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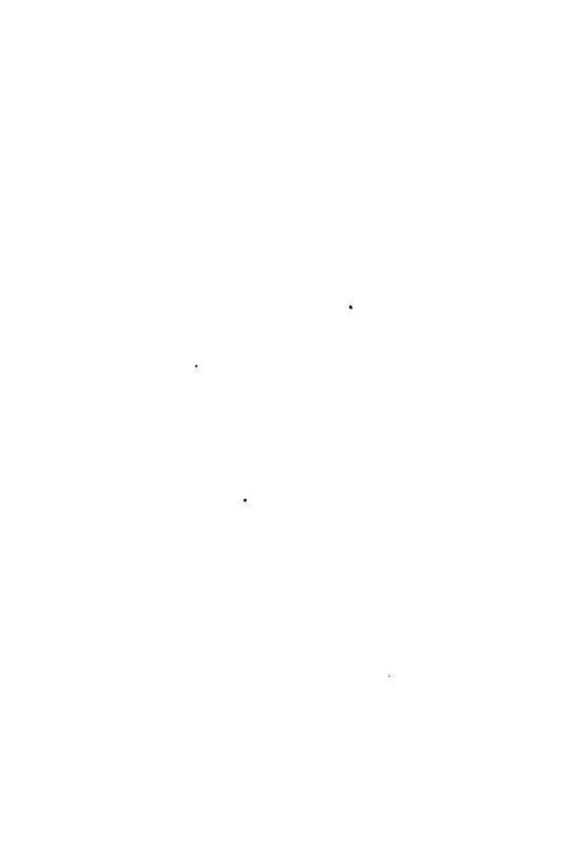
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LESSER'S DAUGHTER.

I.

T was very difficult to keep awake. Lesser Bremen sat up and rubbed his eyes, conscious of a blank interval since he had last looked at the clock. Perhaps while he was asleep his wife and daughter had rung unheard. He listened breathlessly for a moment, but beyond the flicker of his fire no sound broke the silence inside the house. Outside he could hear the departing tramp of a policeman on his rounds, and at irregular intervals the roll of carriage wheels. Presently he drew back the curtains, threw up the window and looked out. It was a still summer morning, the dawn stole