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"In the Hour of Trial"

By 1882

MacLaren came into the "Comet" office whistling. He was quite satisfied with himself and the world in general. For four days he and Kensington, the City Editor had been on the most agreeable terms. Such a state of affairs was remarkable in the "Comet" office where seldom a week passed without some one resigning or, using our parlance, "getting through." MacLaren mentioned this to me as he hunted for a cigarette.

"Going to get through tonight, Martin?" he said with a grin, "some one must save the reputation of the office."

"You've not resigned for two weeks, yourself, its up to you," I answered.

But when he looked at the assignments on his desk, the grin passed off quickly. I knew from the look he gave Kensington that there was something doing in the trouble line. The clouds on "Billy" MacLaren's face meant a sulphurous fall of profanity before the night