

companions in folly. It is well known to most persons, that in all the principal towns and cities in England, a class of accommodating persons invite the attention of the necessitous, by placing conspicuously in their windows the attractive words, "MONEY TO LEND." These money-lenders are not generally over-scrupulous, either as to the deposit left as security, or the person by whom it is made, so long as its intrinsic value far exceeds the "money lent." James ———, as we have said, had made himself acquainted with the terms upon which small sums of money could be obtained. He therefore ventured to suggest that he could obtain the requisite sum by *pledging* for a short time articles of silver, which, as they were not frequently used, would not be *missed* by his father. At first Mrs. ——— started at the proposal. She had always associated the lowest order of depravity with the name of pawnbrokers, and her mind revolted at the thought. The importunity of James, however, at length prevailed, and as it was "*only for once*," and nobody would be the wiser (for she had been told by her hopeful boy that he could pledge them in a false name), she would even let them go.

Another difficulty yet remained to be disposed of, and that was, how to account for the absence of James. The boy, however, having obtained from his weak parent the means to gratify his wishes, left her to excuse his absence as she thought best; and hastened with his companions to the scene of promised pleasure.

"One false step," said good Mr. ———, "leads to a second," &c. How soon was this verified in the case of his misguided wife! "Where is James?" said he anxiously, not seeing him in the room on his return. "As it is rather late," replied Mrs. ———, (with as much indifference and composure as she could assume,) "he is gone to bed!" Hapless

father! How little didst thou know or even conjecture that that son was then preparing to hasten thy grey hairs with sorrow to the grave!

The charms of the theatre, with all its attendant attractions and vices, soon rendered the habit of play-going inveterate, and equally as inveterate the habit of obtaining money under false pretences. At one time he would borrow money in his father's name, at another get goods on credit, and then pledge them, till at length, when every source was dried up, he commenced as a gambler and pick-pocket, till he was detected in the act of abstracting a gentleman's purse from his pocket, for which he was tried, convicted, and sentenced to seven years' transportation. The venerable age and high standing of his excellent father saved him from this fate; but a short time after his release relapsing into his former habits, he was again arrested, confined, and died a miserable death in prison, a victim of his own folly—that he should sin "*only this once*."

It remains to add, that the counteracting influence of Mrs. ——— proved fatal to all her children.—Amongst them was a daughter, equally disobedient to her father as was James. A few years since she married a worthless character, emigrated to this country, and a short time since was wandering about the streets of New York, a wretched and miserable pauper.

Mothers! beware of countenancing sin in your children "*only this once*."

NIHIL.

—*Mother's Monthly Journal.*

[We find that the Editorship of the Journal is changed, in consequence of the removal of Mrs. Kingsford to a distant residence, and that Mrs. Prof. Conant, of Hamilton, has undertaken the important office.]

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom.—*Paul.*