‘No, Massa Compton,’ replied he, sulkily; ‘she go to missionary man—not come back yet.’

‘Oh! ’ replied I, sarcastically, ‘to learn the true faith, I presume.’

The eyes of the negro flashed fire, and he ground his teeth, but made no reply. I must acknowledge that I was pleased with this ‘decided proof of jealousy on the part of the husband, and hoped that the ‘back-sliding’ of the missionary might prove his ruin. I therefore continued—

‘Sally is very handsome, John. I wonder that you trust her so much.’

‘So help me God, Massa Compton, she no care for me, more than one pepper-corn. Dat d—n massa Saul—she lub him, she tell me so; and tell me she not lib with black nigger, like me;’ and the poor fellow burst into tears.

I attempted to console him. In a few minutes he wiped his eyes, and looking fiercely, said,

‘Nebber mind, me ab revenge when Kissmass come.’

‘Revenge when Christmas comes, Pepper; it’s a long while to Christmas, and I am afraid that what you all expect at Christmas will not take place. The governor knows all about your intentions, and the troops are all ready.’

‘Eh!’ exclaimed the negro, astonished.

‘Even so, Pepper; and I tell you so as a friend; you had better tell the others that they may give over their foolish ideas—that Mr. Saul has deceived you, and will bring you all into trouble.’

‘How you know Massa Saul tell us?—dat a secret.’

‘Yes, but secrets are found out; for instance, what took place between your wife and the missionary was a secret at first, but every body knows it now.’

‘D—n um! dat no secret now,’ replied John, pulling out a tuft of his woolly hair in his rage.

‘If he was a good man, would he have taken Sally from you? Did he not preach to you that all that was wrong?’

‘Yes, massa; he tell us dat all very bad; I see, what he tell all lie. But, Massa Compton, me tink go to Obeah woman, Nelly, she make Sally lub me again.’

‘Well, you can try, Pepper.’

‘Will you speak, Massa Compton? suppose you speak, Nelly, mind all you say.’

This I would not consent to; I knew what Pepper intended, which was, to ask for a love philter from the Obeah, in the efficacy of which, the negroes have the greatest faith. My first application for her interference in his behalf had not been productive of happiness; and in this instance I considered it would be disreputable. I had great cause afterwards to rejoice that I did not, or I should have been, to a certain degree, accessory to the tragical events which occurred in consequence of the second application to the Obeah woman. I hardly need observe, that I did not, until some time afterwards, become acquainted with the circumstances which I shall now relate.

It was not until a fortnight after this conversation that Pepper applied to the Obeah woman; and at that time a remarkable coincidence took place. Mr. Wilson, to whom it had been satisfactorily proved that Mr. Saul Fallover had disgraced his profession by his connexion with Pepper’s wife, considered it his duty to call and expostulate with him upon his conduct. This he did, and so effectually, that Mr. Fallover ac-