

The long dreaded blow had at length fallen on Mr. — and he felt stunned and sick at heart. In his wife to whom he was sincerely attached, he found every thing amiable, forbearing and intelligent, but there was one dreadful infatuation which he could not break. There was one dim spot in her moral perceptions, which cast a shadow upon every other virtue. He had remonstrated and pleaded with her time after time about her unaccountable propensity. But all in vain. Sometimes she would confess with tears her grief at her own conduct; and at other times manifest the coldest indifference. To all her friends her conduct was a painful mystery. No article that she purchased seemed to please her fancy. But one that she adroitly purloined would be exhibited as that with which above all others she was most delighted. She was never known to secrete any article after she had brought it home—nor did she appear conscious of the fact that she had obtained it unlawfully. Her husband under all the circumstances, could come to no other conclusion than that she was a monomaniac on that particular subject. She was never known to be guilty of any similar indiscretion until after she was married—nor then, until she had been at death's door for days with a severe attack of typhus fever. As she slowly recovered from this illness there was evidence that some change had taken place in her mind. She did not appear perfectly rational until some months after her convalescence—then she suddenly recovered her vivacity and wit, and was intelligent as before. The only change that had been wrought was the strange obliquity mentioned.

As a parent loves more tenderly a wayward child, that by its disobedience or errors causes him frequent and anxious concern, so did Mr. — love with an increasing and tender regard the wife of his bosom, who occupied his thoughts through the day, and his dreams at night. He had long feared some afflicting termination of her indiscretion, and often when looking at his sweet, innocent children, and their beautiful mother, would turn away to hide the tear that started to his eye. To have those children publicly disgraced, and by that mother—oh the thought was agony.

After many ineffectual attempts both by himself and her friends to obtain a compromise, he was reluctantly compelled to get able counsel and prepare for the coming trial. On the part of the prosecution every nerve was strained to procure the most extensive and explicit testimony, in order to prove that she was 'a common thief.' Very many, from whom she had at different times taken articles, and for which her husband had paid, were summoned to bear reluctant testimony to facts which they had not the most distant idea of exposing—facts which had transpired through the indiscretion of clerks, or probably of the principals themselves.

As the day of trial approached great anxiety prevailed in all classes of society—and opinions as to the nature of her guilt, and moral responsibility, were many and various. Among the lower and middle classes there was but little difference of opinion. They estimated guilt by action alone—nor stopped a moment (having no sympathies with the more wealthy portion of society) to draw nice distinctions between monomania and moral action. They knew that theft was punished by imprisonment in the penitentiary whenever it occurred among themselves, —and they always considered the penalty a just one. Now that a lady in high life was caught in the same guilt, they saw no reason why she should be saved from the prison. As her husband was very wealthy, they hesitated not to affirm, that she would be cleared—and that in consequence of liberal bribes to Judges and Jurymen.

A dense crowd filled all the avenues to the court-house on the morning of the trial, and the court room was at an early hour crowded almost to suffocation. Feeling a strong interest in the case, I obtained permission from my master to be present, and was so fortunate as to get a position in which I could both see and hear all the proceedings. I waited nearly an hour before the opening of the court, with an anxious and beating heart. I dreaded the moment when I should first set my eyes upon the beautiful prisoner. I knew that the first sight of her, in all her shame and misery would cause a shock of feeling that I by no means desired to experience. Among those present, were many ladies belonging to the highest circles—such as had been on terms of the closest intimacy with the culprit. There was concern and sorrow upon each fair face.

The court opened, and just as her name was called a slight movement near the door indicated her entrance, and in a moment after Mrs. — appeared closely veiled, and leaning upon the arm of her husband, who looked pale and haggard. She took her seat a little to the left of the Bench, and half drew aside her veil, evidently for the purpose of getting a little air, which exposed her face enough for me to get a perfect view of its predominant expression and character where I stood. Oh, how pale and wan, and wretched she looked. She seemed older by twenty years than she did when I last saw her in my master's shop. Her eyes were red with weeping, and her whole frame trembled with half-subdued but strong agitation.

After the witnesses were all sworn, the principal witnesses, being the retailer and his clerk, gave in their testimony. It was clear and explicit as regarded the stealing of the lace, the testimony of the one not varying in a single shade from the other. When the first and principal of the two witnesses took the stand,

the judge regarded him with a look half contemptuous and half forbidding, but when both master and man had closed their evidence, a cloud fell upon his countenance, that showed how much he regretted and feared the consequences of this distinct and unvarying testimony. The lace was produced, as found by the officer, and was sworn to before the court, by the retailer and his clerk.

