

1824  
SIR WILLIAM DORIEN.

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A DOMESTIC STORY.

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IN THREE VOLUMES.

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BY THE AUTHOR OF  
MARGIANA; OR, WIDDRINGTON TOWER.

—•••••—  
There's a Divinity that shapes our ends,  
Rough-hew them how we will.

SHAKESPEARE.

—•••••—  
VOL. I.

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# SIR WILLIAM DORIEN.

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## CHAP. I.

### *Cheerful Old Age.*

EVERY period of life has its privileges, and the world allows the exercise of them, while they are restrained within their due bounds. We not only endure, but even listen with indulgence to the noise of infancy, the sprightliness of youth, and the talkativeness of age. I am about to introduce a garrulous old man to my reader's acquaintance; and in return for the patience with which he may attend



to me, I will engage to exert my best endeavours to entertain him; and it will, perhaps, be in his own power to improve also by my experience.

The narrative I am going to relate will enforce a common-place moral, but one that cannot be too tenaciously held in view—namely, that however strongly present circumstances may tempt a man, a serious deviation from truth and honour can never fail to produce baneful consequences to him.

I am now just entering into my grand climacteric; nevertheless, (for negative praise is allowable even from a man to himself) I am neither splenetic nor surly. I have been in holy orders ever since the age of twenty-five; yet, though I confess I do not like Methodism, am no bigot. During the early part of my life, I lived  
much

much in the world, without ever acquiring the very contemptible appellation of a buckish parson, nor, though a Yorkshireman, that of a sporting one. I was several years abroad; yet never talk of my travels, except when I happen to be questioned concerning them; always bearing in mind the remark I once in my youth heard made by a sensible old gentleman, to one of those young mongrels, who, neither French, Turk, nor Tartar, nor, least of all, English, was, in the genuine spirit of Peregrine Forester, climbing the Alps and the Andes, and catching tigers like tame rabbits—"Sir," said his weary auditor, "the fatigue of hearing you is greater than if I had taken the journey myself."

I shall close this general account of what I am, and am not, by informing my



reader that now, in my happy old age, I have no wishes as to this world, beyond the precincts of my little rectory of four hundred and fifty pounds a-year, situated near the romantic ruins of Roche Abbey, in the West Riding of Yorkshire, and on the beautiful domain of sir William Dorian, the friend of my youth, with whom, being his elder by seven years, I visited the continent, in the capacity of a tutor, when he was little more than eighteen; and I hope it will be considered as bestowing equal praise on both pupil and preceptor, when I add, that their mutual esteem for each other has never suffered interruption since that period.

Sir William Dorian is now surrounded by a family of his own; and I, though compelled, amongst my many imperfections, to acknowledge myself an old bachelor,

achelor, have nephews and nieces living with me, the orphan children of a favourite sister: yet, leaving these young ones to their own gayer subjects of conversation, we often glide away together, to sit down on an old oaken bench, under a decaying arch covered with ivy, to shake our grey locks at one another, and while away a summer's evening with the recollection of old times.

A few nights ago, during one of these hours of quiet recreation, an argument chanced to arise between us, relating to the history of Greece; and neither of us being able to convince the other, I proposed Mr. Mitford as our referee—"Fetch the book then yourself, my good friend," said sir William; "for the volume you want is in the little breakfast-parlour we seldom use. And, though any



my young people would save you the trouble, there is a vile picture there, which my foolish old housekeeper has hung over the chimney-piece on account of its fine frame, that never fails to damp their cheerfulness, whenever they cast an eye over it. You will find the book upon the top of the medal cabinet."

I went into the room as directed, and there beheld indeed a most splendid carved and gilt frame, enclosing the whole-length portrait of a young man of the most winning aspect, whose face I recollected but too well. Taking away the book, I closed the door with a sigh; and on returning to sir William, expressed my surprise that a picture so likely to revive the most painful sensations should be preserved.

"Why," said he, "I am surprised too;  
but

but as it is well painted, my son is unwilling it should be destroyed; and I think he has a little false delicacy upon the subject. There is also another circumstance I have often wondered at—that you, who are so fond of wearing pens to the stumps, should never have committed the adventures of that original to writing.”

“Would you wish for me to do so?” said I, musing.

“I think I should. The tale conveys a good lesson. The drawing of it up would amuse *you*; and in a few years time, when the force of memory is weakened, the reading of it might not be unpleasant, even to those whom it most nearly concerns.”

“Well,” I replied, “perhaps I may some time be seized with the ambition



of inditing more than a sermon for a country congregation. But I can do nothing till we have settled the point now in dispute ; so we will apply, for the present, to Mr. Mitford."

When that gentleman had fully satisfied me that sir William Dorien had been right, and that, consequently, I had been wrong, I walked home with one of my nieces under my arm ; and as I never spoke all the way, she said to me, on our reaching the little wicket of the garden — " Pray, uncle, what have you been thinking of all this time ? "

" Of writing a book," answered I ; " and you shall revise it. I will collect my materials this week, and begin it the next."

## CHAP. II.

*How to spend a Fortune.*

IF the little advantage I had over my pupil in years sometimes operated to preserve him while abroad from the danger of foreign allurements, in the perilous nation of Italy, which was the principal scene of our residence, he, on the other hand, was perpetually rewarding me, by a conduct which reflected honour on the English name, and an application to study, no otherwise reprehensible than as being frequently too intense. But sir



William Dorian had an excellent foundation to build improvement upon. He had a good heart, which always directed his attention to praise-worthy pursuits; a clear head, and *useful* sense, that induced him ever to lay by one study before he took up another, and preserved him from precipitancy of judgment; and also, what every attempt to acquire must be vain, if Nature has denied it, a real good taste, in the most elevated sense of the word, which almost precluded the possibility of his ever wasting his time on mean objects of any description. With such advantages, and, I should add, an ardent love for antiquity, it is no wonder if, after a considerable stay at Rome, Florence, and other classic cities of the continent, I was more proud of my pupil

pul than most of the luckless dry-nurses of young Englishmen of fortune have reason to be.

Though warmly attached to his native land, both from principle and education, sir William did not preferably seek the society of his countrymen while abroad, unless when he had the good fortune to meet with such as united the advantages of correct conduct, and cultivated understandings. But he engaged in one very strict friendship at Florence, with an officer nearly his own age, in the fifty-first regiment. Captain Cranswick was not only one of the pleasantest men in the world on a first acquaintance, but all those who had known him long, and especially his brother-officers, averred that their attachment to him had increased with their intimacy. This tribute from the latter



was indeed no more than his due; for since he entered their corps, no quarrel had ever disturbed its harmony. Cranswick was early fortunate enough to remove a misunderstanding which had existed for some time between two of the officers, one of whom was his kinsman. Their adherents became peaceable, of course; and the suavity of manners of their reconciler, with his blithe humour and constant good spirits, diffusing concord through the regiment, bade defiance ever after to all ebullitions of ill-temper and pride.

There was another feature in this amiable officer's character, which much promoted his intimacy with my pupil. He was passionately fond of paintings, understood them scientifically, and was himself an excellent draughtsman. The Florentine

rentine gallery was the constant resort of the two friends, as it had been the place of their first meeting; and after a few days acquaintance, they became as nearly inseparable as the military avocations of the one permitted, when, to the regret of both, they were compelled to part; an unremitting correspondence ensued, which lasted till their final reunion in England.

Cranswick's regiment was ordered to the East Indies, where he staid long enough to feel his health injured by the climate; to receive several wounds in various engagements; and to be raised to the rank of colonel.

On his return home, his first desire was to pay his duty to his sovereign; his next, to embrace his friend; and he was enabled



enabled to satisfy both at once; for on the same day that he was presented by general M. sir William Dorien kissed hands upon the death of his grandfather, whereby the baronetcy devolved to him.

Early in the summer of the same year, I had the happiness of welcoming them both to Dorien Court, where their former youthful friendship matured into the most manly and steady regard. The colonel, upon account of his health, quitted the army; and his moderate fortune, consisting wholly of funded property, and both his parents having long been dead, he had no permanent place of residence. Sir William considered him at home while he was under his roof; and his friend considered himself at home there

there also, till a small, but very improveable estate in the immediate neighbourhood was offered for sale.

“ Now,” said Cranswick, “ I am happy for life ! Briar Lodge is just within the compass of my abilities to purchase, so I will bid for it. And as you are, at least, as much attached to Dorien Court as Pliny was to his villa, I shall be certain of always being your neighbour in this world ; and, please the Lord, I will take care to keep close to you in the next.”

“ You had better not bid for Briar Lodge,” said sir William, gravely.

“ No ! why not ? It is a place Titania herself might fancy for its beauty ; and it is a freehold ; and it is tythe-free ; and it is covered with bushes, and brakes, and jungles full of game ; and I shall be near you and your fox-hounds. And  
there



there is not a lord within fifteen miles, but one, and he is a very worthy one. And so, pray why should not I bid for Briar Lodge?"

"Because, if you do, I must be at the trouble of out-bidding you. Your fortune is about twenty-three thousand pounds; and you will not have enough left to spare, in case of your marrying, and having a family of younger children. Now you will please to recollect that my worthy grandfather, who for the last five-and-thirty years of his life saw nobody but his physician, his housekeeper, and the rector, enjoyed a revenue of nine thousand a-year, besides his accumulations, which were never diminished, excepting by what he bestowed upon me; therefore I need not tell you that, being unluckily no gambler, I am considerably

ably embarrassed what to do with my worldly wealth. Here is an opportunity of shaking off part of my load, which I would not on any consideration neglect. I will consequently buy Briar Lodge myself; and whenever you are weary of being at Dorien Court, you will recollect you are near home, and I will shew you the shortest way to it."

"You are, indeed, shewing me the shortest way, my noble friend," said Cranswick, much affected; "but your offer is too princely to be accepted."

"I have nothing to do with your nobles and princes," replied sir William; "but I know I have a terrible deal of money; and my house being already quite filled with the pictures I have sent home, I cannot tell what the devil to do  
with



with it, unless you will let me buy Briar Lodge."

"Buy it for yourself then, and I will be your tenant."

"That would be a good way; but not the best way. My plan is better. I do not like balancing accounts between friends. Where is the use of friendship, but to do away such paltry work? And, I would ask, where is the use of a large fortune, if a man may not do what he chuses with it? Besides, if I am compelled to heap guinea upon guinea, till I am as miserable as king Midas, I shall be seized with the gold distemper, an hard heart, and, with no more feeling than a Chickasaw, shall be dunning you for arrears of rent every quarter, when you have a dozen children, who will need all you have, and more, if you had it."

This

This altercation was drawn out to some length : but it is quite unnecessary to repeat the arguments, that were at last concluded by a compromise ; sir William consenting that his friend should sell out of the funds so much stock towards the purchase of the estate as should leave him a net income of eight hundred a-year ; and the colonel, on the other hand, yielding to receive from sir William whatever sum might be further necessary to make him lord of the manor of Briar Lodge.

This beautiful little spot, and farm around it, were bought for eighteen thousand pounds ; and sir William, without asking his friend's consent, ordered appropriate furniture for it ; and it was, in the space of a few weeks, fitted up in a style of such elegant neatness, that whoever



ever could have wished to leave it for a more splendid mansion, must have been much fonder of grandeur than of comfort.

## CHAP. III.

*"I wish you were married and settled in the country," said lord Bolingbroke to his great dog, when he ran over his master's gouty foot.*

ABOUT the time colonel Cranswick took possession of his new acquirement, sir William was far advanced in the good graces of a young lady, whose merits and beauty reflected considerable honour on his choice. Her name was Dawnay; and she was the daughter of a gentleman in the East Riding of our county, who, having a numerous family, could not give her



her a portion in any degree adequate to sir William Dorian's fortune. But with the sentiments he had manifested, it was not likely this circumstance should operate as a bar to his addresses. They were dictated by real esteem and affection; and were accepted with a confident hope of future happiness, which was amply fulfilled during the whole remaining term of lady Dorian's life.

One of the happiest days of mine was that whereon I joined her hand to that of a man so entirely deserving of her; and her virtues while she lived, and her memory after she was gone, were as cordially beloved and regretted as were ever those of mortal woman.

Colonel Cranawick might be almost said to divide his time equally between his own house and that of his friend. La-

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dy Dorian was as partial to him as her husband was; and when, after a long visit, they could no further detain him at Dorian Court, they frequently accompanied him home, simply because they knew not how to part from him; and could not reconcile themselves to the idea of a man so formed to enliven society wasting a day in solitude—"If you would but marry," said lady Dorian, "you should not be troubled with us so often; but I have no patience to think of a man like you living alone. So many ill-tempered churls and dissipated characters gain wives, that it ought to be made felony for one of a contrary description to remain single after five-and-twenty, that the balance of happy and unhappy marriages might be brought a little more even than it is."

"I am



"I am willing enough to marry," replied Cranswick; "but I cannot expect the women will come to seek me; and I am too well contented with the society I have at home, to look abroad for them; not but that seeing how much happier Dorien is now than when he was a bachelor, I often wish I had a wife, as well as he."

As he witnessed more of the felicity he spoke of, this wish seemed to encrease, till after the birth of sir William's eldest son, when, being one day at Dorien Court, and seeing the child awaken, and laugh on his mother's knee, he suddenly jumped up, with an exclamation that he could not bear it any longer—"If I do not marry out of hand," cried he, "I shall be turned into the devil, to a dead certainty!"

"What

"What can you possibly mean?" said lady Dorian, laughing.

"Don't you remember how Satan envied the first pair in Paradise? If he had been as happy as they, perhaps not any of the mischief that ensued might have come to pass. There is not a moment to lose: I will look out for a wife directly. Shall I go to Scarborough this summer? or to Harrowgate? or to Thorp-Arch? or shall I advertise?"

"The markets you mention," said sir William, "are well frequented; but it is seldom that good stock are brought to them. I would almost as soon have my wife a brandy-drinker, as a water-drinker in the present fashionable acceptation of the phrase. Advertise therefore; or else have a painted board over your door—



*the master of this house to be disposed of on good terms."*

"I think," said the colonel, sitting down again, "I think, upon consideration, I will wait till Doncaster races: it is always a crowded meeting; and I shall be seeing somebody that may take my fancy."

