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## "The Fiend Has It".

[s.l.]: [s.n.], 1922-12

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# The Fiend Has It

MILDRED FISH

I do not want to work tonight. I *do* want to work tonight. Laziness says, "Do not". Ambition says, "Do". I am as much of a fool as Launcelot Gobbo. My ambition eggs on my conscience, and Laziness, as if he were the devil, pricks me with his tail and blows in my ear, "Read! Eat! Go to bed!" when I must write a theme.

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"Budge," says the fiend. "Budge not," says my conscience.

They are hard at it. But the clock is on the

side of the fiend, who has set up a siege against me. Each tick is a battering ram.

Launcelot, right you are. Your speech needs little changing. "To be ruled by my conscience, I should stay with ambition, who, God bless the mark, is a kind of a devil—how he pricks me,—and, to bury my head in the pillows away from ambition, I should be ruled by the fiend Laziness, who, saving your reverence, is the devil himself . . . The fiend gives the more friendly counsel; I will go to bed, fiend; on with my night-gown at your command; I will go to bed.