

...thousand dollars each, and have them...

Still the old man hesitated, and urged objections, but these were met and set aside. At last Erskine's perseverance...

Everything went on again, for a short time, as smooth as a summer sea; and Erskine suffered himself once more to re-assume false security. He purchased more freely, and commenced inviting some of the country merchants to make bills with him...

While these things were going on, his wife was passing the time in pleasant unconsciousness of the precipice towards which she was approaching. She felt more and more 'uplifted' every day, in consequence of her position in society as the wife of a merchant...

'It's really true that you were married,' she said to her friend Mary Grant, about a year after her own happy escape from the delights of single blessedness...

'Do you, indeed? Who is he?' 'He's a young merchant, who has been in business about a year.'

'Well, what is his name?' 'Edward Perkins.'

'Why do you shake your head and look such decided opposition?' 'Because Edward Perkins is not exactly the man for me, if he is a merchant.'

'Why not?' 'He does not suit my fancy, Josephine, and would not if he were the prince of merchants.'

'Who does suit your fancy then, Mary? For I am sure I cannot tell.'

'As we are on this subject, Josephine, I will tell you, more particularly, as one of my errands here this morning was to inform you that I am to be married in a couple of weeks.'

'Married! Why you take me all by surprise. And now that you have told me this, I will tell you that I am to be married in a couple of weeks.'

'His name is Bradford. I suppose you know him.'

'Mary, you cannot be in earnest!' Mrs. Erskine said, in a changed tone, and with a sobered countenance.

'And why not, Josephine?' 'Marry Mr. Bradford! Surely you cannot be in earnest!'

'Josephine, I cannot understand you.' 'Marry a clerk! A mere nobody!'

'He is a man, and a gentleman! was Mary's firm and dignified reply. And further, Mrs. Erskine, as I have just intimated, he is to become my husband in two weeks.'

'You will, therefore, see the propriety of choosing your words rather more carefully.'

'Certainly, Mary. And I must apologize, I suppose, for my seeming rudeness. But, indeed, what you say pains me exceedingly. Surely, you are not going to reduce yourself to the level of a man who is only a clerk. Don't you see, that you will at once lose your station in society?'

'Most cheerfully will I give up any position that I have held, to become the wife of the man I have chosen; But I do not fear any such result in this case.'

'You will find yourself mistaken, then, I can tell you, Mrs. Erskine replied, drawing herself up with a dignified air.

'I do not fear it. I know of no one who will think any the less of me.'

'If they do not think the less of you, Mary, still, you cannot be admitted, except alone, into good society.'

'How do you mean alone?' 'I mean without your husband.'

'And do you really think, Josephine, that I would place my foot over any threshold where my husband was not admitted?'

'I am sure I cannot tell how you would do, Mary, but such an interdiction there will most certainly be.'

'Here, I suppose, among other places?' 'Mary Grant said, in a calm tone.

'I cannot say 'no' Mary,' was Mrs. Erskine's reply.

'The indignant girl said no more, but instantly arose from her chair, and left the house.'

'When her husband came home in the evening, Josephine related the whole circumstance to him.

'Surely you cannot be in earnest!' he said, in tones of profound surprise.

'Indeed then, I am in earnest. Do you think I am going to throw my house open for the reception of every kind of people?'

married to Mr. Bradford, and in a few days afterwards, the newspapers contained the announcement that her husband had been associated in business with the old and respectable firm of...

Instead of seeking to make any show, the newly married pair retired to a pleasant and neatly furnished dwelling, where Mary found, in domestic quiet and retirement, that true happiness for which Mrs. Erskine sought in vain and ostentatious parade.

It was about three years after Erskine's marriage that he found his business, upon a thorough investigation, intricately involved. Cameron had failed, and left him to pay some twelve thousand dollars of accommodation paper, which had been kept running for his (Cameron's) benefit. And worse than all, in this crisis, the name of old Mr. Allison was on Erskine's paper to at least the sum of twenty thousand dollars.

For more than a year, the young man had toiled night and day to keep his head above water. But his legitimate business was almost entirely neglected, and nearly the whole of his time spent in 'financiering.' But it availed nothing that he borrowed thousands of dollars every week, to return thousands of dollars borrowed in the week previous.

