

into the numerous snares with which he was surrounded, but as the prospect of success grew less, his inclination for enjoyment increased. At the hotel where he stopped, he formed the acquaintance of a gentlemanly looking stranger named Myres, who appeared to take great interest in our young friend, and was very anxious to introduce him to the various places of amusement and public resort in the city.

Being a stranger himself, the offer was thankfully accepted by the young man, who had the greatest confidence in the sincerity of Myres; but poor dupe, he was in the hands of another monster in human shape, more merciless than the former. In a short time (thanks to his friend) he became initiated into many of the mysteries of the place, and had soon sunk lower than ever in dissipation. His companion after obtaining all his money left him in the streets of Cincinnati a poor miserable drunkard; it was in this state he wandered into the den where we find him in the commencement of the chapter.

When the two villains found their victim once more in their grasp, they resolved to play a deeper game; they knew that in his present condition he was penniless, but they likewise knew his father was wealthy, and threw the dissipated son were determined to possess themselves of that father's money; to this end they freely supplied him with poisonous liquor, for the purpose of compelling him to forge his parent's name; the necessary papers having been prepared, the signature was obtained whilst the miserable young man was in a half drunken state.

On the notes being presented at the bank, where they were payable, by the youngest of the swindlers, suspicion was aroused, and the pre-

sender detained until communication could be had with Mr. McDonald. On that gentleman seeing the instruments he immediately pronounced them a forgery. The rascal then made a full confession, and stated where the signer would be found, without mentioning his name; steps were immediately taken for his arrest—which there was little difficulty in accomplishing—and in a few hours the unfortunate young man was confined in a prison charged with the heavy crime of forgery.

A month had elapsed after Edward's leaving home without his parents receiving the least intelligence of his whereabouts; how bitterly did they accuse themselves of being the cause of his downfall: hope for his reformation had long since gone, they were now borne down by grief, and feared he had again fallen into bad company, or perhaps had met foul play; but the father little thought when he discovered the fatal notes, he was condemning his own son to a felon's cell. To add to their grief, Lucy Merville was on the point of death, caused, doubtless, by the despair occasioned by her lover's evil courses. The family attempted to alleviate the sufferings of the poor girl they loved as a daughter, and inspire her with that hope they did not themselves possess. It was whilst engaged in these fruitless efforts, the news of the son's arrest reached them, he having revealed his name on becoming conscious. This last blow plunged them into deeper despair, and ere that day's sun had sunk in the West, Lucy Merville breathed her last.

On the poor prisoner's becoming fully conscious, and understanding the crime for which he was confined, he was overwhelmed with grief; how could he again meet