MISCELLANY.

A BAD SPECULATION ; OR, THE DARK STRANGER.

CHAPTER I. 'Ah, Angely, I am ruined-utterly ruined !' exclaimed Robert Wilson to his young and devoted wife.

Ruined, why, Robert, what can have happened. I thought you were doing so well in your business,' returned the wife, with the deepest anxiety depicted upon her fair features.

lucky moment, I embarked in a specu- the gate of hell itself. The old and respeclation which has proved unfortunate, and every dollar I possess is gone.'

before, Robert t' 'I wished not to pain you, love.'

I fear you have been impredent; nay, I will not reproach you." I have hoped that until now I should

be able to redeem myself, By risking a few hundred dollars more, I feel confi- and the honors of the world can sanctify dent that I coud retrieve my losses, and sin and hollow iniquity. come out bright again; but alas! I In an ungarded hour he had been lured have not another dollar in the world.' And the young husband looked anxi-

ously at his wife. "What kind of speculation was it, Robert? asked his wife, as a slight O, it was a strictly business transacand I don't think you would understand

it if I explained it,' replied Robert.

I am not so dull of comprehension, that I cannot understand an ordinary

business transaction. 'No my dear, I know you would understand it better than ladies generally would, but it is very intricate-very.'

'I will not insist, Robert, upon knowing anything you desire to conceal,' said Mrs. Wilson, with a gentle reproach in her tone-but methinks a wife ought to know the occasion of her husband's sorrows.'

'Forgive me, Angely,' replied the husband, imprinting a tender kiss upon her lips; forgive me and I will tell you

'Nay, love, I ask it not, I am satisfied now. And is there no hope?

If I had two hundred dollars, I feel perfectly confident that I should redeem myself. 'Is there no risk, Robert?'

'I will be candid, Angely, 'there is

I will get you the money, Robert.' 'My own true wife.'

This conversation occurred at the house of a young New York shopkeep. er. He had been married to a young, gentle-hearted girl only a year before, during which period they had lived in uninterrupted bapiness.

The young wife had no suspicion that the clouds of adversity were lowering over their joyous home until her husband had communicated the fact .-For some weeks, however, she had no ticed that Robert was more than usually dull. - Once or twice a week he had absented himself from her side in the evening, alleging that he had business demanding his attention.

Angeline Wilson, at the time of her marriage, was the possessor of a small deeply, expressive ble eye-it seemed not sum of money, bequeathed to-her by unfamiliar to him. The glance-he knew how strangely you appear,' continued his her father. It had been settled upon not why-riveted him to the spot, and he wife. her so that her husband could not control it, and could spend no portion of it without her sanction.

The young shopkeeper's business had prospered beyond his most sanguine expectations, so that his devoted wife, who would willingly have placed her little fortune in his hands, saw no occasion to withdraw it from her uncle, in whose hands it was not only deemed to be safely invested, but was producing a hand-

Robert Wilson was a whole-souled young man, without a selfish thought in his composition. He had married Angeline for herself alone, and had hardly bestowed a thought upon her portion.

But the 'bad speculation,' had wor ried him exceedingly. All the ready money he could command had been exhausted, and in his extremity, the thought had occurred to him that his wife could supply his wants. The idea of asking her for reli f, was, to a man of high-strung temperament, so highly repuguant, that he only had the courage to hint at the service she might ren-

CHAPTER II.

With the money in his pocket, which Angely had procured for him, Robert Wilson hastened down Broadway. At the corner of Park Place he paused, and cast a furtive glance around him, evidently much agitated. He thought of his loving

He had deceived her, and his conscience smote him. She was all love and gentle-ness, and sincerity, and confidence, and he

and basely deceived her.
Should he not return, throw himself at her feet, and beg forgiveness? Such a course was certainly the most grateful to his erring, penitent soul; but he had made a bad speculation, and while there was hope of retrieving himself, the demon of mammon within him prompted him to sin

Turning down Park Place he enter d one of those gambling hells, which are the tened America. Again he he steps of the magnificent es-, to silence the upbraiding of nee. The beautiful, loving exof his wife, languishing away the

tedious hours of his absence in lonely mis ery, haunted him.