It availed nothing that he kept two or three bank accounts, to prevent the large amount of his 'askings' from being known to the directors of any one institution. The crisis would and did come.

Mr. Allison was standing behind his counter one day about this time, with his apron on, and his sleeves rolled up, musing in no very quiet mind, over the very heavy responsibility under which he was placed for his son-in-law, when that individual entered.

'Good morning, Charles!' he said, endeavoring to smile. 'You look troubled about something,' he headed, marking the expression of the young man's countenance more closely.

'And I feel troubled,' was the gloomy response.

'Why, what is the matter, Charles?' Mr. Allison asked, his heart bounding with a sudden pulsation, and then continuing to beat strongly, and to him audibly.

'I am afraid my business is involved beyond hope,' and the young man leaned against the counter in much agitation.

'Why do you think so?' asked Mr. Allison, in a voice as calm as he could assume.

'Because I have met with several heavy losses lately. Cameron's failure has involved a loss of at least twelve thousand dollars, and I have sunk more than that sum by my country custom.'

'What are you going to do?' 'I cannot tell. One thing is certain, I shall not be able to meet my payments on to-morrow. They are five thousand dollars, and I have not one hundred. Every resource is exhausted. Failure, inevitable and totally ruinous, stares me in the face.'

'And I shall be involved in that ruin,' said Mr. Allison, pacing the narrow space behind his counter backwards and forwards, in manifest agitation of mind.

'I trust not, sir,' Erskine ventured to say.

'Young man,' said the father-in-law, pausing and looking Erskine steadily and sternly in the face, 'when you fail, I shall be stripped of every thing. The hard earnings of forty industrious years will be scattered to the winds, and I turned upon the world, in my old age, without a dollar. Fool that I was, to suffer my better convictions to be overruled!'

'You are about on my paper to the amount of about twenty thousand dollars,' Erskine said, after the old man had ceased speaking.

'Only twenty thousand! And pray sir, how much do you suppose I am worth?'

'At least three times that sum,' was the confident reply.

'You were never more mistaken in your life, sir! I am, or rather was worth about twenty thousand dollars, and no more. Of course I am now a beggar! He said this with a bitterness of tone that touched the heart of the imprudent and reckless young man, and made him feel a keen compunction for what he had done.

But no affliction of mind could stay the onward course of events. The morning came and Erskine's store was closed. He had failed. Then came meetings of creditors, assignments, etc. Everything was given up, splendid furniture and all; and Mrs. Erskine was compelled to seek refuge in her father's house, further husband, now a broken merchant, had no place in which to give her a shelter.

More than all, 'her hard earnings of her father were drained out to lift her up upon which he placed his name. His houses were sold, and his stock reduced, so that when all was over, he had the fixtures of his shop left, his household furniture, and a very small stock of furs and trimmings, with which to go on with his business, and expensive family. As for Erskine, he was glad to obtain a situation as clerk upon a moderate salary, and as for Josephine, much as she despised a clerk, she found herself in the end, only the wife of a clerk.'

On the same day Mrs. Erskine left her beautiful home, to fall back into obscurity. Mrs. Bradford changed her neat little dwelling for one more imposing in appearance, yet possessing no higher attractions for her eyes, than the pleasant place where the first two years of her happy wedded life had been spent. Her husband's interest in the business had proved much more productive than he had anticipated, and although in no way desirous of making a more showy appearance than that which he already made, his partners insisted that he should take that external position in society which his means and standing clearly warranted, and it was in yielding to their wishes, that he had taken a beautiful house and furnished it in handsome style.

Once more Mrs. Bradford did not seek to renew an acquaintance with Mrs. Erskine. The change in their relative circumstances would have been sufficient to prevent her from doing so.

Erskine, however, was not so easily satisfied. He sought to see Mrs. Erskine, and upon seeing her, he was surprised to find her in such a state of poverty.

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suffered the past to sleep in oblivion, and coincides that there was no real change in Josephine's character, and that she had professed and acted upon, the deemed it best for both, now that there was a separation, to let the gulf remain between them.

The effect upon Josephine's mind, it is to be hoped, was salutary. Changes like these, by altering an individual's position, and therefore changing his relation to all surrounding objects, enable him to see often that to be true which he thought erroneous; and that to be error which he had called truth.

