

in South America. Morris maintains that he could have cured him if he had given up his rum and brandy. So you see that Feather's insanity was a thing of his own manufacture."

"I never thought anything else, for a moment," said Charles. "If you had known Victoria, you wouldn't have needed a doctor's word for it. The old fellow was mad and bad, but it was all his own doing."

The trip from Rum Island, and the anxiety and excitement following his arrival in Princetown, played the mischief with Beauchamp's new-found strength. All the will-power in the world could not have carried his dizzy head and unsteady legs down to the wharf, so he remained in bed, swallowed a dose which Dr. Fisher gave him, and sent the obliging Bedford down to meet the boat.

Mr. Bedford found Victoria without difficulty. He recognized her at the first glance, by Beauchamp's description of her, introduced himself, and escorted her to the hotel. On the way, he told her of Charles Beauchamp's illness. All the colour went out of her face at that. She laid a hand on his arm and questioned him with pleading eyes. He assured her that Charles was out of danger and regaining strength daily.

When they were within a few yards of Beauchamp's door she halted suddenly and asked Bedford if he had seen her father.