

were astonished, and endeavoured to ascertain why such a request was made. Jane's lady companion advanced with the young man, and claimed her as their servant, who had attempted to run off, and because they had followed, and captured her in company she ought not to have been in, she was afraid of returning, in case her conduct should be exposed.

In the state the poor girl was in, this horrid charge nearly rendered her senseless. Exerting all her strength, she replied in a burst of delirious grief—

“Oh, no! oh, no!—that woman took me away from my friends—that young man and her have given me something to drink—do not let them touch me—take me to Montreal; do take me,” and then the poor thing fell senseless to the ground.

Several persons were now congregated around the unfortunate girl. The gentleman to whom she had appealed, took the lady who accompanied him aside, and after a short conversation, he advanced to where Jane lay, when he found the procuress giving instructions as to what should be done. He immediately stopped her proceedings, and looking her sternly in the face, he said—

“That young person, whoever she may be, asked my protection; that she will have. If you have any claim upon her, you can prove such claim in a court of law; but out of my sight she shall not go, till such time as I can ascertain the truth or falsehood of your story.” So saying, he called some of the hands from the steamboat, and had Jane removed on board.

From what we have stated, it is scarcely necessary to add, that Jane's protector suspected something wrong. He had heard of cases of seduction, and the events which had transpired before his eyes, bore evidence that the girl had not been in good hands, but whether the excited state in which she appealed to him arose from intoxication, or was the effect of some other obnoxious drug administered to her, he had no means at hand of ascertaining. Whether the girl's story was true or false, the plan he had adopted would lead to no evil; therefore he determined to keep watch over her, till their arrival in Montréal. His lady also entered heartily into the business, and as soon as Jane had been put on board the steamboat, she applied herself seriously to the task of recovering the unfortunate girl from the state of unconsciousness into which she had fallen. Meantime, the procuress and her degraded paramour were full of vengeance at the unexpected termination of their diabolical plot, and were loud in their threats of law proceedings against the humane individual who had stepped between them and their intended victim.

The captain of the steamer was on shore at the time the circumstances detailed above took place, but no sooner was the gentleman who befriended Jane aware of his presence, than he laid before him a faithful report of what had occurred, and requested him to visit the girl. The captain did so, and on looking at her, he remarked, “Surely that young woman came from Montreal on our last trip—if so, there was an elderly female with her. I recollect, when the engine was set in motion to proceed here, that a young wo-

man seated near to where I was standing, expressed a wish to her companion to get on shore, but what answer was returned to her desire, I was too busy to pay attention to. I think the elder one wore a pink bonnet; but if you will point her out to me, it will probably bring the circumstance more immediately to my recollection!” The captain and the gentleman, therefore, walked to a part of the vessel where the guilty parties could be seen on the wharf, for they had not ventured on board. On coming to the cabin end of the vessel, the captain and his companion were so fortunate as to confront the parties they wished to see, but conscious guilt compelled the base seducers to turn from the scrutiny. The captain, however, at once recognised the female as being the person he had alluded to, and he could not help complimenting Jane's protector on the noble resolution he had formed. It was then agreed that the case should be put into the hands of the police, so soon as they reached Montreal; but the degraded actors, suspecting how matters stood, hovered near till the vessel was about to leave, and then, instead of going on board, walked away in a contrary direction, nor could any one give information respecting where they had gone.

The remedies applied to Jane, by the lady, were so far successful as to make her aware of her position, and the narrow escape she had experienced of being ruined, not only for time, but for eternity. The poor girl's ideas were very confused, from the effects of the stupifying draught, but she understood sufficient to make her thankful to God for the timely assistance rendered her.

In the meantime, her long absence from home caused the utmost uneasiness to her mother. And at last, she got so anxious, that she went to the ship to make inquiry respecting her daughter. All, however, that was known of her, was gathered from the boy who had seen her speaking to a strange woman, and that he had seen them go in the direction of the Laprairie boat. Thither the grieved mother went, but no boat was there, and she was told that it would be some time before the boat returned. What could she do; there was no one to whom she could apply for advice, and with a sore heart, she bent her steps towards home, in the hope that Jane might have arrived there, during her absence, and if not, that she would return and wait the arrival of the boat, to see if she could gather any intelligence from the people on board respecting her missing daughter. She arrived at home, but no one had yet seen Jane, and the mother, with tearful eyes, returned to the wharf, to await the arrival of the steamboat.

At length the boat came in sight, and many a fervent prayer silently arose to God, that her poor Jane would be restored to her. If a mother's feelings are keen, so is her eye quick to recognise those she loves, but it was long ere this sorrowing mother could recognise her for whom her eye wandered over every part of the vessel. At last, in a corner, near which a lady was seated, she caught a glimpse of a female figure extended on one of the seats—she knew the dress to be