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Holiday Mirror

THE
HOLIDAY REWARD;

OR

TALES

TO INSTRUCT AND AMUSE

GOOD CHILDREN,

DURING THE

CHRISTMAS AND MIDSUMMER VACATIONS.

BY MRS. VENTUM.

London:

PRINTED FOR J. HARRIS,
CORNER OF ST. PAUL'S CHURCH-YARD;

1814.

THE

THURSDAY REWARD

OR

TALKS

TO INSTRUCT AND AMUSE

GOOD CHILDREN,

DURING THE

WINTER AND MIDSUMMER VACATIONS

BY MRS. AVANTUM

LONDON :

PRINTED FOR J. HARRIS,

CORNER OF ST. MARTIN'S CHURCH-YARD;

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THE

HOLIDAY REWARD.



FROST AND SNOW.

SHIVER, shiver, shiver, stood little Henry Mendip, waiting till the servant opened the door.

“I am so glad to see the fire, dear mother,” said the child, advancing to it, “I was never so cold in my life, see what a hard frost it is, and how deep the snow lies on the ground, I wish, with all my heart, there was

neither frost or snow, I cannot think what use they are of."

"You speak like a child, Henry, and are yet to know that God Almighty does nothing in vain; the cold of which you complain, and the frost and snow with which you find fault, are gifts from God to fertilize the earth, and assist the progress of vegetation. The snow falls lightly, yet closely upon the earth, and serves as a defence to the young plants and seeds which lie in its bosom, and which a rigid frost might totally destroy. Snow is by experiment found to be twenty-four times lighter than water; the frost by hardening the snow upon the ground, serves to unite its particles more firmly, and consequently to assist its power of warming and cherishing the seeds, which in a

mild open winter, are apt to spring up too rapidly, and, consequently, be endangered by the blights and frosts which frequently occur in the months of March and sometimes April. The frost though cold and benumbing to our feelings, is not without its advantages, it destroys the eggs of myriads of insects, which warming into life by the summer's sun, would destroy the produce of our fields, orchards, and gardens; thus you see even frost and snow have their advantages."

"Then they never do hurt, mother."

"I do not say that, Henry, on the contrary, severe cold has both inconveniences and troublesome consequences; for in severe frosts, water mills are so choked up with ice that they will not work, consequently, a

general want of bread ensues, trees and plants and even animals sometimes perish through the extremity of the weather; nor does man escape, he is as subject to feel its effects as any creature, if he exposes himself to it, but God Almighty, in making man the lord of creation, gave the means of defence against an inclement season into his hands, the fleece which you see upon the back of the poor sheep, the hide when stript from the back of the ox, the fur that clothes the wolf, the bear and fox of the arctic regions, all, in turns, contribute to his comfort; add to which, the wood with which the forests supply us, the coals which are dug from the bowels of the earth, all afford their assistance to render him secure from the inclemency of the season; think,

too, Henry, how much more intense the cold is in those northerly regions, where the light of day is obscure for six and nine months together, where winter is one long long night; consider how much better you are off, than the poor Laplander; you know a little of geography, my dear, search me that map; there cast your eye, see there is the arctic circle, within $23^{\circ} 30'$ of the pole, 'tis within that space that this long night reigns, where they know not the charms of spring or autumn, summer succeeds winter with a rapidity unknown to us, and their winter comes on with the same hasty strides, three months in the year is all the time given them to plough their land, sow their seeds, and reap their harvests. Their country is formed of mountains covered with eternal snow,

which not even the sun of summer can dissolve, the wretched (to us they appear so, though God Almighty has given them the blessing not only of contentment; but such a partiality to their frigid and sterile climate, that they never wish to quit it, or, if they do, are anxious to return to it,) inhabitants of these northern climates, fix their habitations in tents or huts, in the centre of which stands their fire place, the smoke goes out through a hole which serves as a window, there they fasten iron chains, to which they suspend their pot or cauldron, in which they dress their food; their dress is the skin of beasts. Now tell me, Henry, do you not think these poor people suffer more from cold than you do, who have every comfort in life."

"Dear mother, I shall never com-

plain of cold again, I will think of the Laplanders, and be content."

"Content, Henry, is the greatest blessing we can enjoy, it not only softens every change of clime or season, but every circumstance in life to us; a mind possessed of this invaluable benefit, needs no greater riches, it sweetens every station of life, and makes the performance of even the most menial offices a pleasure. See how happy Mrs. Leeson and her young family are, and yet she did not always live as humbly as she does now; her prospects were promising, wealth and independence courted her, but her enjoyment of them was very transient, the will by which she inherited, admitted some litigation, there was a flaw in the wording of it, the consequence was, her brother

commenced a suit at law against her, and the cause being decided for him, she lost every thing she possessed, except a small annuity, which she holds for her life; upon that she lives, and trifling as it is, she contrives to make it do, and is, I have heard her frequently declare, happier in her present humble station, than she was while in a more splendid one, the charm, Henry, lies within herself, she has good sense enough to know, that unavailing regrets would only embitter the present moment, and poison the little enjoyment she could otherwise taste.

DISHONESTY PUNISHED.



“MAMMA,” said Eliza Nedham,
“John Smithers is below.”

“I believe he has some favour to ask. He seldom comes but when he has, and, indeed, I am less disposed to grant him a favour than any other I know in the same condition of life.”

“Why so, mamma?”

“Stop till I go and dismiss this poor man, and then I will tell you.— Well, my dear, I have answered him, and now I will answer you.— Because I think him undeserving of any.”

“ But, mamma, I have always heard you say you felt a great deal for those who had lived well, and were reduced to poverty, and that you were always happy to have an opportunity of assisting them.”

“ Generally speaking, I am so, but this man is an exception.”

“ Why, what has he done, is not this his case, has he not lived better, and is he not reduced to poverty?”

“ Yes, Eliza, but I will recount to you, as briefly as I can, the leading circumstances of his life, and the causes which, under the direction of the Almighty, have led him to beggary, and then I will leave you to judge whether his present state is not the effect of retributive justice.

“ John Smithers inherited from his father, a laborious and honest man,

a small farm situated on the sea coast. All the leisure he could spare from the duties of his farm, he devoted to fishing, and joined with others in the purchase of a boat. The coast on which he resided was particularly rocky and dangerous to the mariner, and many were the vessels cast away upon it; it was in times like these, that he, with his partners, went off with the boat, under the pretext of offering assistance to those distressed beings whom the violence of the storm had thrown upon the rocks; had he done this, he would have acted as become a man and a christian; but, alas! Eliza, these bad men went with far different views, instead of affording proper assistance to the unhappy sufferers, they went to plunder. For a long time they con-

tinued their iniquitous employment without being molested, and finding it a lucrative one, they were one or other constantly on the look out. It so happened that one stormy night a ship of large burden was wrecked within three miles of them; the appearance of so profitable a job, as they termed it, induced them to take out the boat immediately; the captain of the vessel having a valuable cargo on board, was happy to claim and receive their assistance, but mark their wickedness, Eliza, they took advantage of the distress, hurry, and confusion in which all on board were involved, to steal from the ship, every thing which presented itself, that could be carried away without immediate detection; no sooner had

the hurry a little subsided, and the cargo landed, than the captain compared it with his bill of lading, when a bale of great value was missing; suspicion immediately fell upon those boats who had been most prompt in offering their assistance, one, indeed, during the night was fired after as having stolen property from the ship, though, at the moment, those on board could scarcely tell what. At length, a woman whose house was in the cove in which they landed, being offended that she, too, was not admitted to her share of plunder, threatened, in several places, to declare who were the authors of the theft, unless they bribed her to silence; this intelligence reached the ears of the captain, and from him to the underwriters, the consequence was an immediate applica-

tion to a magistrate, and warrants were granted for apprehending not only the woman, but the owners and crews of the different boats; but the alarm had been given, and fearful of the discovery they knew the woman could make, they hastily complied with her terms, glad to purchase her silence at any rate. Thus bribed, she swore, solemnly swore that she knew nothing of the matter, nor ever saw the bale of goods,—the magistrate was, therefore, obliged to dismiss the cause, which he did, concluding with these words,—‘ I am obliged,’ said he, ‘ to dismiss this cause from want of positive evidence, though, in my own mind, so far from acquitting any of you of the guilt in which I believe you to be involved, I do not hesitate to say that I am fearful you are

all deeply implicated in it; but let this serve as a caution to your future proceedings, and be as a warning when I tell you, had the proofs been brought home, you must every one have been hung, serving, at the same time, as sad examples of cruelty and dishonesty, for what greater cruelty can be practised, than taking advantage of the distresses of your fellow creatures, to rob and plunder them.' But this warning, Eliza, was not sufficient, they, for there were many of them, pursued the same faulty conduct. Providence, however, who sees every, the most minute, action of our lives, did not suffer their crimes to go unpunished; by degrees, John Smithers, for it is him I am particularly quoting, grew melancholy, neglected his farm, and lost all pleasure in his

usual occupations, the consequence was, he went back in the world, and from one degree to another, till he is now reduced to a state of beggary. I relieve him, it is true, occasionally, but I have no pleasure in so doing, his conduct has been uniformly bad, and I cannot help regarding his present misery as a punishment sent by the Almighty for his former wickedness."

"What become of the rest of these bad men, mamma," said Eliza?

"One of them confessed the theft of the bale of goods, when on his death bed, my dear, but though he acknowledged whose boats were employed in the action, he forbore to mention the names of those who were in them, and as the owner of the brig and the underwriters lived at a

considerable distance from the spot where the vessel was wrecked, there was no one sufficiently interested in the business to make it their concern, therefore the matter died away; the rest of them, no doubt, had punishment enough in the reproaches of their guilty conscience, and what is greater punishment than that."

"For my part, mamma, I shall never again see John Smithers with pleasure, nor shall I ever again urge you to relieve him."

"You must not, Eliza, be too severe, you must remember that not a day passes over our heads, but we are in some way or other offending God Almighty, and we pray to him to forgive us our trespasses: how are we to expect forgiveness ourselves, if we refuse it to our fellow creatures? no,

no, my dear, we must overlook faults, when we see repentance follow, and by the charity of our judgments, deserve charity in return; besides, I believe this poor man is not only thoroughly repentant, but considers his present state as a punishment due to his past crimes.

CHARITY WELL EMPLOYED.

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“MY dear Eliza,” said Mrs. Nedham to her daughter, “we were yesterday conversing upon the unhappy situation of John Smithers. I will now call your attention to another subject; or rather, will shew you the good effects of charity well employed. I am going this afternoon to call upon Martha Robert; I want her to knit some yarn stockings for your father,

against winter, and then you shall see how honest industry comes on; I shall tell you how I first knew her.

