

for a place to rest an arm or a head on !  
And as the atmosphere grew closer and  
fouler, came the terrors of suffocation !  
Even the low, hardened vagabonds, who  
could count their imprisonments by the  
score, had never known an imprisonment  
so frightful as that ! They said so ; they  
cried aloud ; they raved, swore hideous  
oaths, and bruised their fists against the  
hard walls, in futile outbursts of passion !

And the poor, weak creatures who were  
buffeted about by these raging ruffians !—  
Oh how they suffered ! They were known by  
their feeble choking cries ; by their prayers,  
tears, and at last by their curses ! And  
in the morning, when the door opened,  
and the air came in, and the strong men  
gasped and gurgled it like stranded fish,—  
these feeble creatures were overpowered,  
and fell or fainted as they lay !

Uncle William was the feeblest, the  
faintest of these. When Gerald drew him  
from among the arms, legs, and shoulders