But the usual consolation, the oft-repeated resolution of the erring soul: Only this time, and then I will forever abandon the 'way of the transgressor,' came to urge

By the gas-light in the street, he observed a dark form, closely muffled in the ample folds of a Spanish cloak, approaching the spot where he stood. The stranger paused by his side, glanced intently at him and then entered the saloon.

He followed him; the hall flashed with brilliant lights, and the gay and fashionable of the metropolis thronged the scene. 'And so I am, my love; but in an un- Men smiled as though the place was not table of the bar and forum, and the exchange, were there, countenancing, by Why have you not told me of this their presence and example, the miquity practised within those gilded walls.

Robert Wilson shuddered as he entered the saloon. Yet why should he shrink to deeper dishonor. from a scene, in which the respectable men of the community hesitated not to mingle? Poor, simple young man! his soul had not yet come to believe that wealth, station

into a 'den of thieves,' by a man of good standing in society-the importer from whom he purchased many of his goods, and who held his notes in payment of them

He had hazarded a few dollars, though misgiving crossed her confiding heart. He won; he was in the hands of those his conscience smote him all the while who were experienced in the management tion, rather complicated in its details, of unsuspecting dupes. He went away with his pockets well lined with the fruits of his unhallowed gains.

> Inflated by the ambition to become suddenly rich, he went again, and again won. The devil lured him on. With a firm resolution to abandon these visits when he should have added the gains of one more night to his previous accumulation, he went sion as he had on the two previous nights, on him, he conducted his mysterious comhe should be able to pay the only note he owed. The prospects of freeing himself en- clock struck eleven as they entered. tirely from debt, suddenly and without labor, tempted him to engage once more in | ger. the exciting game.

But the gamblers had permitted him to

All his fine fancies were thus dashed to of her to be discovered. the ground. But the hope of freeing him-

Again he went, trusting that the chan- 'Left you, I should say; women are so ces of the game would again favor himagain and again he went, till all his availadroitly permitted him to win a few dollars groans, the auguish of his soul occasionally, and thus his hopes were cept buoyant.

All were gone, but the passion of gamng had gained intensely as his worldly goods had melted away.

Uneasily he strolled among the gambvously on again.

He had two hundred dollars in his pockgiven by his wife. He must be careful of it; he could hope for no more.

As he paced the gaily thronged hall he discovered the dark-looking stranger, who had confronted him at the entrance of the saloon, alone, at one of the marble tables

The eye of the dark being suddenly res. ready for him to put his feet into ted sharply upon him. It was a dark, stood tremulously gazing at the stranger.

The complexion of the mysterious peronage was decidedly white. His beard, jet black, entirely covered the sides and lower part of his face, even to the contour of the mouth. It was very long and curled gracefully down over the chin. Over but I came in just as the clock struck elehis head he wore a cap, from beneath ven.' which, long, black, glossy curls floated down over his coat collar. In stature he than before. 'Where is Mr, the was below the medium size.

CHAPTER III.

'Play!' said the stranger, in a low, gut ural voice, not unmingled with softnss. Robert Wilson involuntary seated himself opposite the dark being.

With his gloved hand the stranger placed a fifty dollar bill on the table. 'Highest wins,' said he laconcially, as

he pushed the dice-box over to Robert. This was certainly an irregular game, and an irregular method of proceedingbut it was simple, and in this respect was preferable to him, so he placed a corresponding amount by the side of it. Robert shook the dice, and cast them

pon the table. 'Twelve,' said the stranger, as he shook up the box and made his throw. Eighteen, continued be, sweeping

stakes from the table. The next throw Robert won. The stake was doubled; he won again. Maddened ger of the gambling hell sat at the fire. by excitement, he placed all the money he had on the table. The darkvisaged stranger, without moving a muscle of his brow.

covered it. At one fell swoop Robert was penniless

Rising from the table in a paroxysm of disappointment, he was about to rush from the scene. 'Stay!' said the stranger.