"I admire your scheme," said sir William; "and to ensure its success, I advise you to insert a few lines in the racing lists, to give the ladies a hint of what they may expect besides the St. Leger."

"Ah," replied Cranswick, "you may jest; but how unlucky it is for me that all lady Dorien's sisters are married! Could I have carried off such a prize as one of *them*, I should have been in undoubted good hands, and had my comforts

forts like a family-man ; whereas now, but for your society, what a lone animal I should be !—I, who am by Nature intended for a gregarious one. I had better have married the old princess of Oude, or a pretty little copper-coloured young lady at Furruckabad, each of whom, I have been told, admired me exceedingly.”

Colonel Cranswick, however, was not doomed much longer to endure the celibacy he so deprecated ; neither had he occasion to wait till Doncaster races ; for before that period, so exhilarating to the worthy 'squires of Ebor, arrived, he had surrendered his heart to a young lady, who had a sufficiency of personal charms and vivacity to captivate one much less intent on matrimony than himself ; besides the prospect of a fortune so large, that until he had firmly engaged



the good opinion of her father, as well as herself, he regretted it as a probable obstacle to his success.

Sir William Dorien having some business at Liverpool in the course of the same summer, asked his friend to accompany him thither; and the latter, who had never seen that celebrated commercial town, was glad of the opportunity of satisfying his curiosity; the rather, because a poor cottager on his new estate, having a blind daughter, had recently applied to him to obtain admission for her into the asylum instituted at Liverpool for persons afflicted with that calamity. While sir William therefore was transacting his own concerns, the colonel exerted himself, and with success, to obtain the object he had in view; and in the course of the transaction,

tion, he waited several times on a gentleman who was one of the committee for carrying on the business of the asylum.

Mr. Guineaman immediately felt that predilection in favour of colonel Cranswick which usually followed even the slightest acquaintance with him; and in consequence of it, invited him twice or thrice to dinner, at which times his only daughter did the honours of the table, and secured the colonel's partiality, even more rapidly than he had engaged that of her father.

But though the habits of a rich Liverpool merchant might be expected to mingle him sufficiently with the world, to enforce, at least, a resemblance with the other inhabitants of it, Mr. Guineaman had eccentricities so peculiarly his



own, that his character is well worthy of having some lines bestowed upon it.

Of his origin, he could not himself have given the least account, nor of any period of his life, previous to being an errand-boy to one of the great warehouses in Liverpool. By dint, however, of shrewdness of intellect, and diligence to please, he so far ingratiated himself with the trader whom he served, as to become progressively his footboy, his clerk, and an under partner in the same firm. From that station his rise was rapid: keeping a steady eye on the main chance, he grew opulent; traded on his own account; built a fine country house, rurally situated half a mile from Liverpool, and about a hundred yards from the turnpike road to Warrington; hired a crowd of servants, whom he had the odd fancy

fancy to dress in the same livery he had worn himself; and married a rich wife, who lived only just long enough to bring him a son and a daughter.

Hitherto he had done no more than a thousand other men had done before him; but now, resolving never to marry again, he indulged all the latent singularities of his character, one of which was to undertake the entire education of both his children himself; nor was it without extreme difficulty that a lady persuaded him to suffer a governess to reside with his daughter, when she was near fourteen years of age. To her, however, he had always proved a fond and indulgent parent; but against his son he early imbibed an unreasonable and unaccountable prejudice. Under a hard task-master, and a severe inflictor of punishment, the



unfortunate boy led a wretched life, till he was ten years old; when, as his father was horse-whipping him for having cast up an account of some thousands, three shillings and twopence wrong, he bust out into tears, and a bitter exclamation, that he should be happier if brought up to be a cobbler, than existing as he did.

Mr. Guineaman suspended his horse-whip—"I take you at your word," said he; "you shall be a cobbler! I will bind you apprentice to Dickens, the village shoemaker, to-morrow morning, and give ten pounds with you."

Poor little Andrew rejoiced, as soon as he became convinced that his father was serious; and, with a light heart, threw his bundle over his shoulder, and took his departure to a noisome dark shop, at the  
bottom

bottom of a dirty lane, about a mile from his father's house, where he was confined from morning till night for six weeks on a bench, in a close working-stall, impervious to fresh air, and lighted only by two casements, thickly covered with cobwebs and dust. This, though he no longer smarted under parental severity, soon became so intolerable to him, that he ran away one moonlight night, and for many years his own family never knew what became of him ; though it will not be long before I have occasion to mention him again.

In the meantime, old Guineaman grew more and more fond of his daughter. It was generally understood she would inherit his whole property ; and he seemed to be as proud of the one as of the other. He gave great entertainments,



whereby no one could say which of them he most intended to display: but as his wealth accumulated, he yielded to an insolence of temper towards his guests, especially those of them whom he believed to be admirers of his daughter, that would have driven them for ever from his door, had not her beauty, which was great, and her vivacity, that, without partaking of wit, was at least engaging, operated as a counterspell. When he was tired of his company in an evening, it was usual with him to pull out his watch, wind it up, place it on the table before him, and give a nod to the party in general, the meaning of which could not be mistaken: but his behaviour to two of his daughter's suitors will sufficiently describe the little respect he entertained for the feelings of others. He

was

was waited upon one day by the son of a very opulent merchant in the town, a young man who bore a most respectable character, but who happened to be about six feet high, and proportionably stout and large: the young man, knowing the oddity he was encountering, began, with much hesitation, to explain the purpose of his visit; but was presently interrupted by Mr. Guineaman's abruptly saying—"What, sir! you want to marry my daughter, do you? I suppose you, have heard she is to be a great fortune?"

"Sir, I did not think of her fortune; but I confess I should be most happy to recommend myself to yours and to Miss Guineaman's good opinion, if——"

"Not a word more, sir! I wonder you have the effrontery to name such a thing! Why, sir," looking down at the

c.6.

young:



young gentleman's feet, and then up again in his face, "I intend to marry my daughter to a man, and not to a monster! you are almost an elephant, sir! so I will say good morning to you."

The next suitor who ventured to approach a shrine so oddly guarded was a young esquire, who lived on his own unincumbered estate in the neighbourhood; and with a little more confidence of success, he made his wishes known to Mr. Guineaman: but the interruption he met with was equally abrupt, and worded in the same terms—"What, sir! you want to marry my daughter? I suppose you have heard she is a great fortune?"

"I cannot believe that, sir, so long as you have a son alive. I am not an interested man."

"How should you, sir? There is no room

room in you for either principal or interest. You are not five feet high, and as thin as a rope-dancer. Sir, I intend to marry my daughter to a man, and not to a monkey ! so I will say good morning to you."

In this strain of unwarrantable insult did Mr. Guineaman reject the addresses of several very estimable young men, in whom it could not be considered any mark of presumption that they should wish to obtain the hand of his daughter. One he averred to be a blackamoor, and advised him to go out in the next ship bound to Africa, that he might bring back a wife of his own colour. Another, who happened to wait upon him in a green coat, he called a lump of verdigris; and at length, vain indeed must that man have been, who fancied himself sufficiently



ently clear of peculiarity or imperfection, to escape from Mr. Guineaman without being affronted by some strange comparison.

Colonel Cranswick, who had received intimations of his sarcastic turn, and intolerable insolence, in considerable distress of mind, consulted his friend, whose approbation of his choice he had secured, by taking him once to spend the evening with him at Mr. Guineaman's house ; for the old man, like many of those who know not how they are born themselves, was fond of what *he* called great people ; and thought there was something rather sublime in the concluding Bt. that attached to sir William's name. Knowing his intimacy, therefore, with the colonel, he had desired the latter to introduce him, if telling him he *might* bring his friend  
to

to supper, if he chose, could be called a request. Upon that occasion, sir William had seen much to be pleased with in Miss Guineaman; and he heard her favourably spoken of by her acquaintances in the town. His encouraging advice, consequently, was not wanting to inspire Cranswick with boldness enough to proceed; and as soon as the lover believed he had made an interest in the young lady's favour, he again consulted his friend upon the mode of discovering his views to her father, the least likely to subject him to uncivil treatment.

"Pray, Dorien," said he, "what ugly animal do I most resemble? for I wish to prepare my mind for the shock of some most uncouth comparison."

"Perhaps," replied sir William, "it would be lucky for you if the old humourist



mourist fancied you like a bear ; for he is such a bruin himself, you would certainly be the greater favourite for it. But I should recommend you to write to him, since it is probable he will not venture to be quite so brutish upon paper as verbally : however, never mind a little rudeness either way, if you only gain your fair one ; and the deuce will be in it, I think, if he can discover any pretence for refusing you."

The colonel approved this advice ; and wrote a letter at once so respectful, so liberal, and so gentlemanly, that sir William conceived it must, of necessity, ensure to him a civil answer, at least ; but the effect was very different from what he had expected ; or rather, it did not produce any effect at all, for Mr. Guineaman returned no answer whatever.

In

In vain did Cranswick, refraining from the merchant's house, send a note two days after, entreating a favourable reply. Not a word of reply could he obtain; and, in spite of his reluctance and his timidity, arising from his modest opinion of himself, he was at last, however unwillingly, compelled to determine upon a verbal address.

The old gentleman happened to be alone when he was announced; and all Cranswick's few remaining hopes vanished, when he observed his stern countenance, and that he did not, as usual, shake hands with him.

"Sir," said he, dreading the very answer he came to solicit, "I did myself the honour, a few days ago, of troubling you with a letter."

"I know



"I know you did, sir. Could you not find any body to trouble but me?"

"I hoped my motive, sir, would have excused me; and that you would have been kind enough to have favoured me with an answer."

"No, sir! I never give myself the trouble of answering any body; neither did I read three lines of your frightful cramp hand. Were you ever in China, sir?"

"Never," replied the colonel.

"No! I could have sworn you had had a Chinese writing-master—but what was your letter about?—the blind girl?"

"Oh no, sir! an object so interesting to me, that if you knew my anxiety, you would not pain me thus. It has not been possible for me to see Miss Guineaman—"

"Get

"Get into the asylum yourself then, if you are blind."

"Without feeling for her an attachment—"

"Oh! yet I want to marry my daughter, do you? what, I suppose you have heard she is to be a great fortune?"

"Here it comes," thought Cranswick, who had heard of the two anecdotes already related. "Now what monster shall I be likened unto?—Miss Guineaman's fortune, sir, is a matter of absolute indifference to me; I have more fortune than I want for myself, and enough, I should hope, for us both: if Miss Guineaman had not the prospect of sixpence in the world, she is, of all the women I have ever seen, the one I should chuse for a wife."

"Then you are the very man for her,"

said



said the merchant ; “ for not a sixpence will she have : I do not intend to leave her a penny ; and you may take her when you like.”

Cranswick could scarcely credit what he heard ; but at length, in a rapture of joy, that bore testimony to his disinterestedness, he became convinced he had really obtained the coveted prize ; and, after a few minutes further conversation, for Mr. Guineaman turned him out in less than a quarter of an hour, he hastened back to the hotel, where he found his friend anxiously waiting to learn the result of his visit.

Cordial were the congratulations he received ; for sir William, calculating upon the oddity of the old trader, attached no faith whatever to his declaration of leaving his daughter no fortune—“ On  
the

the contrary," said he, "I know he will and must grow as fond of you as he is of her; and I have no doubt he will leave you both all he has, to the exclusion of that poor fellow, if he is alive."

"And who, I hope," exclaimed Cranswick, "will be alive, when his father dies, to go halves with us. But I can think of nothing at present excepting my adorable: I will write this moment, and beg to be admitted in the evening."

He did so; and was as graciously received as he could either expect or desire. The old gentleman threw no obstacles in his way; and colonel Cranswick, in about six weeks time, after having taken a journey home to prepare Briar Lodge for the reception of his bride, carried off the fair object, for whom so many candidates had sighed in vain.

CHAP.



## CHAP. IV.

*Various modes of Education.*

My two worthy friends, now happily settled at home, happy in their vicinity to each other, and in the occasional society of a very good neighbourhood, had little more to wish for than health to enjoy their felicity, and a continuance of it.

At the close of the second year of her marriage, lady Dorien produced another son, who, in compliment to her family, was christened Dawnay; but colonel Cranswick's eldest child, which was also a boy, did not appear to complete his father's

father's happiness, till he had been married near three years ; and then, for the first time, old Guineaman left his despotic monarchy at home, to visit his daughter and his son-in-law, and exercise a sovereign authority at Briar Lodge, which the colonel, with all his kindness of heart, could with difficulty submit to ; and his wife murmured at in private, proportionably as she yielded to it in public.

The old man, however, shewed as much fondness towards her as it seemed to be in his nature to feel for any one ; and when he stood godfather with sir William Dorien for his grandson, he insisted that the child should be christened, not after himself, but after the baronet, by either of his two names, leaving it a doubt whether vanity or civility prompted the preference.



ference. But anxious, on his friend's account, that not even a shadow of offence should be given to a temper so capricious, sir William begged that the names of each of them might be put under requisition; the boy, therefore, was called Horatio Benjamin; for Mr. Guineaman, delighted with sir William's politeness, was resolute that his nobler name, as he called it, should have its due precedence.

His disposition, after this event, seemed to undergo somewhat of a favourable change; he expressed, though in his own strange way, it is true, more regard for colonel Cranswick than he had ever done before; made him a present of a handsome piece of plate, whereupon were engraven the names of his grandchild, and the date of his birth; and every day  
while

while he staid at Briar Lodge, he placed a shilling under his wine-glass, after dinner, to pay for what he had eaten, which if colonel Cranswick did not take up, and put into his purse, he threatened to leave the house, and never see his face, or that of his daughter again.

Once, and once only, he mentioned his unfortunate son ; and said he had received information of the life he had led since his running away from the shoemaker : he reprobated him as a youth of a disposition innately bad ; and gave such an account of him, as, indeed, warranted the opinion, without considering that every person who had heard it must necessarily reflect with horror on the hard nature of the parent, who could be aware that his only son had fallen into such courses, without using every means



in his power to avert destruction from him.