Other witnesses were now brought forward by the prosecution, who, though with evident reluctance, testified distinctly to the fact of Mrs. — having frequently taken things from their stores in an improper manner. An examination of two eminent physicians then took place, who were summoned by the defence in order, if possible, to break the force of the strong testimony against Mrs. — by the witnesses on the part of the State. The fact was stated to the court, that Mrs. — before her marriage or rather before having suffered with a violent attack of typhus fever, was never known to have been guilty of theft. From the time of her recovery from that sickness she had shown a strange propensity to take what was not her own. In reference to this fact, both physicians stated, that, although no instance had come under their notice before, yet in reports of medical cases many remarkable instances were recorded of persons having become addicted to stealing on recovery from typhus fever, who were previous to their sickness never known to purloin the smallest article. They had not the slightest doubt but that the case now under consideration by the court was a similar one and called for particular leniency.

The prosecuting attorney now made a short but distinct and weighty speech on the question, which sent the blood from many a fair cheek. Mrs. — listened to it with lips apart, and eager eyes, and when he sat down shuddered as with an ague fit. Her husband, who sat by her side, covered his face with his hands and leaned his head on the bench before him, as if sick at heart. And I doubt not that he was.

The argument on the defence was a noble effort. Every point in the testimony of the physicians was brought out in a light so favourable to the prisoner, that hope sat on every countenance. The witness for the State was handled with a severity that made him cringe where he sat, and shrink into himself, as if he felt that he was utterly contemptible. The trial lasted through the whole day, and late in the afternoon, the Judge summed up the evidence, and gave an able charge to the jury, leaning evidently in favor of the prisoner. The twelve men who were utterly to destroy, or restore, by their decision, hope to a stricken family, retired at six o'clock to deliberate upon the agitating question of the day. An hour passed away in fearful suspense, but they had come to no decision, and at last those most deeply interested retired to their homes to await in an agony of suspense for the light of another day.

It was nearly twelve o'clock on the following day, when the jury came into court, prepared to render a verdict. Mrs. — was of course present and her friends. The foreman in a husky voice, and with evident reluctance, read a verdict of 'Guilty' to the indictment, which was for larceny. Poor Mrs. — fainted away to all appearance dead, at the fearful announcement, so different from what almost every one present expected. Mr. — clasped his hands together, and lifting his eyes above, exclaimed half audibly, 'My poor wife! my poor children!' It was fully an hour before Mrs. — was sufficiently recovered to hear her sentence, which was finally read. It was imprisonment, at hard labor, in the Penitentiary for two years! My feeble powers of description are utterly inadequate to the task of presenting vividly the picture of desolation of heart, and deep agony that were exhibited by the principal actors in this scene of woe. Even the Judge on his bench was moved to tears.

Such a sentence is speedily executed. The half senseless prisoner was soon in the custody of an officer, and accompanied by her husband was conveyed to that receptacle of crime and misery where her sentence had consigned her.

My heart beats quick, and I pause oppressed and with a feeling of suffocation as memory vividly recalls this harrowing scene, and with the memory is awakened old sensations that have been long at rest. Can imagination picture a deeper domestic sorrow—combining disgrace with separation?

A petition was instantly drawn up, and before three days had elapsed, Mr. — was at Annapolis with an appeal to the Governor, signed by two thousand of the most respectable and wealthy ladies and gentlemen of Baltimore. It required no great stretch of the pardoning power to reach this case, and before a week had elapsed, Mrs. — was at liberty and restored to her family. But she never held up her head again. Deep melancholy settled upon her heart, nor could all the affectionate attempts of her husband, or the innocent prattle of her sweet children rouse her from her settled gloom. She went no more into society. Within the chambers of her own dwelling she retired, and shut out the world. No friend, not even the most intimate, was admitted, and besides her husband and children, but a single old servant was allowed to come into her presence.

About one year after the melancholy trial, Mr. — removed from this city with his family, and since I have heard nothing of him. Perhaps in some pleasant village, far retired from the bus-

tle and agitation of a city life, his unfortunate wife found that repose of mind which with any touches of sensibility, she could never have experienced in Baltimore.

Then, every transaction in private life was not as now, hurried into the newspapers, to gratify a purient desire for scandal. Every conductor of a paper in Baltimore respected the lacerated feeling of the husband and father, and refused to expose to public gaze what was already too notorious. The prosecutor, who had then a brother in the State's prison was shortly after detected in unlawful practices. He escaped justice by flight.

