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THE FALSE FRIEND.

(CONCLUDED.)

Ellen was an orphan. The pretty house from which she had been married belonged to a distant cousin, who thought she had conferred a great favour upon her in allowing the wedding party to assemble under her roof. Reverses of fortune had befallen her since that time, and a little relief, now and then, was all that poor Ellen received from her. Needlework, when she could get it, was her only other resource.

Her baby saw the light in the midst of the extremest poverty; but she rallied, and was able soon to resume her work.

Many months passed away. Ellen's child was well fed, and as tenderly cared for as could be by the busy mother, who often fasted a whole day in order to give food to her child. But she, herself, grew weaker daily. She was obliged, of course, to leave her house; her furniture was sold to pay the rent. From one wretched lodging to another still more so, did the poor mother take her baby. Who can describe the wretchedness of the last she was compelled to shelter it in?

In the dead of a winter's night, a wretch, who was about to complete a career of fraud and crime by committing a burglary in a house in the neighborhood of London, came to a poor lodging-house, in which one of his confederates lived, in order to rouse him to take "an active share in the plot." He borrowed a light from a