that I had as yet no identity with my ques-

tioner beyond the rather vague one of a

medical man. "I'm the doctor, you know."

I added, huskily, my tongue refusing me the

"Oh," with a most delightful inffection

agony! The thought was sickening.

service of a glib lie.

just horrid."

(Copyright, 1899, by S. S. McClure Co.) | for granted that your servant had ex-When Brown saw that I had been inter- plained." rupted he, too, came to my side, and the pair grouped themselves about me, and reply, and, Hoskins moving forward at that stared at me, expecting, and with reason, moment, I stood revealed to the sharp eyes that, now I had been given leisure for of my host in all the glare of light which thought, lucid ideas must begin to flow the small lamp could boast. from me, while, in reality, had I been have babbled forth mere scraps of the per- ships with an unfaltering hand. "I supplexing chaos with which my mind was reel- posed that you had sent directly to me."

band over the little crumpled confiding note me he was gone, leaving me in a state of drop of nothing," she said sullenly, "Mr. to the stern, dark man beside me? Never! feverish uncertainty as to whether I was Brown is not of the thoughtful kind and gether gently. "But the dog!" was the next Whether the girl was insane or not, that unmasked or not. note was mine. If insanity had been its

took the same way, and we was upwards of amiably, until I gave up, fairly worn out. three days a-gitting her to sense things. I took possession of the room assigned to wine, I stood debating what next. On the

be sure. There is nothing more illusive boldly consulted. than these symptoms. However, I shall | Consult it as I would, however, there was

of it with a great show of caution, managed, while apparently mixing it with the contents of a small black bottle which smelled like varnish, to drop into it half a chocolate of cream which I nimbly exrather shocked at the light-fingered dex- what would you have had? terity I suddenly developed; it seemed to

dared in my guilty effort to dissolve it and sary. hared in my guilty effort to dissolve it and color the water a respectable brown, I handed the glass sternly to Mrs. Hoskins. I handed the glass sternly to Mrs. Hoskins. I had then, from all that I could recall of had thrown herself on my honor under the tongue and the fact that she was large and the fact t and all that, though how she could have expected any such antiquated party to climb hounds I could not, nor cannot yet con- might not. ceive. However, her innocent blunders had | nothing to do with my plain course of duty, so I looked on with what grace I migh praying the while that the candy had all dis

Very neatly did the nationt do her part Not even a professional artist could have put to shame her restless impatience, the drowsy opening of her eyes and their soft closing. "We must have the room perfectly quiet

now." I said. "Mr. Brown, would it be possible for me to have the use of a room next to this for an hour or so? The trouble with my tooth has used me up badly, but what can I expect? When one chooses the life of a physician he chooses a dog's life, let him be clever as he will. And then look at the thanks he gets. Let him drag a man out of his grave clothes and it's Providence that gets the credit, but let the man die and how quickly Providence is let off scot

"And yet a doctor's fee is not a bad thing to have in one's pocket, I imagine," hal laughed, half sneered my companion. "Bu come below with me and we will have them set us out some lunch."

As may be imagined, all this talk had not been carried on in the sick room. Gradually we had drifted out into the hall, and stood there, lighted dimly by a lamp which Mrs Hoskins carried. Of course I knew I must not go below, though the suggestion of lunch was tempting, indeed, so I still held to my ungracious bluster. "You are very kind," said, severely. "But I must get my boots off and cover up warm. We physicians need some care, though our patients seem to doubt it. However," I added, more graclously, "I might pick at a little cold meat If you would send it up; that and a glass of wine wouldn't be at all bad."

"You shall have them immediately," said "But let us say a bottle of wine Brown. instead of a glass; and, by the way, sir, do you know that I have neglected to get your name?. How very strange you must think me," and he paused, while his foot was netually raised to go and leave me in peace, to send that fatal broadside back into my shaky breastworks.

What under heavens was I to say? What Bid I know of his knowledge of the people in the city, where I was almost a total

'Well, well," I exclaimed, with a hollow laugh, "this is droll, certainly, but I took it

with a torpid liver, which produces constipa-tion. I found CASCARETS to be all you claim for them, and secured such relief the first trial, that I purchased another supply and was com-pletely cured. I shall only be too glad to rec-ommend Cascarets whenever the opportunity is presented. J. A. SMITH. 2020 Susquehanna Ave., Philadelphia, Pa



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BY CLARA PARKER.

