

mentioned, and whose attachment to Herbert was as strong as his apparent hatred to Perez; indeed, the animal had shown such determined antipathy to the Spaniard, and had so often attempted to fly upon him, that Herbert was obliged to order him to be fastened up with the horses and mules, to prevent accidents.

Following the soldier's advice, Herbert took no farther notice of his loss or his suspicions, but dismissing Perez as usual, retired to his bed, and in a few moments his favourite crept through the opening of the tent; and, delighted at his unusual liberty, jumped on his master's couch, and almost stifled him with his awkward but affectionate caresses.

Herbert had watched for a couple of hours, and was at last falling asleep, when he was aroused by the dog springing under the tent; and jumping up, he discovered Perez on the ground, where the Corporal had fastened on him. In a moment, two or three soldiers came to Herbert's assistance, and they discovered the keys and box on the ground outside the tent; from which it was evident he had been in the habit of purloining, and afterwards replacing them.

Suffice it to say, that the fellow was immediately dismissed from Herbert's service.

He heard afterwards however, from Sidney, that he had seen the rascal in London, and added with some degree of indignation and surprise, "I met him entering Alfred Milton's house."

CHAPTER VII.

AMONG the different young men who had been most particular in their attentions to Emily, no one was more remarkable in his assiduities than Alfred Milton, the cousin of Herbert. Indeed, the busy and insatiable tongues of London gossips had already destined him as the successor of Lord Henry, and the consequent and very probable

cause of his Lordship's rejection. A trifling scrutiny, however, of Emily's manner would have sufficed to convince any careful observer, that she evidently suffered rather than encouraged his attentions; and although she often appeared to listen to his conversation, it was clear that the interest he excited proceeded from motives and causes foreign to himself, and in which he had personally no share. But it is high time that we should introduce him to our readers.

Alfred Milton was the only child of Sir Herbert's elder and deceased brother, and had inherited nearly the whole of the paternal property. Alfred was some years senior to his cousin. He was a young man of extreme fashion, and as much *repandu* in society, as the utmost and most exigent coveter of London celebrity could desire. His character and disposition were, it is true, pretty well known, yet no man was so completely *bien-venu*. He was of course a member of White's, Watier's, and the clubs at Newmarket and Melton; while the table at the Union was never complete without him. The dressing-rooms at the Opera, the secret committees at the theatres, the porter's private list in every fashionable and difficult house, as well as the dining-rooms of our most renowned Amphytrions, were alike open to him. He was, in short, of that oft described set, before whom all minor beaux (we detest the hacknied word "dandy") sink into insignificance, or among whom they eventually obtain a subaltern *grade*, by the sacrifice of a due portion of their fortune, and by permitting themselves to become the butt of the Grand Croix of this most extraordinary order of human beings. He was of that privileged set, who having nothing earthly to do the whole day but dress themselves, with an admirable *Breguet* in their pocket, make it a point of always coming an hour too late for dinner, and in black neckcloths and boots.

Indeed, the natural tendency to imitation which exists in the human race, has had a singular effect on the appearance of our citizens and tradesmen. One might imagine that the whole nation was bitten with a military mania, an inclination to war (at least outwardly) hitherto unknown in the annals of our country. If we enter the house of

our banker, up start a dozen clerks, headed by the junior partner, who, were it not for the peaceful pen in their hands, one might well mistake for a council of war, judging by the enormous size of their whiskers, the tightness of their blue great coats, the clanking of their spurs, and the stiffness of their black-stocks. If one happens to have occasion to consult one's attorney, one might well suppose that he stands in the presence of the Judge Advocate General, from his ultra military exterior ; while one cannot purchase a pair of gloves, or barter for a watch-ribbon, without disarranging the creases of half-a-dozen soldier-like looking shopmen, who, from the dreadful rigidity of their *ties*, have not even the usual advantage possessed by their military originals, of now and then standing at ease.

The greater portion of the fortune bequeathed to Alfred Milton by his grandfather, had already been swallowed by Jews, or dissipated in some other way. He had, it is true, attained the very pinnacle of fashion, but his elevation had cost him dear ; and as he lived in considerable style, having an excellent small house in Upper Grosvenor-street, several hunters, his carriage, and sundry other indispensable *necessaries*, it was evident he could have but one method of supporting his expenses.