The wretched boy, it seems, after effecting his escape, had joined some itinerant vendors of pottery ware, and attached himself to them, till he set up a small trade of his own, of ballads, and green purses, which he had been taught by his sister to net in their childish sports. A travelling quack-doctor, however, happening to meet him one night at a little alehouse, after he had followed this calling near a twelvemonth, and finding him an acute lad, likely enough to prove useful to him in his own profession, and of principles not sufficiently strict to stand in the way of his little innocent deceptions, engaged him to put himself under his own protection, which Andrew readily agreed to, having often experienced  
the

the want, and various misery attendant on his forlorn state, at an age so defenceless.

In this disgraceful situation he still continued, when his unrelenting father related what he had heard of him; and colonel Cranswick, unknown to the latter, put in practice every means of discovering in what part of the country he was then actually wandering, in the humane hope of snatching him from impending ruin, and effecting his reformation; but in vain. Andrew was, indeed, far beyond his search, in the populous neighbourhood of Wolverhampton, where his dangerous master practised on the credulity of the ignorant, and committed his assassinations on the healthy, with success and impunity. By this pernicious instructor, he was taught that every species of fraud was justifiable, on the



principle of self-defence, if it contributed to the emolument of the defrauder; that if telling the truth would procure *one* shilling, and fabricating a lie would obtain *two*, the lie was to be preferred; that a juggler, who could dextrously convey a country bumpkin's purse into his own pocket, was a clever fellow, worthy of imitation; and that it was a matter of no great consequence if the constitutions of a few of his majesty's subjects were destroyed by the medicines they sold, provided only they received the stipulated prices for them.

Three years and a half Andrew continued in this school of vice and depredation; and in that time he had become such a favourite with his master, that he was rapidly initiating him into the sublimer mysteries of his trade, and had  
given

given him the splendid hope of succeeding, in due time, to his coffers, and his fame, at his demise; the prospect of which, however, he strove to render as distant as possible, by never swallowing a grain of his own nostrums: but all chance of this golden harvest was suddenly cut off, by a lamentable accident that befel the Esculapian.

Having one day at a fair, in a small market town, drawn a considerable crowd about him, one of his gaping auditors was a farmer's handsome daughter, who, being infinitely genteeler than the ancient race of damsels of that description, displayed a valuable present that had been given to her the day before by a young man, to whom she was going to be married: this was a gold watch, which, with the sun sparkling upon it, blazed an ir-



resistible object of temptation in the eyes of the sage, who, while he professed to defy the most mortal disorders, gave way to his own evil propensities. Some slight-of-hand tricks succeeded the sale of the poisons he had dignified with the name of medicines: a blue checked handkerchief was discovered in the pocket where a red spotted one was expected to have been found, and the red spot was drawn from the pocket of the blue check, to the astonishment of the simple country folks, who concluded that the surprising man who could perform such wonders must needs know every thing.

The farmer's pretty daughter had a *white* handkerchief, and this was to be exchanged against that of her lover, neither of them was to see how; so far, doctor Arsenick kept his word; the trick  
was

effected; and neither could imagine, all the world, by what strange art it was done, though both agreed it was very beautiful: but the shew concluding immediately after this exhibition, the young woman looked at her watch to see if it was time to go home. Observing the hour to be no later than she expected, she felt perfectly satisfied; however, while she was looking at the face of her watch, which was outwards, her lover, probably with some little pride, eyeing his gift, happened to observe the rim, that looked like silver, or something not quite so good—"Surely, Miss Fanny," said he, "if I was disposed to be jealous, I should think you had given away your new watch, to some sweetheart, for another."

This produced a closer examination; the gold watch was exchanged, as well as



the white handkerchief; and a paltry and a  
tal piece of bad workmanship, not worth  
half-a-guinea, hung suspended in  
place. The young man's suspicions  
stantly fell upon the quack doctor and  
his follower; and, as he luckily poss-  
sed a good share of coolness and shrewd  
understanding, he presently adopted  
well-chosen measure of circumventing  
the doctor, and teaching him the lesson  
new to him, that honesty is the best po-  
licy.

Having discovered that he was prepa-  
ring to leave the town immediately, and  
which road he was about to take, he en-  
gaged a few country lads, of his acquaint-  
ance, to watch him through the streets;  
and, having satisfied himself that he took  
the direction of the north, instead of the  
south, as he pretended, he hastened across  
the

the fields, with the constable, to a spot near enough to the highway side to see him pass by; and the moment he observed him, stationed a young boy to meet him in a natural manner, as if going towards the town, who had his lesson to pull off his hat, and ask him civilly what time it was? No rogue in the world ever had his wits always about him; the empirick mechanic drew out his prize; and while the well-taught lad held him in a few moments conversation, he felt himself suddenly seized in the strong grasp of the constable and his companion, who, thinking no precaution could be unnecessary with so very dextrous a personage, instantly secured his hands, for, while *they* were at liberty, they could not depend on any safety for themselves.

In this manner the healer of all mor-



tal ills was conveyed back to the town, where a justice of the peace, on the watch being sworn to, fully committed him to the county jail: he stood his trial at the next assizes, and underwent a sentence of transportation for fourteen years, to the material advantage of the health and the pockets of his credulous countrymen.

All these particulars I learned several years afterwards from Andrew Guinea-man, who, at the moment of his master's being taken, happening to be a little way behind him, leading the miserable poney that performed all the drudgery of their trade, with the least possible share of its reward, thought it advisable to make the most of the few minutes allowed him, and, accordingly, left their fellow-traveller to its fate; and, leaping over a low  
hedge,

hedge, struck into a thicket, and then ran across the fields, till want of breath compelled him to hide himself under a close fence, where he had leisure to ruminate on the probable consequences of stealing a gold watch; for he was fully aware of his master's reasons for so suddenly removing his quarters. The result of his deliberation was, that healing the sick was a bad trade, and that stealing was worse, because, though more profitable, it led into more danger; and that, therefore, he should do wisely to cut connexion with doctor Arsenick, even at the expence of all his great prospects, and once more trust to his own abilities, considering them now as an inexhaustible mine of wealth, and set up for himself.

In consequence of these reflections,



he rigidly maintained his post till a late hour, when, a starlight night befriending him, he set forwards, in what direction he knew not, for Andrew was no astronomer, but avoiding all high roads till, daybreak brought him to a large lone farm-house, near which he lingered, till the servants appeared in the fold-yard and outbuildings, and the business of the day began. Venturing then to accost two of them, as they drove the cows to milk, he offered some story books he chanced to have about him, for sale, or in exchange for a breakfast; and learned by their communication, that their master had arrived late the night before from the fair, where he had been detained by his curiosity to learn the issue of an extraordinary adventure.

What

ay?" said Andrew.

eat fair in the  
did not go to it."

Y related the story of  
atch, and the apprehension  
ent of the quack doctor,  
convinced Andrew he had  
following the suggestions  
of his at-  
ained

ling play  
did not desert him upon  
he assisted the heroes of th  
had walked by the side of the ve  
unloading it; and exerted himself  
such good purpose, that one of the ac-  
tors told him he was a handy little fellow.

Encouraged



and, for the first time,  
left his father's house  
to do for a subsistence.

Reduced almost to  
ruin, he wandered up the street of a town  
through which the road lay  
was passing the door of a public house,  
a carriage stopt at it, of so  
construction  
distress.

and coarse  
for the history of Guy  
rick, he again set out, in the  
towards London; and contrived  
to make his very slender means last him  
till within seventy miles of that place;  
but there all his resources failed him;  
and

Encouraged by this praise, Andrew said he wished he belonged to the ladies and gentlemen, for he was very fond of their profession, and should be glad to serve them, in any way they pleased, for his victuals, till they thought him deserving of something more.

"Have you any abilities in our line?" said the player, who was manager of the company. "A lad of your size, who was very useful to us in many of our pieces, ran away from us a fortnight ago, and we should be glad to fill up his place with one who knew a little of the business."

"If you please, sir, I will try," replied Andrew, with a look of confidence, that gave the actor some hopes of him; and accordingly he was permitted to see the performance of that evening gratis; and the



the next morning undertook the task assigned him, of studying the part of prince Arthur, which he learned with so much expedition, and played, in the opinion of his judges, so tolerably, the night after, that he was enrolled in their genteel society, and continued with them till he had hoarded together a little money, and till one of the actors, a young man, who had absconded from his parents in London, growing weary of this mode of life, resolved on returning to them; and, knowing Andrew's strong desire to see the metropolis, made him the confidant of his project, and the partner of his flight.

Arrived in London, through the recommendation of his friend, he obtained a situation as shopboy at a slopseller's in Wapping; and, in the course of time,  
for

For this part of his history is not worth dwelling upon, he became a slopseller himself, married, and settled with his wife's family in a diminutive shop at the dark extremity of a narrow alley out of T. ames-street. Here, I confess, I am glad to leave him; and will now return to the more pleasing subject of my friends at Dorien Court and Briar Lodge.

While the colonel continued to love Mrs. Cranswick with unabated ardour, sir William's esteem for lady Dorien increased every year. To the domestic habits of a most excellent wife and mother, she united the attractions of a sensible companion, and the manners of an unaffected woman of fashion; but she appeared in the most favourable point of view when superintending the education of a daughter, who, born two years after her



her youngest boy, proved a most fortunate subject for the exercise of her admirable talents. There never was a more engaging child than — Dorian, nor one that afterwards more amply rewarded parental anxiety: never were parents more attached to their children, nor a family, in general, more united. Henry, the eldest son, and his sister, as they grew up, had but one soul: Dawnay, of a more retired nature, shewed an early peculiarity of disposition, which led him to be always out of the way when the young people were likely to be called forth into notice; and made him prefer any quiet amusement with his brother and sister, or Horatio Cranswick, to the more riotous sports of other boys of his own age. Sir William, believing him of a temper that required urging forward, rather

ther than withholding, determined on giving him every advantage of education, to which his eldest brother had a natural claim; and, accordingly, both boys were sent to Westminster, and afterwards to college, at the same time. At either place, similar consequences attended their different characters; Henry, open as day, and radiant with good humour, knew every body worth knowing, and was beloved by all: Dawnay had very few intimate acquaintances; but those few, to make use of a common French hyperbole, would have performed impossibilities to serve him, as soon as they became sensible of his concealed good qualities.

Colonel Cranswick's family, once larger than that of his friend, was soon reduced to an inferiority in point of number.

Mrs.



Mrs. Cranswick had four younger children, of whom one only survived, a girl, to whom she had chosen to give the fantastical name of Lotharea, because it happened to be that of the heroine of a romance, which had interested Mrs. Cranswick during her confinement, perhaps as much as the care of her nursery.

But this lady had many whims still more fantastical, though, for a long time, they were concealed from general knowledge by the good nature of her husband, and the friendship of lady Dorian for the latter, which induced her to maintain the appearance of regard for his wife, while, to those who knew her well, it was obvious her heart was not in the cause.

Having fewer opportunities of appreciating Mrs. Cranswick's real character,

I often

I often wondered at a coldness I could not but discern, and which was so little in unison with lady Dorien's natural warmth of heart—"You do not like Mrs. Cranswick," said I to her one day.

"Not very much, I confess."

"And why do you not?"

"I don't know; and therefore I suppose it must be because I am whimsical."

"But you are not subject to whims, lady Dorien."

"Am not I? then there must be some other reason: if you are anxious to be informed of it, I will endeavour to find it out, and will let you know."

A few days after, I inquired if she had made the discovery?

"Oh yes," she replied, "I can tell you now; it is because she plagues me about the *tritonis viridis*, and the *andromeda*



dromeda calyculata; and wears blue shoes with a yellow necklace."

I shook my head—"That, you, who are no botanist, can be easily wearied by botanical disquisitions, I readily believe; and a lady, who always dresses neatly herself, can never admire ill taste in another; yet these are not reasons of sufficient weight to induce you to withhold your friendship from the wife of colonel Cranswick; I am certain your ladyship cannot deny having some others."

She smiled—"Yours is an indefatigable curiosity," said she. "Well then, since these are not adequate grounds for owning that Mrs. Cranswick is no favourite of mine, I am bound to furnish you with some stronger. Will you be more satisfied, if I say that I do not like to hear

hear her always contradicting her husband, even when she is studiously civil to every body else? And she has a custom I cannot endure, whenever he is relating a story, of constantly interrupting him, to give it her own way. Besides, she keeps poor Lotharea in her little arm-chair all day long, learning sentimental verses, to *recite* before company; and calls her *Miss Cranswick* at every word."

"These are objectionable points, indeed," said I; "but I did not know they could be urged against her."

"No; she is on her guard before sir William and you; and, therefore, you ought both, in charity, to be as much with her as possible, that she may acquire the good habit of letting her husband speak for himself, and not cripple her poor little girl with confinement."

It



It was easy to set up the *legge*, when Columbus had shewn how to do it. After this conversation, I was surprised I had not observed before that Mrs. Cranswick was capricious and contradictory. The instruction of her children was a constant theme for her discussion; and it appeared that the more she became convinced of the colonel's partiality to a public education, the more strength her prejudice acquired in favour of a private one. Lady Dorien thought, whatever plan removed them the soonest from her, would be the best; but lady Dorien was not consulted; for, with Mrs. Cranswick, who, I believe, constantly laboured under the galling sense of inferiority, she was no favourite; and the colonel, who paid me the compliment of being satisfied with the few instructions I could bestow

stow upon his son, thought him young enough to send to a public school; the expence of which, I suspect, Mrs. Cranswick would have rendered inconvenient, by a passion she had for turning every room under her roof into a baby-house, by cramming it with all descriptions of fashionable toys for grown children, under the denominations of commodores, chiffoniers, towers of Babel, writing, working, and netting-boxes of all sorts and sizes, that would have been a stock in trade for a dealer in Tunbridge ware; fancy clocks, fancy inkstands, fancy bookshelves, and ten thousand other fancies, which, when the novelty was worn off, were inhumed with their predecessors, that is, consigned to exile for life in a lumber-garret, to make way for some new ephemera of the day.



The colonel, much too indulgent, gave way to these follies; and it is probable that Mrs. Cranswick might have been gratified in having the sole management of her daughter's education, which, in a sentimental tone, she often asserted to be the supreme object of desire to her maternal feelings; and even might, perhaps, materially have interfered to the disadvantage of her son, but for a circumstance that opened a prospect of greater affluence to the colonel, and could not be deemed less than fortunate for his family.