"I have not seen him," with the short

tapped for speech at that moment, I must heard," I said, boldly, setting fire to my ing in there that you can take, a little wine

"I am something of a stranger here," was Was the girl insane? Was it my duty to the evasive reply, and with a long look at with helpless resentment. "I haven't a

Inspiration, some reverent hand must deal room alone, on some pretext or another, in thing. Them that goes to bed regular," she down there just a moment ago. Oh, you with its own folly. If not insane-what then hopes of a last word of explanation, but the added, morosely, "can little estimate the may depend on it, we can never get out if was expected of me? Why was I warned slow-pacing Hoskins was ever at my heels, needs of them that must set awake in their he isn't done away with." against the dog beneath her window? Could and to all my suggestions that the young hours of rest." It be that she actually meditated a theatri- woman should be left entirely alone and cal flight? If so, where were the needed that Hoskins herself might take some sleep "But I shall have a word to say about that What was to be done with the while I kept watch, she brought forth the tonight. I can't have you wearing out sudsame rambling argument. "A quilt in a denly just when I may need you. Walt "And how do you find her, sir?" broke chair and me in it couldn't be in any ways here for a moment," and, highly gratified In Mrs. Hoskins cheerfully. "Pretty bad, disturbing to one more accustomed to commin't she? I had a niece once that was pany than to be without," she exclaimed,

If she would only take a little nateral sleep | me as soon as a lamp, a fire and a neatly | box I read, "Miss Brandon. One powder set lunch table had made it ready. Once every hour until relieved." So my young Her words came to me like an inspira- | alone inside that room, the door shut on all friend's name was Brandon. "Until relieved" "Blessed be thy wagging tongue, intruders and brought before the bar of -that meant, of course, until she should fall Hoskins, oh, long may it wave," went up my sober judgment, I felt that a straight-jacket asleep. But surely if one powder was premental shout, while outwardly I said a few was all I lacked for a fully equipped mad- scribed for so dainty an invalid, at least grave things about 'nerves' and 'mental man. Yet, condemn my folly as I would, I double that dose should be allowed for the pressure," which seemed to hit the mark felt no desire to retreat. Even then I great, robust creature I had just left, and, somehow, for my listeners did not jeer me, but on the contrary looked reasonably imtext or other, have slunk from the house the folded papers, I rushed back into the and made off without much chance of detec- hall where my victim was awaiting me. "To speak candidly," I exclaimed boldly, tion. But there I sat, turning over and over while I was groping for words as though again every project that presented itself to tion did I watch her drain the glass to its grappling with a foreign tongue, "I fear my feverish fancy for carrying out the uttermost dregs! Then we separated; she congestion of the nerve centers, but I can't scheme of the crumpled note, which I now going her way to fall asleep, as I told

with a faint gleam of hope glowing at my heart I took the water which Mrs. Hoskins was still holding, and, after pouring out half cent man's carriage, killed that helpless A come back to life a cent man's carriage, killed that helpless man, taken his belongings, and was now hand flew to my pocket, where it grasped a assumed name. A black outlook, I was forced to admit, and don't mistake me by chocolate of cream which I nimbly ex-tracted from a bon-bon dish on the table imagining I made light of the painful cir-at which I was working. Indeed, I felt cumstances. I deplored them deeply, but before me with a most disrespectful display

terity I suddenly developed; it seemed to indicate an aptitude for questionable practices anything but encouraging to contemplate.

They seemed to expect that I would added added any special process. It is faint piping have been listened to, but as it was, I merely decided by the time my lunch was finished that if anything was to can't lay claim to be no scholards? Lor' minister my own medicine, but after cov- be done I must immediately set in action help me, them spirits went straight to my ertly rinsing the candy about as long as I some one of the many operations neces-

ful old fellow with marriageable daughters brought me to my feet, a hopeful smile struggling with the swollen melancholy of

Very softly I opened the door of my room, more, it had not been my fault. for I had no wish to disturb the slumbers of

slowly, but after staring duly at me for a asked me what I wanted. moment, she brightened visibly, evidently fired with the hope of answering me and getting rid of me. "Yes, sir," she answered eagerly, "she do sometimes use a powder, an' it's often an' often I've told her she hadn't orter; but-she's that stubborn and set, you'd hardly believe it, when she gets a

and the door swung an inch or two farther "She has come left? Bring them," I said sternly. "I shall sift this matter to the botunlit hall like some sheenish assassin.

