

when once embarked in factory work, short is the time for the influence or example of a pious parent; the long day is spent amongst wicked associates, and the child returns home wearied alike in mind and body; and if they do not frequent the dram shop, which too many of them do, they seek that oblivion to their sorrows in sleep, which is so necessary to the over-wrought and still tender frame.

Mr. Selwyn expressed his belief that Lee's children might yet be snatched from evil, as, from what he had observed, the home affections were not quite dead in their hearts; for even the lads seemed to grieve at the distresses of their parents, and Lee had taken them to church, and made them attend the Sunday-school, as long as they had decent clothes to put on, but since he became a cripple, the wages of the children were scarcely sufficient for the purchase of food to keep life in them. "In short," said Mr. Selwyn, "the earnings of these two boys is all the poor family have now to live upon, and happily their robust frames have stood the trial, though their pale faces plainly speak of destitution. We have many good Samaritans in this town," continued Mr. Selwyn, "but their charities are like drops of water in the sea in such a multitude of claimants; my rector is truly zealous and charitable, and out of a few hundreds a year has many claims both public and private, and he endeavours, in the pulpit and out of it, to enforce the virtue of charity; and no doubt in some cases with good effect; and I flatter myself that many redeeming characters are to be found amongst the merchants even in this town; but I am sorry to say, we have numbers, who have made their thousands through the means of our poor operatives, who part as reluctantly with a sovereign as if it were their last."

Mr. Temple took his leave, and by Mr. Selwyn's direction, after threading many a dirty lane arrived at the poor tenement of which Lee inhabited one room. Susan opened the door; her eyes were red with weeping, but a transient smile passed over her face as she asked Mr. Temple to walk in. The room was small and dark, being only lighted by a window of four panes. She approached the only bed in the room, and whispered a few words to her father, who was too feeble to sit up; and having placed a wooden stool for Mr. Temple, she gave her attention to the poor infant, who was laid crying on a mat at the foot of the bed.

"It was very kind of you to come to this poor place, Sir," said Lee, "and I thank you for your kindness to my poor girls; one of them would have died on the road but for you: she got home Sir, but she was spent, and the Lord called her

last night; and there she lies, Sir, another victim to a cruel father."

Now that Mr. Temple's eyes were accustomed to the darkness around him, he perceived in the farthest corner of the apartment a figure stretched out and covered with a sheet, which was indeed the corpse of the younger girl, happily released from all her sufferings.

Mr. Temple now feelingly entered into the poor man's sorrows, and offered comfort; but Lee was suffering from the pangs of remorse, and seemed to try to obtain relief by a confession of his sins.

"I suffer much, Sir," said he, "but no more than I deserve. I was once well off, but I was not content; I wished for more and lost all, God forgive me! If I only suffered alone, I could bear it, but my children, Sir, they have been devoted to Mammon. When I lived at Bonfield I was strong and healthy, and could always support the family God sent me. I had a good cottage and orchard, and kept a cow and a pig, and I could enjoy the pure air of heaven, and see the green fields, and spend the Sabbath-day as it should be spent; and I turned my back on all this for the sake of filthy lucre, and brought my good wife (much against her will) and four children to this wretched town; and as if for a punishment to me, we had only been six months here, when wages fell, the price of provisions rose, and all our earnings were not so much as my wife and I could make at Bonfield, and no friends, no help, no pity; and I was too proud to ask assistance, from old neighbors, or to let them know of our troubles; so we went on till I was crushed by machinery, which crippled me, and reduced me to the state I am now in. Then I saw my poor wife drooping day by day: she had had two children since we came here, besides that sick infant, and they soon went to an untimely grave. I saw the poor girl who lies in that corner nearly bent double by working too young as a scavenger in the mill; Susan and the boys have stood the trial, for they were strong and country-bred, and to them I owe the bit of bread I now eat. But my greatest of all troubles was the death of my wife; she was a pious woman, she bore her trials meekly, and if my children have escaped from bad examples, it is all her doing, with the grace of God; she counselled them without ceasing, she made them keep the Sabbath-day holy, and oh! she looked sad when that day returned, and we had not decent clothes to put on to visit God's house; but we *did* pray at home; and since her death that girl, Sir, has done her utmost day and night, and counsels the lads when they come home; but I shall soon be taken from them, and then who will care for them?"