“About seven years ago, when your sister Clara was a little girl, she was very sickly, and her health being in a very precarious state, the Physicians which attended her ordered sea-bathing as being the most probable remedy to recover her strength. We therefore took her to Brighthelmston, it so happened, that the very day on which we arrived, a transport vessel which was employed in conveying troops for government to a foreign country, was wrecked, and most of the unfortunate crew perished, among the rest, was the husband of this poor creature, who was a soldier, she was accompanying him with her children to the place of his

destination, when this fatal accident occurred, she with her young ones, were providentially saved, indeed her poor husband lost his own life to save her's and his children's. A subscription was immediately set on foot for the relief of those sufferers who had escaped the wreck, and who indeed had escaped literally with their lives only, every thing else being swallowed up by the devouring element; this poor creature I often met in my walks on the sands; the dejection so visible on her pallid countenance, with the interest young children, of which she had three, naturally excite in me, led me particularly to notice her, and an opportunity soon offered for my speaking with her: she was as usual seated on a piece of rock which jutted out into the sea, her young ones, with all the playful inno-

gency, and happy thoughtlessness of youth, were amusing themselves in gathering sea weeds, while she was contemplating, perhaps the very spot where her affections lie buried. I was alone, and strayed as if undesignedly towards the spot where she was sitting, and approached near enough to see the tears following each other in quick succession down her cheeks ; and unperceived by her, to hear her pathetically address herself to the sea as the destroyer of her earthly happiness ; and then again, to call upon her lost husband, tenderly apostrophize his name, and ask what would become of her and her young ones. Oh ! said she weeping aloud—what, what, will become of my dear, my innocent children, the children of my lost Henry, how will they be supported ; God alone knows—

she continued lifting up her eyes to heaven—how willing I am to work, but who knows me here, and who will employ one to whom they are strangers?—Oh! how shall I get back to my own country, there I might hope to get relief and something to do, to keep me and my babes from starving.— ‘Where is your own country my good woman,’ said I, advancing, she started at the sound of a voice, not supposing she had been overheard— ‘Suffolk, Madam,’ she replied, rising and curtsyng, ‘and do you think you could maintain yourself and young ones, if you had the means of returning thither.’ ‘I hope so, Madam, at least I would try; I was tolerably well respected when I lived at Bury, and I don’t think my old neighbours would forget me, now affliction has so

pressed upon me ; besides, Madam, I have some relations tolerably well settled there ; and, perhaps, they might when they saw my distresses be tempted to relieve them.' 'Are they in circumstances that will permit them to assist you.' 'Yes, Madam ; alas ! I was once,' she continued, still weeping, 'capable of helping myself, and was as well in the world as any one : if you please, Madam, I will give you some account of myself.' I attended willingly to her, while she related her little story, which she did, as near as I can recollect in the following words."

'My father, Madam, rented a small farm, near Bury, upon the fruits of which, he brought up a family of six children, of which I was the youngest, he had the happiness to see us all settled in life, before he died.



I married with his consent about three months before we lost him, the son of a neighbour, who like us, rented a small farm, and under the same landlord; we lived happily for two years, and were getting forward in the world; when unfortunately for us, our landlord died, and the estate devolved to a distant branch of the family, as our lease was just expired, and as we had hitherto held the farm upon very advantageous terms, we were anxious to renew it, and as soon as the new Squire had taken possession, we applied to him for a fresh lease, this he refused, saying it was his intention to throw two or three small farms into one, and let them to one tenant, this we considered would be an undertaking too large for our means, as we had not stock enough to make it answer,

especially as the chief part of the land, was to be kept as grass, he forbidding us to use the plough, but on such a particular parcel of ground ; we, therefore, declined accepting his offer : but, however, we had permission to continue as yearly tenants, till the leases of those farms which he intended to annex to ours were expired ; we now paid a heavy rent and upon a very precarious dependance. But, however, we were obliged to be content ; the Squire was a great sportsman, and was used to keep a warren of hares for his own amusement ; unluckily for us, our largest field of wheat joined this warren, and the hares committed sad depredations upon it ; it was in vain my poor Henry complained, he was told repeatedly that if he was not satisfied he might quit the farm, as the

Squire would not destroy one hare, much more a whole warren, to please a poor tenant ; for a long time we bore this as patiently as we could, till one morning, upon Henry's going into his field, he saw no less than twelve of these creatures feeding there, he could hold his patience no longer, but returning to the house, took his gun, loading it as quick as possible, and at one shot, killed four of them ; this intelligence was speedily conveyed to the Squire, who as speedily, determined our ruin. Alas ! Madam, it was not long before my Henry was taken up for a Poacher, the consequence was, he had no alternative but a prison, or entering either into the navy or army, while to complete it, we had warning to quit the farm, and the same day, saw my poor Henry enlisted as a sol-

dier, and his helpless wife and young ones turned from their home; from this period, I date all my miseries; few know the fatigues and dangers attending a camp. I followed my husband—I could not do less—there never was a better; his conduct was such as to merit the attention of his officers, he was taken from the ranks and promoted to the Halbert; we were going on this secret expedition, when this fatal accident happened, which has not only torn from me all my earthly hopes; but, deprived my children of a fond and careful father.’—“Here her tears flowed afresh—putting a trifle into her hand, I left her desiring her to call upon me the following morning; the interval of time, I would employ in thinking upon some way to assist her.”

“When I returned home, I recounted

her story to your father ; and, as he knew several people about Bury, he wrote to make enquiries respecting her character and her husband's ; which being favourably answered, we sent her home, at the same time, giving her a letter to a gentleman of consequence, and who we knew had the heart as well as ability to assist her ; he immediately caused a collection to be set on foot for her relief, and by the time we reached home, which was in about a fortnight after, we found near thirty pounds had been raised for her use ; we had then just purchased our present house, and were coming down to take possession of it ; we had scarcely arrived before she came to thank us for the interest we had taken in her behalf, and to offer her services in any thing she could do, they were very ac-

ceptable, and as we found her a very industrious and faithful creature, we gave her the little cottage she lives in, and there she has by unremitting industry got forward; she has a pretty little garden which is always neat and clean, and has lately taken two small fields, in which she keeps a cow, the produce of which helps to support her, her house is always neat, and she has every thing tidy and comfortable about her; her children brought up to honest labour, are now old enough to assist in getting their own living; her eldest son Will, is reckoned the best ploughman in the parish, and Henry the best blacksmith, her daughter Peggy, you know, goes out to needle work, and is, I believe, constantly employed. Thus this poor woman has prospered; and God Almighty has

blessed her honest Industry with success. The thirty pounds which was, collected for her, bought her a few necessaries for her house, and gave her something to go on with, till she could assist herself — she is constantly employed—you never see her walking but she has a stocking in her hand which she knits as she goes—she has worked early and late to maintain herself and young ones—and her reward is being comfortable in her old age—thus you see, my dear, what difficulties persevering honest industry, will surmount.”

## INDUSTRY AND IDLENESS.

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“I WISH I was a rich man,” said William Wellings as he hung over a gate, swinging it backward and forward.

“Why what would you do then,” said his companion Edward Travers.

“Oh! I would play all day, I would not be toiling and drudging about; going here and there, and carrying this, picking that, and be kept working all day long.”

“Indeed, William,” returned Ed-

ward laughing, "poor boy as you are, you don't do much, your father only set you to pick up a few stones, and you have been half the day and more, and have not gathered a basket full."

"Well, what's that to you," returned the other, surlily, "I don't like work, and as you are neither my father nor my master, I sha'nt mind what you say."

"You need not quarrel, however, William. I did not mean to offend you."

"Yes you did," he returned, "you are always telling me of my laziness, and for what I see, I work as hard you; though I don't brag so much of it."

"I never did brag, William; I have nothing to brag about, I try to do

what my father bids me, and there is no occasion to brag, as you call it, when one only does one's duty."

"Oh! I suppose by that, you mean to say I don't do mine, but I tell you, Mr. Edward, if you give me any more of your talk, you shall see that lazy as I am, I can beat you."

"As for that, William, I am not afraid of you, nor a bigger boy, and let me but take the cows home, and then, if you like, we'll try who's the best."

True courage is always cool and collected. Will saw by Edward's look, that he was not to be trifled with, and, therefore, made no reply. Edward took the cows home, and Will kept to his amusement on the gate; let us now pursue these two lads during their pro-

gress through life, they were both the sons of labouring men—had both received the same degree of instruction, and were very nearly of an age, of course their views and prospects were the same.

Near the houses of Wellings and Travers, lived a Mr. Freeman, a gentleman of large independent property, and the owner of the principal part of the village, it was his custom to give a reward once a year, to the child who could produce the best testimony of diligence and good behaviour; the prize this year, was a cow calf which was to be kept and reared at Mr. Freeman's expence, till it was two years old, all the boys in the village were anxious to obtain it, and with the hope of doing so, were for the most part diligent and industrious.

Edward Travers, who was naturally a good lad, was particularly sedulous; "let us try," said he, to Wellings one day, "who will win the prize, you or I, we are both of the same age, and indeed, elder than any other of the boys who are eager to gain it, it will be a shame for us to let it go by, we may as well try for it as another."

"I think," replied Wellings, "it will demand more trouble than it is worth, we must be eternally writing, cyphering, reading, or employed about something or other, and I think the calf is not worth so much labour."

"But the labour as you call it, William, helps ourselves, the more we learn, the more we know, and the more diligent we are now, the better able we shall be to work by and bye. I have heard my father say, industry

and idleness were all habit, and we should find as much pleasure in work as play, if we accustomed ourselves to it."

"That may be very true, for those that like it, but for my part, I feel more pleasure in a game at marbles, or chuck farthing, than in worrying myself over a parcel of figures, I may never be called to use; and as for the gift of the calf, why it is no great thing; besides, if I stick a little close to work for a few days, I shall soon overtake you, and perhaps win too."

"Ah! William, but she may become a cow, and then think what a deal of butter and cheese you may get from her. However, do as you please, I shall certainly strive to gain the prize, and happy enough shall I be if it falls to my lot."

“ Ah ! and proud enough too I warrant you,” replied William, as Edward turned from him to pursue his studies ; “ but you are a dull fellow, always moping over books, or driving the cows, or helping mend the hedges or something, you are never like another child, you cannot play like one of us.”

The day on which the prize was to be adjudged at length arrived, the nearer it approached, the more Wellings wished to obtain it, and he made some trifling exertions to do so, but his habits were so naturally indolent, that his performances carried the traits of his disposition on their face ; nevertheless, though dissuaded by his friends to attempt producing his books ; yet his vanity, of which he had no small share, led him to imagine he should be suc-

cessful. The judges on this important occasion, were seated in Mr. Freeman's great hall, it was there the fate of the young candidates was to be determined; great was the anxiety felt in every little breast upon this occasion, and great was the terror and diffidence with which their respective books were presented, and the testimony which their master or mistress gave in of their behaviour was delivered.

The trial commenced with the younger, and ascended gradually to the elder children, at length William Wellings, and Edward Travers, were called upon for their books; the blood for a moment fled their cheeks as they delivered them, and as quickly again dyed them with crimson. "Your masters' testimony of your conduct and application, my lads," said one of the

gentlemen, holding out his hand to receive them: they were also delivered and read. “Which of you is Edward Travers.” “I, sir,” said Edward, bowing low. “You are a good lad then, my boy, and I believe the prize will be yours.” Upon a critical examination, it was adjudged to him; though a young girl in the village, whose mother was a very poor and honest widow, was declared to have been the next to merit it. “But we are no judge of female works,” said one of the gentlemen. “And the characters of Hannah Weston, and Edward Travers, are so exactly alike for diligence and integrity, that I declare, I am almost scrupulous of giving my decision, though, on the merit of writing and accounts, the prize is certainly Edward’s.” The hall immediately resounded with—Edward Travers has the prize — and many were the compliments he re-

ceived on this occasion, and indeed, from none more than Hannah, who next to herself wished him to be successful. "It was not so much for myself, I wished for the calf," said she, to one of her young companions, "as that it might help to assist my mother, who would as it had grown up, have been able to earn a subsistence from its produce."—The judges left the hall, and the prize beautifully bedecked with ribbons, was led out upon the lawn to be delivered to the successful candidate. Mr. Freeman himself bestowing it. "Here Edward," said he, "take it, it is yours, you have earned it by diligent application, and unremitting industry, do with it as you please, I will, as my promise was, feed it for two years, but you have your option either to dispose of it

now, or leave it till the settled time."

Edward, who had witnessed the tear of disappointment which sprung into the eyes of Hannah Weston, and who knew the value it would be to her, had more than once revolved in his mind to forego the gift in her favour, "the honour of the day is mine" said he, "and that more than the calf was what I was anxious to obtain: my father does not want it, we have four already. I have a great mind to give up in favour of Hannah, but then what will father and mother say.—Ah! but then Hannah's mother is so poor—and—and—yes I will—it shall be hers—the calf will do them more good than it would me.—I will give it up—the honour of the day is mine—I am the successful candidate still."