"Upwards of a dozen. I should say, sir, and with a step heavy with sleep she moved away, returning after a few moments with a small green box in her hand. "These are 'um," she said, giving vent to a mighty yawn which had been convulsing her since she started from her sleep.

"You look all used up," I said, fastening a professional eye upon her, "You need "I am Dr. A., of whom you have perhaps something to brace you up. Have you nothnow or even a drop of straight whisky?" Ah, I had not been mistaken. Her eyes lighted greedily, and then were overcast

makes no reckoning of the wear and tear dismayed exclamation. "They've let him Gladly now would I have entered the sick of being broke of one's sleep as a stiddy out again. I heard him champing about "That is very true," I remarked austerely.

with my clever trick, I took the box of powders and hurried back to my room, where, after pouring out a liberal glass of

With what pleasure and self-congratula myself, inside of the next five minutes, an1 I mine, to gloat in secret over the easy than these symptoms. However, I shall give her a quieting powder, and in three or four hours I will be able to tell exactly how much we have to fear."

My proposal, which involved a long stay at the house, was not pleasing; that much I rould gather from the frown upon Brown's dark face, but it excited no suspicion, and with a faint gleam of hone glowing at my

Had my fraud been discovered? Had Dr A come back to life and followed me? My foisting himself upon her notice under an small penknife, my sole weapon, when the

Had the lady been plain reason might of ill temper. "Them's the sleeping powders," she snapped, laying her hand upon head," she went on. "Which is rightly your hand, sir?" snatching vacantly into the air

dark, one little thing came back to me which | mind all possible poisons and their antidotes; milk, oil, whites of eggs, all danced before me. Women, sometimes, I had my features. She had a very red nose, which heard, took dreadful things for their comabout through windows and toy with blood- might result from a disordered stomach and plexions. Was there to be a second corpse on my hands that night? And yet, once

Rushing at the tottering woman, I got her the rest of the household, and very softly I into a chair, gazing at her as I did in such while the clumsy Hoskins lifted upon her tiptoed to the door of the sick room, which an agony of fear lest she drop dead in my arm the slender figure and forced my harm- I found standing a few inches ajar, on ac- grasp, that she took the alarm herself, and, less dose between the scarlet lips, devoutly count of the heat, I surmised, for I could making certain that death was near, turned



"I FELT RATHER SHOCKED AT THE LIGHT-FINGERED DEXTERITY I SUD-DENLY DEVELOPED."

in cautiously before entering.

was blazing brightly, Mrs. Hoskins sat leansecond chair, where they had slid from thered woolen blanket which had been wrapped in the form of an unmerited accident, about them, and confronted me as I ap proached, huge and motionless in their gray woolen çasings, lika sentinels before a sleeping city, for Mrs. Hoskins was sleeping. But even as I saw if and moved back with my heart thumping violently at the swift thought that before waking her that word of explanation, I might, as my right, deishly awake.

"Lor' a mercy," she muttered pettishly, her eyes glaring at me wild and bleared; but she followed me willingly enough when I beckoned her into the hall, where we might talk without disturbing our patient 'Was she took any way that you heard? she asked in a hoarse whisper, her mouth working with an abortive yawn, "I'm trou-bled with inflaming of the lids, an' set mostly with my eyes shut. It's more sav-But I heard ing on 'em than glasses, besides being more

"I have been thinking over all possible causes for this attack," I exclaimed with the absorbed air of a medical fanatic. "Has my heart at that moment would have equaled to tread too roughly. Not daring to meet and down it went with a dreadful champing composure. the young woman been in the habit of the booming of any cannon. drugging herseif? Does she ever use opi- As though my timid knuckles had touched softly into the hall, where the happy con- While completely discouraged, I turned "Of course we can't think of going to get

feel the hot air fanning my face as I peered | such a greenish white that, without reasoning what I was about, I selzed another tumbler Everything was quiet. The bed I could of the spirits and dashed it down her throat not see plainly, but before the fire, which with scarcely more caution than I would have used had I pitched it into the kitchen ing back comfortably in a huge rocker, while drain. Fear of her immediate death, that her feet, in recklers disregard of the laws and that only, was my motive in stocking her of grace and decorum, were hoisted upon a thus heavily with strong liquor, and what followed cannot be laid at my door excepting I understand there are those who do not take the same view of the matter.

