

closed its jaws, of the heel that crushed its head. And so long as religion stands by—silent and unopposing against the temptation with which men, greedy of gain, and government greedy of revenue, surround the wretched victims of this basest vice—it appears to me an utter mockery for her to go with the word of God in her hand, teaching them to say "Lead us not into temptation."

#### UNJUST AND PARTIAL LEGISLATION.

As a man, as well as minister of that blessed gospel which recognises no distinction between rich and poor, I protest against the wrongs of a class that are to the full as unfortunate as they are guilty. They deserve succour rather than censure. They are more to be pitied than punished. And assuming the office of their advocate, I wish to know why the upper classes of society should enjoy from the legislature a protection denied to those who stand more in need of it? Gambling-houses were proved before parliament to be ruining the youths of the aristocracy. Nobility complained. Coronets and broad acres were in danger. Parliament rose to the rescue. She put forth her strong hand, and by a sweeping, summary, most righteous measure put the evil down. It was also proved in parliament that betting-houses were corrupting the morals of our merchants' clerks, our shopmen, our tradesmen, and others of the middle classes of society. Once more parliament rose up in its might, threw its broad shield over wealth and commerce, and closed every betting house in the metropolis? Who talked then about the freedom of trade? When the honour of noble families, or the wealth of our merchants and the honesty of their servants demanded protection, who talked about the liberty of the subject? Who proposed to leave these evils to be met by education and such means as education? I don't complain of but commend the measures which parliament adopted. Only I want to know if the virtues of humble families and the happiness of the poor are less worthy of protection than the wealth of our bankers and the honours of our ancient nobility? I want to know if the bodies of the higher and wealthier classes are of better clay, or their souls of finer elements than those of the very lowest of the people? Yet I would undertake to prove that, year by year, thousands and tens of thousands of our poor lose character, virtue, fortune, body and soul, in those drinking-shops which glare upon the public eye—which the law does not forbid, but license. For every one the gambling and betting-houses ruined, they ruin hundreds. I wish that those who govern this noble country should be able to say with him who governs the universe, "Are not my ways equal?" Nor let our legislators be scared from their duty in this case any more than they were in the other, by the allegations that to shut up the drinking-shops will not cure but rather aggravate the evil, by leading to illicit traffic and secret drinking. The removal of the temptation will not always cure the drunkard; but it will certainly check the growth of his class, and prevent many others from learning his habits, until sanguine men might entertain the blessed hope that, like the monsters of a former epoch, which now lie entombed in the rocks, drunkards may be numbered among the extinct races, classified with the winged serpents and gigantic sloths that were once inhabitants of our globe.

#### CHINESE EXAMPLE.

"The ministers of that country proved to

their sovereign that he would avert all danger of war with Britain, and also add immensely to his revenue, if he would consent to legalise the trade in opium. He refused, firmly refused, nobly refused. And it were a glorious day for Britain, a happy day for ten thousand miserable homes,—a day for bonfires, and jubilant cannon and merry bells, and bannered processions and holy thanksgivings, which saw our beloved Queen rise from her throne, and in the name of this great nation address to her Lords and Commons the memorable speech of that pagan monarch, "I will never consent to raise my revenue out of the ruin and vices of my people!" With such a spirit may God imbue our land.

#### GUILTY OR NOT GUILTY?

"Joyful, joyful news indeed! oh how thankful I am, dearest Hugh; why it is better even than we ever expected—so soon, too! we never know what may be in store for us, do we, dear? I declare baby even seems to know we are glad: look how he crows and capers in my arms."

"Bless him! and you too, my own Miriam. I can't tell you, darling, how it has gone to my heart, to see you slaving and toiling, day after day, with barely enough to live upon, and everything so miserable about you, while I was unable to help you. I am sure I have thought myself the greatest villain on earth, to have brought you to it—"

"Nonsense, now, dear husband, you know it is nothing of the kind. Every one is subject to trouble and trial in this world: we should be too happy here if it were not so. My greatest sorrow has been to see your face grow thinner and more careworn every time you come in; but that is over now; and we will try and forget the past, and look forward to a happy future—oh, dear?"

