

THE SUCCESSFUL SPECULATION.

[CONCLUDED.] Often that afternoon did the cousins glance with fearful thoughts at the pistols over the safe. Ellwood saw all.

The next day was Thursday, and the cousins were, as usual, early at the office. Ellwood also was there. They sat gloomily over papers and books for some time, when suddenly there was a great noise in the street.

Some time after this, the broker entered his office. Robert flew to him. A few words explained everything. There was a little writing and signing, a transfer of money, and Robert left in a very different state of mind than what had possessed him the last few days.

About ten o'clock, when all had given him up, with elastic tread he entered the office of the firm. The partners explained to him what had taken place, and demanded an explanation.

"Explanation! There's no explanation wanted. Why have you treated my cousin in this shameful way? Last night I had a note from the safe to pay a bill which was presented. The bill was wrong, and I did not pay it. I very carelessly put the bank notes in my pocket and forgot them. I'm very sorry for my weakness, but surely it was no crime, and what had poor Frank to do with it? Here are the notes to speak for themselves."

As he produced the notes, Frank's face brightened. The partners were struck dumb. They could do nothing. Robert handed the money over, and demanded with an air of innocence that he and his cousin should be released immediately from their engagements, and that, too, he added, "on account of the unwarranted charges brought against them, without forfeiting their salaries."

That same afternoon the clerks left the office forever, and the same night before they went to bed, they divided \$100,000 between them—the result of their hazardous speculation. Their fortunes were made!

But let not the reader suppose that this wrong doing was the end successful. A few weeks, but surely it was never at ease. His wife, whom he had married for money, wasted it extravagantly, and at the same time hated him. One of his daughters ran away with a footman, and his eldest son ruined him almost with gambling, and through a speculation not unlike his own successful (?) one, was sentenced to the law being then changed to penal servitude for life.

Thus, generally, if we learn the end of the story of supposed "successful" wrong doing, we find that though, for a time, men may seem to prosper in an evil or doubtful path, yet, as a certain book truly says, "The way of the transgressor is hard."

Thomas Taylor. John C. Cutler.

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