At first the poor creature choked, which I will admit was my fault in that I forced the liquor on her so abruptly. I was sorry for my awkward zeal and alded her to the best of my power to regain her breath, patting her violently upon the back, while her gurgmand, could be spoken, she started poev- ling, though deep, was low. But once she had passed this stage I saw what the second glass had done; saw reason leave her eyes and give place to a silly stupor; saw and flung a pillow upon the floor, to which she shambled and sank down gabbling.

"I'm feeling very comfortable, thank you," she gabbled, as I strove to drag her farther from the fire, "but my head ain't what it

But I heard no more. Fleeing my second victim. I hurried across the hall, to tap as the confined air of the place plunged her. light as a feather against the door of the

sick room, though, had my own ears been cease, for I now distinctly heard steps

ates of any kind to make her sleep? and I some bidden spring, the door responded inglared at the woman as sternly as the limited use of my right eye would admit. Some bidden spring, the door responded in the point of leaving the sick room, when my wisp of dark hair waved and the gleam of a visitor should come up. It was well, though, Her wits were fogged with sleep and stirred fine eye shone on me, as a whispering voice that the darkness of the hall concealed my guilt-stained features, or the merest child

must have detected some mischief brawing. "It is L" I faltered, idiotically, forgetting "Is that you, doctor?" came in a growling whisper from Brown, while a firm, cool hand seized me so suddenly I all but shricked, so shattered was my self-control. 'What in the - are you up to anyhow? It sounded as though a pair of you were dancing the minuet. I thought an order for quiet was given."

open, but in place of accepting this friendly "And so it was," I managed to say coldly advance I skulked back into the shade of the as a man without humor who feels himself affronted with a jest. "But I hope that "Where is Mrs. Hoskins?" came in the does not interfere with Mrs. Hoskins heatsame guarded whisper. "Look out for her. ing flannels at my orders for your niece She may be in hiding somewhere. She does now that her fever has suddenly left her. that lots, and then dodges out. Oh, she's Brown gave a soft whistle. "To be sure not," he said with more civility. "I in-"She won't now, She-she's asleep," I tended no disrespect, I assure you, faltered. "I gave her something-some of kindly ask Hoskins to toe-and-heel it in her your powders," but no sooner had I uttered stocking feet hereafter."

"Sir!" exclaimed I irritably. the words than I repented my confession. "I'm a wretched sleeper," he explained, What if, after all, it was not the wine which oming hastily back to dignified discourse, had affected her; what if even then she was "and Hoskins should know it. I can't imbreathing her last, in some horrid death agine how she had the temerity to go crash

ing about so." "Oh, oh, how awfully clever!" And there Shivering like a wind-swept reed, was a sound as of soft hands beaten towaited for him to demand that he should see his niece, or call for the disgraced Hoskins, but these trials were not laid upon me, for now with a restless yawn he left me, after a mild hope for the further improvement of his niece, and when the last echoes of his steps had died away I crept I had forgotten the brute, and I must back to the room I had left and stood tremconfess that but for the gleam of that fine bling there for some moments before I could eye, which had grown plainer and developed be certain that he had really gone, with no into a pair, I should have felt much vexed suspicion to bring him creeping up those at the reminder. If I could only give him stairs again.



HER FEET IN RECKLESS DISREGARD OF GRACE AND DECORUM WERE HOISTED UPON A SECOND CHAIR.

sleeping powders! My ear hearkened painfully for the slightest gound from the room was silent as the grave. Not a board I had left. "Oh, I think we can manage creaked, not a curtain rustled. Then, drawthe dog all right." I said lightly, while not inr off my shoes, I made softly across to a the faintest plan as to how I was to make good my words suggested itself to my mind, the place where the ferocious bloodhound In the mood I then was I could have lurked. Inch by inch, like a trained housestrangled any beast with my naked hands breaker, I raised the sash, my heart stopping and relished the details of the task at that. | dead still at the faintest creak, then rushing In an admiring gasp from behind the half- | until finally it was propped up at a height open door. "But if you're going to shoot, to admit of putting out my head and shoulplease let me know before you set the gun ders.

ways do." "I shall not shoot," I said, with a patience begot of the fine eyes and fluffy hair. "It wouldn't do, you know. The noise would-" "Why, to be sure!" with a soft little "It would make a mess of everylaugh. thing, but you see I'm so stupid. Goodby, now. I'll get dressed and be all ready," and the door shut gently in my face, leaving me standing alone in the darkness, gaping helplesely about me.