'Your watch' 'No,' replied Robert, firmly, It is my

Your luck will change again. The young man hesitated. 'Sure to change,' continued the stran-

With a desperate effort, Robert drew the watch from his pocket. 'Seventy-five dollars,' said he, tremu

The dice descended-Robert won

but staking all, again he was once more gely.'

The watch was put down again-it was lost! Robert was in despair.

You have a wife?' said the stranger. 'I have-God forgive me l' replied the ruined husband, in a burst of bitterness. Of course, you love her not, or you would not be here,' continued the stranger,

carelessly. 'I do love her-as I love my own soul exclaimed Robert, perplexed by the singular turn the conversation had taken.

The character of the professional gambler was too well known to him, not to suspect that the dark stranger had some object in view in these inquiries. Those fearless tales of gamblers who have staked money against the honor of a wife, flashed across his mind, and he shuddered to think how near he stood to the fatal precipice, which might hurl him, in his madness, in

'You would have her know what you have done?' said the stranger calmly. 'Not for the world.'

Then play again; your chance is good. 'I have not a shilling.' "I will lend you."

'On what security?' asked Robert, trembling for the answer. 'Mortgage me your stock of goods.'

'You know me, then?' 'No; you are a shop-keeper'

The stranger threw three hundred dol In ten minutes it was all lost!

'The mortgage,' said the dark being. 'Can we make it here? said Robert, over whelmed with anguish. 'No; I will go to your house.' 'Impossible! not for the world.'

'But I will,' said the stranger, sternly. By Heaven, you shall not!' 'Hist! you shall be exposed.'

Robert was obliged to consent, and borne a third time. If he succeeded on this occa- down by the terrible agony that preyed uppanion to his once happy home. The 'Your wife is not at home,' said the stran-

Robert was surprised to find that Angely was not in her accustomed seat by the run the whole length of his rope. On the fire. Full of painful misgivings, why, he third night he lost-lost all he had before knew not, he hastened to her apartment to see if she had retired; there was no trace

Returning to the sitting-room, he found self from debt, had taken strong hold of his the strange gambler seated by the fire, inimagination, and he could not so easily re- tently poring over the pages of a book he had taken from the centre table.

tame,' replied the stranger, sternly, 'Left me!' no!' exclaimed Robert, casting able means were sacrificed. The gamblers himself into a chair, and venting deep

> 'The mortgage,' continued the stranger, sharply. 'I will write it in my room,' replied the young man, leaving the apartment,

Wiping away the tears which coursed in great drops down his haggard cheeks, ing tables, now pausing to glance an in- he picked out a blank mortgage from his stant at the game, and then hurrying ner- papers, and proceeded to fill it out. The task completed, he returned to the sitting-

et and-humiliating reflection! it had been | As he opened the door, he started back with astonishment at beholding Angely seated by the grate, reading the last number of Harper!

·Why, Robert, I did not know you had got home,' said she, rising and placing a chair before the fire where his slippers lay,

The dark stranger was not there. What is the matter with you, Robert,

'Do Io' and Robert started and looked round him in wild amazement. Where was the stranger?

'I did not know you were here, Angely, stammered he. 'I have been out awhile, this evening;

'So did I,' answered he, more confused

gentleman who came home with me?" 'I have not seen any gentleman.'

'I came in at eleven with ----'What time is it now, Robert?' The watch-his wife's watch-it was

'Your watch-I left-

'I have it; it is half-past eleven,' said An gely, taking the watch from her pocket What is the matter with you Robert? you are crazy, I should say.