His great skill at whist, which amounted almost to a point in every rubber in the course of the season ; his cool calculating skill at making a good book for Newmarket, the Derby, and St. Ledger, and his general good fortune at macao and hazard, were the principal, though precarious and often fatal props, on which he relied for the means of meeting his engagements, in which, we must do him the justice to say, no man was ever more punctual. This species of uncertain and fluctuating rental, however, frequently threw him into difficulties ; from which, upon more than one occasion, he had been extricated by the kindness of his cousin, who had been security for him to a large amount, with some of those harpies, whose cipher-signed invitations to the necessitous and inexperienced, may be constantly met with in the daily journals : and yet there are those who, by removing the only restriction which now, in some measure, prevents these mon-

sters, would willingly let them loose unmuzzled on the public. Wretches! who in nine cases out of ten, live to see the victims they have ensnared, either end their miserable days amidst the horror of a prison, or become the subject of a coroner's verdict; while the wide domain, the noble timber, and fertile property which the industry and affection of their ancestors had amassed and bequeathed to them, often become the prey of some vile attorney, of whom, in most cases, these wretches are the infamous lurchers.

Added to a very handsome person, Alfred Milton possessed the most artful disposition and consummate knowledge of the world. He could adapt himself to any situation and to every society. He could discuss Cereal laws with the political economist, morality with the virtuous, be serious with the sad, romantic with the sentimental, gay with the lively, and profligate with the vicious;—in short, no one so completely brought to mind the words addressed by Cicero to the treacherous Catiline:—"Cum tristibus severè; cum remissis, jucundè; cum senibus graviter; cum juventute comiter vivere." His skill in intrigue and success with the fair sex, was as proverbial as his utter want of faith and insincerity in all matters of this kind. The victims of his seduction (the wives and daughters, *as usual*, of friends,) were tracked, toiled, destroyed, and then cast off, with a degree of patience, ingenuity, and cold-bloodedness, surpassing all imagination. He had neither morals, principle, nor feeling, in such cases: and his maxim was, if he could not immediately effect his purpose, to threaten the poor resistant with the loss of her reputation, by merely insinuating, as a secret, that he had been successful, to half-a-dozen friends; or, if she had committed the folly of putting her pen to paper, by publishing her letters: which, by-the-by, in either case, of success or defeat, was sure to ensue.

On seeing his quiet, demure, and downcast look as he entered a room, a stranger was naturally inclined to pity his diffidence and want of self-possession. On observing that he scarcely raised his eye towards the face of the person to whom he addressed himself, and, with head inclined, spoke almost in a whisper, one regretted that so

fine a young man should be overwhelmed by such invincible shyness. But his progress was like that of the wily, noiseless, and crouching step of the tiger, when, advancing by imperceptible gradations, and with half-averted head, it prepares to spring with remorseless and deadly gripe upon its victim.

Alfred had early succeeded in obtaining an extraordinary influence over the mind, and possessing himself of the entire friendship and confidence of the open-hearted and unsuspecting Herbert ; who, in despite of the caution he received from Lady Milton, (whose eyes had been long opened to her nephew's real character,) and sundry inuendoes conveyed to him by his friends, considered every syllable uttered against his cousin as the effect of envy.

The contrast in the dispositions of these two young men could not be more strongly defined than the effect produced on each other's mind, by their reciprocal behaviour and mutual interchanges of kindness. Every little act of attention or civility, every trifling present received by Herbert, called forth in his heart the warmest sensations of gratitude ; and he thought it impossible that he could ever do too much to repay his cousin. On the other hand, Alfred detested his relation, not alone because his prospects in the world were so brilliant, but he envied him his personal and mental qualities, and hated him because he foresaw that his rapid success in society would soon not only render him independent of his assistance, but probably lead to some family connexion, to which he felt that his own circumstances never would permit him to aspire,

From the first period of Herbert's introduction in the world, his cousin had endeavoured, by every means in his power, (and from motives which will appear hereafter,) to lead him artfully into all kinds of expense and extravagance : he introduced him into every place and into every species of society the most calculated to corrupt his mind and drive from his heart those admirable principles which it had been the constant study of his excellent mother and virtuous tutor to graft upon his mind ; and this was done under the specious pretext of deterring him, by force of example, from those errors which his wily cicerone was so anxious he should fall into. But his plans were fortu-

nately rendered abortive by the steadiness and firmness of Herbert, who luckily took his cousin at his word ; and learning to profit by the examples of profligacy and vice which he met with, to the annoyance of Alfred, increased his prudence and circumspection, and completely escaped the snare.

