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A YOUTHFUL FAULT.

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Grant a good name with steadfast care;
 Once wounded, it a scar must bear,
 At which, though wash'd with bitter tears,
 The world will point in after years,
 And tell what placed it there.

THE misconduct of a day may make the misery of a life; the fate and fortune of a man are often influenced by a single passage in the commencement of his career; rectitude of conduct once forgotten—one vice indulged in, or one crime committed,—even if not persevered in but instantly repented of, will not merely leave a blot upon the conscience, but possibly darken his path for the remainder of his existence. Error is certain to bring its punishment; but who can tell how heavy that punishment may be? If we forfeit the control over our destiny which an unswerving course of virtue and prudence in some degree affords us, we resemble the magician in the tale, who is torn to pieces by the fiend he had suffered to escape his power.

Frederick Rose was the only child of a retired officer, a widower. Like many of his class, he was entirely dependent on the pittance called half pay. He spent the last years of his life in giving his son, the sole assistance in his power, an excellent education. Poor Frederick, on the eve of manhood, was left alone in the world, without even the means of studying for a profession suitable to his station and acquirements; he cheerfully, however, accepted the offer of a seat in the counting room of a wholesale house in London. His pleasing address and superior manners gained him a cordial welcome in a very respectable commercial circle.

Those who have had experience of "Life in London," are well aware of the temptations to expense which beset a youth in Roso's situation, and how easily, without even dipping very deeply in dissipation, or indulging in decidedly vicious

courses, a slender stipend may be exceeded. Of a gay and companionable turn, and without experience of the world, Frederick was often thrown into the society of persons whose income permitted indulgences he was not able to bear. Unfortunately the nature of his duties placed money at all times at his disposal: without thinking of embezzlement or dishonesty, he quickly found himself deficient in a sum which he had no means of making good. Fearful of acknowledging the truth, the imprudent young man deferred making it known till a settlement of his accounts discovered his delinquency.

The managing partner of the firm, himself a young man, and of a harsh and imperious disposition, told him in plain terms that he should make an example of him. He reprimanded him so severely that the poor fellow, in his consciousness of not having intended dishonesty, would not even beg for mercy. However, to his horror and astonishment, he was immediately placed in custody and brought before a magistrate, and after a hearing, was remanded for further examination; but in the mean time, the senior partners, disapproving of the extreme measures resorted to by Mr. Thompson, declined further proceedings, and he was set at liberty.

Imagine the feelings of a young man educated in the strictest principles of honour, who had never imagined the commission of a mean action, at having been subjected to the polluting clutch of the callous thief-taker, and the ignominy of standing a criminal at the bar of a justice room, in presence too of some of the friends and intimates by whom he had been treated with respect