

THE FLODDER'S PETITION.

Lord, let me not be too content With life in trifling service spent— Make me aspire!

THE QUALITY OF MERCY.

"And if he is guilty, what then?" "Well, you care about his guilt? You mean, if the jury find him guilty?"

"The third man was the Sheriff—factum, calculating, anxious in the community, and the existence of an organized band of cattle thieves was suspected."

"The best criminal lawyers in the county, Merton & Hamilton, were fighting for John Warden's liberty. At last it decided, and all awaited the verdict."

"I don't believe he is guilty," spoke up Merton, "and you're the Sheriff's man, aren't you?"

"Maybe," suggested the Sheriff, looking through the unshaded windows across miles of the western Kansas prairie, "maybe there wa'n't no stealing—'th' critters may hev' been for'nal."

"No, that couldn't be," Merton took the remark seriously. "The cattle inside the fence were put there, but I don't believe John Warden did it."

"Of course not, or you would not have taken the case," laughed his rival, the railroad attorney.

"Well, you're the man. You nominated Holland, and he'll listen to you when he would show us the door."

"You loved me once!" exclaimed the woman, impetuously, as if determined to present her strongest forces first.

"I never knew," repeated the Judge. "And we nearly started again," went on the little people who could keep up life if it was necessary.

"On the plain, near our house, was a great herd of cattle belonging to some rich company. Who would kill or care if one was missing? I begged you to help me."

"The Judge's eyes were moist and they avoided the woman's."

"The powder grievance of the Hazleton anthracite region, no special arbitration. Mitchell insists on broad basis of settlement. Amounts earned by the men greatly vary in different collieries. Sliding scale at some places."

"The list of grievances prepared at the Hazleton convention last month, and upon which the present strike is based, does not apply to all the mines in the anthracite district, nor can it be said that all the grievances apply to any one mine."

"The greatest source of trouble is the price of powder, and it does seem queer that men of such experience and intelligence as the owners and operators of mines should permit it to remain as a continual cause of friction and complaint."

"In some of the mines, particularly those belonging to the Philadelphia & Reading railroad, and Cox Brothers, which market their own coal, including perhaps 42 collieries and 25,000 men, the miners and labor are paid by the week on a sliding scale, according to the fluctuations in the price of coal."

"The town knew that sentences were to be pronounced, and the room was filled. The prisoners stood in a dejected row, awaiting their fate."

Holland could not speak. The one room of his life was a bare room when he had admired Mary Heather's pretty face and form—came back to him.

"Yes—I cared—but I did not know," he stammered, at last.

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