CHAPTER III.

THE APOLLO. The Apollo was not a music hall of the first elass, although the entertainment provided for its patrons was very much like the amusements at establishments in more fashionable thoroughfares. It had its lion comiques; its Florries, Jennies and Totties, in their vivacious songs and ballads; its seedy, seedy tenors; its sword-swallowers and acrobats; its man with the wooden dolls: its black singer and his banjo; and its "duologists"all the same weary, never ending programme, patent to East as West. I believe the listening night after night to these people for whom I had no love, and for whose talents I had not a scrap of admiration, had tended to soften had twenty years of it; tancy twenty years of incessant lion comiques, and all the tag rag of the profession in their rear, and then

wonder that I was not a wise man! Why, the visitors were not wise, much less the man who waited on them. I despised them in my heart; a few of them I hated. I knew them all by sight. They came twice or thrice a week-God knows for what!—and sat with bleared eyes and open mouths; a vacuous, beer-drinking, tobacco-smoking gang, who disliked my vocation and the people by whom it was, I tried to think—and he I was surrounded, for many years, without uttering a complaint, until Jessie came to take rt in this existence with me, and then my hatred and my horror came rapidly to the front, and it was not an easy task to hide my

I had had a hope that Jessie would be quickly tired of the Appollo-quickly There was an instinctive good taste in her which would revolt—I was sure of it against the vulgarities and buffooneries of singers; she would have satisfied her curiosity quickly, and seen the charms of home again by very contrast with this artificial

I was mistaken: it was one more of the many mistakes of my life, and I did not understand Jessie so well as I could have wished, and there were more sides to her character than it was in my power to discover. I was no judge of character—of women's I was especially ignorant. Well, I had only one to love and work for and think about besides my little girl—what wonder if women were enigmas to me? I might have understood Jessie, you may think, at least, but I did not; I only thought I did.

Jessie found some amusement in the singers and dancers at the Apollo; it was a new existence, and the novelty of it all had a strange effect upon her. She was an excit little woman, with whom excitement seemed to agree. Her despondent fits passed out the day. She did not in any way neglect her child; she was more affectionate to her And yet the experiment of change was hardly satisfactory. I was very glad that she was better in health, but I should have liked her

less at the Apollo.

She was a quiet, demure lady enough there but people looked at her, and wondered at her, and of course the chairman, after awhile, and one or two gentlemen of the orchestra -oh, they were pretty gentlemen, poor fellows!—exchanged a few passing civilities as she became known to them by sight, known to them by hearsay, as old Durnford's wife. I had nothing to be jealous about. Jessie was amiable and pleasant, and her manners were a civil question, and an honest smile for those

Now and then it happened that a stranger would address her - a man with an extra degree of impudence in him, or an extra glass spirits-but he was generally put in his place and told to mind his own business by Jessie. My young wife was vain, probably, but she did not seek for the attentions or admiration of the stranger, and no one had a distance off.

What could an old duffer like Durnford expect, who brought his young and pretty wife to the Apollo! Oh, the grand chorus of "I told you so," that I had to listen to and endure ! One evening I had been extra busy at the

Apollo; it had been Mr. Wheezy's benefit. and there was extra attractions, and a host of Wheezy's bibulous friends to support them and Wheezy, and the place was crowded in every hole and corner. I had had some diffioulty in keeping a place for Jessie, and presently she was almost lost to my sight by men and women who hemmed her round with the camp-stools we had been compelled to bring in to accommodate our numerous pat-I had no time to speak to my wife that evening: I was content to glance at her now and then when passing by.

It was close upon nine o'clock when I met very pale, and her eyes were filled with tears. forgotten him—the next week.

"Jessie, what's the matter?"
"Nothing. I'm going home—that's all." "Has—has anybody offended you?" I in-nired. "Has anything been said on the stage that—"

Don't be ridiculous, Jacob," she cried, piteously; "nothin's the matter, only I don't feel very well, and the place is dreadfully hot, and I thought I should faint.' "You look like a ghest," I said, "or as if

won had seen one." "What do you mean by that ?" she asked. so sharply that I went back a step or two in dismay at her violence.

| so sharply that I went back a step or two in dismay at her violence. | ager of the Apollo, been at my side at the very moment, and asking me innumerable

may at her violence.
"I don't mean anything but that you are very pale," I explained.
"Yes, I dare say I am," she said.

thought you were throwing off at mc. Good. I am going straight home. "Don't sit up for me; I shall be late to-night with this confounded benefit."

stop up."

I escaped collision with a gentleman who came striding from the hall.

"Here, you, sir, which way has she gone?
he asked of me, peremptorily. Which way -has who gone

"Jessie-I mean the lady who came out

"You idiot—don't you understand?" the

yours?"

was very cunning in my madness, and an moment, more like a statue than a man, al

stairs; she thinks she can see better there."

my mind, so many doubts crowding in upon but had failed to perceive me until I had come that night.

"I don't know what the deuce was up be- the orders for drink, so many customers to to a full stop. She colored, and forced a I hardly know now for what I prayed. It tween them, but she would not let him come

thoughts of home and Jessie.

young face, her strange position there, her the waiter, and went slowly out of the isolation; but the mention of her Christian again without looking in their direction. When he came into the stalls again, as if

ished into the street.

see what went on below. They would wonder at the bar what had become of me. Let them wonder to their lives' ends, for what I cared for any of them now!

