

MISCELLANY.

RICHARD HOFFMAN.

A TALE OF LOVE AND REBUTITION.

Rachel Beatty, the lovely daughter of one of the richest merchants of London, having married George Hoffman, one of her father's clerks, during the old man's absence in India, he on his return disinherited her and discharged George...

On the last day of December of the year in which our story opens, Rachel was without food, light or fire, and that very day the rent must be paid. Little Mary was mourning for bread, and crying with cold.

The agonized mother had but one more article of value left—a locket containing a lock of her father's hair. She had hoped to be able to save this, the last memento of her once happy home.

On returning home late on New Year's eve from her fruitless visit, for the clerk was not at home, Rachel discovered that her husband had been home and stolen the sum she had put by for the rent from the place where she had concealed it, and gone off again to "The Crown and Maggie" tavern to waste it in drunkenness.

"The Crown and Maggie" tavern to waste it in drunkenness. Little Mary, chilled and hungry, began to cry for food, and the suffering mother, in hopes of retaining a portion of the money taken by her husband, set out with her children to the haunt of vice whither George Hoffman had gone.

"There was a great crowd at the bar of 'The Crown and Maggie.' The landlady—a stout, vulgar-looking woman, with red ribbons in her cap, a profusion of false curls, a heavy gold chain round her neck, and numerous rings on her fat fingers—was busily engaged in pointing out gin for her customers; the regular ones she was treating for it must not be forgotten that it was New Year's eve.

Such was the scene of vice and dissipation which met the eye and sickened the heart of Rachel when, with little Mary in her arms, and protected by the presence of her son, she ventured into the house. "Is Mr. Hoffman here?" she inquired, faintly.

"The question had to be repeated several times before she could get an answer. "Can't tell the names of any of my customers," replied the mistress of 'The Crown and Maggie,' snappishly. "Perhaps you will oblige me by ascertaining."

STILL LATER THAN THE FIRST, WENT A PAIR FROM HER MATERNAL BLOOM.

"Oh, God! she cried with a sudden burst of anguish, 'protect my boy! Shield him from crime; grieve him against vice and the blighting waters which in a 'thousand forms assail an innocent youth, or take him, as I stand aforesaid, 'take him in 'thy mercy.'"

It was a Christian's prayer, written from a mother's heart, uttered in faith, in gony, and tears; in a language born to the mercy seat on high.

Chipping her peevish child yet closer to her aching bosom, the drunkard's wife hastened to her home.

As Richard Hoffman rushed along the street, scarce knowing whether he went, and only into the one side of getting by some means, food for his famished mother and sister, he was hailed by Jack Menders, an impish acquaintance who lived near Richard's home, and to whom he had told the desperate story in which he had been so deeply involved.

"I am not a thief, sir," cried Richard breaking through the air, "I am a man who had led the desperate story in which he had been so deeply involved. I am not a thief, sir, I am a man who had led the desperate story in which he had been so deeply involved."

"The future history and trials of this poor boy will be given in the New York Ledger of January 16, which is for sale at the bookstores and news offices.

STARTLING INEQUALITY. The census of Oregon shows that while the male number 25,000, there are only 10,000 females. This excess of males is found in more or less in all new territories.

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