

made an impression on her. But she recognised two doubts as to its feasibility,—one, whether the gentleman proposed would be adequate to the task,—the other, whether he would be willing to undertake it.”

Paul, as might be expected from the character of his patroness, and his place of residence, mixes in very bad company ; and on a dispute with the dame, he quits the “Mug” public house for ever. After some very unlikely adventures, Paul meets with a former acquaintance, Long Ned, and accompanies him to the play—there Paul is attracted by a young lady, whose appearance is thus beautifully drawn :

“ Her hair, of a bright and fair auburn, hung in profuse ringlets about her neck, shedding a softer shade upon a complexion in which the roses seemed just budding, as it were, into blush. Her eyes, large, blue, and rather languishing than brilliant, were curtained by the darkest lashes ; her mouth seemed literally girt with smiles, so numberless were the dimples that, every time the full, ripe, dewy lips were parted, rose into sight, and the enchantment of the dimples was aided by teeth more dazzling than the richest pearls that ever glittered on a bride. But the chief charm of the face was its exceeding and touching air of innocence, and girlish softness ; you might have gazed for ever upon that first unspeakable bloom, that all untouched and stainless down, which seemed as if a very breath could mar it. Perhaps the face might have wanted animation ; but, perhaps, also, it borrowed from that want an attraction ; the repose of the features was so soft and gentle, that the eye wandered there with the same delight, and left it with the same reluctance, which it experiences in dwelling on, or in quitting, those hues which are found to harmonize the most with its vision.”

Paul’s companion is less elegantly and honestly employed ; and in the confusion at the door of the theatre, he abstracts a gold watch from the pocket of an elderly gentleman, who was in company with the young lady just mentioned. Long Ned decamps, and Paul, amazed at the unexpected circumstance, is arrested. Lawyer Brandon, the person robbed, appears against Paul ; and the latter protesting his innocence, but refusing to impart the name or residence of his comrade, is sentenced to three months’ confinement in Bridewell.

“ Paul was conducted in state to his retreat, in company with two other offenders, one a middle-aged man, though a very old ‘*file*,’ who was sentenced for getting money under false pretences, and the other a little boy, who had been found guilty of sleeping under a colonnade : it being the especial beauty of the English law, to make no fine-drawn and nonsensical shades of difference between vice and misfortune ; and its peculiar methods of protecting the honest, being to make as many rogues as possible in as short a space of time.”