

which he had derived from her. But amid all his parsimony, he suffered no privation to fall upon his son. When yet quite young, he had sent the boy to a distant boarding-school, and seemed to grudge no expense in the education and comfort of the only object of his affection. Indeed he seemed possessed with but two passions, a love for his son, and an almost insane craving for wealth. But whatever might be his success in pecuniary affairs, he was destined to disappointment in his dearest hopes.—The young George partook far more of the temper of his mother, than that of his father.—Frank, thoughtless and joyous in his character, he possessed neither strong affections nor firm principles. He had little regard for his father, and his mother he was seldom permitted to see; so that his kindly feelings were but slightly awakened towards his own family. The comforts which his father provided him, and the expense he lavished on him, were accompanied with so many repinings, so many prudential calculations, so many strict charges to profit by them, that George grew weary of the heavy obligations which were laid upon him. When scarcely fourteen years of age, he secretly left his school and sought a course of life better suited to his tastes, on board a whaling ship. This was a severe blow to the father, and the effect it produced on his temper was any thing but beneficial. He became intolerably morose, and at length, driven from their home by the actual want of the necessities of life, his wife and daughter sought domestic service, as a means of procuring at least food and raiment. Little affected at the disgrace which this conduct brought upon him, Giles Grimstone shut himself up alone in the dilapidated house which he had purchased soon after his marriage, and never stirred abroad, except when business compelled him. When at home he frequently kept his bed for days together, in order to save the expense of a fire, and a mouldy crust was often his only subsistence. When obliged to travel, he generally carried his provision in his pocket, and by his miserable appearance often obtained a free passage in steamboats and stages, from the charity of wayfarers, while, perhaps, the contents of his purse could have purchased the whole worldly estate of his benefactors.

"About three years after George's flight, his ship arrived in port, and the penitent boy accidentally encountered his father in the streets of New York. Whatever anger the old man might have cherished against his offending son, it was at once dissipated by the sight of the

tall, fine-looking youth who now implored his pardon. Nor was his satisfaction at his return lessened, when he learned that George was in possession of some sixty or eighty dollars, the remains of his wages during his absence. Ignorant of the situation of his mother and sister, but knowing enough of his father's habits to believe that they must lack many comforts, he determined to appropriate his money to their use, and therefore resisted all attempts to persuade him that it would be safer in other hands than his own. Though unwilling to make George acquainted with the condition to which his parsimony had reduced his family, he could find no plausible excuse for deferring their return, and they accordingly took passage for Albany. It was on board the steamboat that I first met with them.—The squalid appearance of the old man, his thread-bare garments and pinched features, were in such marked contrast to the neat sailor dress, stout frame and ruddy health of his companion, that my attention was irresistibly drawn towards them, though I knew nothing of either. The next morning, as the passengers were leaving the boat, an alarm was given that some one had been robbed, and all further egress was instantly stopped. It was the young sailor; his money, consisting of several twenty dollar bills, had been tied in the corner of his neckerchief, which he deposited under his pillow when he retired for the night; when he awoke, the neckerchief was still in its place, but the money was gone. All present cheerfully submitted to a search, but the money was not found, and it was conjectured that the thief was probably among those who had already left the boat. The youth bore his loss with great cheerfulness, but the father seemed greatly distressed. My sympathy was excited, and I was about raising a subscription among the passengers, when a gentleman present informed me of the character of the individual, and assured me that my charity would be wholly misapplied, as Giles Grimstone was doubtless better supplied with funds than any one on board. This excited my curiosity, and happening to be seated beside the same gentleman at Cruttenden's breakfast table, I learned from him the particulars of the history I have just narrated.

"The next day, as I entered the stage to pursue my journey further north, I found Giles Grimstone and his son among my fellow passengers. The sharp, prying, suspicious eyes of the old man were upon every body; he seemed to see and hear every thing, while his son,