THE CONFESSION

DAVID LEWIS

THE NOTED UGHWAYMAN AND COUNTERFEITER.

and shabby tavern at the extremity of State street. As soon as the services were over I prepared to pay the minister his fee, and the pay the minister his fee, and the services were over I prepared to pay the minister his fee, and the pay the p press upon her spirits.

place, that her chaste mind filled with fears and doubts of my sinerity, had suspected me of the ase design of taking advantage f her unprotected situation.

eneral conduct had been; vicous and profligate as was my ourse of life in other respects; and impure and sensual as might have been my depraved propensities, I always had the highest renot only had won my affections, my gratitude and gained my confidence. Although vicious myself, I respected and admired virtue in her, and had I only followed her excellent advice and profited by the instruction which repeatedly fell from her lips, I upon the bed of death as I now am, ashamed to live and yet afraid to die. Malinda possessed every mental endowment and personal charm, and had she not been so unfortunate as to meet with me before years and experience had matured her judgment, she would no doubt have made a happier marriage with a more worthy man, and become the mother of children proud to acknowledge their father instead of being ashamed to own the author of their being. Her pleasing person, her light and flowing hair, the brightness of a complexion that equalled in whiteness the new fallen snow, the rose of beauty and the bloom of youth that mantled her cheek, and, above all the exression of a blue eye vieing from mildness with an April sky, moistened as it was with the dew of heavenly charity and shaded with the longest eyelash I ever beheld, were sufficient to captivate a man whose heart was less warm than mine. But destiny had wedded her to ruin when she secame my wife. Alas! she merted a better fate, and what ag gravates my present agony of eeling is the distressing thought that an uncharitable world may isit the iniquities of the husband and of the father upon his deso-

But that I may not digress too ar, let me now resume the narralive of the more important inci-

ate offspring.

We remained at Albany the night on which we were married, and in the morning, I imparted

to my wife a short history of my past life, taking care to conceal from her knowledge the most

my in the evening just as the city tion I gave, could not fail to shock Hampton, Ga: "A bad cold renlock had struck seven. Not for. her sensibility, wound her pride dered me voiceless just before an retting the promise of marriage and alarm her fears. Until this oratical contest. I intended to chich I had contracted in the disclosure was made, I succeeded withdraw but took One Minute most solemn manner, and made in making her believe, that my Cough Cure. It restored my voice under circumstances that re. commitment for the horse affair in time to win the medal." quired more hardihood of villainy at Troy, was a conspiracy between to break than I possessed at the Root and his accomplices, and worst period of my life, I imme. that the combination thus formed diately bespoke of the lanlord of and carried on between them, to the house at which we put up a charge me with this offence, was private apartment, and went in called a prosecution under color search of a minister, who soon of law, but was, in reality, nothmade his appearance and per- ing short of a persecution against formed the ceremony in a mean all law, or rather justice, originatand having mixed my good and man on account of certain whisbad money together, I unfortu. pers, which then began to spread nately presented him, through among the people about his being mistake, with one of my ten dol. a "public defaulter," and having lar counterfeit Burtingtons, but a great itch to handle once more the generous man, much to my the public money. These sus surprise, objecting to the large. picions, it has since appeared, ness of the proffered gratuity, were but too well founded, for the returned the note and refused in people of New York being satisthe most positive terms to accept fied of his guilt' refused to vote of more than two dollars, which I for him, at a recent attempt made instantly handed him in silver, by his friends to have him rewhich at that time had begun to elected. Neglected as my edugrow somewhat scarce. Melinda cation had been, young as I was now appeared for the first time in years and experience, depravto wear a more cheerful counte- ed as my heart, and ignorant as I nance than she had done since might have been, on most subher elopement. The performance jects connected with the adminof my marriage promise had sat. istration of political affairs, nothisfied her scrupulous delicacy and ing could excite my wonder more removed a heavy weight of anxie. | than the great inattention paid by ty and distress which seemed to the people to the selection of their public agents. When I have ob-It was evident, until this took served the people hold meetings after meeting, and pass resolu-

had embezzled the public moneys, Improper and guilty as my perhaps one, who had been tried in the scale and found wanting, I and saw the same people again nominate the same man for reelection to the same office, or perhaps one of a higher grade, I concluded in my own mind, that it spect for female virtue. The fact was not always profitable to be is I entertained for Malinda as honest, and that honesty now:apure a passion as ever warmed days was too much overlooked in the breast of man; the lovely girl the public estimation, as a requisite for office. When I saw men but she had completely secured who had cheated the people, defrauded the public and plundered the treasury, become the greatest favorites of the people, thinks I to myself, surely "honesty is not the best policy." When I perceived that men in high station had been guilty of diverse evil dowould not be languishing in jail ings, and instead of meeting with plauses, powers, dominion, office, influence, and patronage," the reflection had an unhappy effect in extinguishing every remorse of conscience, and reconciling me more and more to the vicious course of life in which I was then engaged. Alas! how often and how foolish did I argue with myself, "that if it was not dishonorable" in a man who holds a high place of profit and trust, to"cheat the people and oppress the poor," how can it be very criminal in me to depredate on the rich, while I spare the poor: nor could I, for

(To be Continued)

ner I have done.

my life, discover the mortal dis-

tinction which many made, be

tween a robber on the highways

against law, and a public agent,

who robs and plunders in his of

fice, under the color of law,

though he may never happen to

follow the high-ways, in the man-

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Administrator's Notice.

A JOINT RESOLUTION Proposing an amendment to section ten of article one of the Constitution, so that a discharge of a jury for failure to agree or other necessary cause shall not work an acquittal. Section 1. Be it resolved by the Senate and Rouse of Representative of the Common wentth of Pennsylvania in General Assembly met. That the following be proposed as an amendment to the Constitution; that is to say, that section ten of article one, which reads as follow:

Secretary of the Commonwealth

after meeting, and pass resolutions after resolutions, approbating some "great partizan" who had been a public defaulter, and

A JOINT RESOLUTION.

ourt authorizing the same shall have be ertised for at least thirty (30) days in ality or localities affected, in such man he court may direct. A true copy of the Joint Resolution.

Secretary of the Commonwealth

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