"All ready," she said. I could laughed aloud, but that I felt more inclined for tears. All ready for what? Well, I could not improve matters by standing there, so, with a reluctant step, I turned to reenter the chamber I had left.

What should I see? Some horrid, staring corpse; some miserable, frothing object all but gone, yet with strength left to rise and and soft, dark hair. I had stood a great the window. But on this special night my deal that night, but there were limits, I felt, to my endurance.

With a sinking heart I pushed the door open, only to jump back in hysterical amazement. The woman was afoot again and erous supply of cold meat sent up for my babbling foolishly! What was to be done? How giadly then would I have exchanged her for the corpse I had so dreaded to see! There was little sense in what she said, but made out that she was looking for Miss Brandon, and I managed to quiet that cry by telling her Miss Brandon was asleep and to understand such gibberish? My mind must not be disturbed, at the same time had not been neglected in my youth, and ye tearing about in search of something to do I could make nothing of it. Defeat stared with her, while she trailed at my heels with me in the face, but with a cold, proud smile dog-like devotion.

And then her intoxication, if such I can call it, began to take alarming forms, which preyed 'dreadfully on my conscience. Her vision grew shockingly distorted, and what with her resolution to follow me about, and the number of me she seemed to see, she was forever taking imaginary walks with me in parts of the room where I was not, talking as readily to any piece of furniture as to me, and never finding out her mistake unless she happened to run against me.

"Heavings above." she would whisper hoarsely to a tall dresser by the window, sought, "I can't rightly make out, doctor, how it is you come to be so leggy all of a suddint;" and then to the washstand, as I chased her there, "give her nateral sleep, doctor, give her nateral sleep, and she'll pull through somehow. I've said it before, an' I say i

now, sleep is what we need, and plenty of it. It was a shameful situation, and what was creature's babbling tongue had started some one awake. With a desperate hand I jerked rushed back to my ghastly work. This time open the next door to me, and when I found it admitted me to a small, dark closet I did and my work was easier, but how they hissed in the woman's ear, snatching her their biting fumes, and it was with streambeside her. It will keep her quiet, and then you can have your sleep out.'

She obeyed me in the same dog-like manner in which she had followed me about, and although, in the face of this docility it seemed a brutal act. I turned the key so should be. Too much setting up of nights curely upon her, feeling an almost murderous thrill of satisfaction as her murmuring died away in the denser stuper into which

> And none too soon did those mutterings any questioner where I then was, I rushed sound.

For ten minutes I waited while the house window which I reasoned must look out upon "Oh, how awfully clever you are," came on with congestive jerks at an easy slide,

Cautiously I peered forth into the darkoff or I shall be sure to scream. I alness, for dark it was, with only a star glimmering here and there, and nothing but faint outlines of the jagged mountain peaks showing themselves against the sky. The air was keen and cold, and the ground covered with a skim of hard, dry snow. A nice night indeed for people to be launching themselves from second-hand windows and taking to their heels through unknown frozen districts! "We'll end up at the bottom of a canyo

with a fractured bone or two for company, I muttered as I let my gaze roam despondently about. "There's the dog sure enough." as my eyes, becoming more accustomed to the darkness, made out a moving, black body on the snow beneath.

It is one thing to look down at a dog from a second-story window and another, and quite a different thing, to rid yourself quietly of him. On any other night I should have curse me? If so, goodby, even to fine eyes exclaimed, "Impossible!" and tamely closed mind seemed fairly lurid with bright thought. I suddenly sped back to the table, clutched the napkin from my lunch tray, and found that I had not exhausted the genrefreshment. With trembling fingers I spread out the contents of the medicine chest upon a chair close by and began in a pur-

blind fashion to study the different labels Confusion seized upon my mind at the first row. How could medical men pretend I counted the number of bottles I had before Then with a few bold slashes, I had the meat quartered and lying ready to my hand.