“The prize is yours, the prize is yours, Edward Travers,” echoed many little voices, as they were pressing forward to examine the beauty of the animal, or rather, the beauty of the ribbons with which it was decorated ; it was still in the hands of Mr. Freeman, who delivering it to Edward, asked where it should be led, back to the pasture from whence it was taken, or did he wish his parents to see it first.

“I thank you, sir ; thank you, and the gentlemen, who adjudged the prize to me with all my heart ;” he continued in a tremulous and hesitating voice—“but the glory of having merited the prize, is more to me, than the prize itself, though that as your gift, I should value highly—but—but if you please,”—here he stopt, unable, yet wishing to proceed—his thoughts, and attempts to

give utterance to them, were too much for his articulation—he lost his breath from the agitation in which he was, and the desire he had to finish what he had to say—“but—but what? Edward,” replied Mr. Freeman, “what would you say my good lad; speak now, if there is any other mode in which I can serve you, or express my opinion of your abilities, speak it.” “None, none, sir,” returned Edward, collecting himself, “none at all, but if you please to let Hannah Weston have the calf—her mother is very poor, it will be of greater service to her, than it can be to me; my father is better off, and I am a boy and better able to work than either Hannah or her mother; and the gentlemen said, that till my books were shewn, the prize was hers, so sir, if you will

let her have it for me, I shall be much obliged to you."

"It is yours, Edward," said Mr. Freeman smiling and looking affectionately at him, "do with it as you please, the gift must be from you to Hannah; you are a noble fellow, and your motives for relinquishing it do you honour. Hannah Weston," he continued, calling her, "come here — the prize of to day was Edward Travers's, he is anxious to bestow it on you; receive it then as a gift from him, and in consideration of your being so good a girl, and bearing so excellent a character as that given with you to day, you shall if you prefer it change your calf for a three year old cow; but I beg you to consider that too as the gift of this good lad, whose conduct deserves a far

greater reward, and I must study to find one for him."

"I wish no other, sir," said Edward humbly, "to have obtained your praise, and to be certain that you are not offended at my presuming to bestow your gift upon another, is sufficient for me." He would then have retired, but Mr. Freeman, more and more charmed with the manliness, yet modesty of his deportment, would not suffer him to leave him, but led him into the great parlour, among his guests, to whom he recounted what had just passed; they were unanimously lavish of their praises of his generosity, and nobleness of mind, and one among the gentlemen being particularly pleased with him, asked him if he should like to be a merchant. He hardly knew, he

replied, what a merchant was, but he should like to be any thing that would enable him to get his own bread.—“Say you so, my little fellow,” returned the gentleman, “then as soon as you are old enough, which, I suppose will be in about two years, apply to me, and I will find you a place in my counting house.” Edward bowed, and thanked him, saying, that till that period he would strive to improve himself as much as possible in accounts. He shortly after joined his young companions on the lawn, and with them concluded the day in the enjoyment of that innocent mirth that characterizes childhood.

William Wellings was secretly mortified and vexed at seeing the notice and hearing the commendation every one lavishly bestowed upon Edward,

against whom he now conceived not only a most violent hatred, but inconceivable jealousy, and was not only ready, but prompt to do him every ill turn in his power; many ill actions were traced home to him, which indeed gave Edward no further uneasiness than the regret he felt at having undesignedly and undeservedly raised an enemy. Near the time that Edward was to go to Mr. Adkins, the merchant above mentioned; the father of William Wellings, had a relation died, who left him a thousand pounds. Anxious to settle his children genteelly in life, he thought of appropriating part of the money to the apprenticing them to different trades; William, he designed to fix with a grocer, but his son would not hear of it. "What, father," said he, "you that have a thou-

and pounds make your son only a grocer, while Edward Travers, who has nothing, is to be a merchant; no, let me be a merchant also; I warrant, I am as capable as he is, if not, make me an officer." "To do either, William," returned his father, "will demand more money than I can spare; there are your two brothers and your sister to settle in the world as well as yourself, and an equal proportion of all I have is of justice theirs as well as yours. If I, therefore, either fix you with a merchant, or purchase you a commission, it will not only demand a much larger sum than you are entitled to, but your general expences will be larger than I can afford; in either situation there is a certain degree of rank to be kept up, that will neither accord with my present circumstances, nor your future

prospects from me ; besides, I very much fear you are not qualified for a merchant." "It will be eight months, father, before Edward Travers goes to Mr. Adkins, and if I can get fixed about that time, I warrant I will make myself capable."

"I am not willing, William, either to check or controul your wishes for your future pursuits in life ; and if I thought you would be uniformly diligent to business, I would not mind two hundred pounds to settle you advantageously ; but you must consider that I have nothing more to give, and your future rise in life must depend upon your own care and industry, both must become from your first onset habitual to you—as your beginning with the utmost care you can use, will be very trifling, so will be your profits, and you

will get forward, but by slow degrees; however, if you are really bent upon being a merchant, you must, if I can find any gentleman willing to take you for the sum I have mentioned, be indulged—but I tell you that except a small annual allowance for your clothes, washing, and a little pocket money, till your articles are expired, you have nothing more to expect.”

The next time William Wellings met Edward, he began with “Good morning Mr. Travers,” Edward smiled. “You have been studying politeness, William, and are willing to put your lessons in practice upon me. Pray what right have I to be Mr. Travers, plain Edward is sufficient for such a poor boy as I am.”

“A poor boy, indeed,” returned the

other, "what, and to be made a merchant? few poor boys rise that height."

"I am not one yet, William, it will be time enough to dignify me with the title of Mr. when I am one."

"Oh! as to that, you know it is all the same, you are to be placed with Mr. Adkins—who is very eminent—indeed, you are very lucky."

"I think myself so, William, and shall more so, when I am really settled; but it is Mr. Adkins's goodness that induces him to take me—my friends could not else place me in such a situation."

"Ah! there's the difference," said William, haughtily, "now I am going to a merchant too, but then my father is to give two hundred pounds with me."

"Indeed," said Edward, with a look of incredulity.

"Indeed, yes indeed, Mr. Edward," replied William saucily :

“ what, because you are so fortunate as to be taken out of charity; do you think that nobody else can be settled so well. Indeed, sir, I am to go to one, and that money will be paid with me.”

“ With all my heart, William,” replied Edward, “ I am sure I have no objection, I am glad you are like to be settled to your mind, and I hope you will do well.”

“ Oh ! never fear that, I dare say I shall do as well as you.”

Mr. Wellings having found a gentleman willing to take his son, upon the terms already mentioned, the two boys set out nearly at the same time to take possession of their respective places. Wellings's father had exerted his abilities to the utmost, to fit out his son respectably, in the station of life he had chosen ;

and giving him five guineas in his pocket, told him he might expect that sum every three months; but that he should not be answerable for any debts he might contract, or be prevailed upon by any plea or pretence whatsoever to extend his allowance.

—Edward's father, on the contrary, said to him when parting; "My son, I have little to give you, you must depend upon your own industry and future exertions; your mother will wash for you, and I will do all I can to keep you decently in clothes—here are a few shillings, it is all I can spare—
—if you are trusty, faithful, and honest, and strive by diligence and attention to please your master, he will be your friend, be all these, my son, and you will do well; let no inducement whatever, lead you from your duty; your

time is your master's, and the integrity of your conduct to him, will, in all probability, determine your future rise or fall in life—keep honesty in view—never forfeit your word, nor tell an untruth—let the basis of your actions be integrity, and never fear but you will do well. God bless you—let us hear from you, as soon as you feel yourself settled, and when your master can spare, and will permit you, come down to see us.” Then receiving the embraces of both his parents; Edward mounted the box of the coach which was to convey him to town; and having taken an affectionate leave of all his young companions, he turned a wistful look upon his native plains, while the big tears chased one another down his cheeks.—The coach rolled away—and this transient gleam of sor-

row was dissipated by the sight of new scenes and fresh objects.

Mr. Adkins received Edward with every assurance of kindness, promising him, that if he was a sober, steady, and diligent lad, he should never want a friend or a home; the next morning, he took his seat in the counting-house; at first, his situation was rather unpleasant—the elder clerks not only imposed upon him as being the younger—but as Mr. Adkins had taken him without a premium, they thought him of no consequence; and, therefore, employed him in all the drudgery of the office, and laying upon him the performance of business which properly fell to themselves. But Edward studiously endeavoured to please every one—he was not only diligent and attentive to perform every part of business allotted to

him, but to aid and assist wherever he thought his assistance would be acceptable. By these means from being thought little of, and treated slightingly, he altered the opinion and disposition of all his fellow clerks toward him, among whom he became very deservedly a very great favourite.

William Wellings, on the contrary, puffed up with an high opinion of himself, and proud of his father being able to pay so large a sum, to fix him in his situation, took upon himself airs, which would have been unwarrantable even in a youth of a very superior station; too proud to be taught, yet perpetually committing some blunders, he was constantly reprimanded either by his master or the elder clerks;—meantime an inordinate love of dress and shew had now taken possession of

him, and no sooner were the duties of the counting-house over, than in company with another young lad, nearly of his own age (but who being nephew to his master, and the son of rich parents, had more at command than Wellings,) he hastened to the play-house or some other place of public entertainment.—His first five guineas was, therefore, soon spent, and the second largely anticipated, by loans from his new friend. His master having intelligence how his nephew and Wellings spent their evenings, took them both very severely to task for it, and gave strict orders that in future they were never to be out later than eight o'clock. To this regulation, both Wellings and his friend were for a time forced to submit, though they were not idle in laying plans to deceive their master,

which in effect they did, by getting from the house through a back window which opened into a court ; and thus these youths went on for some time. Edward and Wellings frequently met in the course of their walks; the former, always neat and clean, but plainly dressed ; the latter, in a frilled shirt, fashionable cravat, and his hair always cut and dressed in the extremity of the taste ; he affected to have formed many new connexions, among young men of fashion, and constantly interlarded his discourse with their bon mots, and phrases, concluding every sentence with, “ as my friend Mr. such an one says, or my friend Mr. ——, Sir John ——’s son says.” — Edward smiled at these attempts at being thought great, but he considered it as one of Wellings’s foibles ; “ It is an

harmless one," said he, "therefore, why should I ridicule it?" But in the course of the following year, Wellings's behaviour to Edward, altered greatly; he would scarcely condescend to speak to him, and if he did, it was generally, in a cool contemptuous manner. Edward could not help feeling a little mortified at this treatment. "What is he," said he mentally, "more than myself; his father was as poor a man as mine, till the death bed bounty of a relation helped him forward; why then should Wellings be so proud; it is true, Mr. Adkins took me into his counting-house without a premium, but that is nothing to him—I don't care though much about it, if I am diligent, I may in the end be as great a man as he, and I had better," said he, "looking at his brown clothes and plain shirt, wear

these now, and by my own industry get forward, and be enabled by and bye to wear a better—than by dressing smart and spending all I get now upon my person, be an obstruction to my future getting on.”—Time wore away—these lads had each served two years and a half of their time ; Edward not only with credit to himself, and satisfaction to Mr. Adkins, from whom he was constantly receiving some valuable present—when the following occurrence happened.

Wellings was as is customary sent out to gather in bills which were for payment, the large sums of money which by this means was intrusted to his care, tempted him to make free with some, and upon his return one day from this business, a bill for twenty pounds was found short. He ap-

peared much surprised, and declared he must have lost it ; his master and fellow clerks, not suspecting any fraud, were induced to believe so too. They, however, gave him to understand his parents must make it good, this was a fearful task to write to his father ; however, it was a work of necessity, and he was obliged to get through it as well as he could. His father, however averse he was to advancing so much money, yet as he did not believe that his son had by any unfair means made himself master of the money he thus pretended was lost, did not hesitate making it good—at the same time, not without giving him a caution to be more careful in future, saying that he could not, nor should always make good the losses he might through carelessness or inattention sustain—glad to come off so well, Wellings proceeded

in his career of pleasure, which he pursued with an avidity that brings certain destruction. His purse was again unable to supply his extravagancies, and again he had recourse to the same means, but to a larger extent, but the detection not immediately following, he was trying various methods to restore it without his master's knowledge. Every plan he could devise proved abortive, till one morning meeting Edward in the street, he accosted him with a greater shew of kindness and respect, than he had for a long time shewn: "Where are you going this morning, Mr. Travers,—which way does your business lead you." — "Many," returned Edward, "I am collecting bills." "That is my business also. — Are yours to a large amount." "I believe about se-

venteen hundred pounds." "Do they lie wide?" "Pretty well—in the city chiefly." "You can spare time then to step into a tavern or coffee house, and partake a glass of wine." "Thank you, Mr. Wellings, I never drink of mornings, and I cannot delay my business." "Pshaw, not it, a few minutes will break no squares." — "Enough to throw me considerably behind time, and the days are now almost at the shortest, and a charge of money is not agreeable after dark in London."

