

he attracted the notice of a gentleman of fortune and distinction, who was found indulging a fancy—a laudable one it was—of doing good by stealth, and making people happy without disclosing the author of the benefaction. He caused the young lad to be well clothed, sent to school, and afterwards educated at college. Theodore became a distinguished scholar, but was never able all this time to penetrate the secret of his generous friend. His bills were regularly paid, and he himself liberally, though economically, supplied with necessary money for his pocket: but he could only see his benefactor in his works. It may be well supposed he did not fail to thank him from the bottom of his heart a thousand times, for he had a tender one; ingratitude was not among his failings.

The first thing, almost, that he did after leaving academic quiet, was to pen a virulent libel on an eminent gentleman, who happened to be identified with a cause against which the society which Theodore frequented, was passionately opposed. Theodore was known to be talented, and to hold a sharp pen; he was therefore naturally pitched upon to deal the assassin's blow. He was in the meantime not acquainted with the merits of the controversy, as few young men are, who get excited in a quarrel; as for the gentleman he was to assault, he knew nothing at all of him, except that he was a celebrated man, and most persons spoke well of him. That was of no consequence, however; his wit and satire were a gift intended doubtless not to be neglected, as their possessors generally think; so he lent himself to the infliction of a foul slander on one he did not know.

The effect of this truculent attack was considerable; for poison will have its operation, by whatever hand and on whatever person it shall be administered. An anonymous libel, like a musket-ball, is equally destructive, whether the trigger be pulled by a child or a man; by hired assassin, or a mistaken man of honor. The charges in this case had a certain effect at first, but were afterwards exposed, and proved entirely false.

Two years after this, as Theodore was sitting one morning in his office, he received a letter inviting him to call at No. —in—street, at 12 o'clock the next day. He did so; and was then informed by the executor of—, the excellent man whom he had ignorantly traduced, that

he had left him a legacy of five thousand dollars, accompanied with words of encouragement to persevere in his honorable course of honest industry and generous hopes. He was further cut to the heart to learn from the papers of the departed, that it was he also that took the orphan from the gutter, and befriended him as long as he lived, and whose affectionate kindness death itself had been unable to extinguish.

These disclosures sunk down into his heart, and rankled there forever. His guilty secret was felt at times during all his days, aching like an unhealed wound. He went from the executor of his second father an altered man, and made a resolution which he always religiously kept, never to speak ill again of a man he did not know. This was the self-covenant of Theodore. It should be ours; otherwise we may be found as he was, spitting venom on our best earthly friend and benefactor. And we would add to this the advice, not to speak harshly of one we know, unless we are certain he deserves the censure, and that it will not produce more harm than good. Thank heaven! the orphan's father of the present narrative never suspected who his secret accuser was, and was therefore saved that severest of all wounds—the sting of ingratitude.—*Newark Daily Advertiser.*

Thrilling Incident.

At a Temperance meeting in Philadelphia, some years ago, a learned clergyman spoke in favor of wine as a drink, demonstrating it quite to his satisfaction to be spiritual, gentlemanly and healthful. When the clergyman sat down, a plain elderly man rose, and asked the liberty of saying a few words. Permission being granted, he spoke as follows:—

“A young friend of mine, (said he) who had long been intemperate, was at length prevailed on, to the joy of his friends, to take the pledge of entire abstinence from all that could intoxicate. He kept the pledge faithfully for some time, though the struggle with his habit was fearful, till one evening, in a social party glasses of wine were handed round. They came to the clergyman present who took a glass, saying a word in vindication of the practice. “Well, thought the young man, “if a clergyman can take wine, and justify it