

Poor Mrs. Harris.

I was once sent for, in great haste, to attend a man of respectability, whose wife, a lady of intelligence and refinement, had discovered him in his room lying senseless upon the floor. On arriving at the house, I found Mrs. Harris in great distress of mind.

"It has done no good. Hadn't we better send for the doctor?" suggested the wife. Just then the eyes of Harris opened, and he looked with half-stupid surprise from face to face of the anxious group that surrounded the bed.

"What's the matter?" he at length said. At the same time feeling a strange sensation about his head, he placed his hand rather heavily thereon. "Heavens and earth!" He was now fully in his senses. "Heavens and earth! what ails my head?"

"But my head! What's the matter with my head? It feels as if scalded. Where's my hair? Heavens and earth, Sarah, I don't understand this! What's my arm tied in this way for?"

"Be quiet, dear husband, and I'll explain it all. Oh, be very quiet. Your life depends upon it!"

Mr. Harris sank back upon the pillow from which he had risen, and closed his eyes to think. He put his hand to his head, and felt it tenderly from temple to temple, and from nape to forehead.

"Is it a blister?" he at length asked. "Yes, dear. You have been very ill. We feared your life," said Mrs. Harris, affectionately. "There have been two physicians in attendance."

Harris closed his eyes again. His lips moved. Those nearest were not much edified by the whispered words that issued therefrom. They would have sounded very strangely to ears polite and refined. After this he lay for some time quiet.

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