

## SOLD HIS SOUL TO SATAN.

BY THE EDITOR.

There are, in the annals of literature, several instances of thrilling interest, where individuals are represented as selling their soul to the devil in exchange for some worldly advantage. The terms of the contract are stated; the parties to it are exhibited, and the result manifested at first in wonderful and unusual success in the world which is succeeded by unparalleled misery when the period arrives for Satan to make his demand on the soul. No one can read these narratives without feeling their hair to stiffen, and their blood to chill with horror. The impression of the last scene, where the Evil one takes the final grasp of his victim and carries him away in despair, to the abodes of infernal woe, remains in the memory, and throws a gloom over our thoughts that cannot be easily dispelled. The representation is so awful that we would fain regard it as fictitious, the gloomy production of a powerful imagination. It is not so however. Though the details of these narratives are fictitious, the narratives are based on undoubted and melancholy fact. It is a sad truth that men sell their souls to Satan. It is sadder, still, that the instances are not few nor far between, but are very numerous. And it is still more sad that this is true not only of the notoriously wicked and profane, but of many whose names are honoured amongst men for their riches, or learning, or renown.

The first on the earth who sold their souls to Satan were our first parents.— Though created holy, though living in a state of innocence, though capable of resisting his temptations and of spurning his

addresses from them, they listened to his lying overtures. They believed his lying statements, and transferred their service by acting on his advice. By this course they withdrew their allegiance from their proper lord, and transferred it to one who, having deceived them at first, has continued to disappoint all the expectations which they or their descendants have formed of him.

Our first parents having sold themselves to Satan, each of their children have, by birth, been born subject to him. This is in accordance with the nature of things.— And no one can regard it as an hardship, inasmuch as every one born a subject of Satan, as soon as they arrive at years of discerning between good and evil, have chosen the service of evil, as most congenial to their taste, and most conducive to their interests. This determination is *their* endorsement of their first parents conduct, and on every subsequent occasion in after life, when they are placed in circumstances for choosing between the good and the evil, and when they choose the evil rather than the good, they further ratify their previous action. It does not alter the character of the transaction that they have not seen his Satanic majesty, or heard his voice. It is sufficient that he is represented in some way that receives their homage.— *That* something may be gold that stimulates their desires for riches, with the hope of luxury and independence. It may be learning that awakens the hope of the brow being wreathed with the laurels of the scholar or philosopher, or it may be pleasure, with its syren voice of song