I returned home very tired that night, and very much bewildered. The hall had been open till two by special permission of the police, and it was close upon three when I local see my wife and her companion. reached home. To my astonishment, Jessie my brain with its terrible monotony. I had was in the front room, stitching away as for dear life. "Sitting up !" I said, in my astonish-

ment. "Yes; I couldn't sleep. I thought I would get on with my work. It was better than lying staring at the ceiling, wasn't it?"
"Well, perhaps so," I replied. "Do you feel pretty well now?"

"Oh, I'm well enough." I did not ask her any more questions; I did not allude to the gentlemen who had been roared with laughter at the weakest jokes, and applauded with all their might the silliest of for false information; I waited for her to tell ntics. I was a Timon of Athens in their her story, if she had one, and she never said midst, but they were not aware of it. I had a word. Perhaps it was all fancy-probably

I was glad to hear her say this, though I which he was on this occasion. was sorry to see how despondent and fretful "What the foul fiend and all she grew once more; and my suspicions the Apollo. I recognized him at once; I not repeat in this chronicle. believe I knew he was there before I had seen him, by a death-like coldness that came upon you." he went on "and me suddenly, as if some specter had glided into the place. At all events, my knees knocked together when I had seen him, and there was a choking sensation behind my

rusty neck.

He did not know me; but I knew him, and what he had come for. He stood at the glass friendly tone, as he looked more closely at me. doors, and looked at the stage from time to There must have been something very strange time, but his quick, eager glance toward every in my face to frighten him. newcomer showed he was waiting for some Waiting about me. one, or in search of some one.

He lingered there till a late hour. I was keenly watchful of him, though in his pre-occupation he did not observe me. From this night forth I should know him anywhere; under any circumstances of life, under any aspect of death, in his fashionable dress, or only her songs were the hideous ditties of the night before. She worked hard throughgotten or mistaken for another. He was a handsome man, of some eight-and-twenty years of age; hardly like a gentleman in appearance, though dressed like one, and striv sort more quickly than anybody else. The real sort, after all, is rather scarce; at the Apollo it was very scarce indeed, although sometimes found in an inebriated condition, with its hat on the back of the head, sarolling in to oblige Florrie and Tottie, and to cry

Bravo !" This man I did not like, though I could not make him out. He was not a betting man, for the men who came to bet, who were known on every English race course, and who not the manners of many of the women at these places; she had a civil answer to recognition; the "season tickets"—male and friends she made by degrees, and who smiled honestly ather. Still, I was secretly unh appy jealous of any one who spoke to her or looked. their "turns" did not shake hands with him and hint that they were thirsty; he was not

missed two nights, and came in late on the and her forever, and there was no getting it Saturjay, well dressed, carefully gloved, with a hat intensely shiny, a white flower in the button-hole of his coat, and adiamond breast me. She was smiling, and like her usual

word to say against her for a long while.

For a long while only—the slander came in its time, and the suspicions followed, and there was no peace of mind for me from that day.

was no peace of mind for me from that day.

What could an old duffer like Durnford expect.

He disappeared again for a week, and I dence there was now of any trouble to her. I went toward her this time; I was very cool last. "You—you dare to think it?" she cried at last. "What have I said or done that you should treat me like this?" whould treat me like this?" "You have gone back in your heart to the last." "You have gone heart to t vous, and stupid, and completely dazed, when she suddenly startled me by entering the hall

one evening.
"I could not stand it any longer, Jacob, "I could not stand it any longer, sacou, she said, half-apologetically even; "I should have gone mad all alone in that room if I had him:

"This is my husband, Mr. Durnford."

kept indoors another night. I couldn't keep at home—I couldn't really." "Very well," I said; " of course it is better unsettled state."

"Yes, I think so;" and then she glanced nervously round, and continued at strange in-tervals to look about her in a scared way Mr. Durnford. I dare say you remember my which I did not like. I did not ask her any questions; if I had any counsel of my own to keep. I kept it. God knows, very well.

I was as sure as I was living that he would her in the lobby beyond the swing glass door which led into the hall. Her face was believed I had set him aside—almost eager for business. come that night in search of her, but he did The week next. after that—one Tuesday evening, when Jessie was in the hall, he passed me whilst I was getting in my orders at the outer bar. They to you. He was our walker at Miller's would meet at last, then-and I should not see their meeting. I should only suffer the torments of the damned in guessing at it.

CHAPTER IV.

THE SAME MAN. Had not Harry Plantagenet, general man-

questions, and hinting that I was not sufficiently energetic in seeing that my waiters went round regularly for orders. I might have thrown down my tray on the floor, and fol lowed swiftly on the heels of the man who was in search of Jessie Durnford. I don't know what restrained me—habit, the custom "I am afraid you will. No, I shall not of my class, the divinity that hedged Planta. genet, and made a divinity of him; but I did not return to the hall until the manager But she did not want to hear any further had had "his say" out, and my tray was instructions: she hurried away like a woman heaped with bottles and glasses. I went down eager for fresh air, and I went slowly down the lobby with very shakey legs, and with my the lobby, thinking of her. The swing glass chocking sensation, of which I have already door was opened suddenly as I approached it, spoken, getting the better of me rapidly. and it was only by a sidewise movement that Why my heart should beat so terribly fast was hard to explain. I was very fond of Jessie, but I could trust her, surely. And she was fend of me, in her way, and if in a different way, still fond. In all our wedded life this hateful place to which I was even in bound hand and foot, she had never given me just now," he said. "You must have passed real cause for jealousy, had never shown her self to be one of that hateful class of women I turned faint and ill myself, I think, for I ever craving for the attentions of the men. I lost sight of this man for a moment, and the had been jealous once or twice, being an old lights in the lobby looked to me like hazy old fool, as you know, but I had always seen moons struggling to shine through a thick afterward, and very clearly, how completely I had been mistaken. Perhaps I was mistaken now-God grant I might be! If I should plied. man said, passionately.