When Horatio was about eleven years of age, and his sister near eight, their grandfather, who had latterly been subject to the gout, was attacked by that complaint in his stomach; and believing himself in danger, sent for his daughter  
and

and his son-in-law to come to him. On their arrival at Liverpool, they found him considerably relieved by the medicines which had been administered, and much pleased by their readiness to attend him. He took colonel Cranswick affectionately by the hand, and said to him—"I fear I have not been so kind to you as I ought; but the conduct of my worthless son made me mistrust every other person who might have expectations from me. I now know you to be a worthy fellow; and you have made my daughter a good husband. I shall not die this turn, for I feel my strength recruiting fast; however, I must be prepared for the next attack, which, at my time of life, I am every day liable to. Stay with me till I am able to travel; and I will go to Briar Lodge with you, and spend the summer

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there,



there, for I am weary of living alone; and you and my daughter shall not be losers by me: however, if I *should* drop off the perch before I can crow again, you will find I have not forgotten you."

His son-in-law told him that he most sincerely wished for his recovery; and if, as he hoped, he should be enabled to remove to Briar Lodge, would do every thing in his power to make his residence there agreeable to him—"At the same time, sir," said he, "permit me, without offence to you, to remind you, that your unfortunate son has a claim upon you, at least not inferior to that of my wife; you probably know his actual place of residence?"

"To be sure I do," interrupted the old man, very testily; "he and his fat wife, a cheesemonger's daughter, live, with

with their dirty brood, in the same black hole near Thames-street where they have been so long—were you afraid I should forget it?”

“I was indeed, sir,” replied the colonel, somewhat more honourably than prudently; “I have too honest a regard for you, to wish for your committing any act of injustice, however advantageous it may be to myself.”

“That is a good motive,” said Mr. Guineaman, “and I thank you: since you are disposed to befriend *my* son, I will take a correspondent care of yours; so good-night. Let me see you soon again in the morning.”

Colonel Cranswick left him, pleased with the reflection of having done his duty; but he forbore mentioning the circumstance to his wife; and, for two



days afterwards, the old gentleman apparently continued to recover. On the third morning, being alone with his daughter, their conversation happened to turn on the education of Horatio and Lotharea—"What does your husband intend to do with the lad?" said Mr. Guineaman.

"Educate him at home, no doubt," replied Mrs. Cranswick. "Cremorne, the clergyman at Dorien Court, who was sir William's tutor abroad, takes great pains with him, and brings him surprisingly forward; so, if he can be as well instructed under him, as if he ran the risk of gathering all the vices of school and college, and more cheaply too, it will be no wonder should his father not send him to either."

"It will be well if his father, with all his good meaning, does not make a booby of  
of

of him — I hate your chicken-coop educations : a lad who is intended to live in the world should be brought up in it. Cranswick was not made the man he is by living in a country village ; and though Cremorne has formerly seen a good deal of life, I dare say he is an old fool by this time. But what is to be done with the girl ?”

“ Oh, I shall, to a certainty, bring her up myself ; it would break the sweet little creature’s heart to be torn from me ; she has such a sensibility, such filial affection, as are astonishing.”

“ Astonishing truly !” cried the old man. “ I am afraid, Letty, you are no wiser than you should be : you have read plays and novels all your days, till you do not know what belongs to common life : you have no more judgment



than a Dutch pug ; and I foresee you'll destroy that poor child, if you keep her under your own management : she spouts verses already, like a crazy actress in a barn ; and you bother people with what you call her acquirements, till they wish both you and her in a horsepond. I shall never forget one day at Briar Lodge, when a party of fox-hunters dined with your husband, you sent that chit into the room, just as they were beginning their third bottle, to speak some *sweet lines*, as you called them, on a pretty fly that was drowned in a honey-pot ; nor that other day, when the dinner was kept back an hour, and the drawing-room carpet taken up, for little Miss to dance the fandango, before a company of sixteen persons. Burn the fly and the fandango ! I have hated all home-brewed accomplishments

plishments ever since ; they are good for nothing, but to make a girl fancy herself a prodigy : two or three score of school-mates would choak her conceit in the bud ; and I tell you, if you don't send your lass, and her brother also, to a couple of good schools, you'll ruin them both."

" I ruin them !" cried Mrs. Cranswick, crying with passion, and her face in a flame ; " this is an insult to my maternal feelings, sir, I could not put up with from any one but you, and it is one I have little deserved !—I, who am the tenderest of mothers, tremblingly alive to any peril that can threaten my children—I, who live but for them ! who am all over sensibility——"

" Confound your sensibility !" ex-

claimed old Guineaman, in a rage, “and silence your prate. Get out of the room! you have talked me to death. Send your husband to me—send all the men in the house; but not one woman. Burn me if I will see another woman again, till I am able to get upon my feet, and run away from her! Send your husband, I say! send the butler and the gout cordial; and, above all, don’t come back again yourself.”

Mrs. Cranswick, more indignant than alarmed, hastened to obey her father, who was found foaming with passion by the colonel. It was some time before, even by the most judicious management, he could be soothed into tolerable temper; and, even when calm, he refused to see his daughter, lest, as he said, she  
should



should again ruffle him by her idiotism; but his precaution availed him nothing—the mischief was already done.

Early that same evening, his disorder, with accumulated violence, again assaulted his stomach, and presently reached his vitals. Colonel Cranswick, having watched by him till midnight, and believing him then better, as he declared himself to be easier, laid down on a couch, in a corner of the sick-room, from whence he was suddenly roused at five o'clock the next morning, by the intelligence that his father-in-law was dying; and he had little more time than was necessary to reach his bedside before all was over.

He was so much shocked by the suddenness of this event, and by his know-

ledge of the circumstance that probably hastened it, that he had no inclination to take any part whatever in the business that ensued with the executors of the deceased, who were two respectable merchants in the town. They attended on the following day, and a search was made for the will, which at length, by the assistance of an old servant, who had often seen her master unaccountably busy in a little dark recess in his smoking parlour, was found under an old clock, which, though it had for many years been perfectly useless, he never would suffer to be removed. It had been written full three years; was duly signed and witnessed; and by it was left the whole of his property, consisting of his house and grounds, and ninety-three thousand

sand pounds, to his son Andrew Guineaman, excepting five thousand pounds, which were bequeathed to his daughter, Letitia Cranswick, as her marriage-portion,



## CHAP. V.

*An Upstart.*

COLONEL Cranswick, upon this trying occasion, might be truly said to *think like a sage, though he felt as a man*; he bore his disappointment with the equanimity of a philosopher, who, without despising riches, does not consider superfluity essential to happiness; though there is no doubt that he very seriously felt it, upon the account of his children.

In a letter which he wrote to sir William Doriën, relating these particulars, he said—"Had he but left my boy and  
girl

girl ten thousand pounds, and suffered us to employ the interest of those sums upon their education, until they became of age, I should, for my part, have been most amply satisfied; and my wife's brother, after living so long on a precarious income, probably never exceeding thirty pounds a-year, inheriting seventy thousand pounds, could have had no reasonable cause of complaint. I judge from the expressions Mr. Guinea-man made use of to me before his relapse, that it was his intention, had he lived, to have made another will, more favourable to his daughter, unless he had resented my presuming to give him my opinion respecting his son, which I am sometimes inclined to believe, on recollecting a certain sarcastic expression his features wore, when he told me that as I befriended

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ed *his* son, should take a correspondent care of mine. But however this may be, the wisest plan I can now pursue will be, to make myself contented with what he has thought proper to bequeath to us, and to bring up my children as well, and yet as economically as I can. I am determined I will not envy Andrew his good fortune, though the accounts I here receive of him, leave no hope of his bearing his prosperity with any moderation or propriety: Mr. Wilkinson, one of my late father-in-law's executors, saw him last year in London, and represents him as a most sordid, vulgar man, fond enough of his family, yet insolent in his way, whenever he dares to be so; and he was by no means civil to Mr. Wilkinson: his wife is described to me as a suitable mate to him, with no  
idea



SIR WILLIAM DORIEL

area beyond the precincts of Thames-street; and their family consists of two ungainly lads of fifteen and fourteen years old, and a girl near ten. There is nothing in all this that promises us much comfort in my wife's relations; however, without giving way to such unfavourable ideas, I shall do what I consider right, in staying here to pay 'squire Andrew the compliment of receiving and welcoming him to his own house. This, I am sorry to say, Mrs. Cranswick positively refuses to do, and is resolved to return home immediately, where, I hope, in a little time her judgment will take its turn, to triumph over her indignation, as her indignation, at present, triumphs over her judgment. I think of following her the very day after her brother arrives;

...R WILLIAM DORIEN.

"Yes; do not, therefore, expect to hear my opinion of him, until you see me."

About a week after the arrival of this letter, sir William, instead of having the pleasure of seeing his friend, received another from him, the contents of which cannot be better related than in his own words.

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" MY DEAR DORIEN,

" You will wonder at the length of my stay; and, as I am still likely to protract it for some days more, I will not keep you longer in suspense, as to the terms whereon I stand with my brother-in-law, who is, indeed, such a fellow, as cannot be expected to appear oftener than once in half a century. I had heard a  
good

good deal from Mr. Wilkinson concerning him, but nothing approaching to the truth; and, indeed, I know not any terms that could do justice to him. Despairing, therefore, of giving you an appropriate idea of him by any other means, I will treat you with the detail of his arrival here, and his subsequent conduct.

“ Not till ten days after the funeral was over, did Mr. Wilkinson receive an answer to the letter which apprized Andrew of his father's death. In a strange hand, and with most extraordinary spelling, the *young 'squire* informed him, that he, and all his *famully*, were then on the *rode*, and should be at *Liverpull* on the sixth day from the date of the letter; observing, that they proceeded very slowly on their *gurney*, as travelling fast in a *koh* was very ill-convenient to his *yf*; and



and they had even been delayed by losing an *orshu*, which lamed the *bist*. He concluded more intelligibly, by ordering Mr. Wilkinson, in terms you would scarcely use to your upper servants, to have the *beads* well *hared*.

“Wilkinson brought me this letter, to assist him in discovering its import—‘In the name of all the languages, living or dead,’ said he, ‘what can the fellow mean by his *kohs*, and his *yfs*, and his *orshus*? He might as well have asked me to explain the Chaldean alphabet.’ We were both forced to give up the attempt in despair; and the whole manuscript would probably for ever have continued an impenetrable mystery, but for my father-in-law’s old butler, who, having himself occasionally received letters from his master’s son, when he wished to inquire the  
state

state of his father's health, compassionately stepped in to our rescue. He explained to us, what, indeed, was in itself inexplicable, that 'squire Andrew, whenever he threw his thoughts upon paper, never suffered the sound of a single letter to lie idle. In spelling the word wife, therefore, he first pronounced the letter y individually, and then added an f, to enable it, as he fancied, to convey his meaning. In like manner, by indulgently granting to the concluding h, in his word koh, its full sound, he converted the nameless thing into a coach, as readily as Cinderella contrived hers out of a pumpkin. In comparison with these transformations, orshu was an easy change from horseshoe; and we were in possession of the whose sense of this surprising hieroglyphic.

"On

“On the day appointed, he arrived; and I am sure you will expect to hear of a very extraordinary procession. I went to the hall door with Mr. Wilkinson, to greet the travellers, and, raised as my imagination was, my surprise exceeded any I had ever felt before. Figure to yourself an old crane-necked coach, which they had bought of an hackney-man in London, and which the latter had probably deemed too shabby to be seen any longer upon the stand, with the old ducal coronet, and the arms of the duke of L—— still blazoned upon it, in a fashion exploded about twenty years ago. The horses that drew this vehicle appeared derived from the same source, being poor lame animals, of all colours and sizes, some with long, some with short, and some with switch tails; and three of them  
had



had bags of corn hanging at their mouths, in the true hackney style.

“ ‘Squire Andrew and his yf, and daughter, and his yf’s sister, and her husband, named Sugget, all *rode*, as they called it, withinside; but the two lads were perched upon the box, on either hand of a fat, red-faced coachman, who, instead of being in mourning, was actually decked out in a splendid new livery of a bright orange colour, Mrs. Guineaman’s choice, and a huge cocked hat, with gold lace, which contrasted strangely to a dirty head of lank black hair: nor was this all. Two footmen, equipped as gorgeously as their fellow-servants, clung behind the koh, having, it seems, been ordered to take their stations there about a mile from the house; and the second carriage, wherein they had travelled till then,

then, now made its appearance. Perhaps you will fancy this was an hackney-chaise; but you are mistaken; it was a cart, piled up, even to overflowing, with household furniture, bearing strong marks of the dark alley it had emerged from; and with two slovenly-looking women-servants sitting at the top, on an old bedstead that crowned the pile. I shall never forget the exhibition, as long as I have my senses, for surely such a set-out was never seen before.

"Mr. Gulneaman opened the door of the koh himself, his footmen seeming, indeed, rather new to the business; and did not, in any way, notice either Mr. Wilkinson or myself, until he had assisted his family out, which, owing to the broken condition of the iron step, was a service of some difficulty; and the party  
apparently

apparently, had a due sense of the blessings of safety and liberation from confinement, for the ladies began to shake their clothes, and *right* themselves, as soon as their feet touched the ground; and the gentlemen pulled off their wigs to rub their heads.

“I will spare you Mrs. Guineaman’s exclamations of—‘Vell! thanks to goodness, ve bees comed at last!’ and Mrs. Sugget’s expressions of wonder at the grandness of the house, and confine myself wholly to my brother-in-law, who, truly, well deserves to have the whole canvas to himself.

“He was dressed in an entire suit of pompadour, first, second, and thirds, all of a colour, with huge gilt basket-buttons, a broad gold-lace on the waistcoat, and a tremendous large frill, that obliged him



to hold his head up to the utmost power of the vertebræ ; shoes most highly polished, with white silk stockings, and a gold-headed cane in his hand ; his wig was what, I believe, they call a major ; however, it had two ties behind, one of which was continually peeping over his shoulder. In his person, he is stout, thick, and ungraceful ; but his countenance is not displeasing, though his complexion is very dark, and his features are vulgar.