"I have that many times, yet am never afraid."

"Perhaps not, but I had rather not run the risk."

"Well—well—then you must consent to accompany me to the play to night. I long for an opportunity of talking over our old country sports and

pursuits. Don't you remember, Edward, (I must call you so, it puts past happy days in my head) when we used to play together at leap frog, on the meadow opposite the old school house."

"Yes," returned Edward, "I remember all our former sports very well; but I have not time to stop now, some other I shall be happy to pass an hour with you, but now I must collect my bills, and before change hours, if I can, or I may probably have two walks where one would serve."

"Well then, if you won't be persuaded to drink a glass of wine now, you will join me in the evening, and we will go to the play."

"If Mr. Adkins has no objection, I shall very willingly accompany you; as I have not been to the theatre since I came to London."

“ No?—you astonish me, you will be surprised and delighted then, pray come.” W wondering at the change of manner, so visible in Wellings, and anxious to see a play, Edward longed to obtain Mr. Adkins’ consent—which indeed was readily granted, though not without enquiring with whom he was to go, “ with William Wellings, sir, one of Mr. Dawson’s clerks, and an old townsman and school-fellow of mine.”

“ Oh! I think I have heard Mr. Dawson mention him, though not indeed much to his praise, for he complains of him as a very idle and careless young man, and one, upon whom he can place no very great dependance. Now Edward, though I don’t approve of your forming such connexions; yet as I have much confidence in your in-

tegrity, and upon the strength of your principles, I will not for this time refuse your accompanying an old school-fellow, though by what I have heard of him, I shall not only be extremely averse, but as sincerely sorry if you form any intimate connexion with him—mean time as you go through the Strand, call at Hodson's, and get this draft cashed, it is for an hundred and forty pounds, be careful of your notes, and button them into the inside breast pocket of your coat." Thanking him for his permission, promising to attend to his advice, and taking the draft, Edward bowed and left him.—As it was a new play, and one that was a great favourite with the town. Edward and his companion were to be there early—when they came to the Strand, Edward asked Wellings to

stop a few moments, saying, he must go into the banker's with the draft. Wellings accompanied him, saw him receive the hundred and forty pounds, and thought at the same time how he should manage to get it from him. "Are you not afraid of taking such a charge of cash with you, Edward?—the play house is a dangerous place, if you dare trust me, I will lodge them in a place of safety till the play is over." Edward hesitated—the fear of losing the cash, yet to give up his trust to another, he dare not. "I will run the risk," said he, after a moment's deliberation; "my master told me where to put it, but I think I had better not risk them there; one of our clerks lost his pocket book out of his breast. I will slip it in next to my bosom, under my shirt, I cannot lose it there." This he

did, and at a moment when Wellings did not perceive him. This deliberation passed in the mind of Edward; he, therefore, thanked Wellings for his offer, but declined it, saying, his master had told him where to put them, and if he knew he left them in charge of any other person, he would be very angry.

“Oh! very well,” said Wellings carelessly, “I only offered it for your better security.”

“I know it,” replied Edward, “and I thank you.”

As they went into the house, the crowd was very great; and Wellings clasping Edward round, told him to push forward with all his might; then seizing this opportunity, he felt for the book, but was disappointed; the caution of Edward in removing it, pre-

cluded his attaining his object. After the play, he proposed adjourning to a tavern; but this Edward declined, saying, he must not keep the family at home up one minute longer than the most absolute necessity required."—"Prig,"—said Wellingsmuttering, "but I'll have you yet;" he affected to be satisfied with the reason, and they proceeded homeward. Before, however, they had reached the length of Catherine-street, he said, "I don't know what you are, but I am so thirsty I am almost choaking, it will not delay two minutes, let us step to the bar of this house, and drink a pint of porter; for I positively cannot proceed without it." Edward thought this would not hinder them long: they, therefore, went in;—having drank the beer, they were about leaving the house, when Wellings

pretended being seized with a violent pain in the bowels ; the mistress of the house opened the bar door and invited him in, till he was easier ; he accepted the invitation. Edward could not leave his friend under such circumstances. Wellings took some brandy and persuaded Edward to partake of it, saying, he was sure it was the coldness of the porter had affected him, and probably he might experience the same effect. " Excuse me, gentlemen," said the mistress of the house, " but I think you have eaten something that has disagreed with you ; and I can, if that is the case, offer you a cordial which will not only do you good, but is so perfectly harmless, that an infant might take it, without feeling any ill effects." " Let me try it," said Wellings, " the pain of my bowels still continues very violent, and I shall

be glad to find any remedy to relieve me." He took some.—With a great deal of persuasion, Edward was induced to taste it also, in hopes too, by complying with the urgencies of their intreaties, he should sooner get Wellings away ; but the mixture of liquors soon took effect upon him, the porter, brandy, and cordial, not only produced a violent sensation in his stomach and bowels, but flew up to his head, and soon reduced him to a state of stupefaction. This was what Wellings had been aiming at, yet his plan was not yet ripe. "He cannot go home in this state," said he, to the landlady, "and I do not like he should be exposed to public sight in the bar, have you a private room, if you have, let him be carried to it." A room was prepared, and Wellings followed Travers, who

was now so disordered as to be unable to assist himself. "I will remain with him," said Wellings, "bring me a bottle of wine, or a pint of brandy." "Which you please, sir." "Brandy then:" it was brought, Wellings drank freely of it. "I am now ripe for any thing," said he, "and now, Mr. Travers, your bill shall pay mine." But Travers at this moment gave a kind of convulsive struggle which frightened his companion, who opened his waistcoat to relieve him, and at that moment Edward began to discharge his stomach, bending down his body: in this situation the book fell from his bosom to the floor. "It is mine," said Wellings, hastily grasping it, "chance has effected what I have all night been striving for:" then placing it in his waistcoat pocket, he now eagerly watched his compa-

nion's recovery, which speedily took place; for the weight of his stomach being relieved, his senses were soon restored.—Coming to himself he was not only ashamed to have been thus overtaken, but angry that he broke his word of returning home as soon as the play was over; seeing his waistcoat unbuttoned, he felt (for his thoughts were now rapidly collecting, and his trust was yet uppermost in his mind,) for his book; he missed it. “Where is my book,” said he, to Wellings, “you have taken care of it for me I hope, I am sure I am obliged to you, but give it me now.” “What book,” said Wellings, affecting astonishment.—“What book!—why my pocket book with the bills to be sure.”—“Oh! I know nothing of it, I did not think of that, I forgot you had it about you; but you put

it in your breast pocket, if you recollect, when you received your bills."

"Yes—yes, I know it," returned Travers in an agony; "but I removed it into my bosom, as we went into the play house."

"Probably you dropt it in the moving."

"No, I know, I am certain I did not, for I had it in my bosom when I came into this house; I felt it there, for I put my hand into my breast for the purpose."

"You had it when you came here, Mr. Travers," returned Wellings, "what do you mean, do you suppose you have lost it in this house? I do not understand your insinuations; I know these people very well, and can vouch for their honesty. I hope you do not mean to call mine in question: I think

you have known me long enough not to suspect me of purloining your book."

"I never had such an idea," returned Travers, "nor do I suspect the people of the house ; but still I am positive I had the book when I came in ; how came I to this room, who brought me here, probably it may have dropt as I came."

"Likely so," said Wellings coldly, "you were tipsy, and did not know what you did."

"I was never in such a state before," returned Travers, sighing, "and I hope I shall never be again ; if this is drunkenness, what I feel now will be sufficient to make me forswear liquor for ever ; but let us go to the bar, and search for the book—I shall be wretched till I find it—I would not lose it for three, nay, seven times its value, what

would Mr. Adkins say to me—how could I face him.”

“Let us search it then,” said Wellings, affecting great concern, “it is not improbable you may have dropt it in the bar.”

Enquiries and search were alike ineffectual. Wellings had taken too good care of it, and after a lapse of two hours, Travers in despair of its recovery, proposed going home. “It is now four o’clock,” said he, “Oh! how to-morrow, shall I face my benefactor, how give an account of my trust.”

“Why, it was more his fault than yours, he should not have told you to take charge of such a sum, at such a time, and in such a place.”

“It was safe enough till I came here,” returned Edward, whose heart ached with the most intolerable an-

guish. “ Oh ! never—never, before did I lose a farthing, never before did I fail in my trust, what will Mr. Adkins say ; or rather, what can I say—but let us be going—I wish I had never entered the house.”

With a heavy heart Edward returned home ; the house was close shut, he did not like to disturb any one, and paced the streets till he saw some one stirring. His master was an early riser. “ How shall I face him again,” said Edward, “ yet to confess the truth is best. I will tell him every circumstance as it occurred, if he throws me from his favour, at least I shall not have added untruth to my folly.” Exactly as the clock went seven, Edward was at the counting house door ; the first person he met was Mr. Adkins, he received him coolly ; “ You were amused with last night’s en-

tertainment, sir, I hope; at least it seems so, for I find you have not been in all night." Edward hung his head, the tears were almost forcing their way to his eyes. "Oh! sir," he said, "spare your reproaches; though indeed I deserve them. I dare not tell you, yet I wish, yet you must know all; it cannot be concealed from you, nor do I wish to do it; yet what will you say to me, or how can I tell you." "You alarm me, Mr. Travers--what do you mean--explain yourself." "I will, sir, if you will give me a patient hearing." "Certainly, you are entitled to it—but come into my accompting house, we shall have no danger of interruption." Edward followed, frankly confessed the whole affair, told every circumstance as nearly as he could re-

collect, and concluded his account by begging his pardon for his carelessness. "I see myself more to blame than you Edward. I should not have given you such a sum in charge when going to the play; but can you, do you think, remember the house you were in." "Yes, sir, very well." "Then accompany me to it." Suspecting that the people of the house had by fraudulent means got possession of the book and its contents, Mr. Adkins took Edward with him to Bow-street, to make affidavit of the loss, and to procure a search warrant for the premises, calling at the bank as they went to stop the payment of the bills. — The people of the ale-house being perfectly innocent of the robbery, were greatly offended at the step Mr. Adkins took to satisfy himself respecting it,

and they permitted the search without hesitation, and with all the freedom of perfect innocency. "I almost fear your companion was the thief, Edward," said Mr. Adkins, as they left the house, "if you are certain you had the book when you went in."—"I am certain of that, sir," returned Edward, "yet I hope I think Wellings would not do such a thing." The thought, however, had more than once passed over his mind, he checked it as it rose, as injustice to Wellings.—"Good God!" said he, to himself, "if it should be him, and he is detected, what will be done with him; I tremble at the thought."—"I will find the rogue yet," said Mr. Adkins, "if he be above ground." They returned home; business of the utmost consequence drew Mr. Adkins to the west

end of the town. About two o'clock the same day, word was brought from a banker's that one of the notes had been presented, and was stopt with the holder—the first clerk accompanied by Edward, repaired to the banking house. "From whom had you this bill, sir," said the clerk. "From one of Mr. Dawson's young men, he owed me almost the value of it for shoes, and paid me this bill this morning; I gave him the change out of it." "Which was it, what was his name." "Wellings," repeated the shoemaker. "Wellings," ejaculated Edward. "Good God, then my fears are verified." "Mr. Adkins, will be here presently, I dare say," said the clerk, "we can proceed no farther without him. "This gentleman must submit to be detained then till he comes," said one of