"Do you know the lady?" I asked, slowly. one more of my delusions. I was full of

"What the devil's business is that of fancies, and this might be another of them. All these thoughts passed through my brain The devil's business—ah! very likely it in the lobby. I pushed open the inner door is," I answered, thoughtfully; and the man presently, and glanced toward the seat where stared at me, and fancied I was mad. Yet I I had left Jessie last. Then I stood for a though the glasses jingled on the tray a lively "The lady has gone into the balcony up measure, as if mocking me. They were side by side, as I hoped they might not be—as I splendor Thanks, old man; why didn't you say so fancied that they would not be, and feared have followed him bareheaded about the outside the hall. The little lady was waiting "Thanks, old man; why didn't you say so lancied that they would—side by side, and talking very streets, I am sure; but he remained, and my for him there.

attend to, or to neglect, and such strange smile, even beckoned to me at last; but I seems such a long time ago, and my memory in here," he said. "She hung on to him like If you pull round by then, that'll do. You my child—was sobbing out an attempt at exhoughts of home and Jessie.

I tried to think it all a mistake—that this fulfilled my orders, took my money, gave my man had only been attracted by her fresh usual grateful thanks for every donation to

name, his anxious search in the gallery I was too busy to speak to her at present, above-stairs, the grave expression that he she would conclude, and I should come to her wore now—I watched him more closely than any one could have thought possible that busy night—convinced me almost that there was a motive for his search not born of a rake's passing fancy for a pretty woman.

When he came into the stalls again, as if see what went on below. They would wonder

I could see my wife and her companion very plainly. What could they have to talk about with such intentness that even Leopold Filberts, in his screaming ditty, "I'm a Scorcher," failed to attract a scrap of their attention? They were in a world of their own, far apart from this one; they were not at the Apollo. The great Leopold might have been a scarecrow set up there, for what they knew of the matter. Good God! what had the man to say to her that she should take ner handkerchief from her pocket to stanch tears, that she should try to hide them from him, and that he should gesticulate and talk loudly, until she bad him speak in a lower What was the secret between those two?—how long had it lasted, and when did

she did not care about it, she said; she was mouth. He had an unpleasant habit of freth-save some petty details, not worth the men, ther out of her sleep—which I thought very the banker, until he died.

tired, or had too much work to do.

ing at the mouth when very much put out, tioning, that I need not dwell upon it strange, and said so—and made her dress and lively kind of widow now."

"What the foul fiend and all his imps are that time, and those two thought that I saw you hiding here for?" he exclaimed, adding nothing. seemed to die away until he again came to much more forcible language, also, that I will Apollo pretty frequently, and meant no harm, neither he nor she, to begin with, I verily be-

you," he went on, "and nothing is being done? What the devil are you up to, Durnford? Are you drunk, or mad?"

Jether he her sue, to begin with, I verily believe now. But I doubted them from the believ " Not drunk, only going mad, sir."

" Well, of all the confounded- Ain't you "Well, of all the confounded— Ain't you is difficult to guess at—it was a watchful, diswell, old cove?" he asked, suddenly, and in a trusting, awful life, that aged me with a won-There must have been something very strange 'No-yes. I'll come directly don't trouble

one, or in search of some one. Waiting about me.

for some one as if by appointment, I feared; and if Jessie had entered the hall down stairs? What is it?" he inquired, taking that night, I should have gone dead off, I'm certain. But no one came, and I was very the hall from my own point of view. There was at the Apollo, and before my face. There was a pause, then he burst into a loud laugh. "Oh! oh! I see now. The green-eyed monster, is it, Durnford ?"

"Who is the man talking to - my wife?" "Blest if I know. You should not bring your wife here if you don't like any one talking to her. Serve you right."
"Yes, so it does. But don't you tell me so

again." Harry Plantagenet was twice my size and pearance, though dressed like one, and strivtwenty years my junior, but he backed rapidly
ing hard to pass for one. He was not one of
out of the box as if afraid of me, or of the
the real sort"; and a waiter knows the real sharp edge of the tray I still clutched in my
made it up—until it was too late. When I and.
"Starh it, old man. I shall send for the and I was powerless. I don't think that she

police if you go on like this—I shall indeed." even knew how strong her passion had become for them if you like." "Are you coming to your work, or not?"
That's all I have got to say at present."

"I'm coming."
"I shall report you on Saturday to Wheezy, mind you.' "You can do as you please, sir," I said ess disturbed now, and more coolly insolent. followed him out of the box and down stairs

n some sort of fashion. I found the courage to go into the hall again as if nothing had happened. As if nothing had happened! As if my should like to know?" she cried indignant whole life was not changed from that accursed known to the police. whole life was not changed from that accursed He was there the next night—then he night. As if the blight had not settled on me

went about my business oddly enough, but

pin which one could see was a diamond at any distance off.

Self. I might have fallen asleep in the private box and dreamed it all, for what evisome purpose. He disappeared again for a week, and I dence there was now of any trouble to her.