‘ Well, master Wilkinson,’ said he, when he had restored his wig and cocked hat to their proper stations, ‘ I recollects you very well, and I bees glad to see you again : but who bees *that* gemman ? master Spencer, I supposes.’ (The other executor.)

“ Wilkinson replied, that Mr. Spencer

was

was from home on business; and then introducing me, I made my civil speech, and told him I had awaited his arrival, purposely to pay my respects to him, and congratulate him and his lady on their accession to their fortune—‘Well now, that’s honest! I likes that,’ said he. ‘We would’n’s a been so long, if we had knew as you had been waiting; though bag and baggage takes a deal of moving, master colonel; and Nan did not like to leave the best of her furniturry behind, the blue bed, and the press, and the chest of drawers.—And so, pray where is sister Letty?’

“I made the best apology in my power, by saying her little girl had been indisposed, which obliged her to hasten home.

‘Right, right,’ said he; ‘I approves of that; a woman can’t be good for nothing,

if she beesn't fond of her children. Here's three of mine, brother Ned—no offence, I hopes, for calling you Ned? for where bees the use of ceremony? Here's Dick,' his eldest, 'and here's little Jack; a funny dog you'll find him! and Babby—where's Babby?'

"The little girl now advanced, the queerest-looking figure I ever beheld, being dressed in what the women call a stiff brocaded silk child's coat; but well behaved; for she has lived, I understand, a good deal with a relation of her mother's, who is a respectable tradesman in Oxford-road. —

"Mr. and Mrs. Sugget were next made known to us—'We have lived together these eleven years,' said Andrew; 'and so, as they shared our poverty with us, I thought it was but fair, master  
Cranswick,



Cranswick, they should come in for snacks of our good fortune.'

"I was agreeably surprised at this observation; and Mr. Wilkinson praised him for the sentiment—'What, I warrant,' continued he, 'you thought I was a rough hand, and did not know how to do a friend a good turn, because I was not over civil to you when you came to see us in London, last year; but, do you see, I took it into my head you looked a bit scornfully down upon us, by reason of our poverty, and so I had a mind to be even with you; but that's over now: only this I says to any body, that I never was ashamed of my poverty, being it was no fault of mine. Excepting what little matter of goods we have bringed down with us, I sold all I had in the world, before I comed from London, for

fifty-seven pounds odd shillings; and I does not care a shoe-buckle who knows it: for our coach and horses, and fine gear, we was like to get them upon tick; and I makes no secret of that neither. The tailor-man told us our vallies ought to be hung with black; but Nan was for a bit of a dash, at first setting up gentle-folks trade, and so we'd chusen these bright oranges.'

"By this time we had proceeded into the house; and every object that presented itself was a source of new wonder to the two ladies and the young people; but Andrew himself seemed more intent on talking than any other pursuit; and is, indeed, one of the stoutest orators I ever met with. However, a peculiar strain of humour in general pervading his conversation, prevents his being very tedious.

tedious. He asked Wilkinson whether he could make out his letter ? observing, that there was a strange prejudice prevailed against his hand-writing, many people fancying they could not read it.

‘ I found no difficulty arising from your hand-writing,’ said Mr. Wilkinson ; ‘ but you have a mode of spelling, which, without assistance, I should have found unconquerable.’

‘ Aye,’ replied Guineaman, ‘ I have heard that remark made before ; but your letter-writers would have a hard time of it, if they were obliged to mind so many things at once.’

‘ Letters of business, at least,’ observed Wilkinson, ‘ should be intelligible, or great inconvenience may ensue : and now that it is likely you will have many such to write, would it not be advisable



always to have a dictionary upon your writing-desk ?’

‘ A dictionary !’ exclaimed this original ; ‘ of what use would be a dictionary to a man who does not know what letter any one word in the language begins with ? As to my writing, I have thought better of it, ever since a letter I directed to a friend at Rochester went to Newmarket ; for, I suppose, the people at the post-office was of opinion I wrote a running hand.’

“ We laughed, which seemed to please him much ; and he himself laughed as heartily as either of us. We next walked over the house and shrubbery, a perambulation that drew forth unrestrained expressions of delight ; and I think I never saw a group of persons so happy. On our return to the eating-room, we  
found

found the dinner ready ; and I took Mrs. Guineaman's hand to lead her to the head of the table ; but as soon as she was aware of my intention, she gave me no very gentle push, and bade me sit there myself, for she was not used to no carving, not she. Upon her pressing it, I complied ; and Mr. Wilkinson, by her husband's desire, took the lower end, that we might do the honours of the house for them both the first day. After helping the ladies, I asked my brother-in-law 'what *he* chose ?

'Aye, there now,' said he, 'is the difference between me and the late owner of this place ; he had lived well, and gotten the gout ; and with *him*, belike, it used to be, stomach, what can you eat ? now with me, it has always been, stomach, what can you get ? for, good faith,

many a time, and often, I have not had nothing to put into it ; so you may e'en help me to a bit of any thing, brother Ned, for all looks mighty nice.'

'Nice, indeed !' exclaimed Mrs. Guineaman, spreading a red pocket-handkerchief over her knee, and turning back her sleeves, which came down to her wrists, while, as the rest of them did, she sat at such a distance from the table, that her arms were at full stretch to reach her plate ; ' nice, I says, indeed ! Oh figgens ! what fish-saase this bees !' Indeed the whole party did ample honour to the entertainment ; and, as none of them appeared ill after it, I conclude they have admirable constitutions.

" The ladies, and the young ones, were too happy to sit still long after dinner. They soon left brother Andrew to  
Wilkinson



Wilkinson and me; and then a conversation took place, which will probably surprise you, as it did me, more than any thing I have yet related.

“ After some time spent in talking over, with Wilkinson, the affairs of his late father, my brother-in-law, turning to me abruptly, inquired whether I had not reason to expect a much larger bequest than had fallen to my share? I told him that, upon that subject, I could not justly complain of having ever been deceived by Mr. Guineaman, as he had acquainted me, even at the time of my addressing his daughter, that it was not his intention to leave her a shilling. This assertion he had roundly made in so many words; nor had he ever said any thing to me that amounted to a contradiction of it. I then repeated the words:

he had spoken on my attending his last summons; and Andrew listened to them with a very thoughtful countenance.

“When I was silent—‘So,’ said he, after a pause, ‘my father thought he had not been so kind to you as he ought? He was right enough there. And he told you he would befriend *your* son, as you tried to befriend his.—Why didn’t he then, by altering his will, and leaving you something more?’

‘His sudden relapse, it is possible,’ replied I, ‘prevented that.’

‘Then folks should not put off doing what is right till the last moment,’ observed Andrew, who increased Mr. Wilkinson’s wonder and mine, by every sentence he uttered. ‘I’ll tell you what, brother Ned,’ continued he, ‘in my opinion,

nion, father has used you shamefully, and very shamed I bees of him. As to his leaving me the bulk of his fortune, seeing as I was over young when I left him, to have angered him much, why its naturable enough, and nobody can blame him for that; but as Letty and you had two children, I says he oft not to have forgotten them. Howsoever, I beesn't obliged to forget 'em too; and so now I'll tell you a bit of a story, and then yousn have the upshot of it.

' We had comed a good piece of way upon our road, and was just lighting at the Rose-and-Crown at Coventry, when, at that very moment, up rode two gentlemen, and a thin sprig of a lad with them, on horseback; they had no servant; and were carrying their own coat-cases afore 'em. When they seed us, the oldest of 'em,



'em, who rode first and foremost, axed directly who our coach belonged to? as, truly, a many had done afore him; and they all stood by to see us get out. I heard the old one say to the other gemmen, 'This must be Ned Cranswick's wife's brother;' and they both looked hard at Nan and me: so I pulls off my hat, and says to them, 'It is dusty travelling, sirs;' whereupon we felled in to conversation; and the old gemman telling me he was a near kinsman of yours, I axed him and his friend, and his friend's son, the young youth, to eat a bit of supper with us. The old one just looked at t'other, and then said, 'Mr. Wanley and I, sir, will do ourselves that pleasure;' and they comed, and the young one and all; and very good company they was, and very funny; and we  
told

told stories; and got to be as thick as thick. Howsoever, after awhile, when Nan, and sister Sugget, and the children were gone to bed, we comed to be a bit graver; and the old gemman axed me if it was true, what he had heard, that my father had died, and left you and your wife no more than five thousand pounds? I said to him, says I, 'I fears it is.' 'You fears!' says he; 'why what do you mean by that?—Han't you gotten all the fortune yourself, barring that five thousand pounds?' 'Yes, to be sure,' says I; 'but that's no reason but that father ~~should~~ ha' been kinder to Letty and her spouse, who, they says, makes her a very good husband; and they have a fine lad, and a daater besides.' 'And you think your father oft to have done more for them?' says he. 'No question of that,' says I, 'seeing

‘seeing he had such great plenty, and I have been used to live just upon nought, as I may say.’ But what has slipped his memory must stick in mine; and so I shall settle something handsome upon brother Ned’s son, as soon as I gets my affairs smooth; and then he will have most of his own fortune for his daater, or any other children he may have yet in time to come.’ ‘And what does you call something handsome?’ axed the old gentleman. I telled him directly; whereat he clapped his hands together, and cried out tally-ho! three times so loud, he made my brains rattle. When that was over, he comed up and shook hands with me awhile, I thought we should never ha’ parted no more. ‘D—me!’ says he, ‘I couldn’t ha’ fancied there had been so much blood in a cockney: but thou’rt the



the honestest spul, by Jove, that ever turned out of Thames-street. But look you, my hearty,' says he, 'I have a deal of brass, as well as you; and I am near-akin to Ned Cranswick; and, though he was never one of my sort, yet, they tell me, his son is a devilish sharp clever lad; so leave *him* to me, and do you for the daanter what you intended doing for him. I'll take care of young Ben myself; and Ned shall hear from me very soon. I'm a bachelor, God be praised! and have no children of my own. Now,' says he, 'we'll be upon honour; you are not to meddle with the boy; and I sees you've the spirit to act handsomely by the girl.' I telled him he was right, and he shouldn't be deceived in me; and so soon after we parted with t'other hearty shake; and next morning they went on to Bibury, where

where your kinsman had a horse to run, and that Mr. Wanley was to be gemman-rider for him; and the young sprig to look on, and be a learner; for they had comed from Newmarket, and a many other races in those parts; and I have never heard no more of them since. But I supposes, brother, as you'll soon be hearing from your relation, according as he telled me. In the meantime, without more ado, its fitting you should know I will be at all the expence of giving your daater the best bringing up that London can afford; and she shall go, if you and Letty be willing, to one of the top houses for young Misses there, in some of the fine squares, along with our Babby; and when she comes to be five-and-twenty, she shall have twenty thousand pounds to her fortune from me; and,

and, as soon as ever I gets to turn myself about here, I'll give you my bond for it, which, in any case, is preferabler to talking smoke.'

"I leave you, my dear sir William, to judge of my feelings during this most unexpected harangue. After hearing Andrew Guineaman represented as an insolent, unfeeling, low-minded man, how agreeable, and how extreme was my astonishment, to find him thus endowed with every opposite quality, and possessing, if not the outward manners, all the spirit and liberality of a gentleman! To convince me more of this, he would scarcely allow me time to express my gratitude to him, before he desired we might break up from table, and join his wife and Mr. and Mrs. Sugget, who had



had both gone out to walk over the grounds with her.

“ His subsequent conduct has been strictly conformable to this beginning—uniformly kind, open-hearted, and friendly; and as he wished me to stay here a week or ten days longer, I had neither the power nor the inclination to refuse him.

“ The other amiable oddity he encountered at Coventry, you perceive can be no other than my great-uncle, of sporting fame, who lives near Malton in the East Riding, and divides his time so very impartially amongst the training stables in that high-bred vicinity. Since he never could conquer the prejudice he so strangely imbibed against me, I am happy in the hope that, at least, he does not mean to include Horatio in it.

“ This

"This is an unmerciful letter; but I knew the contents would please you, and, luckily, a private hand offers to convey it to you. With best regards to lady Dorien, and my fair little flame, Edella, believe me, dear sir William,

"Ever faithfully yours,

"E. CRANSWICK."

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While the family at Dorien Court rejoiced at the communications this letter afforded, and at the bright views now opening for the colonel's children, the wrath of Mrs. Cranswick still continued unappeased. It was painful to hear her on the subject of her late father, and on no other would she converse, until his successor supplied her with a fresh and sublimer topic of complaint, in his design

sign of robbing her of her sweet creature, her lovely Lotharea, as she generally called her little girl in her own hearing, till the child actually fancied herself the most enchanting being ever created, and already gave herself all the airs of a professed beauty in miniature. This was diverting enough to casual acquaintances; and Mrs. Cranswick's occasional visitors, while they affected to condole, instead of congratulating her on the prospect that presented for Lotharea, laughed at the folly of the mother, and the apish little manners of the daughter.

But sir William and lady Dorlen, who had too much value for the colonel to be amused with either, were doubly glad that Andrew Guineaman's well-timed kindness, while it made his brother-in-law



law perfectly easy, on the score of expence for his children, would rescue his niece from the certainty of being spoiled.

The colonel declared himself, on his return home, so engaged by his word of honour to suffer his girl to be placed at a London seminary with her cousin, that, fortunately for him, there was no room for contention. Mrs. Cranswick did not attempt to avert what she, from the first, considered inevitable; and, on her brother's making her a visit, which, to use his own expression, he did as soon as he had gotten his affairs a bit smoothed, it was settled that at the ensuing Christmas, sir William and lady Dorien, who had business which called them to town, should take up the two little girls, and leave them with Mrs. S. in ——street.

Edella Dorien had no need of such foreign

reign resources. Under the tutelage of her admirable instructress, and favoured to the utmost by the advantages of a very quick understanding, accompanied by a thoughtfulness quick persons do not always possess, and the sweetest temper in the world, she grew more amiable and more beloved every day. All felt the influence of her attractions, Mrs. Cranswick alone excepted, who might sometimes be obliged to make mortifying comparisons. But the deficiency of sensibility in the mother was amply compensated for by an abundance of it in the son; for Horatio, at a very early age, distinguished Edella as his peculiar favourite in all their juvenile sports. This growing partiality was not unobserved by the parents of either, three of whom earnestly wished it might in future lead  
to

to a closer connexion between the families. Such an idea, however, was never expressed before the young people, until Horatio was of an age to feel his affection permanent, and to make it known to his father.