This done and the bottles divided into four different sets and ranged conveniently above me, my real work began. The first relay of bottles came to me in the form of powders. I dipped section No. 1 of my meat supply in the milk jug before I attempted to smear it over with as much of my powdery stuff as I could make hang on, being careful to take fair amount from each bottle in hopes that in some of them lay the deadly drug It was remarkable how much made that piece of cold beef hold. When not another grain would stick I gathered it up gingerly, crept to the window, took accurate aim and flung it straight at the feet

of the restles animal. They must have kept the brute half starved, for with a plunge and a snap, he seemed to catch the morsel while it was yet worse, I distinctly heard steps below. The in the air. But nothing happened; his restless walk went on, and impatiently I it was liquids with which I had to deal, not hesitate. "Miss Brandon is in here," I smelled! The house seemed reeking with frantically by the arm. "Go in and lie down ing eyes I again sought the window and up when I saw the dog." stood with my second prescription suspended over the hazy space below. No need to peer about in the darkness now in search of my restless prey. The animal expected me and had been sitting and was testing its strength gloomy house, and I seemed to see a dark crouched directly beneath my window, where as best I could, when it occurred to me that face gliding toward me, a white hand upthe light from the lamp showed upon his all my outdoor apparel was downstairs. 1 lifted, to hush the very echoes that he gaunt frame, revealing him with his huge jaws distended; a pretty sight for one who night, not knowing how long I might re- the time for which was passed. The closet might at any moment be pitched forth to main dodging about without some sort of door-I had meant to unlock it upon the become his midnight lunch. Out went my I could see him plainly this search of mine. time. He met it, his full length from the ground, with an appetite perfectly disheart- from me in my distress. Instantly my com- the window and dropped, speculating even

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again to the table. What did Dr. A. keep in his chest anyhow? Drugs designed solely for the use of teething children? And yet who could tell? Perhaps my method might be bad. I might be doing up poisons and antidotes in the same bundle. This time I mixed powders and liquids with an impartial and liberal hand, but it was with only the faintest hope that I gathered up the third dose, and again sought my post at the window. The dog was not there! Was not there, nor was he dead! I could see him, see him plainly. If that mass of moving snow and fur could be a dog. Faint, angry yelps rose from the tossing heap and my heart stood still. Then, suddenly, as looked, the mass took shape and rose and ran as nothing dependent on mere legs ever ran before, melting away into the darkness beyond, with a long, low howl which struck stone-cold upon my fainting heart.

"We are undone," I all but cried, for that mournful howl must set even the cocks crowing upon their roosts! Then came the thought that speed might even yet save us for, once outside, who was to follow us in such darkness, with enough and more than enough of caverns about, into which w might crawl and evade pursuit? Why w were doing it at all, and what right we had to evade pursuit I had no time to consider as again I fled the room, which was strewn all about with evidences of my late traffic in animal life. The disordered boxes which had been handed me by the now helpless Hoskins; the uncorked medicine phials, all spoke loudly to me of my deadly work, and could but feel like some beast of prey creeping from its lair, as I stole out and closed the door behind me.

This time my knock at the door of the second chamber was less guarded, for my nerves were getting into a horrible state; but it was not so quickly answered and ! was growing alarmed, when it was flung wide open, though very noiselessly, and Miss Brandon stood before me, not dressed in her flowing robes, but in a trim suit of black, such as you might see a dozen of any da in a well-dressed crowd, only they would not all be so becoming to their owners. Over this she wore a short fur coat. Her hair was tucked away under a cap to match, and there she stood, looking so warm, so fresh and smiling that somehow the memory of my bandages came back to me, filling cided me to haggle no longer over my apme with such a sense of deformity and inferiority that I think my bearing took color from the morbid abasement of my mind. shuffled on my feet as she looked at me, while I bit my tongue to keep from crying aloud that I was not the bloodless old dotard she so fondly dreamed me to be.

"Oh," she burst out in an excited whisper as soon as her eyes fell on me, "you do think of the funniest things! Now tell me whatever you have done to that dreadful dog to and flung out in advance the shawl which make him go running about so, scratching was to serve me as a covering, Miss Branthings!"

