TERRORETE. THE STOLEN WILL

of programment of the processing the control of the

Arnold's eye lighted upon him, and was at once arrested by his appearance. Instead of the dirty, raged, ill-favoured little urchin he had imagined, he saw a clean, active boy, with a bright, beautiful face, and masses of rich, curly brown hait falling to his shoulders. His eyes were singularly large and lustrous, sparkling at the same time with eager intelligence, and his checks were glowing, not wholly with the exercise he was undergowing in nimbly plying his calling, but, as could casily be seen, by the scap and water of that morning's application.

Arnold could do nothing but stand and gase after him, so powerfully impressed was he by his appearance, utterly different from that of the most news boys, and by his manner, which was frank and fearless, yet modest and respectful; but most of all by his fastures and the expression of his face, which for the acrow-stricken man had a navaless but powerful faseination. Strange, vague, undefinable feelings were stirred in Arnold's bosom as his eye followed the boy's movements; and when, having delivered the paper, the latter returned, the stranger was gazing so fixedly upon him that the boy's quick eye was attracted, and supposing him to be another customer, he bounded forward with a paper half-stretched forth, when, recognising in him the gentleman who had so gruffly repulsed him a little ago, he drew suddenly back with a half-frightened, apologetic look, and was about te deart off in another direction, when the other called to him—

'I want a paper, my little fellow.'

The boy's face brightened in a moment the eager smile returned, and in an instant he was close to Arnold with the paper again held forth, and gazing up at him with his large, beaming eyes, so rarely beautiful and full of intelligence.

Arnold looked down on him like one spellbound. What was there in that handsome face which affected him so strongly! Was it nothing more than its natural toveliners, or had it not for him a poculiarity of feature and expression which ponetrated to his heart's very centre

own, so lined with and marked by passion and suffering.

So overpowered was he by the feelings which stirred him that he offered not either to take the paper or draw forth the copper to pay for it till the boy's look of astonished wonder caused him to recover himself and realize the strangeness of his conduct. Then mechanically he took the coin from his states and continued to the coin from his

soat, and on turning round he again be held the boy standing breathlessly before him.

"There is your change, air. I had to sir. I had to

sound there came to his car the sweet, of clear voice of his friend, the little newboy, and looking about he soon naw him, passing in and out among the crowd, as sharp as a needle, disposing of copies of the People's Journal, a large of copies of the People's Journal, a large with the lamb which the state of the company of copies of the People's Journal, a large of copies of the People's Journal, a large with the was getting rid of with great celerity.

Under the glasting light from the lamps what a contrast his pure, bright, guilcloss face presented to the countains which the crowd ravealed. Oculd he long continue to be in such opinhet with evil, in many of the worst sail grossest forms, without being contaminated thereby? Would not the bloom of innocence, now adorning his checks with the loviest hue, ere long fade and give place to the stamp of the devil, so plainty marked on so many of then around?

Some saddening thoughts of this kind ran through Arnold's mind as he watched the boy's active movements, and again felt poverfully drawn towards him with that strange tender longing he had cover the state of the state of

heir wake to be satisfied that all was It was a morey that he did so, as the It was a morey that he did so, as the quest showed. The spot to which the by was directed was dark and lonely, he lane was not a thoroughfare, but cosed at the other end, and ran up between tall houses of a black, battered scription. It was from the left hand do of this lane that the close ran, its atrauce being formed by a doorway ereed in the base of the wall, and the terior passage being shrouded in urky gloom.

urky gloom. Arnold was just in time to see the boy Arnold was just in time to see the boy isiappear within the mouth of this close, and the woman, who was not many yards behind him, glide in a moment it wo afterwards. He now hurried on with noiseless footsteps, more and more convinced that some foull play was included, and presently he also had gained the mouth of the close, and peering no the gloom, he stood and listended.

d.

At first he heard nothing, but preently there came the sound of silent
cuilling, followed by a cry from the boy,
hich was suppressed creit-could be
ally uttered. Arnold at once plunged into the darksof the narrow passage, groping his
by forward as beat he could, and guidin the course by the scuffling, which
must to recode farther into the interras he advanced. There was various
ndings and turnings and doorways,
sich would have puzzled and misled
m but for the rustling noise which
anche hisstrained ear and drew him in
e right direction. All at once the boy's
sice was raised in tones of earnest ensaty—

lon't. It's mother's money; don't

ke him, Nan; choke him, and m from squalling hissed another ghtfully cruel voice; and the bruver seemed to be obeyed, for the moved cries suddenly gave place gurgling of strangulation. But rushed on, but in his haste way in the interstices of the ex. and, to his intense veration, eral moments in the effort to exhimself. At length he burst into go, at the end of which a dim as perceptible, and in a little encourt beyond he could make out pef dark figures. out beyond he could make out roup of dark figures.
Noiselessly he glided towards them, as he approached a women's voice heard to asy—

(TO UN CONTINUED.)

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