

awakened by the sound, and the faint light from the dark lantern instantly told him that all was not right. Quick as thought he sprang from the bed and seized the bell pull. The young man made a lunge at his father with his bowie, which the old gentleman successfully parried, and the shout of murder instantly followed.

The servants had been already alarmed at the ringing of the bell, and hearing the cry and the noise in the old man's sleeping room, they unceremoniously rushed into the apartment.

Young Shaftesbury, finding himself likely to be overpowered, made a precipitate retreat. He was closely followed by the servants, and being hard pressed, he made directly for the river. He threw himself down the palisades, and, fortunately for him, he escaped uninjured. Leander swam the Hellespont for love, thought he, and I will try the Hudson for life,—so saying, he plunged into the river. Boats were immediately shoved out, and although the night was dark, his pursuers were enabled to follow him, and they overtook him near the middle of the river. After coming up with him he apparently sank. They searched awhile, and being unable to see him again, they concluded he must have drowned. They therefore returned to the mansion. But what a sight was there!

Mr. Shaftesbury, immediately on the flight of his son, examined the apartment, and the condition of his wife was discovered. On examination he found that the veins and arteries of the neck were severed, and that life was, or soon would be, extinct. He next repaired to his daughter's chamber, in order to summon her attendance,—but, judge of his horror, when he discovered that she too had been the subject of the assassin.

Petrified with astonishment, he sank down for the moment on the nearest apology for a seat. He remained for some time in silence, with his face covered with his hands. At length a flood of tears came to his relief. He then groaned in agony. He had lost his family at a blow, and that blow had come from the hand of one who should have been the foremost to protect them.

When the servants returned, he pointed to his daughter's chamber and wept aloud.

Busied in attending to the funeral duties of the murdered family, the further pursuit of young Shaftesbury was for the present suspended. Meanwhile, he had not sunk, as his pursuers supposed, but had dove beneath the water to elude pursuit. Having gained the opposite shore, he made the best of his way to New York.