the young men belonging to the banking house. "I have no objection, but that my time is valuable; I have a heavy sum to pay to-morrow—and I am collecting all the money I can raise to day—I have not near completed my business; you know me, gentlemen, (continued the shoemaker, addressing the banker's clerks) and where to find me; I shall be forthcoming whenever you please to call upon me." "I am afraid Mr. ———, that will not be sufficient," returned the clerk; "however, I will speak to my master, I have no objection if he has not." Just then one of the partners entered, the business was related to him. "You may let this gentleman go, if he will give security for his re-appearance when called upon." "Willingly, sir, two of

my neighbours will I am sure be bail for me." At this instant Mr. Adkins opened the door, saying, "so you have one of the bills already—let me see the presenter." "I am the person, sir," said the shoemaker; "I received the bill from Mr. Wellings, one of Mr. Dawson's clerks." A warrant was then immediately got against Wellings, who was the same night committed to prison for the theft, his trial shortly after took place, Edward much against his will being forced to appear as chief evidence against him—but he could not forsake him, and while in prison not only visited, but assisted him with money and necessaries. The elder Wellings came to London upon this melancholy occasion; and nearly heart broken, went about making interest

with those in power to solicit his son's pardon. Mr. Adkins's humanity too was not proof against a parent's tears; he interceded for him with those he knew had the power to mitigate the severity of the law. To be short, after a twelvemonth's imprisonment and many reprieves, he was set at liberty upon condition of leaving the kingdom, a condition to which Wellings was glad to accede, and accordingly embarked for America, where, under a borrowed name, he assumed a different character, and thoroughly repentant of his past follies, and shocked at the crimes a love of dress and shew had drawn him into, he became as conspicuous for the decency and sobriety of his conduct and behaviour as he had before been erroneous; he commenced a new career in life, which he termi-

nated with credit and advantage to himself.

Edward, to whom Wellings's fate had held out a warning, never ceased his diligent exertions and unremitting assiduity. At the expiration of his articles, his master continued him in his employ, making him chief and managing clerk ; from this station, he rose to be admitted first an under, at length half partner, and finally, at Mr. Adkins' death, to the whole business. Careful, honest, and just in all his dealings, he lived respected by his neighbours, and beloved by his family. Hannah Weston, the early object of his benevolence, became in time his beloved wife, and Edward saw with pleasure and all the exultation of an honest heart, his children rise around him, and giving early proofs of their

future well doing : till at length after a long life passed with honour and credit, he was summoned to meet that fate, which alike awaits the rich and poor, the haughty and the humble, the king and the slave.

THE SICK SOLDIER.



“**W**HERE are you going, little girl,” said Mrs. Nesbitt to a poor ragged child she saw running across a field to a wide common, that lay near at hand.

“To pick sticks and furze to warm my poor father, madam.”

“Where is your father, and why don't he go himself to gather the furze; such a little girl as you are cannot carry much at a time?”

“Alack, madam, my father is very sick in yonder poor cottage, and so cold he is shaking like a leaf.”

“And who is with him, my dear?”

“Nobody, but little brother Richard.”

“No, why where is your mother?”

“Mother, madam? father says I have as good as none, for she is gone away and left us this long while; but I must make haste to get sticks, or my daddy will get worse.”

“Shew me where he lives, my dear,” said Mrs. Nesbitt to the child.

“In the old cottage under the hill, madam, you may see it from this gate; there madam,” pointing with her finger, “there it is, do you see it now? it is close by farmer Barnard’s potatoe field.”

“Very well, I shall find it out, make haste to gather your sticks and return to your father.”

Away tript the little girl, Mrs.

Nesbitt calling her two little daughters, who were gathering wild flowers from the hedges, pursued the path which led to the cottage, if so it might be called, but it bore rather the appearance of a miserable hovel.

Upon her entrance, she saw a tall thin good looking young man, dressed in soldier's clothes, scarcely able, from extreme weakness, to hold the child which was about ten months old upon his knee; he was shaking in a violent fit of the ague, and had hardly articulation for his words.

“ I met your little girl, just now,” said Mrs. Nesbitt, kindly addressing him, “ and hearing from her you were ill, I have come to see if I can render you any assistance.”

“ You are very good, madam,” said the poor fellow, speaking as well as

he could, “ indeed I have need of help, for I am very ill, and I have nobody to help me, my wife has cruelly deserted me and my young ones.—Oh! she had not the feelings of a mother, or she could not have forsaken her infant when at the breast.”

“ You must not think of her now,” returned Mrs. Nesbitt, “ you must think only of getting well; with the return of health, you will, I hope, have the ability to provide for yourself and young ones.”

“ I hope I shall, madam, but I have been so long ill with this disorder, that I almost despair.”

“ How long?”

“ Fifteen weeks.”

“ And has your wife left you all that time?”

“No, madam, about twelve weeks; I was very sick the day she went away; she left me to go for a doctor, as she said, but I have never seen or heard from her since.”

“No,—why had you any disagreement?”

“None, madam, we lived I thought very happily, and were (at least I was) very content in the midst of my poverty, for so long as she and my dear young ones were with me, I was satisfied; but alas! cruel woman, not content with leaving me herself, she has taken away my eldest boy with her.”

“Have you no idea where she is?”

“None, madam, without she has returned to her relations, who are rich people, and able to maintain her.”—
By the manner in which the soldier

delivered himself, Mrs. Nesbitt was convinced that there was some circumstances in his story, which he did not wish to disclose ; she therefore said nothing more on the subject, but told him she would send him some medicine to relieve his disorder, and quitted him.

Upon her return home, she not only took care he should have medicines proper for him, but sent an old woman, upon whom she could rely, and who was accustomed to attend her charitable purposes, to go to him, and look after him and his children, taking care to supply both her and them, with such necessaries as they stood in need. Mrs. Nesbitt had not seen him again for many days, owing to the return of her husband, captain Nesbitt, from a foreign station, where

he had been with his troops. It was not till after the first hurry of his coming home was abated, that she thought of the soldier; when walking out one evening with her husband, they passed near the soldier's cottage. —“ I have a patient here, my dear,” said she to him, “ shall we go in and enquire after him.” —“ Willingly;” they opened the door. Mrs. Nesbitt was proceeding to ask concerning his health, when her husband and the man stood mutually astonished. —“ What! serjeant Lawson here, and in this trim,” said the captain, “ how can this be, surely my eyes deceive me, it can never be.” —“ Yes, your honour,” returned the poor fellow, respectfully bowing, “ it is Frank Lawson, your honour's own serjeant.” —“ How came you in this distressed

state, and how came you to exceed your furlough."

"I was sick, your honour, and could not join again.—I was obliged to apply to the war office for a fresh furlough,—and as for my distress, if your honour will be pleased to listen, I shall be happy to tell you how all my troubles have come upon me. Will your honour, will you, madam," said the poor fellow, "be pleased to be seated?"

"Not to night Frank," replied the captain, "come over to the park tomorrow, if you are able, (I think you say you are better,) and I will hear every thing you have to tell me; meantime, don't want, I am able and willing to relieve you,—here, take this trifle."

"I have been already amply sup-

plied by the bounty of your lady, sir, and must not too far infringe upon your goodness; besides, indeed, I am not now in want."

"Well, well, I am glad to hear it, save it then for your young ones,—how many have you?"

"Two with me, your honour, the third is with its mother."

"Where is she?"

"Oh! your honour, that is all my trouble."

"Well, well, come over to me to-morrow, I can't stop to night, and let me into your story."

Early the following morning, the soldier repaired to his captain's, and after a little prefatory discourse, gave the following account of himself.

"Probably your honour does not recollect when I first enlisted, I was

about sixteen, my mother was left a widow in great distress, with nine of us, of which I was the third, and at the time I entered with the serjeant, the bounty was very high, so I enlisted more, your honour, on account of that, than any desire I had then to be a soldier. I went with the troops to Gibraltar, where I continued five years, at the end of that time we were ordered home; I obtained a fortnight's furlough to go and see my mother; when I got there I found her sick and in want, from which she had just been relieved by the bounty of a farmer's daughter in the neighbourhood; she was sitting with her when I entered the house: at that moment, I thought her the prettiest girl I had ever seen, and her attention to my poor mother made her appear still more beautiful.

As she came to our cottage every day, I had frequent opportunities of entertaining her; to be short, sir, we conceived a mutual attachment, but there was little hope her parents would give their consent to our union, as they had plenty to give her, and I was nothing but a common soldier; some how or other, however, they obtained intelligence of our being always together, and took measures to separate us. My furlough was now within two days of being expired, when our regiment was ordered into winter quarters at ——, the next town to the village in which my mother resided. This was, I thought, very fortunate for me, as I could see my Lydia more frequently, which, indeed, I was at no loss to do, for besides walking over to my mother's once or

twice a week, she attended the market at ——, and thus I could see and converse with her frequently. To be short, your honour, we made a stolen wedding of it ; and I thought myself the happiest of men, though a speech of my mother's, made a few nights previous to our marriage, sunk upon my spirits, and made an impression I could not shake off. When I told her I was going to marry Lydia Summers, she asked me if I had got her parents' consent ; I said no, as I was quite convinced I should never obtain it, I would not affront them by asking. ' Frank,' said my mother, ' I have no opinion of this match, I never approved of underhand proceedings, and your stealing away Lydia Summers, is an act of the vilest ingratitude ; had it not been for her parents, I must

have perished, and you are basely rewarding their charity, by inveigling away their child, and exposing her to all the ills of poverty; for what means have you to keep a wife, and how can you think of seducing a young creature like that from her friends, to follow you through all the hazards and dangers of your profession; besides, were I you, Frank, I should be afraid to venture upon a woman who had proved herself so careless in her duty to her parents, for, depend upon it, a disobedient child will make an indifferent wife, and how can you place any dependance upon the steadiness of the woman, that has proved herself so undutiful and rebellious a daughter. I am sorry to say that I firmly believe no happiness can attend a union, completed under such circumstances; but

you must do as you please, I have nothing but my advice to give you, if you do not take it, the fault remains with you, not with me'

“ But in spite of all my mother said, we, as I told your honour, married; the moment farmer Summers heard of it, and found it was true, he turned Lydia out of doors, refusing even to let her have her clothes; she came to my quarters, where I provided for her as well as I could: we experienced many troubles, but love, your honour, I thought, made amends for all; about a twelvemonth after our union, my eldest boy was born, whom my wife named Charles, after her father; hoping, when he heard of it, he would take us into notice; about this time, too, your honour bought in, and you were so good soon after as to

raise me from the ranks to the halberd ; pleased and proud of my promotion, I thought now Mr. Summers would surely notice us, but we were mistaken ; my wife, at times, complained of the hardness of our fare, but upon the whole appeared tolerably content, and as I never contradicted her, and did all I could to render her happy, I believed she was so :—we were ordered to a distant part of the kingdom, and there we remained, your honour must recollect, till the regiment was ordered to Holland,—my sickness prevented my joining for many months, and at my departure, I left my wife behind ;—the fatal event of that expedition I need not recapitulate to your honour ;—upon my return, I found I was again a father, and now comes the worst of my story :

this little cottage, which, since the furlough your honour gave me on account of my health, we had taken and made as comfortable as our very slender finances would allow, was the scene of all my happiness, in it my little Richard was born, and we were all very happy till I fell sick of the ague. I had been about a fortnight ill, when my wife left me one day to go, as she said, for a doctor, taking with her our eldest child, but, your honour, from that day I have never seen her, alas! now, how fully do I feel the weight of my mother's words. Forsaken and neglected by my wife in the hour of calamity, and left to struggle with an helpless family. I feel, indeed, now, that no dependance can be placed upon the steadiness of a

woman, whose conduct as a daughter was undutiful.”