"Jacob. I have met an old friend to night; not happy out of his sight, or in my own, and such an old friend!" she added, lightly-Mr. Rushton." She indicated the man by her side with said, indignantly. "He is an old friend, and I a graceful wave of the hand, and said to will not turn away from bim. Not for any-

body. Not for you."
"You love him?" is a waster here—the head waiter."
She looked steadily at him, as if she were to have a little change when you feel in that defying him and his opinion of me; but he permission. That I swear." answered, graciously, far too graciously to my taste : 'I have a will of my own, as well as you

> name? "I have not heard it before in all my life. Any orders, sir ?'

> The reader sees how cool I was, I hope. He did not take any notice of my inquiry, but thought, probably, that I was a little too eager for business. It was Jessie who spoke "How forgetful you are, Jacob! Why, I

have spoken of Mr. Rushton a hundred times Weren't you ?" "I was Jessie, and no mistake," he replied. And a hateful berth it was."

and water—he is fond of whiskey -only I could not get a chance last night. There were so many people about. But on Monday," added, "I shall have better luck." I suppose I must have looked a little strange now, for my wife said: "He used to always call me Jessie in busi-

ness. But that won't do now, Mr. Rushton,' she added, turning to him. not? "No, I suppose not," was his reply. "I beg pardon, I'm sure."

erdon, I'm sure."
"Are there any orders?" I inquired.
"What will you take yourself, to begin with ?" he said. 'Nothing, thank you," I replied: "I never

drink in business hours."
"Well, get a bottle of fizz for me, and for the good of the house," he said.

A hottle of champagne for you and the better for her! lady? Yes, sir, What brand!' 'Oh, any brand; I'll leave it to you."

" Very good, sir." I would treat him as a customer, not as a friend, this Mr. Rushton, of whom Jessie had never said a single word in her life, whose name had been scrupulously kept back from and sat before the black and empty fire grate me, I was quite certain. I went away for the wine. When I returned he was sitall that night, and brooded in my turn of what for the wine. When I returned he was sit-ting alone, and Jessie had disappeared. I did not affect any surprise. I placed the

would come of it. Perbaps it would end hap-pily for everybody now. I had not wished to frighten her: I had only told the plain truth, two glasses before him, and uncorked the and she would take it as a warning, bottle. He was the center of attraction now; I went to the Apollo on the Menday, feeling a man who drank Champague at the Apollo sure that she would come there no more. I was something out of the common, except on had asserted my rights, and stopped this folly a man who drank Champague at the Apollo benefit and race nights. Even Cabdy, from for good and all. She had come so frequently his chair, looked toward him with evident in- of late that her absence was remarked before

terest. the evening was over. " Mrs. Durnford has gone home," he said. She desired me to tell you that that she night," Mr. Plantagenet said. "She is not ham. shouldn't stop any longer." 'Ten and sixpence, if you please." I re-

"Have you seen Mr. Rushton about?" he asked. "I wanted to see him myself very "There's your money. Won't you-And he pointed to the second glass I had particularly." filled.
"I don't drink Champagne," I answered,

as I walked away from him. I went to the front door of the Apollo, and of the " looked up and down the street, but there was no sign of Jessie. I went back to the hall to "I have seen Rushton, Planty," sa make sure that he was there drinking his new tenor, coming in at this moment. Champagne, from two glasses, in solitary before?" and as he hastened a way he pitched a shilling into my tray as a reward for my piece of information.

I could have almost laughed at this, only my thoughts were many, and were heart-siokening after a time. I had so much upon that be a failed to perceive me until I had come

Thanks, old man; why qualta you say we would—side by side, and talking very wife was safe without him. When I reached wife was safe without him. When I reached they would more that night she was asleep, with her could man, and did not know that I was the fivolities.

It was Jessie who saw me first, whose eyes had been upon the entrance all the while to praying much, I knelt down and prayed they would—side by side, and talking very wife was safe without him. When I reached human, and did not know that I was the child, which she had taken out of her crib, usband of her they called "the little ladv," had been upon the entrance all the while to praying much, I knelt down and prayed to praying much, I knelt down and prayed to praying much, I knelt down and prayed they would—side by side, and talking very wife was safe without him. When I reached human, and did not know that I was the child, which she had taken out of her crib, usband of her they called "the little ladv," had been upon the entrance all the while to praying much, I knelt down and prayed to praying much, I knelt down and prayed they would—side by side, and talking very wife was safe without him. When I reached Mr. Plantagent conghed, butthe tenor was which were out of place in this den of the fivelity she was safe without him. When I reached Mr. Plantagent conghed, butthe tenor was wife was safe without him. When I reached the wife wife was safe without him. When I reached the wife wife was safe without him. When I reached the wife wife was safe without him. When I reached the wife wife was safe without him. When I reached the wife wife was safe without him. When I reached the wife wife was safe without him. When I reached the wife wife was safe without him. When I reached

CHAPTER V.

" AN OLD STORY."

ticularij satisfied, but I was not, for I did not

grief, and she never spoke of that.

believe them.

very desperately.

thoughts of murder.

would speak up.

" Let them."

" Not go! Why not?" she inquired.

'I don't think you can."

I will not bear it any longer."

" I do not."

'Look here.'

as she gazed at it.

kill him last night."

"Jacob!" she screamed.

"You would murder him?"

"Great Heavens!"

to me,

"I shall speak to any one I choose."

"He and you shall not meet again by my

"Ah! but you don't know me," I said.

I took from my waistcoat rocket a small

"Poison." I auswered; " more than enough

to kill him. And I had made up my mind to

"I have been buying this by degrees -a lit.

"I would kill him like the rat he is. Why

She went away from me shudderingly to the

furthermost end of the room, with every par-

ticle of color bleached out of her face : she put

her arms round her child, and looked away

from me. Presently she fainted away, and lay like a dead thing in my arms. I was alarmed now; hut oh! if she had only died

that night, it would have been so much the

"Jacob, you never meant to kill him?"