To others, the whole story may teach this lesson—that a young man ought to be estimable according to what he really is, and not according to any position in which he may be placed. The young man who has intelligence, sound principles and an active mind, must rise inevitably. And he who lacks these, be his position what it may, if it depend upon his own exertions to sustain it, will as surely fall.

'Out of the Deceiters.' A wealthy gentleman, who lived leisurely and drank profusely, was assisted out of his carriage one morning in front of the office of a celebrated physician, and 'enquired of the servant in attendance if the doctor was at home; being answered in the affirmative the wealthy gentleman hobbled in, supported on one side by a crutch, and on the other by a coachman, and took a seat. Directly the doctor made his appearance, and enquired the symptoms of the patient. The gentleman related his feelings as well as he could—stated that he could not sleep—could not walk—was continually oppressed with pains in the head—swellings in his eyes and legs, and finally every thing "that flesh is heir to" he was afflicted with.

'What have you done for yourself?' enquired the physician.

'Nothing—only dieted. I eat nothing but the coarsest food, and very sparingly of that; in fact, my wife says that I do not eat enough to keep a rat alive,' replied the gentleman.

'But you drink enough to kill an ox, which is a great deal worse.'

'Oh, no—you are mistaken, sir, there. I do not drink more than I have for the last twenty years. That is not my disease, certainly. But where in the world or how I got these beautiful legs, I cannot divine.'

'I will tell you, (said the doctor,) for I deal plainly with all men. You got them out of a brandy bottle. Now, take my advice. Go home; eat more and drink less, and you will soon be well.'

'Doctor, I thought you were a skilful physician, but I am satisfied of my mistake now. You live in an age of humbug—you have fallen into the channel, and by saying (I cannot call it real) the practices of its most eccentric proselytes, you have gained an enviable name; but, sir, it will avail nothing with me—I am not to be duped. What is your charge for this advice?'

'Five dollars.'

'There is the money—good morning.'

And the wealthy gentleman crawled back into his carriage, and was whirled out of sight in a moment. The sequel: The physician has since retired upon an ample fortune, and is now living in a green old age, in the bosom of his family, surrounded by every comfort, and enjoying a quiet repose which makes age a blessing. The wealthy gentleman has tumbled from his high estate, and is now a poor, degraded, houseless, penniless bloated drunkard, despondent and pined—alike a burden and a disgrace to his friends. The grave will soon open to receive him, and his name will become a blank in the memory of man.

This is a history of but twelve short years. Let those of us who read it remember that a host of diseases are "drawn out of the deceiver."—N. Y. Sun.

By the new apportionment, the number of electors of Senators and Representatives in Congress, will be 275, of which 138 are necessary for a choice. We give the following comparative table of the number of electors to which each State is entitled, both by the new and old ratio:

Table with columns: State, New ratio, Old ratio. Lists states from New York to Arkansas with corresponding elector counts.

The number of electors by the Constitution, it will be recollected, is equal to the whole number of Senators and Representatives in Congress. Thus, by the new ratio, Senators 25; Representatives 250; total 275.

The old thirteen States, including Maine, (formerly belonging to Massachusetts) are entitled to 170 electoral votes; the twenty-six States voted for at the late election, are entitled to 105 electoral votes; the seven States in which gave Mr. Van Buren 60 votes in 1840; they are now entitled to 100 electoral votes.

Bad News for Rogues and Fugitives from Justice.—Three Acts, intimately connected with commercial affairs, passed the British Parliament this last session, which are looked upon as being likely to effect a complete alteration in the mode of conducting business. These are the Merchant and Factors Bill; the Insolvent and Bankrupt Law; and the Act in connection with the latter, for the amendment of the law relating to the seizure of the goods of bankrupts.

The Merchant and Factors Bill, which is the most important of the three, is intended to give more security to the merchant and factor, by making it more difficult for the insolvent to dispose of his property, and by giving the creditor a more certain and speedy mode of recovering his debt.

The Insolvent and Bankrupt Law, which is also of great importance, is intended to give more security to the creditor, by making it more difficult for the insolvent to dispose of his property, and by giving the creditor a more certain and speedy mode of recovering his debt.

The Act in connection with the latter, for the amendment of the law relating to the seizure of the goods of bankrupts, is intended to give more security to the creditor, by making it more difficult for the insolvent to dispose of his property, and by giving the creditor a more certain and speedy mode of recovering his debt.