“Well, Frank,” said captain Nesbitt, after hearing his little narrative, “since you have been so unfortunate in your wife, we must do the best we can for you; as for the little girl, she shall have the run of our house, the young one you must provide with a nurse; as for yourself, Frank, you will be soon able to join again, and, perhaps, may get promotion;—but have you enquired after your wife?”

“Yes, your honour, every where where I could think of,—I sent to her father’s, and my brother’s. Oh! your honour, I am indeed afraid she has turned out a very bad woman, and gone to live with some one else.”

This conjecture of the soldier’s was

too true, and this unfortunate and ill advised woman came to experience the most pungent misery, and proved, at length, by a long series of bitter distress, that the road to vice, though smooth and alluring at the first appearance, yet, in the end, is not only beset with briars and thorns, but is productive of the most certain misery.

RUINOUS CONSEQUENCES

OF

FALSE INDULGENCE.



“MAMMA,” said Louisa Thornton,
 “why is it that miss Mira Jones, with
 all her riches, is shunned and disre-
 garded by the whole neighbourhood?
 —she is not visited nor noticed by any
 body of consequence, and none but
 the lower class ever go near her.”

“Misconduct, Louisa, not only in
 herself, but in her parents, and as I
 think there is a something in her story

which may serve as a lesson to you, I shall recount it,—you will see then, and be able to judge how far the respectable part of the neighbourhood are right in not visiting her, and I hope the narration of her faults will be a warning to you against the commission of similar ones.

“ Miss Mira Jones was the only child of her parents, rich farmers, who lived upon their own land, and were, besides, in possession of estates to the amount of about two hundred a year,—from her cradle she was indulged in every wish she could form,—her word was a law in the house, and before she attained the age of seven years, she was the tyrant and despot, not only over every servant in the house, but on the farm; her father was naturally a very weak, and be-

sides, not a well principled man. Gold was his idol, and to attain it, he scrupled not the means, be they what they might; her mother, with nothing better than a very common understanding, had yet not only a great deal of art, but so much to say for herself, and such a way of glossing over or altering circumstances or causes, she thought it necessary to conceal or soften, that she was by many nick-named Mrs. Plausible, Mira was never permitted to be a day away from her parents,—she was not only a perfect hot-house plant, but so nursed, and such ridiculous care taken of her, that she was not even suffered to go backwards and forwards to school; and in the hottest day in summer, I have seen her wrapt in two or three handkerchiefs, besides a thick

cloth cloak ; but these were only innocent follies, and had her parents' misconduct with regard to her, been confined only to this over solicitude about her health, all might have been well ; but unfortunately for her, her father's actions were not always what they ought to be, and her mother to defend them, had recourse to so many untruths, which were constantly uttered before the child, that she soon lost all respect for veracity ; the idle excuses, too, and frequent falsehoods that were repeated so everlastingly before her, for the most trivial circumstances, early detached her from those paths, which, in childhood, parents should be sedulously earnest for their children to pursue. Nor was this all, — both her parents were too fond of liquor, which they drank before her,

and even allowed her to taste it, never considering the fatal consequences of such example. To be short, Louisa, long enough before Mira had attained her fourteenth year, she was not only esteemed the greatest liar, but most artful girl in the parish; at this time, (after great persuasion on the parts of many, that wished the child well, and who knowing the fortune she must some day inherit, regretted that she had not a proper education, to enable her to use it properly,) she was sent to boarding school for a twelvemonth, but with strict orders not to controul or thwart her too much, lest it should break her heart, or injure her health; this ridiculous injunction was delivered to the governess in presence of the child, who failed not to take advantage of it; of course, every contradic-

tion, and every attempt to bring her to a proper subordination, was received not only with rudeness and incivility, but frequently with such storms of passion and fits of violence, as were really sufficient to endanger her health, while the words "I am not to be contradicted, mamma said I was not to be scolded," was constantly in her mouth; every means that prudence, and long knowledge and ability in the management of children could suggest, were tried, but in vain, and after the expiration of the first quarter, Mira was returned to her parents, accompanied by one of the teachers, who delivered at the same time a letter from Mrs. Thomas, the governess, saying, that finding herself inadequate to the task of instructing their daughter, under the restrictions

that were laid upon her, she had sent the young lady back, as she could neither feel happy in being paid for a task from which she could derive no credit, nor deceive them by imposing a false idea of improvement, as a power so limited as that given with her, would give hopes of taking place. Another school was sought, the mistress of it, perceiving the foible of the parents, humoured it and their daughter to that excess, that the time allotted for her stay at school, was passed alike without complaint, as well as improvement on the part of Mira, and she returned to her parents not only as ignorant as she left them, but with passions unsubdued either by correction or reproof; if then she was disliked before, she now became detested by every servant in the house;

—her ill-nature—her constant tittle-tattling, as well as the many falsehoods she raised of them, and the constant spy she was upon their actions, made her enemies, perhaps, as dangerous as could be raised,—for servants, Louisa, have more in their power than we imagine, and their word, though humble in life, is more thought of and credited than we are aware: the unhappy attachment, too, of her parents to drinking,—the bad example they were to her, and the habit she contracted of freely taking a part in their libations, rendered her, through those servants her conduct made so much her enemies, the talk and derision of every one. Her fortune procured her many suitors, but her faults as well as temper soon sickened them,—for what man of

sense or common feeling could think of uniting himself to a woman with such failings; by the time she was five and twenty she had lost both her parents, who fell martyrs to their intemperance, and no doubt, under the long illness which preceded their death, regretted not only the cause which had probably accelerated it, but the baneful influence their example might have on their child.


Mira was now in absolute possession of four hundred a year, with a person more than tolerable, and an understanding considerably above mediocrity, yet with all these advantages she was far from happy, her temper, spoiled from infancy, was now become a plague to herself and all about her, —violent, suspicious, and overbearing, —she was, though in possession of

every earthly comfort, yet absolutely without any,—she had no friend, for her conduct never gained or kept one,—her purse, indeed, drew many to her, but they were the butterflies of an hour, a summer's day friend,—her house was now, indeed, open to many, but it was the lower class chiefly, and from them every tale of scandal was detailed to her, and greedily received; those were sure to receive some present from her, who came with some ill-natured tale of her neighbours; from the love of hearing scandal, that of spreading it became her next dearest pleasure; in short, Louisa, she was the Lady Bluemantle, (you have heard so admirably described in the Spectator,) of the place; many needy adventurers, prompted by her fortune, would gladly have united themselves

to her, but, with all her faults, she had an eye to her interest, nor would receive the addresses of any one, who would not consent to settle the whole of her property upon herself, but to these terms she found no one ready to accede, and while her temper and conduct frightened away such as would have been proper and suitable matches for her, her terms withheld those of another class; thus she has continued a single woman; the disappointments of her heart, as she is pleased to term them, have not only soured a temper naturally bad, but driven her to drinking so immoderately, that she is both on that account as well as her abominable propensity to falsehood and scandal, shunned and disliked by every one. Unfortunate woman, I pity, while I condemn her,

and I cannot help regarding her parents as her greatest enemies, who by a false indulgence and bad example, have ruined the happiness and destroyed the credit of their child.

THE
INDUSTRIOUS AND PIOUS
SAILOR BOY.



JOHN Mellish went to sea a very little and very poor boy ; his master, the captain of the vessel, took him from his mother through motives of charity, she being left a poor widow with a large family of young ones to maintain. The docility and attentive conduct of this poor lad gained him many friends, while his industry was constantly employed in devising means to

assist his mother, for whom he bore the most unbounded love, and towards whom he conducted himself with the most pious duty and respect; half of his little gainings were constantly reserved for her, nor did he ever touch at any port where any new or useful thing he thought might be acceptable to, but if within the compass of his slender means, was purchased for, and tenaciously hoarded for her. God Almighty who sees all, and whose wisdom can fathom the depth of the heart, never fails to bless the industrious and pious child, and though the means may be rough and sometimes unpleasant, yet they, however disguised, are ultimately blessings.

From the age of eleven to eighteen John Mellish had followed the sea, and been tolerably fortunate in his

different voyages; his apprenticeship was now expired, and his friend the captain, in consideration of his merit and improvement, made him mate of the vessel, which was taken up as a transport, to convey troops to the American continent. John took leave of his mother with somewhat a heavier heart, yet with rather more hope, as his prospects from his advancement were amended, and his ability to supply her wants increased. "God Almighty bless you my dear, my dutiful child," said the poor old woman, folding him to her heart, and weeping over him, "God Almighty never fails to bless and prosper all that behave well, and endeavour to do their duty both to him and their parents. And you, my dear John, will surely be taken under his immediate protection, for

you have ever been a good and dutiful lad; I, my boy, shall never close the day without praying for your safety and welfare, and should I never see you more, my last hour shall be spent in beseeching the Almighty to guard, preserve, and watch over you;—go, my dear boy, while I can say good bye, God bless my child, perhaps I may never see you again.”

“Do not despair, my dear mother,” said John, embracing her, “I hope, though our voyage will be longer than any we have made yet, that you will live to see me again; I have desired the owners to let you have half of my pay, and if, through sickness, or any unforeseen calamity, you want more, don’t be afraid of asking for it; for my credit, I hope, is good enough with them to advance eight or ten

pounds to my mother." Having thus arranged all his affairs, and taken farewell of his parent and friends, John Mellish embarked once more upon the deceitful ocean; for many days and weeks they sailed pleasantly and happily before the wind, rejoicing and anticipating the time when their voyage would be concluded, and they should land at their destined port; but when they were within about four days sail of it, the wind shifted to a different point, and blew with such tremendous violence, as to occasion the most dreadful apprehension for the safety of the ship and her crew; the tempest continued without intermission, but rather increasing in violence, for five days, and, at length, shipwrecked them upon an unknown coast, where the surf was so violently

beating over the rocks, that few of the crew reached the land alive. When the vessel sailed from Portsmouth, the ship's crew, officers and troops together, amounted to three hundred and thirty men, out of which, not more than forty escaped the violence of the element. No sooner had the ship struck, and every hope vanished of their saving her, than the boats were hoisted over the sides, and numbers got into them, hoping to reach the land in safety; but, alas! this was a very vague and fruitless hope, for the coast was not only totally unknown to them, but so beset with rocks and dangerous quick sands, over which, as has been said, the surf beat with such violence, that the boats overset, and few in them escaped with their lives. The captain resolved not to quit the

vessel till every hope was extinguished; John Mellish staid by him to the last, when finding the boats did not come back, and their prospects every moment blackened, they agreed to risk their lives to the sea, and no alternative now appearing, the chance of their perishing by the division of the vessel, which was now splitting fore and aft, or by the impetuous power of the waves, they preferred the latter, cherishing the hope that they should yet be preserved; and, after fervently begging the protection of providence, they threw themselves into the sea. "Oh! my mother," said John Mellish, "who will support you; God Almighty preserve and guard you, let me be thankful that you are not here to partake or witness your child's distress." The captain and his faithful

mate for a long while buffeted the waves together, till the former, who was a corpulent man, finding his strength fail, called to John, telling him if he ever lived to get again to England, to tell his wife she was the last in his thoughts, and that his last breath was drawn in prayers for her and his children. Here his voice failed, and he was almost sinking when John Mellish made a desperate effort to preserve him, which, at the extreme hazard of his own life, he did, and after several very desperate struggles, succeeded in getting him to a place of safety; a cave among the rocks. Here they remained nearly benumbed with cold, and almost dead with fatigue and the bruises they had received among the rocks; a party of the natives who had heard the firing of

guns, ran down to the sea side to see from whence the noise proceeded; as they had never before seen a vessel of such a size, they were, at first, greatly alarmed, scarcely knowing what it was; but their native humanity, a passion which actuates the bosom of the savage, as well as the civilized, prompted them to attempt the relief of the sufferers, and they hastened to their assistance, conveying them as gently as they could to their huts, where they used every endeavour their humble means would allow of administering to their wants. No sooner had these unfortunate sufferers recovered a little from their recent calamity, than their first thought was to build a boat from the remains of the wreck; and this job they all set about, the captain working like a common man.