For the Pearl.

### PROPHECY FULFILLED.

PETRA.—No. 4.

"Also Edom shall be a desolation, every one that goeth by it shall be astonished, and shall hiss at all the plagues thereof. As in the overthrow of Sodom and Gomorrah, and the neighbouring cities thereof, saith the Lord, no man shall abide there, neither shall any son of man dwell therein. Therefore hear the council of the Lord that he hath purposed against Teman, surely the least of the flock shall draw them out, surely he shall make their habitation desolate. The earth was moved at the noise of their fall, the cry thereof was heard in the Red Sea." Jeremiah xlix. "Thus saith the Lord God: because that Edom hath dealt against the house of Judah, by taking vengeance; and hath greatly offended and revenged herself upon them; therefore thus saith the Lord God, I will also stretch out my hand upon Edom, and I will cut off man and beast from it, and I will make it desolate from Teman." Ezekiel xxv. "Thus saith the Lord God concerning Edom: Be hold I have made thee small among the heathen; thou art greatly despised; the pride of thine heart hath deceived thee; thou that dwellest in the clefts of the rock, whose habitation is high; that saith in his heart who shall bring me down to the ground. Though thou exalt thyself as the eagle, and though thou set thy nest among the stars, thence will I bring thee down, saith the Lord God." Obadiah i.

It was past four o'clock when the travellers descended—they then pitched their tent; the Arabs all came under the shade to avoid the rays of the sun, and talk more at ease concerning the perilous ascent of Mount Hor. Stevens read to them, and Paul explained the texts concerning the death of Aaron as recorded in our Bible: they were astonished at the relation from a book. One of the Arabs still contended that Aaron was a Mussulman, and Mr. Stevens accommodated the matter by admitting that indeed he was not a *Christian*. That evening the Arab sheik and Paul had a long and curious conversation. When he told the sheik that this expensive and dangerous route was undertaken to visit the remains of Petra, and to ascend Mount Hor, the latter took his long pipe from his mouth, saying "this humbug may do with fools, but there is somewhat more;" and when Paul persisted, and had even sworn to the real object of the journey, the sheik vociferated that in such a case he would disbelieve his own brother. "Not so," said he, "to look at old ruins is the pretended, to search for treasure is the *real object* of your visits, what fools you are, forsooth, thus to lose your time, money, and labor, for the sake of viewing old stones!" I know there must be treasure in Petra, and am really of opinion that coins and other relics of antiquity may be found by digging amid the ruins, but which the ferocious and avaricious, as well as deplorably ignorant Arabs, would never permit to Europeans, whom they will hardly suffer even to visit Petra; and indeed the opinion of all the eastern nations is strictly similar on these subjects to that of the Arabs. This false impression subjects travellers to many insults. Utterly destitute of taste themselves for the fine arts, as the Arabs are, they believe that all mankind are in that respect alike: improved civilization will alone cause them to change their inconclusive and false opinion.

The travellers now pursued their route through the doomed land of Edom (or Idumea). Three different parties had in an interval of twenty years since its discovery entered the city of Petra at divers intervals, but none had passed through the land of Edom; and Stevens concludes himself the first traveller who really passed through the doomed and blighted Edom. In the present state of the world; Europe, Asia, and even the deserts of "savage Africa, the land of Juba, the dry-nurse of lions," have been trodden down by the feet of travellers; but in Edom, the oldest of kingdoms, all is new and strange, and its very sands have been untrodden by civilized man. The road indeed, or path along which the stranger journeys, was far better known in the days of David and Solomon than now, and when he tires with the contemplation of barrenness and ruin, he may then take up his Bible and read what Edom was, and how God, by the mouth of his holy prophets cursed it,—and see with his own eyes the complete fulfilment of the awful predictions: "Also Edom shall be a desolation; all that go by shall be astonished, and shall hiss at all the plagues thereof." Jer. xlix. The valley still continued as before presenting sandy hillocks, thorn bushes, gullies, dry beds of streams, once covered with water. To the geologist every step opens a new page in the great book of Nature, carrying him back to the time when all was chaos, "and Darkness covered the face of the Deep;" by the regular operations of Nature, the river contracting, and at length leaving its channel dry; and again—he who in the wonders around him seeks the evidence of events recorded in the Bible, here finds them in the abundant tokens that the shower of fire and brimstone descended from heaven on the guilty cities of the plain, stopped the course of the