

Nearer and nearer the thing approached, until he could see its eyes glistening like coals of fire in the moonlight. Sheffield stepped aside to allow the figure to pass, when to his horror and surprise it turned and darted at him, and before he could recover from his amazement he felt its cold clammy fingers pressing his throat, while those horrible eyes seemed to pierce his brain like darts of fire. In vain he endeavored to beat the uncanny monster off. It clung to his throat and he could feel the long, sharp talons piercing his throat through the skin. Finally, summoning all his strength, Sheffield struck the thing on the head; then he felt the grip on his throat relax, and he knew no more.

When he recovered consciousness he found himself in a strange room with a doctor standing beside the bed feeling his pulse. Upon inquiry he learned that the driver of a market wagon passing along the road early the next morning after the fight with the monster, had picked him up and brought him to the city where he had turned him over to the hospital authorities. His first impulse was to tell the physicians of his encounter with the strange apparition, but thinking that he would not be believed, he merely told him that he had been attacked by a ruffian who demanded his money, and the scratches and finger marks on his throat were the result of his encounter.

In a few days Sheffield was allowed to leave the hospital. He proceeded at once to Ramsey's room, but on opening the door he found the apartment vacant. Upon inquiry he learned that Ramsey had suddenly left college on Tuesday last, which was the day after his adventure.

On account of the improbability of his not being believed, Sheffield told no one of the strange affair; but one day while talking with a fellow-student who roomed in the same building with Ramsey he happened to mention Ramsey's name,