That watch,-Robert paused. 'Well,' said Angely, beginning to wear mysterious, mischievous look, 'how goes your speculation? 'Badly, my dear,' replied Robert with a

look of wonder. What paper have you in your hand! 'Nothing-that is-I will put it in my secretary,' and he left the room to get the

ug y document out of the way. He was not absent more than five minu tes, but when he returned the dark stran-Robert began to think he was dealing

with the devil 'The mortgage,' said the stranger, in his low, deep tones. 'Who are you, sir? man or devil-who

are you? exclaimed the bewildered young man, rushing toward the dark form. But before he could reach it, the form shook off the cloak and the whiskers and 'I have not a dollar,' replied Robert, the wig, and his WIFE stood before him! The spell was dissolved. He understood

'Are you cured, Robert,' said she, smiling mischievously. And then using the deep tones of the dark stranger, she continued: You have a wife; of course, you love her not, or you would not be here .-Ah, Robert, that alone saved you; you confessed your lave even in your gambling hell. In making haste to be rich, you have been led astray. But I forgive you, Robert,' and the gentlehearted wife twined her The stranger placed the amount on the arms around his nick, and kissed his

Always forgiving as the spirit of mer-

AND THE REAL PROPERTY OF THE PARTY OF THE PA

For several successive throws he won, cy. Into not deserve your forgiveness, An-

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WILMINGTON, N. C.

DISSOLUTION of COPARTNERSHIP. THE public are hereby informed, that the co-I partnership heretolore existing between the undersigned, under the name and firm of W. M.

Sherwood & Co. is this day dissolved by mutual consent. All accounts due by the firm will be pre-sented to W. M. Sherwood for settlement, and all accounts and notes due them must be paid immediately to close the business. WILLIS M. SHERWOOD. VM. A. GWYER.

PUBLIC HALL. THE MASONIC HALL is offered for publ Exhibitions, Lectures or Entertainments.

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and promptly forwarded at all times.
All orders for Ice must be addressed to Wil-

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Terms CASH in all cases.

Tickets can be procured if desired.

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A. H. VASBOKKELEN, Proprietor.
April 12th, 1855.

NOTICE.

A LL persons having claims against Moore, Stanly & Co., will please present them for settlement—and all those indebted to them are requested to come forward and make immediate payment to the subscriber. JNO. A. STANLY.

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WILMINGTON N. C. DEO. HOOPER. J. L. DEARBORN. WM. L. HO PER

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E. P. Hall Pres't Br'ch Bank of the State. O. G. Parsley, Pres't Commercial Bank. Wif. K. Dickinson, Esq. Poppe & Co. Dollner & Potter. New York, Jan. 20 1854.

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W Caraway.

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Dec. 13, 1853.

duce, such as Corn, Peas, Meal, Bacon Lard, &c ..

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T. C. WORTH, General Commission Merchant, WILMINGTON, N.C.

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A large and fresh lot of Raisina, whole, half and quarter boxes; also, fresh Currants, Figs and Citron; 20 boxes Cheese, English Dairy and Goshen; freeh lot of Butter; 40 bags Java, Laguyra and Bic Coffee Coresie by Rio Coffee. For sale by Nov. 10. WM. L.S. TOWNSHEN D.

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Especially, who have become the victims of Sciite-

Especially, who have become the victims of Solitery Vice, that dreadful and destructive habit which annually sweeps to an untimely grave thousands of young men of the most exalted talents and brilliant intellect, who might otherwise have entranced listening Senates with the thunders of conquence, or waked to ecstacy the listing type, may call with full confidence.

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A CURE IN TWO DAYS, OR NO CHARGE. No Mercury or Nauseous Drugs Used.

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DR. JOHNSTON. Member of the Royal College of Surgeons, London; graduate from one of the most eminent Colleges of the United States, and the greater part of whose life has been spent in the Hospitals of London, Paris, Philadelphia, and elsewhere, has effected some of the most astonishing cures that were ever known. Many youbled with ringing in the ears and head when asleep, great nervousness, being alarmed at sudden sounds, and bashfumess, with frequent blushing, attended sometimes with derangement of mind, were cured immediately.