Alfred Milton had too much calculation and knowledge of the world, not to foresee the perilous situation into which he had been gradually drawn by his own extravagance ; he felt assured, that if he continued his present expensive style of living, a crisis must sooner or later take place, and he had neither strength of mind nor inclination to attempt a reform.

It was in vain that he exercised his genius, fertile in resources, to provide means to avert the approaching evil. To raise much more money would be impracticable : he had been compelled during a succession of years to make enormous sacrifices : he had already often submitted to the infamous, though not uncommon, exactions and insatiable cupidity of the Jews, to whom he was obliged to have recourse. Already he had been driven to the alternative of failing in his engagements, or of receiving a portion of the sums he raised, either in paving-stones, Roman cement, whales' blubber, or antiquated piano-fortes ; which valuable commodities were of course taken off his hands by the accommodating Israelites, at a loss of forty per cent., and these sums, in addition to the usurious interest, immense premium, and not less exorbitant and villanous law charges, were shared between the rascally attorney and the not less infamous principal.

Alfred's aversion and contempt for this *industrious* class of individuals was invincible ; they were useful, it is true, and necessary to his existence, and he detested them the more from this circumstance ; and consequently treated them with the most sovereign insult and disdain. It mattered little to him whether he behaved with politeness or brutality towards them ; he knew that rank, manners, promises, or feeling, were alike indifferent to these fellows, and that he must pay, dearly pay, for their services.

His conduct upon one of these occasions, though it gave rise to a ludicrous incident, excited the surprise of

Herbert, who, fortunately ignorant of the nature of these men and their proceedings, accompanied him to the residence of one of these individuals, situated in a dark and obscure street in the vicinity of the Adelphi.

The natural inclination of the younger Milton's mind was to be courteous and polite to every one ; and as he followed his cousin up the dismal and dirty stairs which conducted them to the Jew's office, he ventured to suggest to Alfred that it would be but civil to ring the bell. Without taking any notice of this remark, the latter merely kicked with his foot against the door, flung it open, and walked up to the table with his head covered ; while Herbert, following with his hat in his hand, felt his blood chilled when he found himself in the black and ill-lighted den, surrounded with musty parchments, deeds, calculations of interest, three or four half empty tin-boxes, worn out rush chairs, leaden inkstands, and all the paraphernalia of the man's calling. Nor was he less struck by the artful, sombre, and avaricious expression of the countenance of this moving philosopher's stone ; a countenance which might have rendered that of Shylock a very model of charity and benevolence.

Rapping the desk where the man was sitting with his umbrella, Alfred exclaimed without farther preface : " Schwartz, I want some money ! "

" Ach, mein Gott ! " rejoined the little German Israelite, " dat is vat all die young gentlemens vants. "

" D—n the young gentlemen ! " returned Alfred ; " I must have a thousand pounds on Monday, before twelve o'clock. "

" Vat zegurities can you gif mir, Mr. Milton ? Is it landed or vunded vat you can gif ? "

" Neither, you leech, " answered Alfred ; at the same time quietly tossing the papers by which the man was surrounded, in every direction round the room, with a jirk of his glove.

" Neider, " rejoined the other, quietly and methodically picking up the scattered documents ; " neider ! den it is marriage zeddlemen, or leazhold, or gopyholt, or your hanker's agzeptance. "

"You are out still, you vampire!" was the reply of the borrower.

"Bampires or not bampires," answered the Jew, "I wish you vouldn't use dem ogly names, Mr. Milton; we can't do noting mitout some zegurities."

"My bill at three months, will that do?" demanded Alfred.

"Pills," answered the money-lender: "Gott pless you, my dear sir! pills! vy vat is pills? Mere vaste papers. I've got as much of dem tings here as vould fill a vagen. Upon my word, pills is not wort two-pence; die pest pills, die most respectaple agzeptance is not wort a farding; dere's such a sgarcity of monies in die marget. But dere's your freund, if he 's a man of property, can't he go joint zegurities? von't he have got some blate, some bictures, or someding vat's dangible? Upon my zoul, I wish to aggomodate you, but I have not got a farding my own selfs."

