down in less time than it takes to tell it; and so the dispute was settled, and my men go back to work on Monday in perfect good humour with themselves and all the world.”

Nobody spoke when he had finished his recital, the minds of all being intensely occupied, each with its individual reflections on the scene just described.

“And that man,” continued Mr. Kimberly after a long pause, “was, not two months ago, the most malignant malcontent in Hollowmell.”

Still no one else seemed to care about giving expression to any thoughts they might have on the subject, and in silence they separated for the night.