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Prices have declined for most descriptions of produce, very extensive parcels having been presented upon the market, both by private contract and public sale—the principal part of the goods, however, have been actually sold.

The manufacturing condition of credit in general has raised the rate of money accommodation in the distant world to parties who may require it extensively; but in ordinary cases actions we do not believe it can be quoted higher than 2 1/2 per cent.

The London Gazette of Friday week notifies that the by-laws of Texas is held by her Majesty's government to be null, of Antonio and Vera Cruz proclaimed by the President of Texas on the 26th March, not having been enforced by vessels sent to those ports, and of no effect.

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Another account, dated Elsinore, Sept. 18, says that a vessel picked up near Lindanes a Russian sailor, part of the crew of a Russian ship of the line, who had been drifting about at sea for forty-eight hours on logs of wood. The captain saw the ship of the line at a distance of three miles, and observed some men who had clambered up the sides. A Norwegian steamer was going to save the people, but it was probable that the greater part of the men comprising the crew were drowned.

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A decided improvement has taken place in the manufacturing districts of England. Many of the hands have returned to work, and are threatening more formidable strikes at a future time. At Andover and Newcastle, outages have been committed by the colliers, but they are not so serious as heretofore. Agents received at Glasgow relative to the turn out of the Glasgow spinners have naturally excited attention, and lead to an apprehension of further interruption to manufacturing pursuits, should the infernal example be followed.—At Manchester, and other places, matters are settling down, and every facility again exists for the execution of orders, if, indeed, any of magnitude are to be obtained.

The particulars of the Great Fire in Liverpool, of which we gave a short account in yesterday's Extra and to day's Sun, are as follows:—

The fire, whether we regard the calamity in respect to rapidity with which it spread, the extent, the destruction of property, or the loss of life, is equally certain to excite painful feelings at the present moment, while it will form the subject of a gloomy record in the annals of the town hereafter.

The three principal streets affected, namely, Crampton street, Formby street, and Neptine street, are nearly opposite the Borough Gall, run east and west, between Great Howard street (in which the prison stands) and Waterloo road, of 7 acres, and nearly every building within this space has been destroyed. Piles of warehouses and extensive sheds, crammed with costly merchandise, have been suddenly reduced to heaps of heterogeneous and almost valueless matter. There have been destroyed 45,000 bales of cotton, 250,000 casks of tallow, 8,600 barrels of turpentine, 300 casks of flour, 2,200 barrels of flour, 60 tons of iron from Calcutta, besides unknown quantities of flour, India rubber, sperm oil, tallow, bark, Indian corn, fusile and other foreign produce.

But it is impossible to form any true idea of the accurate estimate of the total loss sustained by this disastrous event. The opinions hazarded on this subject have been various, the greatest amount being £700,000, and the least £400,000. Perhaps a mean between these two sums which would give £550,000, may be near the mark.

It is now our painful duty to speak of the casualties which occurred at the fire, which were, as usual in such cases, greatly exaggerated by the tongue of rumor. Taking them at the best, however, they have been fearfully great, and the loss of life has been deplorable.

Of those buried beneath the ruins it is impossible to form any correct notion. The prevalent opinion among those employed at the fire, is in the commencement, that not less than eighteen or twenty had been thus destroyed. We hope, however, that this is an exaggerated notion, for in the confusion attendant on incidents so fearful, nothing could be known with certainty.

Hodson, an active officer, was buried beneath the walls of a warehouse. Another man was killed instantaneously by falling walls. One laborer had his head almost severed from his body; and another his thigh cut in two. Several of those who were but slightly hurt were at once conveyed home. Those who sustained more severe injuries were carried to the Northern Hospital. In the afternoon of Friday twenty-five persons were received at the latter place, of whom nine were policemen, and the other sixteen laborers. The deaths reported from the hospital are three.

Keystone Association.—The members are to meet at a special meeting THIS EVENING 7 1/2 o'clock at the Keystone Hall, for the purpose of electing officers. By the Committee.

JUST RECEIVED. 300 Trusses and Breeches, 2500 Yards of Tape, and a large quantity of other goods, at a considerable discount, at the American Temperance Bazaar, No. 10, South Street, New York, Oct. 23, 1841.

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