

*When a third has gone, his heart will beat no more.
blood!—die, man! Take him, Devil, for the charm
done.”*

EGYPT—(*Hardly breathing*)—And then?

MRS. KOMELLO—Dearie, that's all. In the morn-ing he was dead.

EGYPT—(*Trying to dispel her doubts*)—But he may come, gran-bebee! Faro may come yet! Why, they have stopped him on the road—his horse has lost a shoe—

MRS. KOMELLO—Eat, my child—eat while you wait. Men have always lied to women. And this stew is very good.

EGYPT—I—can't. — (*She looks up*) — Gran-bebee, LOOK in your tea-cup. See what the leaves will tell to-night!

MRS. KOMELLO—A candle, little daughter, your eyes are growing old. (*Egypt runs over to the tent, comes out with candle, which she lights at the fire, and returns holding it near Mrs. Komello. The latter is looking into her cup muttering to herself.*)

(Meanwhile.)

LUCRETIA—Eight o'clock! May the Devil gnaw old Faro home—for he is surely full of brandy now!

TAWNY CHAL—(*Smoking his pipe by the fire*) What road do we take to-morrow?

PERCIVAL SMITH—North. There is a fair at Roanokesville. The chief buys two more horses.

LUCRETIA—(*To her husband*)—And you a pair of fine gold earrings—understand?

PERCIVAL—(*Gloomily*)—Again? Oh, Lord! What is the woman made of?

EGYPT—(*Who is crouching by Mrs. Komello's side, peering into the cup*)—I can't see—is it a cross?

MRS. KOMELLO—Lift up the candle! (*Egypt does so.*)—A star, as plain as day. That's sudden news!

EGYPT—(*Eagerly*)—Pour in more tea—(*She does so.*)

MRS. KOMELLO—(*Drinking*)—Saints in glory, the tea's as strong as lye!

EGYPT—Now look!

MRS. KOMELLO—(*Peering into the cup*)—A broken sword!

EGYPT—That means black suffering.

MRS. KOMELLO—So it does, my sweetheart.

EGYPT—(*Suddenly*)—And now the last time—