## CHAP. VI.

*'Squire Handicap.*

On the skirts of the little borough-town of Malton, pleasantly situated upon the banks of the Derwent, but distinguished neither by the activity of its trade, nor the goodness of its society, stood a small mansion-house, with about a rood of garden-ground in front, and fifteen acres of land behind it, wholly occupied by stabling, paddocks for brood mares, kennels, court-yards, and a riding-house. All these were constantly preserved in such nice order, that no weed was there-  
in

in ever suffered to rear its inglorious head; nor did the labours of Arachne ever disgrace the interior of those buildings. The dwelling-house was less particularly attended to, insomuch that cleanliness seemed to be the advantage exclusively allowed to the brutes of the family.

The human part of the establishment consisted of an old bachelor, the master of the domain, an old housekeeper, and two servant-maids, an old butler, with a boy under him, eight grooms, a huntsman, a whipper-in, and a dog-feeder.

Regularity had for many years fixed her abode in this mansion. At eight o'clock, winter and summer, the breakfast-bell summoned all these persons of various descriptions to assemble, excepting on a hunting-morning, when the distance of the covert to be tried arbitrated the



order of the day. No such pursuit operating to change the settled rules of the family, the old gentleman, and sometimes a friend with him, was constantly seen sitting down to the oak dining-table in the hall, as the large clock on the staircase struck two; and at nine, at all times, invariably, he, two favourite hounds, and a springer, that slept in his room, went to bed. A little parlour, his only withdrawing-room, was decorated with the well-painted portraits of Hambletonian, Quiz, Mutton-chop, Lamb's-fry, Cockspinner, and Kitty Tick, on the racers' side; and Spankaway, Olympus, and Cyolops, on that of the hunters'; while the smaller compartments of the room were occupied by Fly, Matchem, Snowball, Old Granby, Forester, and Restless. Over the chimney-piece was a large



large landscape, presenting a view of the Yorkshire Wolds, bounded only by the distant hills of Hambleton, the foreground crowded with sportsmen, in eager pursuit of a pack of fox-hounds, that seemed flying down the steeps after their prey; and where any part of the brown oak wainscot was uncovered by these pictures, the space was filled by single and double-barrels of every size and description, by powder-flasks, shot-belts, hunting-caps, dog-whips, and foxes brushes, the noses and ears belonging to which were plentifully distributed over the doors of the kennels, while those of the stables were ornamented by the thin plates of the victorious running horses.

For thirty-four years, the plains of Newmarket, York, Doncaster, and most other towns in the north of England, had

recorded the conquests achieved by the heroes bred in 'squire Handicap's paddocks; and for nearly the same length of time, had he pursued this regular life, save only when he ordered his best hack to be stoutly shod for travelling, and a couple of shirts and cravats to be rolled up in his coat-case, as a change of raiment at some distant races. When young, he was himself a noted rider; and his head had been as often crowned with laurels, as that of any man, gentleman-born, in England. Then a shirt in one pocket, and a pair of thin racing-boots in the other, formed the whole of his paraphernalia *de voyage*; but now he was obliged to ask others to ride for him; and sometimes submitted to have his clothes conveyed by a groom, though no consideration could ever induce him to suffer



suffer that groom to ride after him; and a valet he would as readily have employed as a sedan chair.

His favourite rider, for some years past, had been Mr. Wanley, the gentleman in whose society Andrew Guineaman had met with him at Coventry; and the many liberal presents he made him, in return for riding his horses, enabled Mr. Wanley to make a tolerable figure, on a very narrow income. He had but one son, the youth whom Andrew had seen; and the efforts of his father, and 'squire Handicap, were uniting to make a good sportsman and a jockey of him; but hitherto they had not been encouraged to proceed, by any symptoms of improvement in either line. Charles Wanley preferred Horace to Beckford, and a rare print of Charles the First to the portrait



of Kitty Tick, which vexed his father, and enraged the old 'squire, who boasted that he had not, for the last fifteen years of his life, looked into any book but the racing calendar.

When colonel Cranswick, his nephew's son, was a boy, being a fine, high-spirited lad, he had conceived great hopes of making him a fellow after his own heart, and was so fond of him, that he generally had him at Hunters' Hall during the holidays, while the youth was at Heath school; but a slight incident weakened his affection for Edward; and a second, equally unimportant, some years after, destroyed it.

During a midsummer vacation, while Ned Cranswick was walking over the paddocks with his great-uncle, and hearing him very learnedly discuss the merits  
of

of the foals and the yearlings, a theme he was by no means averse to, the 'squire, most unfortunately bolting from his subject, chanced to inquire what his nephew was then learning at school?

"I began trigonometry, uncle, about five weeks ago."

"Trigonometry, child! what is that?"

"Why, sir, I cannot quite easily explain it; but it is a very useful thing; it is of great help in measuring distances, and the size of objects: for instance now, just where we stand, we can see the top of the tower of old Malton church; if I was to walk a little way up yonder rising ground, so as to see the bottom of it also, then, by means of trigonometry, I could tell you exactly how high it was, without going near it to measure, which,



you know, uncle, is very clever and very useful."

'Squire Handicap continued looking at Ned very intently, for some seconds after he had done explaining the nature and advantages of trigonometry, without speaking; till, at length, contracting his forehead to a most severe and contemptuous frown—"And so," said he, "thou art learning trigonometry; and thou wouldst make me believe all this fustian? I'll tell thee what, lad, thou hast learned to lie! Dost think, because I am no great man for study myself, that I am to be hummed after this fashion?—why my Dick, the dog-feeder, would have scorned to have palmed such a bouncer upon one of his fellow-servants; and thou deservest to be rated like a pert puppy

for



for thy pains. Measure tops and bottoms of churches at two miles distance quotha! a likely story truly!—for shame of thyself, thou young vagabond!”

“ Indeed, uncle,” cried Ned, very warmly, for he felt extremely indignant at having his veracity called in question, “ indeed, uncle, it is no story; it is as true as that we are standing here.”

“ Why *that's* true enough,” said the squire; “ but thou canst not maintain such a lie surely!—Measure a church, I say, two miles off!”

“ Aye, or *ten* miles off, if I could but see the whole of it!” exclaimed Ned, with still more heat.

“ Get out of my sight, thou little rascal!” cried his great-uncle in a rage—  
“ Thy holidays are over to-morrow; and, by the vengeance, thou shalt never come

here again till thou hast learned to speak truth!"

All contention, and even all concession, was vain. No person better instructed in geometry than the 'squire was at hand to convince him of his injustice, and to intercede for poor Ned, who left Hunters' Hall the next day in deep disgrace, and was never invited there any more; though, after he had left school, and was at his father's house, immediately previous to his entering into the service, 'squire Handicap, who happened to be there for a few days, in his way to join the Leicestershire hunt, seemed disposed to treat him with something like his former kindness, and probably would have restored him to the full possession of his favour, had the weather continued frosty; but a thaw taking



taking place, the 'squire and his nephew determined upon hunting the next day, and the former desired that young Ned might be of the party. Though the elder Cranswick knew his son was not fond of the diversion, he wished him to sacrifice his inclination, rather than refuse the capricious old man; and Ned faithfully promised he would be ready by six o'clock in the morning, as they had eighteen miles to ride to covert. However, when that hour arrived, there was no appearance of Ned, nor had any of the servants seen him out of his room. Extremely impatient to be gone, though it rained, and blew a storm, 'squire Handicap, after a hearty oath against the finical lads of modern growth, sent up his servant to see what his great-nephew was doing;



doing, and to hasten him down, if he was not ready.

On the man's return—"Well," cried he, "is he coming?"

"Yes, sir," replied the servant; "he will soon be down now."

"Soon! why is not he dressed yet?"

"Yes, he is dressed, sir—he was quite dressed, sir, when I went up."

"What the plague detained him then?—what was he about?"

"Sir," replied the man, hesitating as he spoke; "young master's hunting-cap had been hung up a long time in the damp back passage, and so——"

"And so, what then? What a vengeance signifies where it hung? Go on, I say!"

"Why, sir, young master was just holding  
ing

ing it over the candle, in his bed-room, to air it a-bit ; and he says he'll be down directly."

Squire Handicap, who had just mounted his horse at the door, upon hearing these words, suffered the reins to drop from his grasp, and, holding up both hands, exclaimed—"The Lord above be good unto me ! what will this world come to !—Airing his hunting-cap over the candle ! Nephew, I'll spare the lad for your sake, as you are his father ; but confound me if I should not be ashamed of him, were he my son ! Let us begone without waiting any longer for him, since this is his trim ; for the fellow must be a fool, past all saving, and the devil himself could make nothing of him." So saying, he struck his back into a long trot ;

trot; and was followed by his nephew, who, with difficulty, suppressed his inclination to laugh; while the unlucky culprit above stairs, with infinite satisfaction, listened from his chamber-window to the retreating sound of the horses' feet, and thankfully went to bed again, wholly unconscious that he had now, and for ever, forfeited all chance of regaining his great-uncle's good opinion. The squire treated him with silent contempt during the short remainder of his visit; not appearing, and in fact, not thinking a character so insensible to the glories of the field worth any attention; and the young gentleman soon after going into the army, and being sent abroad, all acquaintance, and even communication, between them entirely ceased, un-

til



til a few weeks after the meeting at Coventry, which was recorded by Andrew Guineaman.

Colonel Cranswick was one day at Dorian Court, when a packet of letters was forwarded to him from his own house, amongst which was the following.

---

*" Hunters' Hall, August 16.*

" NEPHEW NED,

" WHEN you see my name at the bottom of this letter, I look upon it you will be a good deal surprised; and well you may, for I don't know the time when I last set pen to paper, my trainer doing all those crabbed jobs for me. However, that's neither here nor there; and fewest words are best; so we'll start now for the subject; and when we reach  
the

the point, a winning-post I hope you'll think it for your boy. I bear him no malice ; indeed how should I, for I never saw him, and hear he is a lad of mettle. For the matter of that, I bear you no malice neither ; for though you was such a slinker at the time I knew you, I have been told you made a brave soldier ; and that is next best to being a good sportsman ; so when Ben Horace comes, I'll try and make a man of him. If I find his heart lies in the right spot, he shall go to the first October meeting with me ; and, though I do not like promising so long afore-hand, he shall be all the better for my winnings when I die ; and, may be, fall in for a lot of young things, that would not disgrace the best trainers hands in England. Though I shall be glad to find him a *genius genuine*, I hope he is not over-much.



ever-much given to study; I know nothing its good for, but to make lads conceited, and fancy themselves wiser than their elders. For my part, I always hated it; and yet I have run over the course of my long life; and I am now within a few lengths of fourscore, with as few checks in my gallop as most. I never remember having a batch of reading but once, since I was at school; and if I had been ever so much addicted to it before, by the Lord it would have cured me.

“ I'll tell you how it was,—I had put out my shoulder at a fence, in that deep country about Leppington Wood; and it was so badly managed by the farrier, for deuce a doctor would I suffer to touch me, that I did not get farther than the  
kennel-door.



kennel-door for eleven weeks; so not knowing what to do with myself, I grew very low-spirited; and my neighbour Copswood coming to see me, said a little reading would help me to get my time over, and he would lend me a book he thought would entertain me, to begin with: you, may be, have heard on't; 'twas the History of England—I'm sure I shall never forget the name; it had well nigh been the death of *me*: so he sent me the first volume, and told me I might have the second when that was finished; but if I had gone on, it would have been I, not the book, that would have been finished. Copswood called a fortnight after, and was mainly pleased when he found me at it. I had just started on the life of king John.—'Aye,' says he, 'that's right.

right—stick to it, and you will never perceive how time goes.’ To be sure I *did* stick to it—I never stuck faster in a bog.

“A month after he called again; and there was I, very dowly, sitting with my book in my hand; I had as leave have held a toad in it. ‘What the plague,’ cries Copsewood, ‘are you at the life of king John still?—have you gotten no further?’

‘Further!’ says I, in a passion; ‘fore Heaven its the d—dest long life that ever was lived; and there is only one way of putting an end to it.’ So I fairly threw king John out of the window.

“I have told you this long story for the sake of Ben Horace; it may be a good lesson to him. Where’s the use of perseverance in a foolish cause? ’twas  
the

the death of my poor little brother Bob, who found a rabbit-burrow full of young when he had a bad cold in his head ; and, having no ferrets, could not get them out ; so as you, who are a military man, might say, he sat down before the place, and continued his blockade early and late, in all weathers, till the poor lad's cold fell upon his lungs ; and he might almost be said to die upon the spot.

“ Now if your boy is a little wild and mischievous, I shan't think the worse of him, not I—Cadish colts often turn out the best horses ; and when I have felt his mouth a little, I shall know what bridle suits him, and whether he is likely to go best in a curb or a snaffle : if I like him, as I dare say I shall, I'll pay him a handsome compliment, next spring. I have  
a very



a very fine sir Peter filly, rising three, that is in the stakes next Malton Craven meeting, and she shall run over Langton Wold by the name of Horatia Benjamina. Besides, I'll teach him to know a little what he's about, against he comes to buy horses upon his own judgment; for I expect to find him sadly ignorant of those matters, having only lived with you, and the old clergyman, his tutor; though, to be sure, if he is a sharp lad, he may have picked up some knowledge in sir William Dorian's hunting-stable. What makes me most afraid for him, is his mother's being a Lancashire woman, by reason of which he cannot be looked upon as a thorough-bred; and your half-bred ones are commonly jades. However, trust me for putting a little speed into him: and so I'll now conclude, with  
my

my hearty good wishes to all your family,

“ Your affectionate uncle,

“ HARRY HANDICAP.

“ P. S. I was very near sealing my letter without recollecting the main purpose I wrote it for, which was, to say that I wish you to send your lad to spend a little time with me, that I may get acquainted with his paces: if you could spare him next week, I should take it kind of you to let him come and meet me at York races; and he shall ride home with me; and after I have tried his speed and bottom, you shall have him back again; and I will open more of my mind to you.”

