

porting his amiable and numerous family. When the revolution happened, in 1789, three of Henri's children were living, and it is supposed they have fallen victims to its horrors.

SUICIDE OF WILLIAM L ,

A native of Sheffield.

(Thomas & George Barnwell)

AT the beginning of the last century, lived, at Sheffield, Mr. T . . . a merchant, who might be called a man after God's own heart : his delight was in doing good, and assisting the poor ; he was an excellent father, and a faithful and affectionate husband. Returning home one day in a very severe winter, he was much distressed at beholding a beautiful boy, about eleven or twelve years of age, who was nearly naked : he was shivering at the door of an inn, and imploring charity of every person who entered. At the moment that Mr. T . . . was passing, the brutal landlord came out, and with a whip drove unmercifully the poor weeping supplicant from his door. Mr. T . . . immediately called the boy, gave him some money, and asked him who he was, and why he was begging ? The boy answered, that his father's name was Edward L . . . n ; that he was a blacksmith, and had five children ; that he had been ill and unable to work, and they were consequently starving. Mr. T . . . went with the boy to convince himself of the truth of his statement, and, finding it correct, he generously relieved them, and took William home with him in the capacity of a servant ; promising him that, if he behaved well, he would be a good friend to him. William, who was overjoyed at his change of situation, did every thing in his power to please his master ; and Mr. T . . . admiring his diligence, determined to give him an education, calculated to qualify him for a counting-house ; and, if he found his abilities equal to his

good-will, he intended to place him at some respectable merchant's. William improved rapidly; and, continuing to behave well, Mr. T conceived such a friendship for him, that he would not part with him, but took him in his own counting-house. For two years, he continued to behave in an exemplary manner, and Mr. T intrusted him with large sums to pay bills or make purchases: his accounts were always correct, and Mr. T 's partiality for him increased daily. When he had been a clerk nearly three years, he unfortunately became acquainted with a female of the worst of morals. She was a native of the metropolis; and, having been the ruin of many young men, she had left London for fear of punishment. She was not more than thirty; her person was elegant, and she could assume the most prepossessing appearance. William L n became desperately in love with that dangerous woman; for some time he visited her only in the evening, and continued so assiduous in his business, that Mr. T did not suspect his having any attachment. However, his visits became more frequent, and he was so often absent, that Mr. T gently reprimanded him; William had a good heart; he assured his benefactor, that he felt much distressed at having incurred his displeasure, and promised to behave better. Mr. T pressed him very much to know the cause of his absenting himself so frequently; and, after much hesitation, William acknowledged that he loved Miss Helen G , and that she had admitted his visits. "My dear William," said the worthy T , "I have seen Miss G : she appears an agreeable woman, but no one knows her. She came from London about eighteen months ago; she said that she had left the capital for the recovery of her health; but I will candidly own that I have no great opinion of her. I request it as a favour that you will discontinue your visits until I have made some inquiries about her character; if she prove worthy of your love, I shall have no objection to your marrying her; but if, as I greatly fear, she be a worthless woman, I trust

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that you have sufficient fortitude to abandon all thoughts of continuing your connexion with her." William promised he would act conformably to Mr. T 's wishes ; but, alas ! love had taken such an entire possession of his heart, that, when evening came, he could not resist the wish of going to Miss G 's. The artful woman had gained such an ascendancy over him, that he was weak enough to impart to her the conversation which he had had with Mr. T She pretended to be much affected, but she determined to be revenged on him, and flattered herself that she would at last succeed in persuading William to rob his benefactor, and supply her with large sums of money. She began by telling him that Mr. T confined him too much ; and that a young man of his age, and of his abilities, ought to have more liberty. William listened to her insidious discourse, and began to feel less gratitude for Mr. T A few days after, Mr. T sent for William, and said to him, " My conjectures were but too true : Miss G , I am sorry to say, is an abandoned woman ; from indisputable authority I have learned that she is a most profligate character. I claim the performance of your promise ; my dear William, I conjure you to cease visiting her ; I hope you will follow my advice, and not compel me to interpose my authority." William was greatly irritated against his benefactor ; he was so blindly attached to Miss G , that he fancied Mr. T had fabricated those reports merely to prevent him from visiting her : he however disguised his sentiments, and seemed to acquiesce in Mr. T 's request. Instead of following his excellent advice ; the misguided youth neglected his business, and was almost constantly at the house of his worthless paramour. Mr. T spoke to him with the kindness of a father : but, finding that all his attempts to recall him to virtue proved ineffectual, he wrote to him a short note containing these words : " William, I have treated you kindly, and I have a right to your gratitude and affection. Reflect on what I propose to you : either quit Miss Helen G , and regain my

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confidence, or leave my house, and never see me more ! T” The infatuated youth carried that note to his mistress, and she easily persuaded him to quit Mr. T ; but she found it more difficult to persuade him to rob his benefactor of notes to a considerable amount : she at last succeeded, and the unhappy William L n, once a virtuous and respected youth, repaid Mr. T’s kindness by robbing him of 245l. to supply a contemptible wretch ! He shuddered when he had committed the detestable deed, and hastened to the abode of his detestable mistress. She laughed at his scruples ; and told him that they should set out for Scotland the day after, lest Mr. T should perceive the theft and suspect him. Early the next morning, a messenger delivered the following note to William. “ Fly instantly, unhappy youth ! you have robbed me, but I forgive you ; my partner suspects you, and you will be taken up in less than an hour. Fly ! this is the last proof of friendship that I can give you. T” William felt the keenest remorse for his behaviour to the best of men ; he, however, prepared to escape : but, as he was quitting the house, the officers of police seized him, and charged him with robbing Mr. T’s counting-house to a considerable amount. They carried him before the justice ; he confessed every thing, and, in consequence, Miss G was pursued and overtaken. William and the abandoned woman (who had seduced him) were confined in separate cells until their trials, which were to take place in eight days. The next morning, the wicked woman was found dead ; and, by the livid spots on her corpse, it was evident that she had poisoned herself. In the evening, when the turnkey went to William’s cell, he found him strangled ; the miserable youth, unable to bear the sting of remorse, and the thought of an ignominious death, had found means to suspend himself to the bed-post, and was quite cold when he was discovered. A sad and awful example to all profligate young men !

THE END.