"Upon my seul I did," I answered.

"Mrs. Durnford has not honored

My wife's name had suggested the other,

and Rushton had made himself friendly with

artistes," being profuse in his treats.

the manager and chairman and one or two

"I have seen Rushton, Planty," said our

"Oh, about three puarters of an hour ago,

"She is quite well, thank you."

"No. I haven't seen him."

" How long ago?"

When she recovered consciousness she said

"Don't come near me! get away from me

she whispered; and I went

tle here and there, at chemists' shops—and I should have put it in his first glass of whiskey

"What is—that?" she gasped forth.

Swear away," she answered, defiantly.

Perhaps you suspect me too?"

"And I don't like that Rushton foreve

What my life was for the next six months

drous rapidity. I kept my misery to myself

or flamed out in my wrath; but I was con-

fool than they had even thought, when my

heart was a great black blot that beat with

"And what became of them?" I asked, suddenly and harshly.

He stared at me haughtily for my intru Jessie was disposed to be communicative man in his own opinion, though in mine he now, and I asked a great many questions.

With the answers I ought to have been asked as the large rest of the could not sing one single note for the could not sing

Plantagenet, with a wink. I did not tell her that I distrusted her state " Oh ! the devil!" When he came into the stalls again, as if expecting to find her in her old place be secowled at me for an instant, and then vanished into the street.

"And what became of them? If you don't the box—I had been an finished into the street."

"And what became of them? If you don't the box—I had been an finished into the street."

"And what became of them? If you don't the box—I had been an finished into the street."

"And what became of them? If you don't the box—I had been an finished into the street."

"And what became of them? If you don't the box—I had been an finished into the street."

"And what became of them? If you don't the box—I had been an finished into the street."

"And what became of them? If you don't the box—I had been an finished into the street."

"And what became of them? If you don't the box—I had been an finished into the street."

"And what became of them? If you don't the box—I had been an finished into the street."

"And what became of them? If you don't the box—I had been an finished into the street."

"And what became of them? If you don't the box—I had been an finished into the street."

"And what became of them? If you don't the box—I had been an finished into the street."

"And what became of them? If you don't the box—I had been an finished into the street."

"And what became of them? If you don't the box—I had been an finished into the street."

"And what became of them? If you don't the box—I had been an finished into the street."

"And what became of them? If you don't the box—I had been an finished into the box—I had bee " And what became of them? If you don't anything." Mr. you."
man, "Here! hold hard," he cried. Rushton was alluded to as a vain man,

a "big silly," one that she had never went away, down the street; that's all I know. and half a dozen who came there—seasons agreed with in business; but I was on my Let go the tie, will you, you drunken old idiot. you know—and—" guard, and her air of indifference did not de- Planty, collar him, can't you?"

me.
Mr. Rushton had left business altogether. came off in my hands but I was very mad. Mr. Rushton had left business attogether.
He had come into property by the death of his father a Lincolushire farmer, and was "oh! bawled the manager, "we've stood enough of very rich, indeed." I did not doubt that and your larks these last three months—blowed if we are her by accident we ain't.

"Ut was very man." "You'll get the sack for this, Durnford," to their own 'ouse? Hasn't—"
"It's a missis, if you wants to know, Tomyour larks these last three months—blowed if we ain't.

"Oh! is it? I heard this was a Mr. Rush"Oh! is it? I heard this was a Mr. Rush-

that night, which was true enough, or about that night, which was true enough, or about I heard no more. I ran out bare headed into half the truth. It was he who had scared the street; it was raining fast, but I did not I heard no more. I ran out bare headed into half the truth. It was he who had scared the street; it was raining isst, but I did not allude to this suspicion, carrying the tenor's tie in my hand; I tottered say Rushton? Did either of you two men say Rushton?"

"He's off his 'ed now," said Tompkins; or seek to confirm it. He and Jessie had been up stairs to find the front room dark, the lovers once, I thought—before my time of back room dark—everything as dark as hell's

I saw it all so awfully clearly, even at go out with her." "Did she say what for?" "Only that she must take her-that's all, The ice was broken, and they met at the

CHAPTER VI. FATHER, MOTHER, AND CHILD.

I had had a long illness, and been for ong while at death's door, they told me when hatter," little Bailey said—he had been the boy in livery who sold bad cigars and propretty well: not even Jessie knew that I was jealous. It would have been as well if I had grammes at the Apollo, and he was the only one of all the lot who had looked for me, and curtains which hid the view a little. I should one end. Now, I tell you, that the old man curtains which hid the view a little. I should one end. told her-if I had sobbed forth my suspicions. one of all the lot who had looked for me, and wished to know what had become of me. I had been out of my mind for three months—

I was of my mind for three months—

I was of my mind for three months—

Yes, it was she. She was there, in a blaze less. He wanted to prospect for himself. The was at the Apollo, and before my face. There was nothing sly about it. I was an inmate of the mad ward of a London work-house, where it was thought I should of jewels, and with flowers.—God's beautiful There was some ugly talk at the hall, and soon die, and give no more trouble to any

bore it very philosophically, and was an easier not get very strong, but the little sense that I had ever had come back to me, although there were some who did not think so to