"I am come here for money, little Schwartz," now observed Alfred, "and not to listen to your stale cant and stupid humbug; therefore make no difficulties, I know what *you* are at; but money I want, and money I must have—the bill must be done."

"Gott pless you! my dear Sir," replied the Israelite, with a hypocritical voice, "if I was to gif fifty per zent, I could not yet monies mitout de zegurities."

"Nonsense!" exclaimed Alfred, "you know I never failed in an engagement in my life, and my cousin here will accept my bill; you know he backed my last piece of paper, and was my security for the sums I raised."

"Hugh!" answered the Jew, "*dat ist was anders*, dat is a very worty gentlemans; dat is very good zegurities, as coot as die Pank. But wat shall you gif for the pizness?"

"Fifteen per cent." rejoined Alfred, "and I should think that is sufficient to satisfy the blackest raven of all your brood."

"Fifteen per zent." returned the other after a little consideration, "by Gott! I wish to sarve you; but den you know you most dake some of the monies in goots."

"Goods! you little villain," exclaimed Alfred, "not a penny in any thing but bank notes; no, no, I have already lost enough by your logwood, steam-engines, and patent coffins. I must have the whole in money; I will therefore give you a bill at three months for eleven hundred and fifty pounds, and you must deliver me the remaining thousand on Monday."

"Vat, you dink I carry Mr. Rothschild's gelt in my pocket," answered the Hebrew,—“by Gott! I wish to sarve you—but you must have die goots. I said I had no gash myself—I wish I had, by Gott! Well, you make it twelve hundred, and I will see my brincipal; a very worty gentlemans, but he is not in town.”

"Hang your principal!" exclaimed Alfred, "I should like to cane you both together. If it were possible to find a greater rogue than yourself in the world, he is the man. I know him; I know the usurer—your principles and your principal are worthy of each other."

During this speech, the little Jew evinced evident symptoms of uneasiness, he rolled his black glimmering eyes around, coughed, hemmed, and endeavoured to drown the sound of Alfred's voice by his exclamations of "Gott almightiz, don't apuse my brincipal, he is a very excellent gentlemans, a very worty gentlemans, a very good gentlemans!"

A slight noise, which appeared to proceed from behind the skreen drawn across the angle of the Jew's office, now attracted the attention of the young men; and Herbert, who had witnessed with astonishment the dialogue between the two high contracting parties, was not less surprised to see his cousin coolly take up the large well-filled leaden inkstand, and merely crying, "A rat!" pitch the implement over the skreen, where it was heard first to resound, as if it had come in contact with some hollow substance, and then bounded upon the floor. Schwartz, who perceived Alfred's object, hastily attempted to arrest his hand, but in his eagerness he stumbled over one of his tin boxes, and throwing down the skreen disclosed the *principal*, who had been during this time concealed in the corner.

To the amusement of Alfred, this personage, who was no other than Sir Jarvis Jacob, now appeared, his white

hair stained and drenched with the ink, which, trickling over his face and waistcoat, poured down upon his well-cleaned leathers; while spitting, sputtering, and wiping his mouth, he was endeavouring to clean his face from the fatal dye.

Upon the discovery of this individual, who looked as foolish as he was filthy, Alfred calmly approached close to him with his hands behind his back, and then looking him in the face with the most consummate contempt exclaimed: "So, you, Sir, are the honourable gentleman, you are the worthy principal that is out of town! eh! You detestable usurious listener, leave the room as you are. Fly, you mean spy,—fly!" and taking up the Knight's shallow coachman-like hat, he flung it in his face, and pointing to the door added, "Not a word, Sir Usurer!—march; and think yourself fortunate that your insignificance protects you from my cane. If you were a gentleman, you should answer for this elsewhere, but I shall content myself with exposing you to the regiment to which you are a disgrace;"—and without permitting the abashed Sir Jarvis to utter a word, he followed, rather than pushed him towards the door, and, slamming it in his face, returned with the greatest calmness to complete his negotiation.

