UNDER THE KNIFE.

The critical moment has arrived, so, having undressed myself, I take a last look around and mount the table, where I am at once seized on and arranged for the convenience of carving by the two aids-de-camp. Mr. C., who, with his sleeves tucked up, has been standing in such a position as to screen the little what-not and its glittering load from my sight, takes a last look at the wound, evidently determining in his own mind the precise apot where he will make the first gash, and then retiring a pace what-not and its glittering load from my sight, takes a last look at the wound, evidently determining in his own mind the precise spot where he will make the first gash, and then retiring a pace or two, nods to Dr. S., who has placed himself behind me. The gentleman steps forward and commences to apply the chloroform. The instrument he uses for this purpose appears to me to partake very much of the form of a meerschaum pipe, in the bowl of which is placed a sponge containing the fluid, a cover fitting tightly over the top of the bowl. The long pipe stem terminates into a cup intended to cover the nose and mouth of the patient. At the upper end of the stem is a valve or stopcock which regulates the amount of vapor to be inhaled. I am told to draw long deep inspirations as steadily and slowly as possible, and for two or three seconds the only effect I perceive is a slight choking sensation which makes me gasp for breath. Then, however, I see him turn on the stopcock a little fuller, and immediately I find more and more difficulty in drawing my breath. The objects in the room become blurred and dance before my eyes, any brain begins to throb and whirl in my head, and I feel a weight like lead on my heart. And now my blood begins to surge violently through my veins, and beats like a sledge hammer on my temples; every nerve in my body tingles; it grows faster and faster, wilder and wilder; the room rushes round and round, I cannot bear it, I cannot breathe; I try to struggle, and feel I can just raise my arm, which, in my state of semi-consciousness, I perceive is at once held down by one of those abominable students, who is doubtless enjoying the spectacle amazingly, and gloating over my distress. A roaring sound fills my cars, I shall die; I strive to raise myself to struggle, but I cannot move. I try to scream, I try to breathe, I gasp wildly, I am suffocating, I—I—\* \* \* \* \*

Seedis

Seedis

A pause, a long sensible pause, at the end of which I feel that I have been askeep; and then I am gradually awoke by hearing the gentle splash of water dropping on my pillow. I hear it quite distinctly, and I know at once what it is; but for a king's ransom I could not open my eyes, or stir hand or foot. I am conscious, but motionless. I hear the murmur of voices, but cannot distinguish what is said. Presently there is another splash, and I somehow know that they are sprinkling my tace; but though I hear it fall on the pillow, cannot feel it; and now I hear the voices once more. This time I can distinguish what is said. It is D. S—speaking, and he says, "He is coming round fast." Another moment and I can open my eyes. Dr.S—is standing over me with a basin of water, from which he is sprinkling my face and bathing my temples, though oddly enough, I cannot feel either his touch or the water. Mr. C— is standing with his back to me washing his hands, and one of the pupils is packing up the mahoganty box, while the other is watching me with a look which seems to me very much like one of regret that it is all over, and that there is no more to be seen. The nurse is carrying away the two buckets, and I can even see that the water is very red. I see all this at a glance; I am perfectly conscious, and yet I can feel nothing. Not only am I free from pain, but there is a numbness over all my limbs. I cannot feel my own touch, I have no sensation whatever. In this state I am iffred into bed and placed in a comfortable position, not even the movement causing any sensation. Gradially, however, a alight tingling comes on, somewhat similar to that which takes place when a hand or foot has what as commonly-called, gone to sleep. This is succeeded by the smarring pain at the seat of the wound, which increases in incleanity until after some minutes, it becomes very severe. Sensation has returned to my body, and with it comes the after pain of the operation. This of course is all the more severe because I have been

operation itself. It does not, however, last very long, and within half an hour it has entirely ceased.

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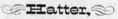
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