The negroes assisted all they could, honestly bringing to them every article the sea washed ashore from the wreck, and when not so employed, standing silently gazing on, and wondering at the progress of their work, cheerfully continuing to provide them with necessaries, as their slender circumstances would allow. Their work was considerably impeded by a want of tools, the carpenter's chest being unfortunately lost, as well as the poor fellow himself, and the winter now setting in, they dared not risk their little bark upon an unknown coast at such a season; thus they became longer intruders upon the hospitality of the Indians, whose language by a lengthened residence they acquired tolerably well.

John Mellish, who had a natural sweetness of manner, was par-

ticularly noticed by one of the chiefs, in whose hut he frequently passed many hours; he found him, though a savage, a man of natural strong parts and acute comprehension. John, who had always a mechanical genius, undertook to teach him several little arts he was tolerably proficient in himself;—taught him the use of letters;—instructed him in the principles of religion, and taught him that there was but one God, to whom we must all look up for protection and support. The truths John endeavoured to inculcate, the Indian, at first, had difficulty to comprehend, but the more they were reasoned on, the more his understanding enlarged, till, at length, he greedily embraced the doctrines of christianity, and John Mellish had the supreme felicity of

considering himself, in some degree, the saver of one, if not, of many souls. From this hour the Indian was firmly convinced of the rationality of the religion John practised, from that hour he became his firm and stedfast friend; nor could he be prevailed upon to quit him for an instant. In their conversation, John told his friend (whose eagerness for knowledge was not to be outdone by the most enlightened and civilized person in the world) as well as his slender capacity would allow, the chief features of the government of the country from whence he came, making him comprehend what commerce meant, and shewing him some money he happened to have in his pocket when he swam ashore; made him understand that it was by that metal every thing

was purchased or sold;—the Indian took the money, examined it, turned it about all ways, at length, scraped a little off from the sides, which rubbing in his hands, he regarded attentively, and then manifesting, by signs, his pleasure at some discovery he had made, beckoned to his new friend to come with him, at the same time taking down the wallet in which he was used to carry his provisions when going a journey, put into it a double quantity, and having slung it across his shoulders, told him to follow. John Mellish convinced from Zarapan's manner, that something of consequence was like to be the end of this journey, did not hesitate to accompany him, first telling the captain where he was going, and with whom. Zarapan and John journeyed toge-

ther for four days; at the expiration of that time, they came to the foot of a very high mountain.—“Must we ascend this,” said John.—“Yes,” replied his companion, “if you wish to acquire stuff like that you shewed me.”—“Is it here it is found?”—“In plenty, we make no use of it, it will neither make us hatchets or arrows, we therefore neglect it; if it can be of service to you, use it; you have taught me many useful things, I have nothing to give you in return; if the stuff we shall find in this mountain is the same you shewed me, it will enable you to buy hatchets and bows and arrows, and if when your canoe is completed, and the weather will allow you to return to your native land, you can send out some to Zaranpan, he will with his countrymen join

to thank you, and pray that the laurel and olive may be blended to adorn your brows, and that your fields in peace, and your hatchet in war, may yield you all you wish."

The ascent to the mountain was laborious in the extreme; but Zarapan who was well acquainted with the paths which led to the desired spot, conducted John safely to it. It was a small silver mine, situated so near the surface of the earth, as to be worked without difficulty; after having taken some samples of this precious metal, they proceeded to descend, but Zarapan, who wondered at the very trifling quantity his companion had taken, asked him if he had enough.—“Yes, for the present.”—“Well then,” said Zarapan, “swear by the God you serve, and whom you have taught me

to worship, never to disclose to any of your companions, the discovery I made to you of this earth."—"Why should I swear," returned John Melish, "when I wish them to be partakers in my good fortune."—"I will tell you," said Zarapan, "it is now a great many moons back since a stranger like yourself was thrown upon our coast; he was not white, like you, but of my colour; he told us he was come from afar, among the mountains, where his forefathers had lived, a happy race of people, till they were disturbed by strangers coming in big wooden houses, which swam in the water; that, at their first landing, they shewed them all the kindnesses they had in their power to bestow, till observing they were anxious to get from them the plates that were on their

breasts, the rings which were round their arms, and in their noses and ears; they shewed them the places from whence they had them: from this moment these bad strangers persecuted the natives, whom they drove from their homes; made fire come down upon and kill them; nor ever ceased using them hardly, till they had got all their possessions into their hands; that not content with taking every thing from them they possessed, they forced them to dig for the very earth they were so greedy to gain. This stranger," continued Zarapan, "who lived and died among us, saw, by chance, this white earth, and cautioned us never to let any stranger, especially if he were a white man, see it; but you, I believe to be a good one; I owe you much, and, as I

said, I have no way to reward you, but by giving you leave to take as much of this earth as you please; nay, I will even help you, and, from time to time, till you leave us, bring down plenty of it for you; but you must swear never to disclose or discover the place from whence it was taken, or the person who shewed it; if you do, my life and that of my wives, my children and all my kindred will be forfeited."

John Mellish took the oath, though burning with the desire of making his friend the captain partaker of his riches; he loaded himself and Zaranpan with as much as they could carry, and in far less time than they gained the mountain, returned to their settlement. It was now John longed to be at home to share with his mother

his new acquired riches, and to make, by her participation of them, her last days comfortable and easy. Flushed with the hope of again seeing his native land and his beloved parent, John saw the winter terribly tedious, and eagerly longed for the day upon which they should again embark to trust the dangers of the sea: at length, it arrived; the hospitable natives amply supplied them with provisions, and each loaded his guest with such articles as they thought would be most acceptable to him; Zarapan, who was puzzled how to convey the precious ore to the bark, at length sewed it up in skins so artfully as not to occasion the least suspicion; his farewell to John was fervent and affecting: "The God you worship," said he, energetically, "bless and

preserve you; may he restore you in safety to your home, and when there, may your prayers be offered for the preservation of these poor Indians, who have done their best to render you comfortable; sometimes think of us, and for our sakes treat the stranger and the negro with kindness; remember your own words, it is not colour makes the man, it is the heart and soul that is within him. Go, my friend," he continued, affectionately taking John by the hand, "and take with you all we can give, our best wishes for your safety and well doing." John Mellish, who had a sincere esteem for Zarapan, could not receive his adieu without tears; embracing him, he assured him he should never forget what he owed to his kindness and hospitality, and promised if any

British vessel should be trading that way, to send him plenty of hatchets, bows, and arrows; then taking his watch which he had preserved in his trowsers as he swam on shore, he gave it him, telling him he knew how to use it, and was well acquainted with its use; keep it then, said he, for my sake, and when you see it, think of the poor sailor your hospitality succoured, and your benevolence has made rich.

After a few weeks coasting, our mariners arrived safe at Philadelphia, where John's first care was to write to his mother, and after to dispose of his silver ore, which made him master of four hundred pounds, besides the value of the skins; part of this treasure he remitted to his mother, and having again obtained the situation of a mate,

embarked for England, where he arrived in safety, and now his honest heart beats with the most pious delight at the thought of having it in his power to make the latter days of his aged parent comfortable and happy. He flew with alacrity to her, and emptying his treasure into her lap, bid her rejoice and partake her child's good fortune. "Is it honestly come by, my son?" said the poor old woman, who could not conceive by what means he became possessed of such a treasure.—"If it was not," returned John, proudly, "I should not dare shew it to my mother." "God has blessed you even when you were most afflicted; be thankful to him for his mercies, and by humility and goodness, continue to deserve his bounty."

John now let his friend the captain,

so far into the secret of his good fortune, as to convince him he did not come dishonestly by it, and joined in the purchase of a vessel, in which he went first as mate, then as master. His good conduct continuing to gain him friends and respect every where, he, at length, became part owner of several vessels, and rose into consequence and general estimation. Thus my little readers will see that piety, industry, and duty to parents, is by far a more certain road to public esteem and admiration, than the possession of wealth derived from the labours of our forefathers, and spent in the pursuit of dissipation and folly.

HENRIETTA AND EMILY.

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“ I HAVE a great wish to go and see Emily Fitzroy, madam,” said Henrietta Lenox, to her mother, “ will you permit me.”

“ Not to day my dear, nor for a few weeks to come; the family are at present in great trouble owing to Captain Fitzroy’s death, and the company of children at such a juncture is not agreeable.”

“ Death mamma! when did Captain Fitzroy die, I thought he was expected home.”

“ So he was my dear ; the shock is, therefore, the greater ; poor Mrs. Fitzroy, I feel for her, she has sustained a great loss both in her affections and fortune, she is left with seven children, and nothing but her pension to support them and her : and, yet I believe poor thing, this at present is her least concern, she is a sincere mourner for a tender husband and good father.”

“ Dear mother you are rich, and have none but me to think of ; do let us go over and see Mrs. Fitzroy, perhaps she will spare Emily to us, if she will let her live here, and be my sister, I am sure I shall love her as well as if she was.”

“ You think so now, Henrietta, because you know her only as a companion, with whom you have passed several agreeable days ; but you will

think differently when you live always together ; perhaps your tasks and inclinations may not agree, you may wish to do one thing, she another ; each may think her own plan the best, and be obstinate to pursue it—contradiction produces strife, and instead of being happy and sociable, you may be quarrelling and contentious ; nor is this all, if Mrs. Fitzroy spares Emily, to your solicitation, you must not only regard her as a sister, but consider her one : of course when I have two children to maintain, I must divide all which I now bestow upon you, between both ; then, instead of having four new frocks in the year, you can have but two, the same with every thing else : you must, therefore, weigh every thing in your mind before you resolve. I am willing to indulge you with your re.

quest, but I tell you before hand, that I cannot afford to do as much for you then, as I do now. I shall, therefore, expect if you pertinaciously adhere to your desire of having Emily as a companion, that you cheerfully submit to any little deprivations I am obliged to inflict, and receive them with good humour, nor by the most remote hint give Emily cause to suspect they are on her account : she is I believe a very amiable and good girl, nor do I know one among the whole circle of our acquaintance I could so sincerely approve as herself, for your constant companion, but as you must take time to deliberate before you finally adopt any intention, and as the habit of reflection upon every circumstance throughout life is proper ; I shall leave you till to-morrow to determine—if then, you



feel you can give up with chearfulness and good humour, many little indulgences, which as an only child you now enjoy, and in place of them be content with the society of Emily, I will not hesitate to ask her mother to spare her to us."

"I will willingly forego every indulgence for her company, mamma. Oh! how pleasant it will be to have a companion always at hand, who can run about the park with me, and help me in my little garden. Oh! how many pretty flowers we shall have."

"Well—well—Henrietta, go away now, and reflect upon what I have said to-morrow we will talk again on the subject."

"Henrietta could scarcely sleep that night, through eagerness to communicate her determination; and at least

an hour before her usual time of rising, she was at her mother's bed side to tell her, that the longer she considered it, the more anxious she was to have Emily with her, and begging her to rise, that as soon as breakfast was over they might go over to Mrs. Fitzroy.

Breakfast was scarcely finished, when Henrietta begged her mother's permission to order the carriage. Mrs. Lenox indulged her, and they sat out for the house of Mrs. Fitzroy; whom, upon their arrival, they found as they expected involved in the greatest affliction: the first violence of emotion being spent, the sweetness and consolatory gentleness of Mrs. Lenox, in some degree calmed and soothed the grief of the afflicted widow, who assumed some little composure to talk over her griefs.