The money-lender, who, in the mean time had expressed the greatest perturbation and alarm in his manner, and expected that Alfred's anger would next turn upon himself, no sooner saw the door closed upon his very worthy "brincipal," and that Alfred was perfectly calm, than he burst out into a long and loud fit of laughter, and exclaimed: "Sarve him right, by Gott! Ach! die screens was no zegurities! Oh, he is a tamn Jew! Dere is no doing nothing mit such a man!"—and then, after numerous *pour parlars*, at length yielded to Alfred's proposal. The stamp was provided, the acceptance given, and the money promised at the appointed time, while the two young men, as they retired down-stairs, heard him still laughing and repeating to himself: "Sarve him right! vat a tamn Jew! vish he vas horsvipt."

Alfred was well aware that he might rely upon his cousin's assistance, as long as the latter had any security

to offer ; but this resource must soon fail, since the kind-hearted Herbert had already mortgaged for this purpose the greater portion of the reversion settled upon him by his maternal grandfather.

Alfred had frequently turned his thoughts towards matrimony ; he looked upon marriage as the sheet-anchor by which he purposed to ride out the gale, and repair the dilapidations of his fortune.

No one could be more eminently successful in the higher circles, but here, unhappily, the fortunes of the daughters were not in any degree commensurate with the ambitious views of their parents, and still less in accordance with those of the suitor ; therefore he turned his eyes towards a less brilliant but more substantial class, flattering himself that it would be always in his power to introduce his wife into the same fashionable society he himself frequented. He, however, found himself constantly repulsed by the cold formality, overpowering civility, but steady protests, of the sugar-bakers, soap-boilers, or scriveners, (for thus he christened all the respectable merchants and bankers,) a large portion of some of whose fortunes he determined, through the medium of their daughters, to appropriate to himself. These worthies permitted him to drink as much of their champagne, and eat as many of their dinners as he thought proper, but they were uniformly firm in defeating the object he had in view.

Emily Manby had for a time been marked out by Alfred as a valuable prize, but upon calculating the amount of her income, and upon finding it secured against all dangers, he renounced his project upon her as unworthy of his ambition and unequal to his wants ; circumstances had moreover come to his knowledge, which would render her infinitely more serviceable to him in another view. Having been defeated in his project of marriage, he now turned his thoughts towards India : a gleam of light burst upon him, and he prepared himself to play a desperate game, which, if successful, would crown his utmost desires, and in the event of failure, could not render his position more unfavourable than it was already. He knew well that Sir Herbert Milton's fortune was entirely at his own disposal, and that, with the exception of his cousin,

there were no immediate connexions to whom the Baronet was likely to bequeath his large property. For some years he had carried on a correspondence with his uncle, and he resolved to adopt this interchange of letters as the medium for his operations. With that consummate artifice and duplicity which had already found so many victims, Alfred determined to put every engine into play to obtain a firmer footing in his uncle's confidence, and to insinuate himself into his esteem, hoping eventually either entirely to ruin and supplant his cousin, or, at least, to share largely in his future fortune. It required no small degree of calculation, cunning, and method, to attain this object. It was necessary to indispose the father against the son, and to excite the son to adopt such a line of conduct as must infallibly ruin him in the opinion of his father. The enterprise presented no few difficulties, but he was not to be discouraged, and he considered his scheme infallible; especially as the distance which separated him from his uncle would preclude the possibility of Sir Herbert's obtaining a true insight into his character, and prevent his ascertaining the real state of his affairs, and the veracity of his assertions. His operations were commenced by throwing out obscure hints and insinuations respecting his cousin, which he thought could not fail to awaken suspicion, and excite a certain degree of distrust and irritation in the mind of the austere father, against a son whom he only knew by reputation. Alfred, however, at the same time artfully affected to excuse Herbert's faults, and the extravagance which he had the assurance to attribute to him as the errors incidental to a young and inexperienced man, arising more from the flattery and temptations of the world, and from the indulgence of his mother, than from any defect in his cousin's disposition. His letters were the most perfect models of morality, prudence, and disinterestedness, and he had the satisfaction to discover, in due time, that his uncle had completely fallen in the snare.

Deceived by the honourable and prudent sentiments which these letters displayed, as well as by the zeal and respect shown for himself, and the interest he appeared to take in his cousin, Sir Herbert warmly expressed his

satisfaction to his nephew, and urged him to a continuance of his observations on his son, to whom, as well as Lady Milton, he conveyed indirect hints of dissatisfaction. More he could not venture to do, as he had been earnestly entreated by Alfred not to make any disclosure of his sentiments to Lady Milton or her son, as it might lead to coldness, and want of confidence on the part of his cousin, which might render Herbert averse to listen to the prudent counsels which he was so anxious to bestow upon him. Alfred was also well aware that ambition was one of the leading features in his uncle's character, and that Sir Herbert had frequently hinted at his disinclination to retire entirely from public life. The Baronet considered himself certain of a seat in the Court of Directors, but he wished, through the medium of the House of Commons, to obtain a place also at the Board of Control.

