Mayhew, the Millspinner,"

THE STOLEN WILL.

'I wad hae spoken at the [illegible] she neverthelee, [illegible] a shakkin' as if [illegible] be nothing. [illegible] she sat in a [illegible] tae avoid the [illegible] and the bed. [illegible] the very years [illegible] her, an man [illegible] to her. [illegible] plainly printed [illegible] that the vilest heart [illegible] wi' pity at the sight, [illegible] silence and respect [illegible]

'She had [illegible] was now a little, and wad say 'Dwild day,' and gie a bit wan smile as she passed, but nae thing mair. For two [illegible] sicht o' her then I [illegible] an infant in her arms [illegible] o' ams' wared now, but [illegible] range and hittit [illegible] dress, tae, was shabbier and tattered; and, oh, she was [illegible] weak. As we were [illegible] and as I saw how [illegible] ed to carry the [illegible] o'e, but speakin' never a word [illegible] me hah' the burden [illegible] there I saw [illegible] hained thing [illegible] and a rosy, [illegible] heart warmed tae the [illegible] less thing, and hae [illegible] haplessness [illegible] mither. I [illegible] tae the toon we were [illegible] as muckle care and tenderness as she could hae done herself [illegible] she was for the [illegible] breathed an [illegible] vent 'God bless [illegible] me, and walked [illegible]

'For two years I [illegible] and thee, and [illegible] met; and [illegible] cam' tae [illegible] crawed in [illegible] that thought [illegible] weel as [illegible] ground, merry [illegible] pair mither [illegible] but dwinel away [illegible] had a cough [illegible] red hectic flushes [illegible] wastin' look that [illegible] approchin' end. [illegible] what's tae become o' that innocent and beautifu' wean! I fain wad hae questioned her about her [illegible] history, but [illegible] and I hadna [illegible] temp.

'This was at harvest time, and I didna see her again till [illegible] the nipph of winter I saw wi' [illegible] Dundee, and [illegible] lowin' spring or I was [illegible] country rounds. [illegible] passed and [illegible] hear any tidings [illegible] the fa' o' the leaf [illegible] green grass [illegible] waving over her grave. But what wull they have handsome wi' the bonny mikkrious hairn, the wee beautifu' Ella?—She's in the puir's hoosie, nae doot, tae be nursed and brought up by the cauld hand o' charity! [illegible] my heart sinks heavy at the thought.

'Sae sure [illegible] was owre wi' the wanderin' bairnie, that I had gien up ahin' for her, when an nicht, in the beginnin' o' [illegible] I cam' tae a big village in Sirlin Shire, and after diddlin' about wi' the [illegible] street, I went tae the kirk yard [illegible] tae the frequented [illegible] I sat down tae fa' tae the door, and for aes they [illegible] nae room, an I [illegible] the song tae anither in a lower part o' the [illegible] was annoyed at this, for it was a lower house in every sense [illegible] mainly for beggars, and [illegible] class o' tramps. [illegible] was a Providence in this, as [illegible]

'I found [illegible] other houses [illegible] and muckle [illegible] But when the noise [illegible] woman o' the house [illegible] them for the love o' God [illegible] for a young woman [illegible] was lyin' in the room above them, and the sound o' their complain was sair troublin' [illegible] Relent in a moment, for [illegible] wife on the maist boisterous scoon, and when she gaed awa' I creepit after her into the passage, for the thought had flashed on my mind that this might be Ella's mither. A question or two sune confirmed the suspicion, and [illegible] woman tae ask if she wad like tae see me, her auld acquaintance, Wandectie Wuttie. The woman [illegible] immediately wi' [illegible] she wad be glad indeed tae see me, though hoo glad she was I had nae idea till I gaed up the rickety stair and entered the low attic-room, where on a bundle o' straw she lay, [illegible] heath, but [illegible] breath, but [illegible] stretchin' oot baith her hands as I [illegible]

'Oh what [illegible] pitifu' sicht. She was [illegible] and her fair [illegible] and her eyes [illegible] wastin' candles, [illegible] What [illegible] expression [illegible] the street, [illegible] in her infant and [illegible] she loos she was above [illegible] the little thing [illegible] a moment [illegible] the cauld [illegible] wi' a feeble [illegible] keep her [illegible]

'The [illegible] a burst o' sobbin' [illegible] tae utter, [illegible] a syllable the [illegible] wi' very weakness. [illegible] gone, but she [illegible] get oot a [illegible] confidence [illegible] gie it. She had often [illegible] tae confide in me, for she felt, she said, that she could trust me entirely, but her courage aye failed. Noo, however, I was the nae bein' [illegible] she longed tae see, and she was [illegible] God had sent me tae see her end, and receive the paper which micht be, o' use tae her bairn in after days. This wad the certificate o' her marriage tae the wretch that had deserted her. And as she glad it into my keepin' she gasped out a word or two of her auld hame, an I could learn at last the frequented [illegible] I was sickie fa' tae the door, and for aes they had nae room, an I [illegible] the song tae anither in a lower part o' the [illegible] was annoyed at this, for it was a lower house in every sense,