And she tossed her laughing child into the arms of his father, who as he kissed them both, called her his dear comforter and greatest treasure.

They had "supped sorrow" early in life, that young couple. Hugh Woodhouse was but twenty-two when he took his Miriam to wife, and she was three years younger than himself.

Perhaps it was rash to take upon themselves all the responsibilities of the married state; older folks said so; but things promised fair for them. Young Woodhouse held an excellent situation in the firm where his father had earned a name for integrity and trustworthiness. The son bade fair to follow in his footsteps. His salary was quite sufficient to maintain, in perfect respectability, the very modest establishment he had set up.

Three months of happiness, without a cloud, the young pair enjoyed; in the future they only saw a promise of equal bliss. Who could have anticipated the storm which burst upon them, in the sudden failure of the house with which Hugh was connected, when heavy loss was endured by all involved in its affairs?

Still the young man hoped to obtain fresh employment very speedily, and he left nothing untried by which he might procure a situation, even though it were of a lower grade than formerly.

But day after day passed by, and he wore out his clothes and his patience in the vain search. He grew pale and thin with anxiety, and his poor little wife, though she tried

hard to be cheerful, failed sadly in the attempt.

They were obliged to leave their pretty house, and take refuge in a very humble abode, with but a small remnant of their dearly prized furniture. And now the arrival of a new claimant for their love did not at all lessen difficulties.

Their savings were all spent, and they must have wanted for necessities if Miriam's mother had not kindly assisted them. The old lady was not rich, but she would have denied herself to afford help to those so dear to her. Miriam would not allow this; she no sooner regained her strength than she procured needle-work from the families about, and thus earned sufficient to aid them materially.

Hugh, too, would occasionally find temporary employment in assisting some acquaintance during a press of business; but with all their efforts, they could barely manage to exist in comfort.

Bad as was their lot, a new grief was added to it. The ill-advised kindness of certain friends whom Woodhouse occasionally met, would prompt them to invite him to drink with them, at their club or public-house, and the temporary forgetfulness of trouble thus obtained, proved a temptation to the young man which he was unable to resist.

Many a sum, trifling in itself, but important to persons in their situation, found its way into the pockets of the publican. But a worse evil than this ensued. Hugh's temper, naturally impulsive and vehement, was by the smallest portion of drink, roused into fierceness, and many a painful burst of passion, and intemperate reviling at fate, terrified his young wife, who soon perceived the cause of such a change.

The reaction of these moods was terrible to behold. The unhappy man would accuse himself with vehemence, and bewail bitterly his infirmity; for a time he would even resist the voice within which seemed to crave for liquor; but the temptation came, and again he yielded.

Remorse and anxiety made fearful traces upon his countenance; and the gentle wife beheld with grief the pale sad face which returned so often unsuccessful, and so cast down as to be unable to partake even of the humble meal she had prepared.

Miriam was not the one to shrink from her duty, even though it might seem harsh; and one morning, after Hugh had, though the kindness (?) of a friend, been betrayed into a burst of passion, and the usual bitter self-accusation followed, she took occasion to speak so earnestly, so firmly, yet gently, on the subject, and impressed upon him so deeply the importance of determined action in his case, that Hugh, who, perhaps, had never taken such a view of the matter before, was moved to an earnest repentance. He thought deeply and long on what his wife said; he determined to shake off the paltry vice ere it became a habit; and finally, after a few days, during which he manfully overcame all temptations, he, with his wife, signed the pledge of total abstinence.

Only the following week, as if to reward this effort of moral courage, came an offer of a situation from a gentleman to whom he had applied when first thrown out of employment. The situation was one in every way suited to him, at least it appeared to be so from what the gentleman, who had recommended him to fill it, told him.

He was to go on the following day to meet