

fish, so self-sacrificing ! They will force you from one resource to another until you will be compelled to seek for rest beneath the the ground. I would spare you this calamity. I can hardly believe that anyone should be so hard-hearted as to refuse my request." Her words turned to sobs, and, pressing her handkerchief to her eyes, she rushed from the room.

Stöger was in a frame of mind such as he had not been in for years.

"One can't find rest even in his own apartments," he growled. "Such a shameless little woman coming here to tell me disagreeable things. Gross impertinence. She called me a hard-hearted old man, and for all that she expected me to do the amiable. But she struck the wrong man. I must confess that she has a temper. Appears to have an especial regard for her sister; noticed that when she was talking to her lover. I think I should like to see her sister. It must be remarkable to know such love."

Reflectively he arose, and, seating himself in an armchair by the fireplace, sat, with sunken cheek resting upon his hand, watching the flickering blaze of the fire.

"What was it she said? 'What do you know about love. You do not appear as though you could ever have loved anyone.'"

His eyes assumed a stare such as we acquire when we endeavor to look into the past.

While the flames flickered and forked there arose before him the picture of a woman, tall and slender, with unfathomably deep dark eyes and haughtily arched lips. He saw the dark eyes, lighted with love's flame, resting upon him and heard the proud lips whisper loving words. She ruled and reigned in his house as his pure and holy wife. But she was not now alone. In her arms she bore a child which gleefully stretched out its chubby little arms toward him. Father ! He grasped the tongs and thrust them into the fire, stirring it until the flames leaped high up into the chimney. He saw her again before him; saw how the blood, which was flowing violently through her veins, mounted to her temples when he accused her so delicately, but, oh, so wildly; saw her press the child close to her bosom, and, without one word bestow upon him a look of scorn and disdainfully pucker her lips.

He again saw himself, how he, recovering from the delusion, returned after a brief departure, only to find his house empty; how he, despairing in heart, hastened after her, who had de-