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“ My uncle is not changed,” said colonel



lonel Cranswick, after he had read this letter aloud to his friends at Dôrien Court.

“Excepting,” said sir William, “in that point where it was most desirable he should change, namely, his neglect of your family, in consequence of your unlucky offences against him in your youth. So I heartily congratulate you on his having at length recollected that you are his kinsman, or rather on his being ashamed that honest Guineaman, with three children of his own, should do more than a rich old bachelor, who has no nearer relation than yourself.”

“You are mistaken there,” observed the colonel. “My noble kinsman, lord Vesprin, claims a closer degree of affinity with him than I do; he is my great-uncle’s own nephew; his mother, the



late lady Vesprin but one, and my grandmother, being both of them sisters to this thorough-bred son of the turf."

"Well, well," replied sir William; "but lord Vesprin wants nothing of him, nor his son either: and besides, as they reside constantly abroad, they are not likely to stand in Horatio's way. I conclude you will, of course, let him accept this curious invitation?"

"Truly," answered Cranswick, "I am half afraid the poor fellow will be transformed into a colt, and we shall see him come back trotting and whinnying, like Gulliver on his return from the Houyhnhnms. However, he must take his chance: Cremorne has pretty well grounded him; and I hope he has a sufficient store of better ideas, to prevent a total monopoly of stable-born notions,  
and

and all danger of the jockey-fever, which is becoming so alarmingly prevalent amongst our young Yorkshire 'squires."

Colonel Cranswick immediately returned an answer to his uncle, containing suitable expressions of acknowledgment for his favourable intentions towards his son; and promising to bring him to York at the time appointed.

The meeting there, between these two kinsmen, so long estranged from each other, was productive of much satisfaction to both. Old Handicap's eyes filled with tears as he shook the colonel's hand; and when he laid his own on Floratio's head, and said—"Bless thee, lad!" they overflowed. He was in high spirits during the race-week, the whole of which colonel Cranswick was easily prevailed upon to spend with him; and when, at-



tended by his young *protégée*, he prepared to set out on his return to Hunters' Hall, he said his nephew's society had given him more delight than winning the gold cup could have done: and he just then recollected what had never occurred to him before, that he might prolong his pleasure, by inviting the colonel, as well as his son, to accompany him home.

The proposal was instantly made, and as readily accepted; nor did the colonel wish to leave Hunters' Hall till the latter end of September, when he persuaded 'squire Handicap to return with him to Doncaster races; after which, he spent some time at Briar Lodge; and, notwithstanding his great age, occasionally hunted with sir William Dorian. Horatio, by his particular desire, was always at his side;



side; and so fond he became of this youth, that he insisted on being at the whole charge of his education, stipulating only that he should not be sent to either of the universities, places which, he said, were only fit for fellows of colleges.

This eccentric old gentleman, however, proved not long an hindrance to the improvement of his young favourite. He lived only four years after his reconciliation with his nephew, and then, by his will, constituted Horatio his sole heir, and to enter into possession of his landed estate, and all his other property, at the age of twenty-three, with this singular sentence subjoined:—"Provided the same Horatio Benjamin Cranswick shall then be fully capable of managing the said estate and property; but if he be incapable, then the whole shall devolve

to my nephew, the right honourable Frederick viscount Vesprin, and his heirs for ever."

As one instance, amongst many others, of the oddity of the testator's character, this whimsical clause was laughed at without exciting much wonder, and was presently forgotten; while colonel Cranswick was intent only on making up for the loss of time his uncle's prejudices had occasioned. Horatio was sent to Oxford at an earlier age than usual, where he joined his two most intimate friends, Henry and Dawnay Dorian; and while they staid, pursued his studies with them; and afterwards continued them to such good purpose, that at the close of two years and a half, his father and his earliest tutor felt no little pride at finding him one of the best-accomplished youths  
of



of his age: he had kept pace with Henry Dorian in his acquirements, though the latter was his senior by three years; and so great was the attachment between these two young friends, that, though Henry had his father's permission to visit such parts of the continent as an Englishman might safely be found in, during a war with France, immediately on his leaving college, he requested to wait a year at home, that he might be accompanied abroad by Horatio.

Dawnay had no wish to join their party; his taste led him wholly to rural pursuits; and, provided his mother did not insist on his making one in her circle, when the drawing-room at Dorian Court was filled with the neighbouring families, which, though not very frequently, did, of course, sometimes happen; and so



long as his father suffered him to spend a good deal of time in superintending the farm that he retained in his own hands, Dawnay had no wish to see more of the world, or to partake of any other amusement.

Edella, blooming as Hebe, and the delight of her whole family, was happy in the society of her parents and brothers, and still more so when her early friend, Lotharea Cranswick, her education being completed, returned from London.

But just after Horatio left Oxford, and Henry Dorian and himself, with my eldest nephew, who was to attend them, were appointing their route to Vienna, a fatal circumstance deferred their departure, and destroyed all this felicity.

## CHAP. VII.

*Affliction cheered by Hope.*

SIR William and his eldest son had one day been dining at the house of a gentleman in the neighbourhood, and Edella was on a visit at Briar Lodge. Lady Dorian, alone in the evening, but expecting her husband home, walked out to meet him on his return: she had proceeded about half way, and wondered she had not already seen him, when a sudden and heavy shower compelled her to seek shelter in a cottage by the road side. The



inhabitants were not unknown to her; and the woman of the house welcomed her in with much civility, and begged she would stay till the rain abated. Lady Dorlen told her she would readily accept the offer, provided her being there proved no hindrance to domestic affairs; upon which the cottager returned to finish her work in an inner kitchen; and Lady Dorlen, warm from having walked faster than usual, to reach shelter, threw off her bonnet, and watched the weather through a little casement opposite to her. After having sat there some time undisturbed, she was startled by a deep groan, proceeding from some person behind her. Turning hastily round, she perceived a bed in the corner of the room, the curtains of which were closed  
on



on the side next to her—"Have you any body ill here?" said she, rising, and stepping to the inner door.

"Aye, madam, ill enough," answered the woman, shaking her head. "I'se flaid there's no mends for our poor Robin; he's keppeu his bed these many days of a fever; and doctor says we mun not expect him to live long now: he've been a good son to me, your ladyship; and I'se have a sair loss of him."

Lady Dorien, making some further inquiries, was a little shocked to understand that the young man was labouring through the last stage of a putrid fever. Promising, therefore, to send her own apothecary without delay, to examine whether there was any chance of saving his life, she hastened from the house, principally anxious to change her clothes

before she saw any of her own family, lest infection should be conveyed in them: upon this account, regardless of the rain, she walked home very fast, and thereby probably encouraged the seeds of the fatal disease she had imbibed.

When sir William and Henry, who had been delayed by the weather, returned, they found her dressed, and composedly waiting for them; nor did she take notice to them of what had happened; but on the evening of the ensuing day, finding herself much indisposed, and suspecting to what cause her sensations might be attributed, she communicated her apprehensions to the apothecary, who had already given his opinion that the poor cottager could not possibly live; and took every precaution which his judgment, and that of a physician, whom



whom he consulted, could suggest: but human art proved fruitless to preserve the life of this amiable woman, whose existence to her husband and her children was above all value; she had strongly caught the infection of the disease, and was attacked by it in the most violent degree; yet, through the extreme care of her medical attendants, it did not seize any other member of the family; though, much against her own wish, sir William, her two afflicted sons, and the weeping Edella, saw her constantly. While she retained her senses, her conversation, as it had always been, was composed, resigned, and cheerful; but the fatal fever producing delirium, she was insensible of her own state, during the concluding four days of her life.

The last subject on which she had conversed,



versed, was the future happiness of her young family, and her hope that Edella might become the wife of Horatio Cranswick—"You, sir William," said she, "know his worth as well as I do; and, I am sure, will promote his wishes, if they are favoured by Edella herself. In Henry, I think I have perceived a rising attachment to Lotharea; she seems amiable and well-disposed; should a further knowledge of her character prove her otherwise, I have no fears for the consequence: Henry is incapable of loving one who is unworthy of his own choice, and his father's approbation."

This is too painful a subject for me to dwell upon; nor need I describe the profound sorrow that loaded every heart at Dorien Court when its lamented lady breathed her last. Colonel Cranswick,  
and

and his son and daughter, most deeply sympathized in it, while Mrs. Cranswick talked sentiment, which all knew to be unaccompanied by any feeling, and to which no one listened. Of my own grief I shall only say, that I was compelled to apply to a neighbouring clergyman, to read that funeral service I was incapable of performing myself.

Sir William perceiving his children overwhelmed with sorrow, exerted himself to support his own affliction, with apparent composure, till Time had, in effect, softened it into that tender melancholy, which a rightly-disposed mind hardly wishes to overcome. The intercourse between the two families, so long attached to each other, became, if possible, more frequent than ever; and even Mrs. Cranswick, who was much gratified

by the young Edella occasionally consulting her upon domestic affairs, now that she was become the mistress of her father's house, seemed pleased to have all the young people together at Briar Lodge, one of the number of whom at that time was Miss Barbara Guineaman, the young lady who had been sent to London with Lotharea.

Young Cranswick had, by his friend Henry, been apprized of lady Dorien's last words relating to himself; and the gratitude and respect he shewed for her memory, aiding the effect of his very amiable qualities, gradually endeared him to Edella. Sir William and the colonel needed no conversation to bring them to an understanding, on a subject upon which each had so long been acquainted with the wishes of the other; and Horatio was unequivocally



unequivocally allowed to hope, that when he returned to England to take possession of the fortune left him, he might aspire to the hand of his fair young mistress, who, fully authorized by her father, made no scruple to assure him, that so long as he continued deserving of her preference, it should not be bestowed on any other.

Nor did Henry Dorian conceal from sir William or the colonel, that his lamented mother's conjectures, respecting the state of his own affections, were founded in reality. Lotharea was indeed a very captivating girl; extremely gentle, mild and diffident, she retained not a trace of the little vanity and affectation her mother had instilled into her infant mind; and, though possessed of more beauty

beauty than Miss Dorlen, a circumstance that too often gives to young women a false sense of superiority, she, justly appreciating her own judgment, rarely failed to look towards the other for advice. She had a pliability of character that strongly contrasted to the steadiness of her friend; and what should have been an advantage to her was, unluckily, the reverse—namely, a very great affection for her mother, which induced a confidence in her opinions, that certainly no other person felt. This attachment was very amiable, and it was grateful, because Mrs. Cranswick perfectly doated on her daughter, while she seldom seemed more than indifferent towards her son; but it led poor Lotharea into error, as often as its effects were not counteracted by



by better advice; and eventually occasioned all the unhappiness she ever knew.

Mrs. Cranswick, however, did not at that time appear averse to the project of an union between Lotharea and Henry Dorian; and it was even pretty visible that she would have had no objection to another link being added, to strengthen the connexion. Her niece, Miss Barbara Guineaman, had not been long on her visit at Briar Lodge, before she took it into her head to conceive, what the French style *un grand sentiment*, or, in plain English, a fine romantic passion for Dawnay Dorian; and the girl's own folly, assisted by that of her aunt, worked up this absurd idea to such a height, that she fancied herself pining away with concealed love, while her short, plump figure,



figure, and broad red cheeks, exhibited her mistake in the most laughable colours.

Though the late melancholy occurrence had prevented the young mens' visit to the continent at the time it was first intended to have taken place, sir William wished them to defer it only for a short period. Towards the close of summer, he became anxious for their departure, being, as well as the colonel, desirous that they should have the advantage of spending the winter at Vienna, and with the inferior sovereigns of the empire. Colonel Cranswick's kinsman, lord Vesprin, was at that time with his son at the court of the emperor, and, by frequent letters, expressed his impatience to welcome the young travellers, and render them every service, which his  
long

long residence in that country enabled him to offer.

The period, therefore, for their taking leave of England, was once more fixed; and, in compliment to sir William Dorian and his friend, who were both extremely popular, the families in the neighbourhood determined on giving a ball at Doncaster, the evening before Henry and Horatio were to set out. Miss Dorian and Lotharea made their first public appearance on this occasion; and, by the admiration they excited, created some regret in the hearts of their lovers, who were so soon to leave them. Horatio readily confessed what he felt; and owned his fears, lest the suppliants, by whom he foresaw Edella would be surrounded, should erase him from her memory.

“ Fear not,” said she. “ My father  
has

has no thoughts of passing his winters in London; and as I shall seldom go to country meetings, either at races or assizes, my celebrity is not likely to extend beyond the precincts of Dorien Court."

"I think nothing can be *more* likely," replied Horatio. "It is my opinion you have already slain some this evening."

"You cannot, however, apprehend that the *slain* should spread it," returned she: "dead men, you know, tell no tales; and if my aspect is so mortal, I must needs stay at home, for fear of depopulating the country; or, when I do venture forth, be careful always to have Lotheraea with me, that, dazzled by *her* beauty, the gazers may have no eyes for mine."

"There are some here, who seem to  
have



have eyes for you both," said Horatio. "Look at sir Edward Falconer, his head turning from one to the other, like a fan in a fluctuating wind. If either you or my sister were a wicked girl, he might stand for a figure of Hercules, about to make his choice."

"I am more amused by a neighbour of his," said Edella, "a simple-looking youth in a blue coat; he has not only opened his eyes as wide as possible to stare at Lotharea, but his mouth also."

"That is young Whincover," replied Horatio: "let him open his mouth in peace; nothing will come out of it; he has not an idea in his head beyond the comprehension of an earth-stopper. There is a mighty pretty sprig in mourning just behind him, who shoots all his glances

glances at you, and seems, I think, a stranger—do you know *him*?”

“By name only; for if you will promise not to be very deeply alarmed, I will own I thought him so uncommonly good-looking, that I asked my father just now who he was; and found him to be one whom we have all heard of before; he is a Mr. Wanley, son to that gentleman who used to ride for your venerable relation, Mr. Handicap; his father, it seems, is just dead; and he now lives with an uncle in the county of Durham.”

“I wish he would stay here,” said Horatio; “I don’t half like his good looks, as you call them.—Upon my life, he is coming up with the master of the ceremonies to ask you to dance; how unlucky I cannot be your partner the next

two

two dances—what shall I do with myself?”

