

me with a duty in regard to them which could not be neglected. Although the street, in which they lived, was as cheerless as ever, and the stairs dilapidated as on my last visit, there was a wonderful change in the appearance of the apartment which the family occupied. A few articles had been redeemed from the pawbroker and added to the furniture of the room; a good fire was burning in the stove; the lamp shed a more cheerful light and the air of gloom which hung over the occupants of the room on my previous visit had to some extent disappeared. Mr. Miller was sitting up and though very weak and much emaciated, was evidently recovering. His wife had a more hopeful look and as for little Annie, child like, she was quite gay.

The story which Miller told me of his New York career was one which no doubt might fit the experience of thousands of people who have come from the country as little prepared as he was for facing city life. He had been born and brought up in a small town in northern New Brunswick and there after receiving an ordinary school education had entered the store of A. Black & Son, who like most storekeepers in small towns dealt in almost everything. Miller began there as a boy and being industrious and careful soon acquired the confidence of his employers. In the course of years he came to be looked upon as the head clerk, for he kept the books and in a general way superintended the business.

Miller however, had two qualities which although good in themselves proved the cause of all his misfortunes. He was very ambitious and filled with a desire to make his fortune in a great

city, and he was an excellent penman and very proud of the manner in which he kept the books of the firm. They were faultless as to appearance and always correct and capable of being balanced to a cent.

In the course of time Miller married, his wife being an estimable young woman, who was like himself an orphan. His salary was small, but it was sufficient in place where living was cheap, and the pair set up house-keeping in a neat little cottage suitable to their means. There they lived happily for some years, in the course of which little Annie was born, and a younger child, a son, his father's pride. Their prospects in life seemed as fair as anyone could desire.

Among Miller's acquaintances was the traveller for a New York house, who seemed to have taken a particular fancy to him. This person whose name was Richardson professed to be a great admirer of Miller's book keeping and was accustomed to draw high-colored pictures of the great future which so capable a clerk would have before him in New York. In the course of time he induced Miller to believe that he could command almost any situation he aspired to, and obtain four or five times as large a salary as he was then receiving. Men are easily induced to give credence to that which flatters them, so Miller became a victim to his own vanity.

The end of Miller's acquaintance with Richardson may be easily anticipated; he was induced to throw up his situation in order that he might go to New York. He took this step against the strong remonstrances of his employers who pointed out his folly and offered to raise his salary as an inducement for him to remain. All, how-