I suppose, looking at it all in soberer fashlast. Well, it is the last I am coming to now, ion, it was poor Jessie who was the fool. She and they who read this can indge for themselves. What their opinion is don't matter much—I am waiting now the Higher Judge, who will forgive me, or condemn me, according to his will. I plead guilty—that is was young, vain and willful, and I did not try

said she must not go to the Apello any more. I'his was on a Sunday night, when we had time to talk together a little. Then I thought I never went again: I never passed their doors, even ; I have gone half a mile round rather than pass them; a poster on the walls concerning the amusements of the place has "They are talking about you at the hall." turned me sick and giddy. Still, I got a living somehow. I was right in my head sneaking after you," I said ; " it looks bad, again-I was quite sure of that myself-and and people make worse out of it than it really a top back room in a court in Gray's Inn Lane was home enough for me. When I could not obtain a living I had the power When 1 " Can't I speak to an old friend, even with ou near me, without being talked about, to get away from it all in a few moments. The vial which I had shown Jessie was still with me. I had found it in he pocket of my Sunday waistcoat, in the old home, to which I went back for the worldly "Yes, by God, I do ! "I answered solemn goods which had been left me after the expenses of my illness had been paid to the par-She drew a long breath and turned as white as death. I had spoken out at last, and to

not want - a heap of Jessie's dresses, and a child's frock or two-and changed my quarters for good. It was a hand-to-mouth existence for the hardly know how I lived. I had but little to

the Union again, they thought, but I said I was not going to the Union any more. I had What my thoughts were of my wife and child I need not trouble anyone with—they were never out of my mind, you may take for granted. I grieved for little Jessie—for she might have been left to me; I grieved for my wife, and wondered where she was. I boro only hatred in my heart for the man who had

had been away from me for a clear six years -an awfully long six years it had been to me. I was engaged at a moment's notice, at a private fancy ball in the west of London. Caffins had the entire control of the refreshment department, and had been ordered to stand for no expense. "You'll do pretty well if you keep quiet

Durnford," said my employer—" and in the background a bit." "Why in the background, sir?" I asked,

respectfully.
"Well, you don't look a first-rate sort of waiter now," said Caffins, bluntly, "and I have orders to do things first rate. But you know how things ought to be done, and instruct the others."

'As head waiter, sir?"

"God bless my soul! no," cried Caffins "don't I say as a general help, and in the background? For mercy's sake don't put vourself forward. See how old and shabby " Very well, Mr. Caffins. I think I under-

stand." I understood that I should not please

Caffins as an extra much longer, and I went in a morbid condition to my duties. I even put my vial of laudanum in my pocket, in case I should not give satisfaction to the real head waiter - a stuck-up ignoramus who knew nothing of his business.

I obeyed my orders, and kept in the bacaground, as they wished me, though Jacob Durnford had never pushed himself where he was not wanted. The ball, which was an expensive affair, and a showy one in many ham. With all its lavish display, its hired orchestra, its fancy dresses, its numerous guests, its light and life and glitter, it was wasting in style and fashion, and at last even in decerum. The men looked like gentlemen, some of them, but the women were wild creatures, extravagantly dressed. were wild creatures, extravagantly dressed, and jeweled and painted, and they laughed and screamed loudly as the night stole on. A few of them I had seen before at the Application of the street of t few of them I had seen before at the Apollo, from the child to the glass of lemonade, and or in the streets, late at night, leading to the Apollo; more of them might have come here, but the rest were dead! There dawned "I thought she was better in God's hands upon me slowly the thought that at such a than yours," I said sternly, semi-respectable or semi disrespectable place

Shesctcamed again for help, and the death her, despoil her remains and fling them into his cistern. Egyptian justice has probably by likely—it was more than likely; and as to be assisstance, with white faces and starimpression deepened on me, I sat down, and ing eyes. with a cold aweat as of death upon me. "What's the matter, old man? Come over

ad?" asked one of the young waiters.
"I feel a little faint," I replied "it will soon | her."

I stole my hand to the glass of lemonads, ad?" asked one of the young waiters.

and knocked it over, and whilst the child-

a mad thing. Some other woman, I suppose, ain't much use just now. "I know that. Here, Tompkins!"

'What's the row now?' " Have all the company come?"

How the blazes should I know ?" "I don't call this a respectable lot—do you

Oh, lor-here's old Durnford shocked ! " Shall I get you some brandy, or some smelling-salts for your delikit consti- and ill health have at last reduced me, "This is the little lady's husband," said tooshun?"

"That's lucky. "But they're awfully mixed here, Tomking don't you think? There are four or five of " They the women who used to sing at the Apollo.

you know-and-" " Ain't they a right to enjoy theirselves as ceive me. I deceived her by feigning to believe—as I used to believe—everything she told dragged me from the tenor, whose white tie tuously indignant now; "or hasn't the massive as came off in my hands. They were both furious ter or the missis of this crib -I don't know which it is -a right to ask whoever they like

> on's place, and the missis was —"
> "Rushton!' I yelled at them both—" did
> "Rushton!' I yelled at them both—" did ton's place, and the missis was -"

"the master said we should have a job with

courtship of her; there had been a quarrel, mouth. I went down stairs to the landlady, a drifting apart, his obstinacy and her high and asked if Mrs. Durnford had come home. "There's no Rushton here, Durnford," said

"And keeps this company?"
"It will pay. She's a fine woman, and they do say as how Lord Cheeseborough-"Only that she must take her—that's all, they do say as now hord Cheeseborough—replied the landlady. "Has anything hap that's him with the gray mustache—comes pened, sir? Good Lord! how gray you look!" here pretty reg'lar to dinner, and—there he is I did not hear any more. I fell forward in talking to her now. That's Cheeseborough—

see that woman."