Alfred eagerly seized upon these distant hints of his uncle, and resolved to lay a snare for the Baronet which, if it succeeded, must produce the result of placing Sir Herbert under heavy obligations to him; at the same time, he was not unmindful that, although Sir Herbert was often extremely liberal, yet the idea of squandering money, even for his own political advantage, was looked upon by him as a crime. It had long been Alfred's anxious desire to obtain a seat in Parliament, more with the view of securing his own person from the *desagremens* of a spunging-house, than from any other advantage which he expected to reap; but the matter now appeared to him in a very different light, and fortune favoured his projects in a manner totally unlooked for.

After a night of deep play at the club, Alfred (when the party broke up) found his bowl and pockets overflowing with *pony* and *rouleau* counters, and upon squaring his accounts down stairs he discovered that the principal sufferer was a young nobleman, his particular friend. This was a circumstance the more fortunate, since the peer, though he possessed a noble estate, and, above all, considerable borough interest, was as much in want of ready money as himself. Pocketing the counters, instead of delivering them as usual to the steward of the house, he returned home, where, before he rose in the morning, he received a note

from the loser, earnestly requesting a few weeks delay. Alfred immediately answered this note in person, and, with the air of a man who is conferring the utmost obligation, proposed at once to cancel the debt, if his noble friend would consent to return him, or any person he (Alfred) might nominate, to Parliament for two successive sessions. This proposition was gladly and even thankfully received by the peer; the whole of the counters were delivered into his possession, and a mutual and solemn engagement of secrecy, under a heavy penalty, entered into by both.

No sooner did Alfred feel himself secure of being returned at the ensuing and almost immediate dissolution, than he forthwith wrote to his uncle; acquainted him that he had for several years been endeavouring to obtain a preponderating influence in the borough of ———, situated in the family county; that at length the purity of his political principles, his attachment to the constitutional but monarchical rights of his country, and the independence of his sentiments upon several most important questions, had placed him in the proud and flattering situation to which he had so long directed his views. He also added, that he had taken advantage of the fortuitous circumstances which presented themselves, because he had observed the indifference and apathy of his cousin upon the subject, and concluded his letter by saying: "My great object in effecting this important measure has been solely for the purpose of securing a seat for a man whose genius, talents, integrity, and political knowledge, would render his return to Parliament a real blessing to his country; I shall, therefore, merely look upon myself as my respected uncle's *locum tenens*: I have, in fact, made this stipulation with my constituents, and I shall consider myself as a benefactor to the nation, if, on our return to England, you permit me, in your favour, to accept the 'Chiltern Hundreds.'"

The plan succeeded beyond his most sanguine wishes. Sir Herbert not only accepted his offer with every mark of gratitude and esteem, but accompanied his letter with more substantial proofs of his regard; and Alfred could not help smiling when he unfolded his uncle's order for a thousand pounds, which the worthy Baronet hoped would not offend the delicacy of his nephew.

While, however, Sir Herbert was delighted with the zeal, activity, and enlightened views of his nephew, he felt hurt, and even deeply irritated, at the indifference and apathy of his son, who, in fact, was utterly ignorant of his cousin's plans until the very eve of the election, when Alfred had the audacity to entreat Herbert to assist him in raising a sum of money, which sum was destined to play the most treacherous part against himself.

There existed in the mind of Sir Herbert Milton a most singular contrast,—a contrast which rendered him a much easier subject for the success of Alfred's machinations. With the most profound judgment, consummate good sense, and perfect knowledge of finance, diplomacy, and history, he was as ignorant as an infant of the usages and intrigues both of private and political life at home. This ignorance was in a great measure the result of his having quitted England at an early age, as well as from his retired habits, the limited number of his correspondents, almost all official, and the particular bent of his own character. His rules of conduct for private and public life were grounded on the most rigid and austere principles, and drawn up with the most mathematical precision. The slightest deviation from the established line was considered by him as an unpardonable crime; judging the world by the rectitude of his own honourable principles, he made no allowance for the failings of others, and felt still less inclined to pardon the corruption of the age.

