

of the grasp ; the cold damp of the stiffening palm struck a chill to his heart ; there was a fluttering of the pulse, a glazing of the eye ; the breast ceased to heave, the heart to beat ; the silver cord parted in twain, and the golden bowl was broken. Thomson contemplated for a moment the body of his mistress, and, striking his hand against his forehead, rushed out of the apartment.

He attended her funeral ; he heard the earth falling heavy and hollow on the coffin-lid ; he saw the green sod placed over her grave ; he witnessed the irrepressible anguish of her father, and the sad regret of her friends ; and all this without shedding a tear. He was turning to depart, when some one thrust a letter into his hand. He opened it almost mechanically. It contained a considerable sum of money, and a few lines from his agent, stating that, in consequence of a favorable change in his circumstances, he had been enabled to satisfy all his creditors. Thomson crumpled up the bills in his hand. He felt as if his heart stood still in his breast ; a noise seemed ringing in his ears ; a mist-cloud appeared, as if rising out of the earth and darkening around him. He was caught, when falling, by old William Stewart ; and, on awakening to consciousness and the memory of the past, found himself in his arms. He lived for about ten years after a laborious and speculative man, ready to oblige, and successful in all his designs ; and no one deemed him unhappy. It was observed, however, that his dark brown hair was soon mingled with masses of gray, and that his tread became heavy and his frame bent. It was remarked, too, that when attacked by a lingering epidemic, which passed over well-nigh the whole country, he of all the people was the only one that sunk under it.