig, you *know* it would be different. You know I would trust you with ten times this sum," I replied reassuringly; "but I've placed myself in this damned lawyer's power in order to keep my word like a man with you, and he insists like an idiot on having the thing done only in one way."

"Well, I'll think the matter over, and see you here a half-hour or so later," returned Craig.

We then adjourned to the bar, and partook of sundry drinks; but I observed, without showing that I did so, that Craig was very careful in this respect. We soon parted, and I must confess that I began to have a presentiment that matters were beginning to look a little misty. I could not imagine what the outcome would be; but that Craig had become suspicious of something, was certain.

I could not of course then know, without exposing myself, what was done, or how Craig acted, but I afterward learned that he seemed perplexed and doubtful about what he should do. He started out rapidly in the direction of the lake, suddenly halted, returned, started again, halted again, and then walked aimlessly in various directions, occasionally giving a quick look back over his shoulder as if to determine whether he was being followed.

Whatever he might have thought about this, at last he returned to the hotel with the air of a man who had determined upon something, and entered the office.

Not making any move as though he desired to see me, I soon moved toward him, and finally said:

"Well, Craig, are you going to let me have the money?"

He looked at me a moment with a puzzled air of surprise, the assurance of which I have never since seen equalled, and replied quietly:

"What money?"

I looked at him in blank amazement, and finally said:

"The money you promised me."

With a stolidity that would have made a Grant or a Wellington, he rejoined: