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Selecten Boetry.

ON THE TOWN. DY R. H. STUDDARD.

The lamps are lighted, the streets are full, For, coming and going, like the wave of the sea, Thousands are out this beautiful night; They jostle each other, but shrink from me! Men hurry by with a stealthy glance, Women pass with their opes cast down; Even the children seems to know The shameless girl of the town !"

Hated and shunned I walk the street, Hunting-for what? For my proy, ?tis said; I look at it though in a different light, For this mighty shame is my daily bread1 My food, my shelter, the clothes I wear! Only for this I might starve or drown; The world has disowned me, what can I do But live and dis on the town ?

The world is cruel. It may be risht To crush the harlot; but grant it so, What made her the guilty thing she is! For she was innocent once you know : 'Twas love! that terrible word tells all! She loved a man, and blindly believed His vows, his kisses, his crocodile tears; Of course the fool was deceived!

Whith d Lto gain by a moment's sin. To weigh in the scale with my innocent years, My wom only shame, my ruined name, My father's curses, my mother's tears The love of man! It was som thing to give Was It worth it? The price was a soul paid down; Did I got a soul, ans soul in exchange? Behold me here on the town !

"Your gui t was heavy?" the world will say, "And heavy, heavy your doom must be; For to pity and pardon woman's fall Is to set no value on chastity ! You un tervalue the virgin's crown, The spotless honor that makes her dear." But I ought to know what the bauble is worth, O. When the loss of it brings me here!

But pity and pardon ! Who are you, To talk of pardon, pity to me? What I ask is justice, justice, sir! Let both be punished, or both go free If it be in woman a shameful thing, what is it in man, now? Com., be just; Remember, she falls through her love for him, He through his selfish lust!

Tell mo what is done to the wretch Who tempts, and riots in woman's fall? His father curses and casts him off? His frien is forsake? He is scorned of all? Not he-his judges are men like himself, Or thoughtless women who humor their whim : " Young blood"-" Wild oats"-" Better hush it up!" They soon forget it-in him

Even as mother, who ought to know The woman nature, and how it is won, Frames a thousand excuses for him, "Because, forsooth, the man is har son! You have daughters, madam, the told me so,) Fair, innocent daughters-" Woman what then !" Some mother may have a son like yours-Bid thom beware of men!

I saw his coach in the street to day, Dashing along on the suchy side, With a liveried driver on the box ; Lolling back in her listless pride, he wife of his bosom took the air

have been needed, for neither could be imagined more intensely interesting; nor could the most finished artist have constructed a plot more coherent in all its details, or more strictly in accordance with the rules of composition,--even to the preservation of the Aristotelian unitics of time and place. So perfect, indeed, does it seem, that, were it not substantiated in every point by the records of a judicial tribunal, it might well be taken for the invention of some master of human nature and the dramatic art.

Captain Cyril Wilde, the hero, or raher the victim, of the events we are about to narrate, was one of those perfectly happy men whom every one has learned to regard as favorites of Fortune, and on whom no oue ever expects disaster to fall, simply because it never has done so. Well descended, at a period when good birth was a positive honor in itself, and connected, either by affinity or friendship, with the best society in Kentucky, he held, by hereditary right, a high position among that old aristocracy which then and for a long time afterward stoutly maintained its own against the encroaching spirit of democratic equality, and whose pembers still kept in mind many of the traditions, honored in their own persons the dignity, and strove to preserve in their households somewhat of the manners, of the Cavaliers of the Old Domin-Nor was wealth wanting to complete his happiness,-at least, such wealth as was needed by one of his simple tastes and unostentatious habits. He was rich beyond his disposition to spend, but not beyond his capacity to enjoy,-a capacity multiplied by as many times as he had friends to stimulate it ;---summer friends, alas! too many of them proved to be .---His character was without reproach; his disposition easy and genial; his mind of that happy middle order which always commands respect, while it feels none of the restless ambition and impotent longing for public recognition that usually attend the possession of superior abilities. Such was the position of Captain Wilde, and such was the character he bore during the first thirty-eight years of his life. Not many have known a more lengthened Not many nave known a more respectively, prosperity,—and few, very few, a more sudden and terrible reverse. Fortune, like a fond mistress, had lavished her gifts on him without stint,-but, like a ealous one, seemed resolved that he should owe everything to her gratuitous bounty, and the moment he sought to win an object of desire by his own exertions turned her face away forever, persecuting her former favorite thenceforth with vindictive malice. Continuing to yield, for a time, with apparent complarency; every boon he sought, she treacherously concealed therein the germs of all his woes. In the year 17-Captain Wilde was persuaded to better his already happy them the power, we will notice one incondition by marriage. The lady chose, or suffered to Le chosen for him, was a Miss M----, a scion of one of those extensive families, not now so common as formerly, which by repeated intermarriage and always settling together develope a spirit of clanship, so exclusive as to make them almost incapable of any feeling of interest outside of their own name and connection, and render them liable to regard person of different blood, who may happen to intermarry among them, as an intruder. In some parts of the Union these clans may still be found flourishing in considerable purity and vigor,-the name sometimes prevailing over a district. of many miles, - a fact which an observant traveller would surmise from a certain prevailing cast of form and feature. It was with a family of this kind that Captain Wilde was, in an evil hour, indueed to ally himself,-a step which soon proved to be the first in a long career of misfortune. The lady possessed that worst of all tempers, a quick and irritable, but at the same time bard and unforgiving one. And she soon showed, that, in her estimation, the feelings and interests of her husband were as nothing in comparison with those of her family, and that, in any variance, she would leave the former and cleave to the latter. Such variances were, unfortunately, almost inevitable; for the family of Mrs. Wilde differed both in politics and religion from her husband,a fact, it may here be remarked, which had no small influence on his subsequent fate,-and the parrow, bigoted exclusiveness of the wife-was utterly incompatible with the free and open-hearted fellowship with which the husband received his acquaintances, of whatever sect or party.-In a very few months, therefore, it began to be whispered abroad that the hitherto happy and joyou; bachelor's hall had become a scene of constant bickerings and heartburnings. But mere incongruity of tempers and habits was not, as was supposed by their neighbors, the only source of domestic liscord. This might in time have entirely disappeared; had conjugal confidence only been allowed its natural growth, all might have been passably well in the end, in spite of such serious drawbacks; for, from the necessity of his nature, the husband would in time have become completely subservient to the sterner spirit of his wife. which, in turn, might have been mollified in some degree amid the peaceful duties of home; a state of things that has existed in many families, which have. nevertheless, enjoyed a fair share of domestic happiness in spite of this inversion magined.

not that she had no love for her sister; heterodoxy,-forbade any hope of attain- Devil bought magicians, was profitable on the contrary, her love. such as it was, ing a place by popular choice; and in an was really strong and lasting; and in her evil hour his friends succeeded in procurwas really strong and lasting; and in her even nour instructions successed in product whatever for the soul he surrenders up. fierce grief for that sister's death she met ing him the office of exciseman. a punishment almost equal to her deserts. Now there is no peculiarity more mark-Nor was it long before she provided her-ed in all the branches of the Anglo Saxon erent temper of the wife to subdue comself with a most effectual means of accom- race than the extreme impatiences with lishing her malicious object, of inflam- which they submit to any direct interferng the troubles of the household into ence of the government in the private afwhich she had intruded herself. This fairs of the citizens; and no form of such was the discovery, real or pretended, of a interference has ever been so generally former illicit connection between her odious as the excise, and, by consequence, brother-in-law and a pretty and intelli- no officer so generally detested as the exent mulatto girl, about eighteen or nine- ciseman. This feeling, on account of the cen years of age, who was still retained very large number of persons engaged in n the family in the capacity of house- distilling, was then formidably strong in deed was the change from the case and maid. Having once struck this jarring Kentucky, all the more so that this form abundance of his bachelor's hall, where chord, she continued to play upon it with of taxation was a favorite measure of the slavery meant little more than a happy diabolic il skill. To those who watched existing Federal Administration. Those exemption from care, to their presont conthe course of her unholy labors, the ener- who ventured to accept so hateful an office dition, in which it meant hopeless subgy and ingenuity with which this wretch- at the hands of so hated a government mission to the power of a capricious and woman wrought at her task, and the were sure to make themselves highly un- cruel mistress. The worst form of female ompleteness of her success, would have popular. In time, when the people be- tyranny is that exhibited on a Southern eemed a subject of admiration, if the re- gan to learn their own strength and the sult had not been so deplorable as to weakness of the authorities, the enforce- Her power to afflict is so complete and nerge all other emotions in indignant de. ment of the law became dangerous, and all pervading, that not an hour, nay,

merge all other emotions in indignant de-testation. So thoroughly had her design been ac-complished in the course of a single year, that the birth of as sweet a child as ever smiled upon fond parents, instead of ser-ving as a point of union between Captain Wilde and his wife, only increased their estrangement by furgishing another sub-although he was a man of great courage estrangement by furnishing another sub- although he was a man of great courage the treacherous wiles of the serpent than obstacle. that of this ill-starred household by the whispers of this serpent in woman's shapo. Under her continual exasperations, Mrs. from domestic wretchedness. The conseaproprieties might bring upon herself. the other side, because his wife was gift. pularity in the county, the last deplorable

compared with his; since he gets nothing whatever for the soul he surrenders up.

pletely the mild and peaceable nature of the husband. At her bidding most of his former acquaintances were discarded; and even his warmest friends and nearest relations, no longer inceting the old hearty welcome, gradually ceased to visit his house. But the bitterest effect of this weak and culpable abdication of his rights was experienced by his slaves. Sad inplantation, under the sway of a termagant.

them nor witness their execution-that ject of contention. Alas I the peace of and not at all likely to be deterred from being left to agents, usually hardened to Eden was not more utterly destroyed by the discharge of his duty by any ordinary their office, and who dare not be merciful, even if so inclined. It adds two-fold to Such was the place sought and obtain- the bitterness of such tyranny, that the ed by the unfortunate Wilde as a refuge tyrant is able to acquire a sort of exemption from the weakness of pity. It is Wildo's temper, naturally harsh, became quence it was easy to foresee. In a few wisely ordered that few human beings at 1 st so outrageous and unbridled as to months, he who had been accustomed to shall feel aught but pain in looking upon render her unfortunate husband's life one universal good will became an object of the extreme bodily anguish of their felong course of humiliation and misery.- almost as general dislike; and as people low-men; and when a monster appears Far from taking any pains to hide their are apt to attribute all sorts of evil to one who seems to contradict this benign law discords from the world, she seemed to who has by any means incurred their hos- he is embalmed as a monster, and transcourt observation by seizing every oppor- tility, and are never satisfied until they mitted to future times along with such tunity of inflicting mortification upon him have blackened the whole character in rara aves as Caligula, Domitian, and n public, reckless of the reflections such which they have found one offensive qual- Nans Sahib. And here -as a Southern

ity, the family difficulties of the unpopu- man, brought up in the midst of a house-But why, it may be asked, did not both | lar official soon became a theme of com- hold of slaves-let me remark, that the parties seek a separation, when affairs had reached such a state as this? First, be-ing laid upon him. This state of things, the possibility of the negroes falling into cause Captain Wilde, though advised disagreeable in itself, proved most unfor- the hands of a brutal owner capable of thereto, naturally shrank from the sean- tunate in its influence on his subsequent exercising all the power of the inflicting dal such a step always occasions ; and, on fate ; for, had he rotained his provious po- misery which the law gives him. But the natural law of compensation is ed with one of those intolerable tampers catastrophe would certainly never, have universal, and if the most wretched being that make some women cling to a partner happened : since overy lawyer knows full in existence be a slave subject to the sway they hate with a jealous tenacity which well, that in capital cases especially, ju-love could scarcely inspire, simply for the reason that a separation would put an end sentiment, and that the power of any sullen, malicious, or dishonest negro,—

to their power, so dearly prized, of inflict- judge to cause the sympathies of a com- while for one instance of the former, there ing pain;-for hatred has its jealousy, as munity to sink into calm indifference at are a hundred of the latter who would well as love. Of the perverse ingentity of these two women in causing the deepest mortifica. tion to the unfortunate gentleman, whenever Fate and his own weakness gave where the people, both in theory and in have known cases in which it was really

hese two women was now rapidly driving | which little was indeed necessary; for hutheir wretched victim, and soon, they man life is a frail thing, and a determined were to learn that they had been hunting, not a lamb, but a tigress, whose single undergone the most effectual preparation spring, when brought to bay, would be as for such a task,-that of the soul; and uick, as sure, and as deadly as was over when that is once thoroughly accomplishade from an Indian jungle. For now, ed, not much more is needed ; a fact which near the end of the third year of Captain seems not to be understood by those pa-Wilde's married life, its wretched scenes triotic assassins-French and Italianof discord and tyranny were about to be whose elaborately contrived infernal maclosed in a catastrophe that was to over- chines do but betray the anxious precauwhelm a great community with consterna- tions taken to insure lives which, accordtion and horror, and blot an entire family ing to their own professions. have been out of existence almost in a single night, rendered valueless by tyrahny, and ought —a catastrophe in which Providence, therefore to be the more freely risked true to that ideal of perfect justice called Felton and Charlotte Corday, understood poetical, working out the punishment of their business better; but even their preptwo of the actors by means of their own arations may be called elaborate; compared inhumanity, at the same time mysterious- with those of this poor slave-girl. involved two others,-one clothed in Captain Wilde returned late in the eveall the innocence of infancy, and the other ning with the coveted coach; and the guilty only through weakness and as the whole family, white and black, of course, instrument of another. Seldom has de- turned out to admire that crowning addistruction been more sudden or more com- tion to the family spleudor. But among plete, and never, perhaps, was so annihi- the noisy group of the latter there stood ating a blow dealt by so weak a hand. one who gazed upon the object of admira-Those who remember the early times of tion with thoughts far different from those Kentucky know that the place of the agri. of her companions; and soon the careless cultural and mechanics' fairs of the present mirth of all was checked and chilled into day was supplied by "big meetings," silent fear, when they saw their master which, under the various names of asso- take from beneath one of the seats a new ciations, camp meetings, and basket-meet- specimen of the well-known green cowngs, continued in full popularity to a skin, and hand it, to his wife. Ah! they quite recent period, and were at last par- all knew that appealing look well, and the tially suppressed on account of the im- hard, relentless frown by which it was anmorality which they occasioned and en- swered, as well as they knew the use of couraged. It was to these holy fairs- the dreaded instrument itself. But there as now to secular ones-that the wealth was only one among them who compreand fashion of early Kentucky crowded hended its immediate purpose. The glance for the purpose of displaying themselves of cruel meaning which the tyranness, afmost conspiciously before the eyes of as- | ter having examined the lithe, twisted rod sembled counties. Mrs. Wilde, like most critically for an instant, cast upon the obwomen of her temper, was passionately jeet of her malice, probably banished the fond of such public triumphs, and had de-last lingering hesitation from the breast termined at a camp-meeting soon to be held of the latter, ---who turned away ostensi-in the vicinity, to outshine all her rural bly to the performance of her accustomed neighbors in splendor. For the full reali- duties, but in reality to settle the details zation of this ambition, a new carriage was, of a crime unsurpassed in coolness and in her opinion, absolutely necessary ---resolution by aught record of pirate or This fact she communicated to her hus highwayman. It was probably during the band, and upon some demur on his part, a thing now very rare, her temper, as usu Wilde's return that her deadly purpose a thing now very rare, her temper, as usual, broke forth in a storm of reproach and shaped itself forth in the plan finally exeabuse, so that the poor man, completely cuted; because it was not till then that she subdued, was glad to purchase peace by became cognizant of all the circumstances acquiescence in what his judgment re- which entered into its formation. Selgarded as a foolish expense ; and he pre- dom have more nicely calculated combipared immdiately to set off for L----- nations entered into the plots of criminals. to produce the coveted vehicle. But be- and never was a plot depending on so fore he had mounted, his wife, yet hot many chances more completely successful. from their recent altercation, discovered Yet the pivot of the whole, as often in or affected to discover some negligence on more extensive schemes of homicide, is the part of the mulatto girl, who was en- to be found in the reckless daring and utaged in nursing the child, which was at ter disregard of personal safety manifesthis time suffiring from a dangerous ill. ed throughout. For this alone she seems ness. Now the one tender trait of this to have made no calculations and taken

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violent woman was intense love for her no precautions; her whole mind being offspring; but it was a love that, far from softening her manner toward others, par-gle difficulty,—how to approach her ene-

She was bourht in the mart where hearts are sold ; I gave myself away for his iove She sold herself for his gold!

He lives, they say, in a princely way, Flattered and feasted One dark night Some devil led me to pass his house I saw the windows a blaze of light: The music whirled in a maddoning round, I heard the fall of dancers' leet. Bitter, bitter, the thoughts I had, Standing there in the street

Back to my gaudy den I went, Marched to my reem in grits despair Dried my eyes, painted my checks, And fixed a flower or two in my hair: Corks were popping, wine was flowing, I suized a bumper and tossed it down One must do squathing to kill the time, And fit one's self for the town :

I meet his boy in the park sometimes And my heart runs over towards the child; A frank little fellow, with fearless eves. He suiles at me as his father suiled! I hate the man, but I love the boy. For I think what my own had he lived would be Perhaps it is he come back from the dead-To his father, alas! not me !

But I stand too long in the shadow here. Let me out in the light again ; Now for insult, blows perhaps, And, bitterer still, my own disdain I take my place in the crowd of men. Not like the simple women I see; You may cheat them, mon, as much as you please, You wear no masks with me!

Kno w ye! Under your honeyed words There lurks a serpent ; your oaths are lies; There's a lustful fire in your hungry hearts-I see it flaming up in your eyes Cling to them, ladles, and shrink from me. Or rall at my boldness-well, have you done ! Madam, your husband knows me wellt Mother, I know your son

But go your ways, and I'll go mine; Call me opprobrious names if you will; The truth is bitter-think I have lied; "A harlot?" Yes-buta woman still God said of old to a woman like me. "Go: sin no moral" or your Bibles He; But you, you mangle his merciful words To-"Go and sin till you die !"

Diel the word has a pleasant sound, The sweetest I've heard this many a year;" It seems to promise an end to pain, Anyway it will end it-here Suppose I throw myself in the street ? Before the horses c uld trample me down, Some would be friend might snatch me up, And thrust me back on the town !

But look, the river! From where I stand . I see it, I almost hear it flow; Down on the dark and lonely pier-It is but a step-I can end my weel A plunge a splash, and all will be o'er, The death-black waters will drag me down ; God knows where ! But no matter where, So I am off the town !

OYRIL WILDE.

• For some reason which it does not con- of the natural relations of their heads -cern us now to investigate, Kentucky, un- But Mrs. Wilde had brought into her der the dominion of the white man, has Jusband's house that deadliest foe of docontinued to justify its nutive name of mestic peace, an elderly, ill-tempered, " Dark and Bloody Ground," in being the suspicious female relative, serving in the scene of a remarkable number of trage- capacity of confidante, This-curse-was embodied in the person of a much older dies in real life.

One of these, less known to the public sister, who happoned to be neither maid, in later times, we think transcends all wife, nor widow, and, having once effectthe others in boldness of conception, re- ed an entrance under the pretence of asgularity of plot, variety of passion and sisting to arrange the disordered housecharacter displayed, and horror and pathos hold affairs, easily contrived to render her of catastrophe. It might have furnished position a permanent one. So soon as a worthy subject to the pen of Sophoeles this was achieved, she appears to have or Shukspeare, one that they would have begun her hateful work of sowing discord found already cast into a highly dramatic between the new-married pair. Having form, requiring only fitting words to con- long since blighted her own hopes of hapvey the passions of the actors. Little in | pinese; she seemed to find no consolation Without a program or indicent, would so sweet by preciting het at allors ;-

fact, are so completely sovereign that the hard to say which contrived to inflict institutions of government are only instru- | most misery : the one might get used to stance, on account of the important influence it had in bringing about the denouement of this domestic tragedy. time, Captain Wilde had on one occasion requested the assistance of some of his prophetic than that with which he stu- any time.

neighbors in treading out his grain; and dies the formal countenances whom he dithe party had set to work at dawn, in or- rectly addresses. der to avail themselves of the cooler por-

tion of the day. After waiting with long-ing ears for the sound of the breakfast horn, they finally, at a late hour, repaired Captain Wilde's fate. On one occasion, was not compelled to inflict some sort of to the house, uncalled. Here the host, while engaged with a brother-official in punishment upon his negroes. These, supposing all to be ready, led his friends arranging their books preparatory to the however, never ceased to feel for him the unceremoniously into the dining-room. where he was astonished, and not a little | raged because he failed to attend instant- | kindness during the happy years of his angered, to find his wife and sister seated composedly at their meal, which they had domestic, matter, rushed into his study that feeling was now mingled with a sort already nearly finished, with only the and caught up an armful of papers, which of pity; for they well knew the three customary plates on the table, and she attempted to throw into the fire. The painful reluctance with which he obeyed no apparent preparation for a larger num- documents were of great importance; and the harsh commands of his wife. And ber. On his beginning to remonstrate in to prevent her carrying her childish pur-a rather heated tone, his wife arose, and, pose into execution, her husband was oblichthis unfortunate gentleman, none mourned remarking that she had not been used to ged to seize her quickly and violently, and more bitterly, and few cherished his eat in company with common laborers, swept disdainfully from the room, follow- will hardly recognize this incident in the homble dependants, who best knew his ed by her sister. No more unpardonable form in which it was afterward detailed real character. insult could have been offered to Ken. from the witness stand; and it is only on But it was upon the mulatto girl Fanny, tucky farmers, at the vo.y foundation of account of the effect which this and other particularly, that the tyrannical cruelty

whose social creed lay the principle of occurrences of like nature had in bringing of Mrs. Wilde was poured out in all its. equality, and of whose character an in- about the final event of our history, that soverity. From some cause, --whether ense and jealous feeling of personal dig. we take the trouble to narrate matters so, because her duties rendered her more nity was the most salient feature: for these men were of independent means, who had come rather to superintend the abors of their negroes than to labor themrelves, -such occasions being regarded it came out magnified and distorted into a former intimacy between this girl and her only aspleasant opportunities for free and brutal and unprovoked outrage.

inrestrained sociability, far more agreeastate of that family in which such scenes something in it almost diabolical. And ble than formal and ceremonious visits were allowed to meet the eyes of strang ers; and again it may be asked, Why did in making her husband the instrument On these occasions, the host would conduct his friends over his farm to survey not Captain Wilde take measures to dis- of her persecution an ingenious method of the condition of his corops, or point out to their admiration his fine cattle, or cb- solve a union that had resulted in so much punishing both her victims, if the motive unhappiness, and in which all hope of im-provement must now have disappeared? And truly bitter it must have been to tain their opinion concerning some contemplated improvement; a most admira-Such a stop would certainly have been both, when the hand that had been only ble means of drawing closer the bonds of reighborly feeling and interest. A more wise; nor could the strictest moralist too kind was now forced to the infliction have found aught to censure therein .- even of stripes ; so that one hardly knows oitter mortification, therefore, could hardy have been devised for one who always But it was now too late. No observer of which to pity most: though, if the essence human affairs has failed to notice how of punishment be degradation, certainly prided himself on his open-hearted Kentucky hospitality even to strangers. Just surely a stronger character gains ascenden the legal slave suffered less of it than the logal share with which it is brought moral one who had fallen so low beneathudeness, he flung a knife, which he had into familiar contact. No law of man can the dominion of a termagant wife But abrogate this great law of Natúre. Talk dly taken up, violently upon the table, swearing that his friends should, in his as we may about the power of knowledge of this wretched daughter of bondage, nouse, be' treated as gentlemen; at the or intellect or virtue, the whole ordering that, in spite of all, she never lost that ame time calling to the mulatto, Fanny, of society shows that it is strength of he bade her prepare breakfast, and added, character which fixes the relative status in one of a more favored race might be in a tone but half suppressed, " You are of individuals. In whatever community called by a softer name. For, whatever the only woman on the place who behaves we may live, we need only look around to like a lady." I his imprudent remark discover that its real leaders are not the was overheard by the everypresent sister- merely intelligent, educated, and good but the energetic, the self-assorting, the at a subsequent period, when she cast in-law, and the use she made of it may be aggressive. Nor will mere passive strength

because this petty domineering temper is

In this unpleasant state of his domestic of will prevent subjection ; for how often elations, the character of Captain Wilde do we see a spirit, whose only prominent seemed to undergo an entire transformacharacteristic is a restless and tireless tion. From being remarkable for his pugnacity, hold in complete subserviency love of quiet retirement, he became restthose who are far superior in actual less and dissatisfied; and instead of laugh- strongth of mind, purely through the apa

ing, as formerly, at public employment as thy of the latter, and their indisposition only vanity and vexation, he, now that a to live in a state of constant effort. It is greater vexation assailed him in his once peaceful home, eagerly sought relief, not, as a younger and less virtuous man might men, that we see a score of henpecked master. have done, in dissipation, but in the dis- husbands to one ill-used wife. Woe to

tractions of public business. But here the man who falls into this kind of slaagain his evil fortune granted the desired very to a wicked woman ! for through him milder nature turns to voluntary death as boon in the shape pregnant with future she will commit acts she would never dare a refuge from further suffering, and fiercer disaster. The hustility of Mrs Wilde's in her own person; and a double woe to ones begin to contemplate orime with sa-

ments, and none at all of antagonistic ac blows and curses so as not much to mind tion. The advocate, therefore, always them, but the other could never escape According to the kindly custom of that watches the crowd of eager faces without the agonies of rage into which his confuthe bar, with eye as anxious and far more marious chattle was able to throw him at

Captain Wilde's temper was more than usually mild and lenient; and he was There was one circumstance, arising probably the most wretched being on his indirectly from his public employment, own plantation during the last two years that exercised no trivial influence upon of his life, -- a day seldom passing that he annual settlement, his wife, becoming en. respectful attachment inspired by his ly to her orders concerning some trifling batchelor-life; but, strange as it may seem, drag her from the hearth. The reader memory so long or so tenderly, as these

trifling and uninteresting; for it appeared liable to commit irritating faults; or that every incident of the kind was care- whether, being always in sight, she was fully registered in the memory of the simply the most covenient object of abuse, Erinnys of this devoted household, whence or whether on account of the alleged master,-certain it is that the hatred with Wretched indeed must have been the which the mistress pursued her had let it be ever remembered to the honor devoted attachment for her master, which may have been his feelings toward her, there can remain no doubt of the nature of hers for him, - so touchingly displayed

away the terror of violent death, so strong in all her race, and sought, by a voluntary confession of guilt never imputed to her to save him by taking his place upon the scaffold. Surely, such heroic self-sacrifice suffices to

Her dark despair and plead for its one crime." It was probably on a discovery of this feeling in the girl that the intermeddling found much oftener in women than in sister in-law founded her charge against her But there is a point beyond which human endurance cannot go .- at which

family, which had now become deeply ex- him, if he be not as wicked and hardened vage complacency. Towards this point cited - combined with his own pliced as his mistress !. The bargain of the old the ruthless and persevering cruelty of

took, on the contrary, of the fierceness of my undetected.

her general character, and became, like As to the details of this affair; let us that of a wild animal for its young, a mention one or two facts, and then the source of constant apprehension to those conduct of the murderess will itself explain whose duty compelled them to approach them. We have already stated that its object. Se now, seizing the weeping the only child of Captain and Mrs. culprit by the hair, she dragged her to the Wilde, an infant about eighteen months door, and, after exhausting her own pow-ers of maltreatment, called to her husband For a fortnight it had been the custom and ordered him to bring, on his return, of the parents to sit up with it on alternew cowhide,---" For you shall," cried nate nights, this night it being the father's she, in an uncontrollable rage, "give this regular turn to perform that duty; but wretch, in the morning, two hundred lash his trip of twenty five or thirty miles had es !" It was a brutal threat, falling from fatigued him so much that it was judged the lips of one who was called a lady; for, best for his wife to relieve him.-his of all tortures, that of the cowhide is for slumbers being usually so profound as to the moment the most intolerable, in its be almost lethargic, so that, when once sharp, penetrating agony, as is well known fairly asleep, the loudest noises even in by those who remember even a moderate, the same room would fail to arouse him, application of it to their own person in and it being feared, therefore, that the chool-boy days. The victim knew that little patient might suffer, if left to his the execution of the barbarous menace care in his present state of weariness. would be strict to the letter, and that it in the same room slept a young negro would be but little preferable to death it-¹ girl, whose duty it was to carry the child self. Yet, in spite of this, she now, for into the open air when occasion required, the first time, failed to cower and trem- -an office which Fanny herself had more ble, but arose and faced her oppress- than once performed. The reader will or, erect and defiant. The last drop had note how ingeniously every one of these now been dashed into the cup of endu. circumstances was woven into the girl's ance,-the final blow had been struck, scheme of death, and how each was made under which the human spirit either falls subservient to the end in view. crushed and prostrated forever, or from At ten o'clock on the night of the 18th which it springs up tempered to adaman. of July, 17-, everything had become tine hardness, and incapable thenceforth quiet about that lonely farm-house, so of feeling either fear for itself or pity for completely isolated in the midst of its ts smiter. That one moment had entire | wide plantation that the barking of the y reversed the relations of the two, making dogs at the nearest dwellings was barely the slave mistress's fate, while the latter heard in the profound stillness. A dim thenceforward held her very existence at light, as from a deeply shaded candle, the will of her slave. The cruel wom shone from one of the casements to the an had raised up for herself that enemy right of the hall-door, showing where the more terrible even to throned tyrants than | parents watched by the bed of their suffering infant. Along the high-road, which, an army with banners; for there is something truly terrific in the almost omnipo- a lew rods in front, stretched white and tent power of harm possessed by any in-silent in the moonlight between its long. telligent being, whom hatred, or fanati- lines of worm-fences, a solitary traveller cism, or suffering has wound up to that on horseback was journeying at this hour. point of desperation where it is willing to, This gentleman afterward remembered bethrow away its own life in order to reach ing more usually impressed by the air of that of an adversary,-such desperation as peace and repose that reigned about the inspired the gladiator Maternus, in his ro. place, as he rode under the tall locust mantic expedition from the woods of Tryn- trees which skirted the yard and cast their sylvania through the marshes of Panno dark shadows over into the highway.--nia and the Alpine passes, to strike the But he did not see a female form flitting lord of the Roman world in the recesses furtively from the negro-quarters in the of his own palace, and in the presence of rear, toward the house; and a shade of his thousand guards. He who has pro- suspicion might have crossed his mind, voked such hostility can know no safety, had he glanced back a moment later and but in the destruction of his enemy, -a beheld that form approach the lighted fact well understood by the elder Napole. window with stealthy, cautious steps, and on, who, however he might admire, never peer long and intently through the partipardoned those whose attempts on his per- ully drawn curtains upon the scene with son showed them utterly reckless of the in, then, stooping low, glide along the moonlit wall and disappear beneath. the safety of their own.

short flight of wooden steps that led up And now, for a few hours, the whole to the front door. interest of our narrative contres in her Here ensconced, safe from observation. 4 whom that moment had but so completely the murderess lay listening to every ransformed and made already a murderess in heart and in purpose. And how sound in the sick room above. Ten,steeled, and how entire must have been the clock in the dining-room on the oththe banishment of all counteracting feel. er side of the hall. For three hours has ings, when she could for a whole day, in she crouched there, but the opportunity ings, when she could for a whole day, in the midst of a household of fellow-servants, and under the watchful eyes of an angry mistress; continue to discharge her usual tasks, bearing this deadly, purpose in her breast; yet never, by word, look, or ges ture, betray the slightest indication of its ture, betray the slightest indication of its head opened, and the young negro nurse dreadful scoret, no, not even so much still half-asleep, came forth, stood for as to draw suspicion toward horself after moment upon the topnicat step to recover the discovery of the crime 1 There was no her senses, and then, with the wailing in-time or opportunity for preparation, of [CONCLUSION NEXT WERK.]