"Oh, you always was a chap after the gals!" ward me then.
Yes, it was she. She was there, in a blaze

some jesting words of warning, but it was only body.

But I recovered—that is, to an extent. I did waiter—the woman who had run away from him. She was laughing shrilly at the rehim. She was laughing shrilly at the remarks of the man with the gray mustache, who was bending over her, and it was not in our home together. Ay, and it was not a happy face, for all the beauty of it, and for all the old true, honest laugh which had echoed

contrast it to a disadvantage with

emonade, mamma says ?"

"Mamma!—which is your mamma the woman's I had been gazing at, like that of my little Jessie who had been stolen

sure."
"Your mamma?"

" Yes." I crawled very slowly to the refreshment "You are very young to attend these parties,

voice. ish. I took a pride in paying off every penny of that; and then I sold off the things I did to that; and then I sold off the things I did to confidence even to me; "she concerts, and balls -I'm to dance all the evenof her sight, so please let me have the le mon.

apollo people passed me in the street and did not know me. My hair had got as white as snow, and I looked a man between seventy and eighty, I stooped so much and a street and between seventy and eighty, I stooped so much and a street and between seventy which I had bought to distroy Rushian and eighty, I stooped so much and a street and did street a and eighty, I stooped so much, and tottered so feebly when I walked. It would soon be saving my child to take her from this life. and he just fell clean over him. Madness, if you like—I don't know, even in brood too much upon it.

As I turned my back toward her I poured

the poison into the glass, and with a strange the young feller right in.

'My name is Jessie, too." "Ay-it's a yretty name. Will you kiss me

for my little Jessie's sake ?" "Oh! no, no!-I couldn't," said the child, shuddering violently, and retreating backward step by step. "I-I couldn't touch

"Drink your lemonade, then," I urged you haven't tasted it." "N-no. No, I will not take it. I will go back to- Oh, mamma! mamma!" she screamed, as some one came rustling swiftly into the room, "this man has frightened me

so dreadfully!" This man has !" cried my wife's voice. 'How dare you—how—"
There was a full stop, and then the woman in her iewels glared at me as at a dead man

"Is-it-you?" she gasped forth, huskilv. "My name is Jacob Durnford, madam." Great Heaven! what has brought you

risen from his grave.

" Honest work." "You must go away at once. Here is money—take it; here is my diamond bracelet -sell it; but don't disgrace me before these people. · The disgrace came to you years

madam; you should be used to it," I said. pushing away her gifts. "I want nothing rom you. I am going now." "What is that in your hand?"

It was the vial. For the second time in my life I held it up toward her, foreshadowing crime. And she remembered at once.

What is it? What is the matter?" "The lady has fainted," I exclaimed; the heat of the room was too much for

plantion, I crept away from them all, and no

one sought to stay me.

I saw them never again; but I think still that in God's hands my little child would have been safer than in her mother's, and that it would have been merciful to place her

there.
In this work house ward, to which poverty to think it out like this; but the moral of it "I'm not shocked, Tomkins," I said. "I've all still battles me. A rumor reaches me that lived too long in the world to be shocked at in a quiet foreign village my wife and child have been seen; a grave, decorous, almost religious woman she is now, they say. Possible-just possible; but I shall never knew

THE RND.

for certain.

THE PRODIGAL SON.

Deadwood Sunday School Superintendent Gives a New Version of the

Story. A short time since the superintendent of s Sunday school out in the Black Hills happered to be visiting some friends in Brooklyn, and, on invitation, attended the school service of "Rushton?' I yelled at them both..." did you say Rushton? Did either of you two men first, but fine it consented, and to illustrate the welcome of the sinner to repentance re-

lated the following anecdote:
"I reckon most o' you young ones have heard about that ole feller in Egypt, which was well fixed fer kids. heeled clear to the neck, and thar wasn't a scious of the admirer who had suddenly sprung up in her path. She did not go to the Apollo for two or three weeks after this; she did not care about it, she said; she was tired, or had too much work to do.

I was standing motionless at the back of dispair, and a secret marriage with me. answer given.

I was standing motionless at the back of dispair, and a secret marriage with me. answer given.

I was standing motionless at the back of dispair, and a secret marriage with me. answer given.

I was standing motionless at the back of dispair, and a secret marriage with me. answer given.

I was standing motionless at the back of dispair, and a secret marriage with me. answer given.

I was standing motionless at the back of dispair, and a secret marriage with me. answer given.

I was standing motionless at the back of dispair, and a secret marriage with me. answer given.

I was standing motionless at the back of dispair, and a secret marriage with me. answer given.

I was standing motionless at the back of dispair, and a secret marriage with me. answer given.

I was standing motionless at the back of dispair, and a secret marriage with me. answer given.

I was standing motionless at the back of dispair, and a secret marriage with me. answer given.

I was standing motionless at the back of dispair, and a secret marriage with me. answer given.

I was standing motionless at the back of dispair, and a secret marriage with me. answer given.

I was standing motionless at the back of dispair, and a secret marriage with me. answer given.

I was standing motionless at the back of dispair, and a secret marriage with me. answer given.

I was the new comer, "though why it should mat.

