

his, and it is another cause of uneasiness to them. I have for some time been seriously thinking of exposing him, and when I saw you to-day I knew almost intuitively who you were. I hesitated but a few moments, and then wrote a letter and gave it to you. I will now do all I can to enlighten Mr. Bennet, secure the release of your brother, and, in short, set you both to rights."

The two friends then grasped hands over the compact.

"What will be the best mode of procedure?" inquired Stephen.

"We had better go to Mr. Bennet's home to-morrow at a time when all will be there: say, about two o'clock in the afternoon, and seek an interview. We must not in the meantime alarm Kelly and Jack. I am confident that this course will be successful, for Mr. Bennet is not well satisfied either with Kelly or my brother. Besides, taking the latter by surprise, will give them no chance to deceive him by putting on a brazen front. You may think it strange for me to expose my brother, but the truth is he has very little brotherly feeling toward me."

They discussed many more details that evening, and Stephen stayed with his new friend over night. The next day they went to Mr. Bennet's residence and sought and obtained an audience with Kelly, his grandfather, and his accomplice, Jack Slack.

We have not space to describe the exposure that followed. The matter was explained to the satisfaction of Mr. Bennet, who welcomed Stephen to his heart and home, and commanded Kelly to go forth from his sight forever, after heaping his indignation upon him.

This sudden change of fortune proved too much for John, who sought his old haunts in Boston, and soon after died in a hospital, from fever and chagrin. Jack Slack died a drunken sot not long after, but Sam mended his ways and became a better and happier person. He could not endure the thought of returning to Mr.

Bennet's home, the scene of his career of mis-doing, but remained in the village, and was assisted by his friends to a lucrative position.

Richard was promptly released from prison, and the two brothers, having triumphantly emerged from the meshes of John's plot, now enjoy the esteem and confidence of their grandfather, who makes up for his tyrannical behavior toward his children by a marked change in his character.

X. Y. Z.

THE END.

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### CHARACTER.

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What is character? is a question asked with far more ease than it can be answered. But it is sufficient, and answers our purpose, to know that it is the moral mark by which one man is distinguished from another. We have often thought, and wondered at what time of life the character of an individual was formed, and when we give our opinion that character is never formed, that it is ever changing, express not surprise, but thank your God, observe yourself, and you cannot but believe us right.

He that is satisfied with his character knows not what character is, and possesses not the faintest spark of manhood and personal respect, while he who is unsatisfied comes nearer the attainment of true and noble manhood. The man who has character must be independent, fearless, and discriminating in his judgment. If this is true, as we observe the political status of our country, the persons in whose hands the government is trusted, as we notice the complicated combinations of our political world, we see that there character is unknown. Character is to a certain extent a manufactured article, one must have character or the world will know it, man is unable to conceal his inward being, nature revolts immediately, upon the attempt.

Do not understand us to mean that man among his fellow men always receives his