

great personages had its desired effect upon them both; and finding themselves quickly surrounded by spectators, they gave him some silver, and then pursued their way. these men, said dashall, are generally an industrious and hard living people; they walk many miles in the course of a day to find sale for their images, which they will rather sell at any price than carry back with them at night; and it is really wonderful how they can make a living by their traffic. ha, ha, ha, said a coarse spoken fellow following how the jarman duck diddled the dandies just now did you twig how he queered the cores out of seven bob for what was not worth thrums. the yelper did his duty well, and fingered the white wool in good style. im d d if he was not up to slum, and he whiddied their rattles with the velvet, and floored the town toddlers easy enough. how do you mean said his companion. why you know that foreign blade is an ould tyke about this quarter, and makes a good deal of money many a twelver does he get by buying up broken images of persons who sell them by wholesale, and he of course gets them for little or nothing; then what does he do but dresses out his board, to give them the best appearance he can, and toddles into the streets, louting for a good customer. the first genteel bit of flash he meets that he thinks will dub up the possibles, he dashes down the board, breaks all the broken heads, and appeals in a pitiful way for remuneration for his loss; so that nine times out of ten he gets some johnny raw or other to stump up the rubbish. zounds said dashall, these fellows are smoking us; and, in the midst of my instructions to guard you against the abuses of the metropolis, we have ourselves become the dupes of an impostor. thrums a flash term for threepence. the yelper a common term given to a poor fellow subject, who makes very pitiful lamentations on the most trifling thing, said daubeny quietly, and his reply was greeted with a shout of derision. why, you poor coward, dubbs, said franklin, you couldnt get anything for handing the poker. i never supposed i could, franklin, he answered; and as for being a coward, the real cowardice would be to do whats absurd and wrong for fear of being laughed at or being kicked. well, you may hit me, he said quietly, as franklin twisted his arm tightly round, and hit him on it, but you cant make me do what i dont choose. well try, said franklin, twisting his arm still more tightly, and hitting harder. youll try in vain, answered daubeny, though the tears stood in his eyes at the violent pain. drop his arm, you franklin, indignantly exclaimed henderson, who, though he was always teasing daubeny, was very fond of him; drop his arm, or, by jove youll find that two can play at that. dubbs is quite right, and youre a set of asses if you think youll do any good by burning the punishment book. ive got the poker, and you shant have it to knock the desk open. i suppose paton can afford sixpence to buy another book; and enter a tolerable fresh score against you for this besides. but he wont remember my six hundred lines, and four or five detentions, said walter. here, give me the poker. pooh pooh er son, of course hell remember them. here, ill help you with the lines; ill do a couple of hundred for you, and the rest you can write with two pens at a time; it wont take you an hour. ill show you the two pen dodge; ill admit you into the two pen stralia. like milton, you shall touch the slender tops of various quills. no, no, he of the wise the fate of dynasties written with the finger of god amid the stars. the dark robed figures were so still that they might almost have been carved in stone. the air seemed to grow purer and purer; the stars shone brighter and brighter; suspended in ether the planets seemed to hang like lamps. now a shooting meteor passed athwart the sky, and vanished behind the hill. but not for this did the watchers move; in silence they watched on till, on a sudden, how and whence the parson knew not, across the shining ranks of that immeasurable host, whose names and number are known to god alone, there passed in slow but obvious motion one brilliant solitary star a star of such surpassing brightness that he involuntarily joined in the wild cry of joy and greeting with which the men of the east now prostrated themselves with their faces to the earth. he could not understand the language in which, with noisy clamour and gesticulation, they broke their former profound and patient silence, and greeted the portent for which they had watched. but he knew now that these were the wise men of the epiphany, and that this was the star of bethlehem. in his ears rang the energetic simplicity of the gospel