

hardened criminal; or if there was, as I now verily believe there was, a constitutional strain of insanity in her frame, I should have been taking the shortest and surest course to precipitate its unmistakable development. Was it not worth while even to be deceived and imposed upon for the sake of this girl's rescue from a future of vice and misery? Hear me further before rendering your verdict.

Three or four years after parting with my grateful patient, a sister was brought to the asylum. There could be no question as to the reality of *her* lunacy. She was a sad wreck, both mentally and bodily. Some years before, she had left her home and disappeared. No trace of her was had, until at last she was accidentally discovered as a demented inmate of a large pauper asylum in the United States. Her parents brought her home, and were soon obliged to bring her to me. When the mother now presented herself, and gave me the sorrowful history of this daughter's career, the echo of her distressful exclamation, when I had refused to re-admit her younger daughter, came back on my ears with thrilling accusation. But for the happy mental plasticity of the three medical gentlemen who certified to the moral insanity of my first patient, and thus secured her re-admission into the asylum, might not *she* also have fallen into a life of abandonment? Let him who will, answer the question, and then laugh at my ignorance as lustily and long as he pleases.

It is now my belief that my first patient was truly insane, call her insanity by what name soever you may choose; and I am convinced we took the only right course to prevent the more full development of her insanity, and to restore her to a state of intellectual and moral competency. Should I live long, I shall feel a deep interest in learning her future fortunes; for I by no means feel assured that she will come to old age without recurrence of her mental trouble.

Permit me here to introduce a case of flagitious criminality, which occurred within the last few years, and came, as it manifestly deserved to do, under appropriate juridical censorship:

"Not long ago," says Dr. Clouston, "a lady, by a series of the most extraordinary misrepresentations and cleverly carried out impostures, raised large sums of money on no security whatever, and spent them as recklessly; imposed on jewellers, so that they trusted her with goods worth hundreds of pounds; furnished grand houses at the expense of trusting upholsterers; introduced herself by sheer impudence to one great nobleman after another, and then introduced her dupes, who, on the faith of these distinguished social connections, at once disgorged more money. To one person she was a great literary character; to another, of royal descent; to another, she had immense expectations; to another, she was a stern religionist."

This lady was, of course, finally brought to book. I leave to the fourth estate the measure of her punishment. She was an impostor, a huge liar, a cheat; she very well knew right from wrong, and transacted her business with great ability and skill. Not one of all those she duped and cheated—intelligent, prudent, and clear-headed Scotchmen as they were—ever questioned her mental soundness. So we may readily conclude she was dealt with according to her demerits.

Let me complete, in the words of Dr. Clouston, Medical Superintendent of the Morningside Asylum, at Edinburgh, the history of this clever woman:—

"At last, all this lying, cheating, scheming and imposture, developed into marked insanity and brain disease, of which she soon died; and it was seen that all these people had been the dupes of a lunatic, whose very boldness, cunning and mendacity, had been the direct result of her insanity."