Member of the Royal College of Surgeons, London, graduate from one of the most eminent Colleges of the United States, and the greater part of whose life has been spent in the Hospitals of London, Paris, Philadelphia, and elsewhere, has effected some of the most astonishing cures that were ever known. Many troubled with ringing in the ears and head when asleep, great nervousness, being alarmed at blushing, attended sometimes with derangement of mind. were cured immediately.

A CERTAIN DISEASE.

When the misguided and imprudent votary of pleasure finds he has imbibed the seeds of this painful disease, it too often happens that anili-timed sense of shame, or dread of discovery, deters him from applying to those who, from education and respectability, can alone befriend him, delaying till the const. utlonal sysmptoms of this horrid disease make their appearance, such as ulcerated sore throat, diseased nose, noctural pains in the head and limbs, diamess of sight, deafness, nodes on the shin bones and arms, blotches on the head, face and extremities, progress on with frightful rapidity, till at last the palate of the mouth or the bones of the nose full in, and the victim of this awful disease becomes a horrid object of commisseration, till doath puts a period to his dreadful sufferings, by sending him to "that bourne from whence no traveller returns." To such therefore, Dr. Johnston pledges himself to preserve the most inviolable secreey; and, from his extensive orac. inviolable secresy; and, from his extensive practice in the first Hospitalsin Europe and America. he can confidently recommend a safe and speedy cure to the unfortunate victim of this horrid disease. It is a melancholy fact, that thousands fall victims to this dreadful disease, owing to the unskilfulness of ignorant pretenders, who, by the use of that deadly poison, mercury, ruin the constitu-tion, and either send the unfortunate sufferer to an

untimely grave, or clse make the residue of life mis-

TAKE PARTICULAR NOTICE. Dr. J. addressee all those who have injured them selves by private and improper indulgences. These are some of the sad and melancholy of fects, produced by early habits of youth, viz:

Weakness of the Back and Limbs, Pains in the
Head, Dimness of Sight, Loss of Muscular Power, Palpitation of the Heart, Dyspepsy, Nervous
irritability Derangement of the Digestive Func-

Mentally -The fearful effects on the mind are much to be dreaded; Loss of Memory, Confusion of Ideas, Depression of Spirits, Evil Forebodings. Aversion of Society, Self Distrust, Love of Solitude. Timidity, &c. are some of the evils produced. Thousands of persons of all ages, can now judge what is the cause of their declining theath. Losing their vigor, becoming weak, pale and emaciated, have a singular appearance about the eyes, cough and symptoms of consumption.

Married Persons, or those contemplating mar-rlage, being aware of physical weakness, should immediately consult Dr. J. and be restored to perfeet health. DR. JOHNSTON'S INVIGORATING REME DY FOR ORGANIC WEAKNESS. By this great and important remedy weakness o the organs is speedily cured and full vigor restored.
Thousands of the most Aervous and Debilitated individuals who had lost all hope, have been immediately relieved. All impediments to

MARKIAGE. Physical or Mental Disqualifications, Nervous Irritability Tremblings and Weakness, or exhaustion of the most fearful kind, speedily cured by Dr Young men who have injured themselves by

Young men who have injured included by a certain practice indulged in when alone—a habit frequently learned from evil companions, or at school, the effects of which are nightly feit, even when asleep, and if not cured, renders marriage impossible and destroys both mind and body.

What a pity that a young man, the hope of his What a pity that a young man, the hope of his country, and the darling of his parents, should be snatched from all prospects and enjoyments of life, by the consequences of deviating from the path of nature, and indulging in a certain secret habit.— Such persons, before contemplating
MARXIAGE,
Should reflect that a sound mind and body are the most necessary requisites to promote connubial happiness. Indeed, without these, the journey

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