

"She shall go to the best school in San Francisco, and be educated as finely as any lady in the land," he said to himself over and over again. His mine was a rich one, and his personal wants were few. He did not go into any deeper analysis of the motives that actuated him than this, nor, in fact, was he yet conscious of their existence. The one thought that dominated his action was, how he might best load with the benefits of his toil, this child of his adoption, who occupied so large a share of his heart and life—how large, he was not yet aware; but was soon to awaken to the full knowledge, that she possessed his whole being, in its utmost entirety. As soon as he had decided the matter satisfactorily to his own mind, he was impatient to be off. He wanted to go down and make all necessary arrangements for bringing Keith to the city, before the snows of winter set in among the Sierras. If a vision of lonely days and nights, of his cabin with its vacant chair and the light gone out, stretched out before him, he quickly thrust it aside. His sacrifice, and even his pain, were nothing, compared with the paramount good which he hoped would come to her. It was yet two days till the weekly trip of the stage. Every moment's delay rasped his nerves to an extent that was intolerable. He wanted the dreaded ordeal over, and then he would go back to his mine and work with a will. He determined to go at once, and the next morning, mounted his mule and started down the gulch, just as the sun rose over the summits of the Sierras. It was understood in the camp, that, unless orders were received from him to the contrary, Keith was to go down by stage the following week, and meet him at Sacramento; from there, they would proceed, by one of the river packets, to the city. Luck favored him. In the city he found no difficulty in dis-

posing of his specimens, which the assayer pronounced very rich. The firm contracted to take all that he could furnish them. Hepworth realized even a larger sum than he expected, and was very hopeful for the future. The third morning after his arrival, he set out for Madam Brown's boarding and day school for young ladies. It was a large establishment, on a fashionable avenue, and had a high reputation for the thorough scholarship, brilliant accomplishments, and high-bred bearing of its graduates. "Just the place for my Keith," he thought, as he walked briskly up the street.

After a little, he became conscious of foot-steps behind him, and noticed that they were timed with his own. He looked back and saw a man wheel suddenly into an open door-way. Passing rapidly on, he turned a corner, faced about, and waited, with his hand on his cocked revolver. An instant later, a man rushed round the corner nearly breathless, and was right on Hepworth before he saw him. He staggered back a step, too disconcerted to speak. He was a tall man, with black hair and beard, and wore on his watch chain a large seal, of peculiar workmanship. It was a fine water agate, in a setting of four small nuggets, fastened together with a chain-work of gold. Hepworth noticed this in that first, rapid glance.

"What do you want with me?" he demanded.

"Is—is your name Dawson?"

"No! You know it isn't. Now if you don't go about your own business, I'll introduce you to my best friend," suddenly turning the muzzle of his revolver squarely upon him. The man dodged round the corner.

Hepworth reached Madam Brown's, and was shown into the spacious drawing room. The servant returned with the message that the Madam was occu-