“ My loss, my dear madam,” said she to her visitor, “ as a wife is irreparable. I have for ever lost the best husband, kindest friend, and truest counsellor that ever woman was blessed with. This is my part of the loss ; but that which my children have sustained is still heavier. The father whose example would have led them to virtue, the friend whose gentle admonitions, would have warned them from vice ; and the parent whose exertions, were their whole support, is for ever gone. — Ah ! my dear madam, when I look at them, all the philosophy I have been at so much trouble to acquire, vanishes in an instant, and I am almost tempted to despair. Yet again, in my calmer moments, I consider there is an over-ruling Providence, whose care extends to the meanest and

lowest, and who has promised especially to take charge of the fatherless and widow; something like hope clings to my sad heart, and for a moment enlivens my dreary prospect; indeed, I should be wicked to give myself entirely up to despair. Colonel Dawson paid me a visit yesterday: and kindly presented my Henry, who is only fifteen years old, with a pair of colours; and has offered to get George, my third boy, into the military academy, at Woolwich. Edward has been taken by Admiral —, with whom you know his poor father sailed as Post Captain many years; he is already a midshipman, and the worthy Admiral has promised, if he is a good lad to have an eye to his interest. So far, my dear madam, you see the Almighty has immediately raised

me up friends, and my children patrons. I must not then quite give up to melancholy."

"By no means, by dear Mrs. Fitzroy, great as is your loss, and heavy as is the affliction, you yet have much to hope; three of your children you see are already you may say well settled. And I have come to request a favour of you, not only in my own name, but in that of Henrietta's, whose whole heart is set upon it."

"I am sure," replied Mrs. Fitzroy, "I shall be happy to oblige you, my dear madam, in any way that lies within the compass of my very contracted abilities."

"This does then, my dear madam. It is simply to spare your daughter Emily to us, on a visit for six or eight months; you may depend upon my care

of her ; she shall partake, in every respect, the same instruction and same amusements as Henrietta, and so long as she continues with us, I shall regard her as my child; Henrietta longs already to receive her as a sister."

"Will you be willing to come to us, Emily," said Henrietta, mantling, her cheeks glowing with pleasure, and her eyes sparkling with hope, that she should succeed in persuading her. "Indeed we will try to make you as happy as possible, you shall have all my playthings, and books, and maps, and every thing ; we shall be so happy. Do come Emily, pray do."

"As my mamma pleases," returned Emily, smiling, "if she is willing, I shall be so too, though I shall wish to see her now then ; I can't stay so

long away without seeing her some times."

"Oh! we shall often come over to see her," returned Henrietta, "I am sure my mamma will never refuse your coming to see yours, when you wish."

Mrs. Fitzroy gratefully thanked her friend for this attention, she immediately appreciated the intention, and felt thankful for it. In every respect it was the most desirable event which could have happened to her daughter, as the care with which Miss Lenox was educated was manifest to every one, and such an opportunity of deriving advantage might not again offer for Emily, whom she was glad to see noticed by so good a woman as Mrs. Lenox.

Henrietta was now arrived at the

summit of her wishes, and as eagerly wished to return home as she had been anxious to set off. Arrived once again at the Park, she took her young friend to the apartment which was devoted to her own use. "Here," said she, producing all her treasures, "these Emily are for us both, you are now my sister, therefore, half of every thing here, is yours, and as you are older than me, you shall have your choice." But Emily though she felt all her young friend's kindness, could not be persuaded to accept of them. "I shall partake them with you, my dear Miss Lenox," said she, "when I want them; I shall not consent to rob you of them." Indeed the parting with her mother, added to the affliction she felt for the recent loss of her father, took from



Emily the power of enjoyment: naturally of a mild, a gentle spirit, trouble sank deep upon it, and it was a long while before she could shake it off.

She was, however, particularly attentive to the instructions which were given her, and her progress in every branch she undertook, was rapid and successful. Her manners conciliated not only the affections of Mrs. Lenox and her daughter, but of every one that came to the house. The conduct of Henrietta to Emily, and that of Emily to Henrietta, was the most affectionate that could be. They indeed loved one another as sisters—no little mean jealousy, no pettishness, nor strife was ever witnessed betwixt them; their attachment to each other was unbounded, and their mutual emu-

lation by being excited was of mutual service to both.

Emily had a natural turn for poetry, and frequently indulged herself in writing little fugitive pieces ; which, however, she was careful to conceal from observation. But Henrietta who was always proud to display her friend's accomplishments, produced the following, to a large party who were that day dining with Mrs. Lenox—it was written on the conclusion of the last war, as an humble attempt of hers, to celebrate the blessings of peace.

ADDRESS TO PEACE.

Hail lovely peace ! with smiles once more  
Thou com'st to bless our British shore,  
Thy tedious absence we have known,  
Thy soothing voice, we gladly own ;  
Dear to the good, the patriot dear,  
We greet thy new born beauties here.

No more the drum's discordant round,  
Or screaming fife's more grating sound,  
Recal remembrances severe,  
Or give the gentle bosom fear ;  
Thy presence lovely maid bestows  
To countries, bliss—to men repose.

Thy dulcet voice, thy healing breath,  
Shall stop the infuriate hand of death ;  
Again the tearful anxious wife,  
Shall greet the partner of her life ;  
And smiling babes around shall press,  
To share a father's fond embrace.

Again uncheck'd shall commerce reign,  
 Triumphant o'er the subject main ;  
 The swords be turned to ploughshares now,  
 The warrior's hand shall guide the plough,  
 And sails unfurling wide convey,  
 The blessings of thy gentle sway.

Far may thy reign, sweet maid, extend,  
 And thy mild triumphs know no end,  
 Subdued by thee, may nations know,  
 The bliss thy heav'n-born smiles bestow,  
 And Gauls with Britons sons conjoin'd,  
 Strive but for this—to bless mankind.

Emily was overwhelmed with confusion at this public inspection of her little production. “It is very pretty my dear,” said Mrs. Lenox, “kindly to her, and willing by her praises to dissipate the shame she felt, but at present it is a little out of place ;

however, I will be bound it has the best wishes of every one here for becoming speedily appropriate, but this is not a very late effusion of your muse, is it ?”

“ No, madam,” returned Emily modestly, her face glowing with blushes, “ the first idea of it was suggested at the conclusion of the last war, when we expected my poor papa home, I wrote only a few lines, and looking over some old papers and letters, I had so long ago received from some of my schoolfellows, I found it yesterday among them, and foolishly sat down to alter it, not thinking it would ever come to your sight. But Henrietta, whose kind partiality to me makes her willing to shew all I do, fancying it better than it is, took it

from me, and I fear has exposed me to all this company."

"We are all pleased with it my dear," said they unanimously, "and heartily concur with Mrs. Lenox, in wishing it applicable to the season. However, we must hope if ever that happy period arrives, that we shall see another proof of your genius in describing the blessings of peace and the miseries of war."

From this time Emily was considered a girl of some genius, and indeed her progress in every branch of education, manifested that she was so. But as she grew up she felt a wish arise in her bosom to become independent, and reflecting within herself, that the advantages Mrs. Lenox had so nobly bestowed upon her, were ill used, with-

out she applied them to some purpose, and as her mother by losing her three sisters, had no companions, and was withal in a very delicate and precarious state of health, she felt it her duty to endeavour by her exertions to put her in possession of comforts, her very slender income would not allow her to enjoy. This wish strengthened with every succeeding day ; and as candour made a principal feature in her character, she did not hesitate to inform her benefactress of what was passing in her mind.

“ Yet, my dear madam,” said she to her, “ think me not ungrateful I beseech you ; if I know my heart, not a spark of so vile a passion has root in it ; but I acknowledge, I do not feel happy ; I never sit down to your hospitable board

nor partake of your liberality, but my heart reproaches me for want of feeling to my mother, who by the death of my sisters and absence of my brothers, is, I may say, childless; her health demands the tender attention of an affectionate daughter. Such I wish to prove myself, such indeed I am, if I had an opportunity of proving it. — Will you then, my dear madam, and you my dear Henrietta, acquit me of ingratitude, if I propose leaving you to administer that consolation to my parent, her situation demands. The advantages, my dear Mrs. Lenox, you have so liberally bestowed upon me—the excellent instruction I have received, while a happy resident beneath your roof, gives me the means of assisting my mother in every respect. I propose



taking (if I can get them) a few young ladies to educate ; and formed as I have been by your example. I trust and hope I shall do honour to it, by endeavouring to work upon the same plan."

Henrietta would not for a length of time hear of this proposal. But Mrs. Lenox, unwilling as she was to part with Emily, could not help feeling the justice and laudability of the motive which suggested it. " I have nothing to oppose, my dear Emily," she replied, " against your plan, but the selfish consideration of your company, to which I am now so accustomed, that I shall, I confess, feel no little regret at parting with you ; but influenced as you are, and circumstanced as your mother now is, I cannot but say I should

not only do wrong to withhold you from obeying the dutiful suggestions of your heart, but prove I had little feeling for any one beyond myself. Your plan is certainly a good one and your abilities for filling the task you undertake unquestionable, add to which the motives that induce you to do so must with every good person have particular influence. Of my best interest you may be certain—Henrietta's too, when she has overcome the chagrin the loss of your company occasions, I am sure you may command; nor do I doubt but you will be successful."

Emily felt now at ease. Mrs. Lenox approved her plan, and the motives—and it now only remained to put it into execution. Her friend's kindness had

already exerted itself in her behalf—and the day she was to return to her mother, four pupils accompanied her, with the promise of several others in the course of the summer. The parting of Henrietta and Emily was affecting, even though the distance was so short; and the former exacted a promise from her friend of passing not only all her holidays, but every other, she could spare at the Park. Mrs. Lenox felt little less than her daughter, she regarded Emily as her child and loved her as such. At parting she addressed her as follows.

“There is no consideration, my dear Emily, but that of your being able by your presence, to administer that consolation and comfort your mother stands so much in need of; or, that

of uniting you to a worthy man, should have induced me to part with you. From the time I became first acquainted with you, I admired your disposition and good qualities — that admiration every succeeding year has strengthened; it has always been my determination to do something for you, when you settled in the world—the enclosed notes, as you are now entering it upon your own account, may be serviceable to you. Yet think not Emily, my friendship ends here, far from it; but till I see how far your scheme is successful, I shall do no more; if it proves so, an addition will be no disadvantage, if otherwise, (which I hope will not be the case) you have still a resource, and you are sure of friends so long as either my daughter or self are alive. Should it please God to take

your mother, and you are tired of the confinement of a school; be not afraid to say so. You have yet another parent whose house and arms will be at all times ready to receive you; make no hesitation then, but when you feel inclined return to it."

To this very affectionate address, Emily could make no other answer than tears, and she got into the carriage which was to carry her to her mother's, without being able to articulate a word; but the pressure she gave the hands of her kind friends, said all, and more than all, than her tongue could utter.

Emily was soon settled, and undertook her new duties with cheerfulness; to her mother, she was all the tenderest child could be; to her pupils, she was not only the kind monitor, and po-

lished tutress, but the gentlest friend. Such was the sweetness and general elegance of her manners, that before half a year was expired, she saw herself governess to twenty children, and might have had double the number; but fearing, lest by undertaking the care and instruction of so large a number, she might be unable to do them the justice she wished; she wisely restricted herself to the prospect of less gain, that so she might derive more credit. In every situation of life, as a daughter, a friend, and afterwards as a wife, and a mother, this exemplary young woman conducted herself with propriety, and she joined with her mother in thanks to that Great Being, who orders all for the best.

“The Almighty, my dear mother,” said she, “raised us up many friends,

when by the death of my dear father, we thought we had lost all. My brothers are now high in rank, in their respective stations; while I, through the benevolence of my dear Mrs. Lenox, and the friendship my loved Henrietta, have received an education which has enabled me to maintain myself respectably in the world, and gave to my mind and manners a forming, they probably would not otherwise have received."

Mrs. Lenox and Henrietta could not fail to contemplate, with the most unalloyed satisfaction, the prosperity of their amiable friend, and while the former could not help feeling proud at the just commendations which were every where so lavishly bestowed upon her — blessed the Almighty for giving her with the

means the heart to do a good action,  
and shew kindness to a fellow crea-  
ture.

**FINIS.**







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