Sir Herbert's attachment to the monarchy, and his admiration of the government of his country, were not inferior to his respect for the members of our two legislative chambers; and he looked upon a knight of a shire as a being not to be exceeded in merit, except by an individual of the Upper House. The little initials M.P. attached to a man's name, were, in his ideas, the distinctive attributes of probity, independence, genius, and patriotism; and, in his mind, the opinions and characters of a member of Parliament ought to be considered by the world as immaculate as his person was in fact sacred. He did not conceive it possible that the enlightened gentlemen and yeomen of England could ever honour with their suffrages, or elevate to this flattering distinction, any man whose virtues and talents were not of the first order.

He had no more idea of the intrigues, corruptions, feastings, and exactions, put in motion previous to an election, than he had of the mines of wealth, perjuries, and threats, employed during its continuance. He never dreamt of the animosities, jealousies, and dissensions, the expulsion of tenants, the oppression of tradesmen, the unnatural hatreds engendered between near relations, or of the still more unholy abuses of religion, called forth by this periodical though necessary pest. In short, the man who obtained a seat in St. Stephen's was in his opinion of a superior class of beings, and, consequently, his nephew at once rose in his estimation to the highest possible level.

Not satisfied with his previous success, Alfred took immediate advantage of another circumstance. He knew his uncle's hatred to the Manbys, though most unjust, was invincible; he knew that Sir Herbert would immediately take fire at the bare mention of his son's attachment to Emily; consequently, the first fleet to India conveyed hints and surmises on the subject, accompanied with a thousand hypocritical expressions of regret and surprise. Although Herbert had not made any confidence of his attachment for Emily to his cousin previous to his departure, Alfred had entertained strong suspicions of the fact: and, for the purpose of ascertaining the truth, transferred Perez to the service of his cousin; through whose agency the matter was at once revealed to him,—the whole of Herbert's correspondence being delivered into his hands by the treacherous Spaniard, which circumstance led to the results we have before described. At the same time, it is but justice to Alfred to state, that he was utterly ignorant of the man's murderous intentions; and although he had supplied him with money on his return to England, as some compensation for the loss and degradation he had sustained, in executing his orders, yet the ideas of so atrocious a crime had never presented itself to his imagination; and this appeared, without doubt, to be the real truth, from the confessions of Perez at a later period. In short, before Herbert returned from Spain, Alfred had fully succeeded in obtaining, not only the confidence and esteem of his uncle, but in poisoning the mind of Sir Herbert against his son, which was evident from the style

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of Sir Herbert's letters to Lady Milton, who was utterly unable to account for this evident displeasure on the part of her husband, as the name of Emily never once was mentioned in his letters, though he hinted at his son's having formed acquaintances with individuals, whose intimacy must eventually bring ruin upon him, and disgrace upon his family.

Thus far every thing had succeeded to the utmost wishes of Alfred, and nothing now remained for the completion of his scheme, but, on the return of Herbert to England, to persuade him to marry Emily, without consulting Sir Herbert, and to induce Miss Manby to consent to such a proceeding. It was necessary, however, that he should appear neutral in the affair, and that he should contrive to effect this matter by the assistance of other persons, upon whom neither the anger of his uncle, nor the vengeance of Herbert, could have any effect. For some time he balanced in his choice, but at length selected two individuals, upon whose assistance he thought he might securely rely: both were different in their characters and dispositions, but both equally useful. The one was intimately acquainted with Emily, and entertained the greatest regard and friendship for Herbert; the other was equally devoted to himself. The first possessed the most kind and feeling heart, and was as incapable of a dishonourable action as she was remarkable for her wit, humour, and good-nature; but she was thoughtless and volatile beyond measure,—always eager to afford pleasure and amusement to others without considering the results. The second was replete with artifice, ambition, intrigue, and want of heart, rarely inclined to acts of kindness unless they should prove beneficial to herself, and coolly concocting mischief with the most calculating forethought. Over this latter personage Alfred possessed the greatest control; she was his confidant, and had often lent herself to schemes which redounded as little to the credit of her morality and sensibility, as they did to his honour and principles. The one was the Baroness Geigenklang, the other the Lady Catesby, whom we shall beg to introduce to our readers in the following chapter.