

I charged him with opening the letter entrusted to his care.

"I never did. It's a lie!"

"That is your thumb-mark on the paper."

"Pooh! The post-office people done it, p'raps. Thumb-marks is all alike."

"No, they are all different. The mark on the envelope we saw you make. The one on the letter is just the same. You opened the letter!"

"Well, what if I did? All's fair in love and war. I'm goin' to arst Louise to keep company with me." Louise gave me one look, and left the room. "I wanted to know if she had got a chap already. I done it to find out. There is a chap, and I've got to cut 'im out. Sec?"

"Are you not ashamed?"

"Well, it ain't quite the square thing, boss. I'm ready to apologise to Louise. There, that's handsome"

"Listen to me, Drake. I do not blame

you for doing this dirty action, because you know no better. But you are unfit to associate with my daughter, and you must not come here again!"

"What ye puttin' on side about? Who are ye? If ye was better off once, ye're only a poor bush settler now."

"Not too poor to choose my company!"

"I'm as good as ye, and better off. And after all I've done for ye! Confound all snobs! I'll send ye in a bill for 'ire of pack-'orses."

"Do, please. I shall be glad to pay it."

"Well, I'm off. But I've got it in for ye now, so ye'd better watch it!"

"Oh! Dad, is he gone?" asked Louise, coming out of her room. "He threatened you, Dad. I am afraid he will do you a mischief."

"We'll risk it. Thank Heaven, the Bloke is offended at last! Better an avowed enemy than an intolerable friend."



"THE SUICIDE'S PRAYER."

THERE is no god but God,
 However far he be ;
 There is no hell but Earth,
 For Earth is Hell to me!

There is no Rest but Sleep,
 That knows not mortal breath ;
 No path from Hell to Rest
 But through the straits of Death.

Hear, then, thou only God
 Who doest most things well ;
 The means be thine—thy hand or
 mine—
 But leave me not in Hell!