AN IMPORTANT CLUE.

There had been a robbery in our office, and as suspicion usually falls on the junior, I was suspected.

I considered this hard, very hard and unjust, especially as there were others in our room, who, to my mind, were at least as likely to have committed the theft as myself; yet on me the odium of it it all fell. Not that I was openly accused: there was not sufficient evidence to go upon for that; but who has not seen the glances, heard the dropped words, and gone through all the unpleasant experiences of such a time?

One day I was called into the presence of the two heads of the firm, and gravely told what had occurred and questioned concerning it.

A sum of fifty pounds had been extracted from their private desk. The money had been locked up overnight for use in the morning, and lo! when sought for, it had vanished!

I gasped with astonishment and consternation. Fifty pounds was a fortune in my eyes.

"Gone, sir" I said, "You don't mean it?"

"Yes, James," answered Mr. Brooks, the senior partner, sternly: "gone; every penny of it; and now it is my unpleasant duty to ask you if you know anything of this unfortunate transaction, and to remind you that you worked late last night."

It was true enough. He stayed later than the others, to get my books into thorough order. It was my custom to work overtime; it was my look-out to call behind.

"Yes, sir," I answered, as briefly as I could, "I did work late, as I thought, I stand before you, I know nothing of the money."

To my mortification I felt the red dyeing my face. My employers might read it as an acknowledgment of my guilt. I was aware of this, and the thought made it worse.

[illegible] I went on Mr. Brooks' [illegible] only one key, the [illegible] key. Without hesitation [illegible] with us six months and on you, naturally, suspicion rests. [illegible] of integrity, and have known you in this many years. I will point out the matter as [illegible] other hand [illegible] to be done, all the keys.

He paused [illegible] He had [illegible] cigars, [illegible] would speak to me.

"Well, James," he [illegible] "the love of money is the root of all evil. Keep from getting into debt, and you'[illegible] out in the world."

They were [illegible] Sunday Mr. [illegible]

"You are [illegible]

"Yes, sir."

"You will [illegible] there now [illegible] years before me."

I hesitated [illegible]

"Go, James, [illegible] turning [illegible] the door, [illegible] piercing [illegible] me [illegible] I felt [illegible] to be [illegible]

[illegible]

IV.

[illegible] I was [illegible] Jenkins, [illegible] eight o'clock [illegible] called to [illegible] fatherly and [illegible] you."

He [illegible] and [illegible] the [illegible] But, strange [illegible] moment [illegible] and [illegible] tail.

He gave [illegible] there now [illegible] years before me."

I hesitated [illegible]

"Go, James, [illegible] turning [illegible] the door, [illegible] piercing [illegible] me [illegible] I felt [illegible] to be done, all the keys."

He paused [illegible] He had [illegible] cigars, [illegible] would speak to me.

"Well, James," he [illegible] "the love of money is the root of all evil. Keep from getting into debt, and you'll [illegible] out in the world."

They were [illegible] Sunday Mr. [illegible]

"You are [illegible]

"Yes, sir."

"You will