

with his head hanging down in his cap. One class of his choice spirits, had dishonorably left him, while the other, even more dishonorably, continued to stay with him. I went with Alick, the boy who polished plates for us, to take him up stairs and lay him away more comfortably in a little room off the gallery where we kept boxes and other rubbish, that he might not be seen in his degradation by unkind eyes.

An idea struck me that I would like if possible to get a picture of him while he was drunk. If I could get him up stairs without so startling him as that he might know what I was doing and where he was, I thought I could succeed. I resolved, however, to try. Accordingly, I tied my handkerchief softly down over his eyes, so that if he opened them he could not see light, and Alick and I carried him out through the back door of the saloon into the yard, thence to go up an iron stair-case on the outside of the building which led to a rear door that opened into a room of the gallery.

By the time, however, we were on the first step, he began to mumble some thing to signify that he was discontented with his situation. We stopped a moment to lull him to sleep again, and then went on carefully. I went up backwards, pulling him by the shoulders, while Alick followed with his feet. We unavoidably half awakened him, and he considerably amused us by his equally incoherent and unconscious remarks. When we were on the top flight he began to sing "Such a gittin up stairs," which, perhaps, gentle reader, you may have sung yourself, though, I hope, not in a like situation.

I was surprised to find my aunt in the room when we entered with our jolly load. As soon as she saw him she started up and exclaimed: "Oh, Charles! Charles! you will break my heart," and as she saw the bandage around his head that I had put on to blindfold his eyes, she turned pale, and asked with terrible fearfulness of the answer—"Is he hurt?"

"Sh," said I, "Aunt Elsie. Don't be alarmed. Nothing's the matter more than common."

I briefly explained to her my purpose, and her excited feeling was considerably soothed, although the beastly condition of her noble nephew—she called him noble in spite of his great faults—filled her eyes with tears.

We carried him in and doubled him up on a sofa before the instrument.

"Watcher doon?" he asked, rolling over at the risk of falling off upon the floor.

"Go to sleep! go to sleep!" said I, holding down the bandage over his eyes. "This is a respectable time of night for you to come home after your spree—and besides you persist in keeping the rest of us awake by your confounded noise!"

"Eh? hic!" said he loudly with a wide gape.

"I've put out the light," said I, "now lie still."

"Ye-es—hic!" oozed out from his throat through his mouth in dwindling drawl, likeropy molasses from a spoon.

"I'll put you on the pillow first," said I accommodatingly.

"Thank you sir—hic! hic," said he with unavoidable emphasis on the first hic.

I pulled him up against the side of the sofa to expose his face to full view, shoved up his legs in as ludicrous a position as I could, braced him up tight and left him to get on and asleep before I took off the handkerchief. He soon reconciled himself with most delightful un-

consciousness to his situation, and became snoringly slumberous I then uncovered his eyes and prepared to take a picture of him.

I desired to exaggerate the circumstances as much as possible, so I disarranged his hair, endeavoring to give it a clotted appearance, sprinkled some lamp-black on his face to resemble dirt, blooded one side of his forehead with a little red ink, crushed his collar, partially untied his cravat, wrinkled his shirt-bosom, and laid on his lap an old mashed braver hat, which I borrowed for the purpose from the black man who sawed wood for us.

My aunt had not ceased to weep meanwhile, and still sat in the corner of the room with her handkerchief to her eyes. I drew a chair to the head of the sofa, and asked her to sit there, that I might include her in the picture. She removed from her seat by the wall and bent down gently over him. A steady expression of grieved affection overspread her face, which I was desirous to catch in the daguerreotype.

I arranged the instrument at the proper focus, put in the plate, and calculated the time. The day was clear, and I gave it fifty-five seconds. He did not stir during the operation, nor did my aunt. It was as perfect a picture as I had ever taken. It lacked only a fine subject.

I "gilded" it (I presume you understand the technicality of the term,) with great care, and showed it to my aunt who inquired what I was going to do with it.

"I intend," said I, "to take out his portrait from the show-case and put this in its place, that he may see it and be ashamed of himself."

"No," said my aunt, "I cannot permit that his vice be so exposed. The picture will necessarily attract great attention."

I replied that I would put it in so that in the morning, when I supposed he would be sober, he might see it before the case was set out at the entrance. My aunt was willing that I should do this, and went herself to the desk, took out a sheet of paper, and began to write. When she had finished she folded it and handed it to me, saying, "Put that behind the plate in the case. He will take out the picture as soon as he sees it, and I want him to read this. I pray Heaven he may not disregard it. It reads thus:—"

MY DEAR NEPHEW.—How long will you persist in your self-degradation? You are breaking my heart. Once again, I pray you, become a sober man. Call upon God for help, and he will shield you from temptation. Sign the pledge that I have written below, and ask the blessing of Heaven upon your endeavor to abide by it. Give it to me when you have set your name to it; but if you never do I shall still love you and pray for you, though I cannot help grieving all my happiness away. Do this and receive the blessing of your aunt.

ELSIE.

The pledge, which was written on a separate side of the sheet, was in these words:

"I solemnly promise that from this day henceforth during the remainder of my life, I will entirely abstain from drinking all intoxicating liquors, and in the fulfilment of this obligation, I humbly and earnestly invoke the aid of Almighty God."

I procured a carriage and conveyed my cousin home. He was put to bed where he remained until