"Did you hear him yelping?" "I guess that's what dogs do. I was just sure he'd wake everybody up, weren't you?" I had been, indeed, and yet was. At that my swollen eye with a face of innocent exvery moment I fancied I could hear some one moving, and bracing up my manhood, I know," she whispered, and with an almost spoke decidedly in spite of those things about

"We must go at once," I said, moving into the room with a cat-like step. "Will you be able to hang on to one end of a blanket while I lower you from the

window?" I dared not look at her while I made this cool proposal, for I fully expected her to turn pale and shrink back; besides the horrid suspicion haunted me that even should she consent, it would end in her completing my list of victims, and what with the doctor, Mrs. Hoskine and the dog I was sickened of To my amazement she laughed-a delight

ful, gentle, little chuckle which made me long more keenly than ever to bury the snuffy old doctor and rise myself to fill his "Oh, how perfectly killing it will be," she

whispered, seeking for sympathy in the heap under the snow beneath. Was she livdepths of my dull swellen eye. See! The window is all ready for us. I was putting it

Suddenly I started, stabbed to the heart with fresh trouble. I had dragged a blanket step, as though some one had stopped to from the large chair in which Mrs. Hoskins listen. It had a herrid sound in that from the large chair in which Mrs. Hoskins listen. certainly could not venture out on such a might hear. I had meant to do many things covering, yet I dared not go downstairs in hapless Hoskins, but now the feet had

"Are downstairs," she finished for me. strike wrong in my mad plunge.

will cure 90 per cent. of all forms of kidney complaint and in many instances the most serious forms of Bright's disease. If the disease is com-plicated send a four-

what to do.



ounce vial of urine.

We will analyze it

and advise you free

them, but there are some of Mrs. Hoskins things here that will do. She's so dreadfully big you know," and before I could prevent her she had dived into a closet close at hand, from which she emerged presently, triumphantly holding up to my view a large gray and black plaid shawl and one of those many-colored woolen bags known as "toboggan caps." It was the last straw to my overburdened vanity! Wear them! I could have snatched them from her, flung them on the floor at her feet and stamped upon them, but for the added absurdity. And then, too, what awkward evidence in the shape of card case, marked handkerchief or other fatal trifle might I not leave in the pockets of my abandoned coat!

Insulted, perplexed and downright angry, stood glaring about me, but before I had voiced my annoyance a faint sound below put flight to all thought of more trifling discomforts. Some one was moving cautiously, whether toward us or from us, to seek or to avoid, I could not tell; but it depearance, good or bad. Literally snatching the horrible headgear from Miss Brandon, who was tranquilly kneading it into shape, I know that I held my right hand with I crammed it down about my ears, feeling one hand while I talked to her, and that I a certain savage delight in the self-torture I inflicted.

"It will be warm, anyway," murmured my companion, with a glance of kindly amusemeut, which I haughtily ignored.

"Come," I said, briefly, snatching up the blanket. "We have not a second to lose," and I rushed stealthily to the open window don following me in a state of what, I could plainly see, was pleased excitement.

The window was high up from the floor, and as we stopped before it, she looked into audible grean I put my arm gingerly about her fur-elad waist, and the next instant she was sitting with her feet outside, holding towards me her ungloved hands for the blanket. The morbid fear which possessed me that she was to make my fourth victim was not lessened by that moment in which I held her in my arms, and as she grasped the quilt with two small white hands and looked at me with a friendly nod, to tell me that she was ready for the drop, I felt every particle of strength leave my body. "Come back," I faltered, but she was over the side, and with desperate hands I clutched the blanket,

It seemed so short. Had I miscalculated the height of the window? I dared not look down as I leaned far out, giving the full length of my arms to the clumsy contriv-Suddenly the weight left it. Had she fallen? My eyes seemed glazed as I turned them downwards. There was a black ing or dead?

But now again sounded that step below. It seemed nearer this time. It was coming upstairs, coming softly, and pausing on each reached the hall. With a warning hiss for all I cared to reach, the loud thumping of mounting the stairs, with evident care not ening. Not even its horrid smell fazed him, panion grasped the situation with smiling while I fell on the probable length of my life should some part of me double up and

(To be Continued.)