

gallantry, assuring her she was in perfect safety; and then, with much deference, assisted her somewhat stately mamma to alight. As the horses still seemed restive, and the ladies were much agitated, I procured a cab, and was permitted to attend them home. They stopped at the door of an elegant mansion in Waverly Place, and the elder lady, with many expressions of gratitude for my attention, requested my name, and invited me to call on them. I was nothing loth to avail myself of this good fortune, and blessed my lucky stars which had thrown so pleasant an adventure in my way.

"Before long I found myself on easy terms with the whole family, and admitted, as a privileged visitor, at all times. I talked politics with Mr. Crumpit, whose single idea forever revolved on the possibility of electing a Loco-foco to a perpetual chair of state; and I listened, in silent admiration, to Mrs. Crumpit's music, for she prided herself on her taste, and particularly on her vocal execution; and, if strength of lungs is a test of excellence, she was certainly unrivalled. But while thus ingratiating myself with the elders, the pretty Fanny, their only daughter and sole heiress, was not neglected. She was a lively little girl of seventeen, attractive enough to win attention, even without the aid of her golden charms. Her mamma, who piqued herself on her own juvenility, chose to consider her as still a child, and really did not seem to think that any serious attentions could possibly be directed to her.

"Mr. and Mrs. Crumpit were specimens of a class common in every city—people who had risen from very humble life, step by step, and by some lucky turns of fortune, till, to their own amazement, they found themselves in possession of great wealth, sufficient to command some social influence, and to render them persons of importance in the world of business and fashion. This was all very well; but, as usual in such cases, their minds had not grown with their fortunes; their small stock of ideas had not been put out to interest, or employed in speculations, like their pounds and pence; and, therefore, they filled a prominent station, with minds as vacant and souls as contracted, as when Mr. Crumpit toiled at manual labour, and Mrs. Crumpit, like a notable housewife, bustled about the daily duties of her humble ménage. Still, this was not so very bad, considering how few ideas are required in the intercourse of worldly and fashionable life; nay, how troublesome even it is to be burdened with superfluous knowledge; And Mrs. Crumpit, with woman's tact, soon learned to adapt herself to the artificial atmosphere in which she lived,

far more readily than her less malleable spouse, whose odious mistakes were sometimes piquant sauce to the guests at his expensive entertainments.

"Mrs. Crumpit, who felt the importance attached to her own wealth, and heard much about the value attached to family distinction, at last quite forgot that she had ever been otherwise, than the wife of a rich merchant,—or that she had any poor relations, though they sometimes reminded her of the unpleasant circumstance. She assumed airs of great aristocratic importance, and even boasted of her name, which she often assured me was a very ancient one. As you may suppose, I gave little gratuitous information about my own family, especially after I discovered this folly of Mrs. Crumpit; but I made rapid advances in the good graces of my little Fanny, notwithstanding the pretensions of a certain gallant, named Jack Haliday, whose superior fortune and fashionable connections gave him great advantage in the eyes of Mrs. Crumpit. But I had reason to believe that Fanny gave me the preference, and, one memorable evening, I determined to bring the question to a final issue.

"I went to the house at an opportune moment. A small party were assembled in the richly furnished drawing room, and all seemed most agreeably intent on their own amusement. Mrs. Crumpit was seated at the piano, giving great effect to the execrable trills of a most protracted piece of music; she was assisted by a young lady, who stood by her, ready to turn over the music leaves, and whose voice blended in wonderful discord with her own. Mr. Crumpit stood near the instrument, and behind the chair of a very fashionable looking lady, who, while apparently engaged in playful conversation with her host, was really amusing herself at his expense. Behind Mrs. Crumpit sat my rival, Jack Haliday, carrying on a lively flirtation with a very lovely girl, who turned her pretty head towards him, as if pleased with his silly trifling. He had his hat in hand, like myself, and seemed to have just dropped in, and, I fancied, he was trying to excite Fanny's jealousy, or punish her coldness;—for she stood by the fire, quite alone, but seemingly paying very little attention to him, or suffering very little annoyance from his gallantry to another. I soon placed myself by her side, and encouraged by her blush and smile, while we seemed disregarded, and all others were engrossed with their own fancies, I ventured to pop the important question.* It is enough to say, that my avowal was favorably received, but, like a dutiful

* See Engraving.