That was the took up with Scowles, lie to to you if there was, I don't see. Rushton bolted away two years ago—couldn't stand by the new to you of there was, I don't see. Bushton bolted away two years ago—couldn't stand by the new to you of there was, I don't see. Bushton bolted away two years ago—couldn't stand by the new to you of there was, I don full owner o' an 80- stamp mill, and travelers in them parts has seen the smoke rising from his chimney pretty steady, and they knowed quartz was grinding and the dust was good. Thar warn't no funny business about the old man. He knowed prime wash from salt by the color, and it warn't long afore the boys quit stealing his and breaking a few glasses with my hands in mules and set down to the levels and picked my strong efforts to rise. "I should like to blind, but he dealt fair, and they respected him. Well, children, the old man banked a heap o' quartz. He had a big ranch, and the said Tomkins, laughing, as he hurried away.

I turned to the other waiter; I should have been glad to cling to his arm, but he had

Thar was antelopes and prairie chickens, and old man gave him the racket straight from the flowers—upon her head, and looping up her dress. This was the wife of Durnford the more money in a stamp mill than there was in mines, and he advised the kid ight thar. Why, children, thet thar old man knew from the fust hour that the short didn't have no show, even for tailings, even if he

"But the kid wanted long grass, and so the old man started him and gave him his blessing, and told him for to always deal level with the table and never let a man my utter get his elbow behind his kidney on him, and so the boy got away. Fixed straight I was well enough to leave the work house femury.

At the moment, a little hand touched mine, to his hair. All the dust he wanted. Best At the moment, a little hand touched mine, a state, but I was hardly well enough to get my own living. People glanced askance at me—Caffins only took me on as an "extra," when they were very busy, and to the Apolio "Plesse, waiter, will you give me a little was hardly well enough to get a fairy face looked up to mine, and a child did? He went broke. I never knew whether he got into a game whar they when they were very busy, and to the Apolio "Plesse, waiter, will you give me a little played straights or whether some fellow held "Please, waiter, will you give me a little played straights or whether some fellow held over him on a square deal, but he went clean to the bottom of his stock and child?" I asked, vory eagerly new, and with my soul turning into ice. The face was like yield didn't pan a cent to the ton. Gulph dried up. Dips crossed his angles. Blind leads fetched the only vein he had. from me.

"Why, the lady who lives here, to be was digging for yellow in black rock and couldn't see the glory that was only waiting for him to assay and coin. Yes, you bet. That thar poor boy, without money enough to buy a box o' matches, was driving where thar wasn't even pyrites, while all the sky table. The waiters were all away; only the little girl was with me now—my own child! was pouring out the best color ever panned, and be couldn't get out out. Well they were and he couldn't get onto it. Well, thar was little one," I stammered forth in a hoarse only one thing to do. Prospecting was no the ranchmen he'd keep covetees off the pigs. be child, full of confidence even to me; "she takes me everywhere—to all the theaters, and show what an ornery deried thing a pig takes me everywhere—to all the theaters, and show what are ornery deried thing and smoke him and throw him away and forget him before ing here—and she can't bear my being out you can eat him, and yet thet thar young man "What a life! what an example! Oh, my the racket got too stiff for him and he kicked said; but that was their excuse for not having me any longer on the regular staff at Caffins's; and I was changed so that the Apollo nearly ne of schucks he was goose on his luck. Bimeby him? Well, not for coin. Did he say he wasn't hiring any new hands, but the kid might get onto work at Hamilton's Hollow? I reckon not. Says he, 'Put it there, pard, style. Thet's trade from the origin. all my misery, if I were wrong, but I can not ain't all. Thet thar old man fetched out a buckskin trowsers, and an antelope shirt, and some buffalo boots and a camp bat, and drawed counter to her. The child looked afraid of me at last.

"Why do you look like that? Why do was? Yes, you bet your life, and He's waiting for you to pass you say 'God bless you'?" she asked, in a and for you to come to him and be fitted only hatred in my heart for the man who had taken her away. There came a day when I learned the news all at once. It was in the busy Christmas-time, when waiters were at a premium, and even I was sure of work. Jessie to "I don't know," I said; "I am fond of little children. I had a little girl exactly like out from under the family umbrella. Let up you once, and her name was Jessie."

"We name is Jessie to "
"We name is Jessie to "
"We name is Jessie to "
"The man is Jessie to " lower level gets awful hot some-times, and if you can't do placer work with the sky right around you, keep away from the tunnel business, for thar's no drawing after a bet.

"I'd like to have you sing a hymn for me

that we sing in our Sunday school, 'Baby Mine;' do you know it." And to the astonishment of the local superntendent they did know it, and he couldn't

A WELL FULL OF MURDERED WO-MEN

stop it.

Cairo has recently been plunged into profound consternation by the discovery of an appalling crime—or rather series of crimes—perpetrated in that city by a religious recluse. neikh Hamunda Berda, hitherto enjoying a high reputation for sanctity, and even popu-larly credited with supernatural powers of extraordinary efficaciousness in the way of curing female patients by holy spells, imparted to him by the prophet. Women were wont to make pilgrimages from all parts of Lower Egypt to the house of this supposed saint, in order to solicit his intercession Allah on their behalf.

About three weeks ago the wife of an Egypt. ian officer betook herself to the sheikh's residance for this purpose. When, however, elapsed without anything several hours had elapsed without anything having been heard or seen of her since she entered Hamuda's doors, her husband applied to the Cairo police for assistance to discover her whereabouts, and a rigid search was forth

Hamuda Berda, arrested on the spot and conveyed to prison, subsequently confessed to the cadi that it had been his practice for some time past, whenever consulted by a female possessed of rich jewels or other nortable property of value, take a turn with him in the garden, where this time made an example of this saintly personage by hanging him up in front of his wn house door.

-Glad to see Handford on the high road to respectability again. He has quit preaching and gone into the newspaper business.