“Go and ask your poor cousin,” replied Edella, laughing; “she has been sitting still all the evening; and as she is your sister’s visitor, you can, in civility, do no less.”

“Aye, poor Barbara! but she is used to it. Why would not Dawnay come and dance with her?—has he no sense of gratitude?”

Young Wanley was now introduced to Miss Dorien, with whom he danced, to the great annoyance of Horatio; but he was much consoled to observe, that upon his afterwards becoming Lotharea’s partner, his attentions were equally or more marked towards her.

A little romantic circumstance occurred as the two families returned home,



which, having often heard the young people recal to mind, and being strongly recollected afterwards, I will in few words mention.

It was a fine moonlight morning when they quitted the ball-room; and upon their reaching the gate of the private road through Sandbeck Park, the young people agreed to walk to the farther side, where they might again resume their carriages. Colonel Cranswick chose to be of their party; but his wife and her niece were both far too gorgeously dressed to think of proceeding a yard on foot; and sir William, from politeness, would not leave them. Edella therefore was doubly escorted by the colonel and his son; while her brother felt happy in the opportunity of being more explicit to Lotharea than he had ever been before,

fore. Their conversation, however, was confined to the subject of the ball, till they reached the beautiful ruins of Roche Abbey, where, having walked faster than their companions, they rested over the little hand gate belonging to the lodge that distinguished the entrance of sir William Dorien's domain, and silently admired the fine shadows of the broken arches near which they stood, and the glittering reflection of the moon in the cascade, till Henry abruptly observed—  
“This is the eighteenth of August, is it not? My dear Lotharea, how far shall I be from you on this day next year?”

“But how much nearer, than you are now, will you be to your return,” replied she, “never more to leave England?”

“Or you,” said he, continuing her sen-



tence. "Have I your leave to make that addition to your words?"

"It is a singular circumstance," she pursued, without answering his question, "that a party of us should be walking here at three o'clock in the morning; and this is a scene of such uncommon beauty, that I think it deserves to be commemorated. We who stay at home will, therefore, make you and Horatio a promise, that on every eighteenth of August, until your return, supposing more than one should intervene before that period, we will meet here to express our good wishes for you, and put up our prayers for your safe return."

The colonel, with his two companions now coming up to them, Lotharea repeated her project, adding—"And to make the rite more solemn, we will repair



pair hither by moonlight, if moonlight there be."

"What! to the annoyance of the fairies!" said Edella, gaily. "Shall we venture to discompose the tiny train, Lotharea, at the hazard of incurring Oberia's fate, should the elves prove revengeful? Indeed I shall be too much afraid of falling in love with a monster, to partake in your orgies."

"Be the lot of Bottom mine," cried the colonel, "if you do! Who would not wear an ass's head, to inspire a passion that would confer honour on a crowned one?"

He walked forward as he said this; and Lotharea motioned to follow him, when Henry, detaining her, said—"There is an engagement that *I* also will enter into; but it shall be expressed to you alone.

On the eighteenth of next August, wherever I may happen to be, and upon every return of that day, I will repeat the vow I now make—never to address the language of love to any woman but yourself.”

“Oh,” said Lotharea, “that would be deviating from my idea, which was only to commemorate a night that might vie with Jessica’s.”

“And are you not Jessica to me?” said he. “And will my heart ever own any other?”

The carriages now drawing up to the gate of the lodge, prevented him saying more; but happening at that moment to observe in her hand a knot of black ribbon, which had detached from some part of her dress, (for, in compliment to the memory of lady Dorien, who had been her

her godmother, she was still in mourning,) he gently took it from her, and said—"You will not refuse to give me this, will you?"

She hesitated, but answered—"No."

"Thank you; then it shall travel with me." He gallantly kissed it; and, putting her into the carriage, returned home with his fair companion, pleased at having so unequivocally explained his sentiments for her, yet mortified by the coldness with which she received the explanation, and which bespoke her not so much interested on the subject, as he had hoped to have found her. He compared her deportment towards him with that of his sister to Horatio; and the result was, that he felt his passion stronger than his hopes, and that he envied his friend.

In the course of the same day, and af-



ter a few hours repose, the travellers set out for the port where they were to embark, attended by my nephew George, who had the good fortune to be sincerely beloved by them both.

## CHAP. VIII.

*Lord Vesprin.*

LORD viscount Vesprin, as has been said, was nephew to 'squire Handicap ; but no part of his uncle's character descended to him. His mother, an ignorant country girl, fresh from the boarding-school, had, by her rustic beauty, captivated his father, at an age when it might have been supposed that every passion, as well as every affection, of his heart had been worn out by a long life, spent upon the town with a fashionable former wife, who had died without leaving him an

heir. Owing to this circumstance, his title and estate were likely to devolve on a distant cousin, whom he hated, and whom his strong desire of disappointing urged the shaft which Miss Handicap's charms had winged : her, therefore, he raised to his rank in life ; but admitted not to a participation of those gaieties she had hoped it would give her the enjoyment of : on the contrary, she was conveyed to his dilapidated old mansion in Cornwall, where, after the birth of her son, she was beholden to *him* for every amusement that diverted the tedium of her life.

Fortunately for her, a period was put to it just after his lordship had given orders for his son's removal to Eton from the hands of his private tutor, which change would have reduced her to a state  
of



of almost absolute solitude; for lord Vesprin still, like a departed spirit, hovered over the scenes where his youth had been wasted, nor ever thought of his unfortunate wife, except when his house-steward reminded him of the half-yearly payment, which it was necessary to remit, to support her ladyship's mean establishment, and preserve the tottering family seat, in scarcely habitable repair.

The forlorn young woman died early of a deep decline, brought on partly by the consuming effects of regret, and partly by the damps of the wide moat and deep woods, by which Castle Vesprin was surrounded. Her husband survived her little more than a year, having the good fortune to expire with the character of being one of the best-bred noblemen in Europe; and the young lord

was then *nominally* left to the care of a guardian, selected by his father from the number of his fashionable acquaintances; but, *in fact*, to the guidance of Chance, and the sway of his own passions, from which, however, it was soon apparent that no *variety* of danger could be apprehended, as his lordship never betrayed symptoms of being visited by more than one. That one, however, being a passion for play, proved fully sufficient, even before he quitted Cambridge, to occupy his leisure, absorb his mind, and undermine his fortune.

Before he was five-and-twenty, he had considerably reduced an income, which, though not very splendid for a peer, amply enabled him to live up to his station. He therefore married a rich young heiress from the city, whose Jewish descent

was



was so incontrovertibly proved by her complexion, as to preclude the idea of his having given way to the weakness of love.

But, like many others, who, while they ostensibly bow to Hymen, make a side obeisance somewhat more profound to Plutus, lord Vesprin, a few years over passed, did not find himself much the richer for the sacrifice he had made, and which, to a man who thought differently of happiness, might have been very painful. The Hebrew guineas dropped into the same gulph where the Christian ones had fallen before; and as lady Vesprin would not die just when it would have been convenient for him to have made his two vows over again, he was compelled to turn his thoughts to the diplomatic line, probably judging that a man's



man's talents for ruining his own affairs might have a reverse tendency towards ameliorating those of the nation.

The little interest he had hitherto taken in public concerns had been exerted to strengthen opposition ; but he now suddenly discovered a wisdom and foresight in ministers, which impelled him to throw into their scale all the weight he was master of, consisting of two boroughs in Cornwall, which no respect on his side for one of the fundamental laws of the constitution prevented him, as a member of the upper house, from interfering with. He now, therefore, professed himself a strong Tory, upon principle and conviction ; voted with government ; and at length, by the force of bustle and intrigue, persuaded the cabinet that he should be an useful man in place.

A post

A post was assigned him ; but he entered upon it in an evil hour for his own reputation.

It is possible for a weak man to pass for a sensible one, if he can hold his peace and contrive to put on a grave face ; but when he is urged to speak, the delusion is over. In like manner, lord Vesprin, though not a weak man, in the usual acceptation of the term, betrayed his incapacity for public business the moment it had a claim upon him ; not by his blunders, but by the total neglect of its duties. The same hour in a morning which should have seen him in a public office, beheld him returning from Brooks's ; and he was consequently soon considered, not as an additional government wheel, to accelerate the motion of the state machine, but as a clog, acting only as an  
impediment



impediment to its operations. He was deprived of his place, derided for his political insignificance, and consigned to oblivion by the ministers, who smiled at his threats of revenge, and dared him to bring in whom he chose for his boroughs.

A violent fit of patriotism, of course, succeeded: he railed at corruption, bawled for reform, eked out a scanty minority, and sent round his agent, in a powdered wig and long ruffles, to all the little Cornish shops that were rented of him, threatening the inhabitants with removal and desolation, if they disputed his right to four votes in the house of commons, as well as one in the house of lords.

But when lord Vesprin had done his very worst, he had the mortification to find himself so unnoticed, that the ministry



try would not even be angry with him; and this was aggravated by a most uneasy consciousness that he was of no use whatever in creation.

The phrase happiness at home, was a mere sound to him, conveying no meaning; for he disliked and despised his plain, disagreeable wife, and scarcely knew the faces of his two children, a boy and girl, the former of whom, in consequence of fits in his infancy, was of a sickly constitution, and had a weakness of understanding, which, at times, almost approached to imbecility.

But nevertheless, while his youth lasted, lord Vesprin was, in a certain circle, looked up to as the center of it. With a good person, he possessed the attractive charm of fine manners, and was hereditarily insincere, and well bred. Colonel

lonel Cranswick, when a boy, had seen him, and had been delighted with the ease of his address, and his entertaining conversation—strong recommendations to youth, and not easily forgotten: but their further acquaintance had been prevented by the circumstance which drove lord Vesprin to fix his residence in a foreign climate.

Soon after he had resumed the character of a Whig, and proclaimed his indignation at the tyranny and lavish expenditure of the cabinet, that refused him all participation in what he called their spoils, he became closely intimate with a nobleman, the brightest shade of whose disposition resembled his own, while the rest was of a dye infinitely more dark. Lord Vermin was a gambler by profession, both at the table and on the turf; a seducer



a seducer of youth from habit and by inclination; and a villain by nature: he had preyed on the vitals of many young men of fortune, till he had reduced them to poverty and despair, or even, what was worse, rendered them almost as dangerous and hateful as himself: those of the other sex who knew his character, and valued their own, shunned him as a pestilence; while no respectability on their part could shield them from his pursuit, if their appearance pleased his eye. He had a wife of exquisite beauty, as worthless as himself, whose principles he had corrupted, and whose charms he was sufficiently shameless to convert into a mine of wealth, whenever he suffered an oppressive run of ill-fortune. However, their joint infamy was not so publicly known, as to prevent lady Ver-



min from being the fashionable *rage* of the day ; and as lord Vesprin was one of the foremost worshippers of fashion, it was absolutely necessary he should be as much in love with her as every body else.

In contemplation, therefore, of this worthy cruise, he crowded every sail, and stood out in pursuit of lady Vermin, whom he beset in her own house, at the Opera, in Kensington Gardens, and at every other public office for the waste of time. But her ladyship, who had a much stronger inclination to prey upon the pockets than upon the hearts of her admirers, seemed wholly insensible of his homage, even while she afforded him just sufficient encouragement to prevent his withdrawing it. This conduct insensibly made him feel a real interest in the  
cause

cause he was engaged in, which, in fact, he had before been unconscious of; till at length, as in many other cases, what was at first a jest becoming serious, he grew piqued at his want of success, and persuaded himself he was miserable on lady Vermin's account. Her respectable husband used to rally him on the mortifying repulses he endured; and, far from endeavouring to check his assiduities, never failed inviting him to join all his own and his wife's parties.

After this drama had continued some time, and lord Vesprin had still no more to boast of from the lady than the treatment of general civility, his worthy friend lost so heavy a sum at Newmarket, as threatened him with the most serious inconvenience, when the time of pay-  
ment



ment should arrive ; and being of opinion that intimacy was of little worth, unless it could be made conducive to pecuniary advantage, he determined to have recourse to the coffers of lord Vesprin, which he knew to be not yet wholly exhausted.

He took the earliest opportunity, therefore, of asking him to a private dinner-party at his own house, where the night was consumed in the usual way ; and, on the guests breaking up, lord Vesprin found himself the winner of a few hundreds.

“ Come, my good fellow,” said lord Vermin, upon their being left alone, “ do not go yet ; it is not above three o’clock ; you cannot be inclined to sleep ; and if you stay a little longer, you will have a chance



chance of seeing your goddess come home: let us have a tilt together for your winning this evening."

The next morning, when they played, a lord and a lady were present. They were preparing for the tilt, when lady Vermin's carriage drove up to the door; and she looked into the apartment where they were sitting, and then her way to her own chamber. She had been losing her money, and was weary, and out of spirit. Her countenance confirmed the languor it exhibited, instead of detracting from, her beauty; and she appeared so peculiarly lovely, that lord Vesprin could not detach his gaze from her figure.

Lord Vermin, with an eagle's eye, marked his involuntary admiration, and said, as she left the room—"Aye, there's a woman!

a woman!—Now, Vesprin, what would you give to be privileged to follow her?"

"Ten thousand po" cried lord  
Vesprin, with the add clamation  
of an oath.

"Spoken like a fellow  
lord Vermin; "and w  
for it, if you like; I k  
sumedly fond of Mary  
her against your ten  
and if you win, you  
cess, wh  
year inc  
you as to time; and  
devil to-night, you are  
sure of winning."

The stake was agreed to—this admirable pair of friends threw, and the dice, as they usually did, befriended lord Vermin. The other was too much a man of the world to betray any emotion; he on-



ly said—"It was d—d unlucky!" ordered his *vis-d-vis*, promised speedy payment, and wished lord Vermin good repose.

But prompt payment was more easily promised than made; lord Vesprin could not, in ready money, command half the sum he had lost; and the Cornish woods were provokingly entailed on his son, a minor. The old and desperate remedy, therefore, another night's chance, was the only one he could have recourse to; but Fortune, as if she was not always hoodwinked, sometimes deals out her reverses as wisely as Justice herself could direct; and so it proved in this instance; for lord Vesprin, in the course of the fortnight following this trial of luck with his dear friend, lost to so very large an amount, that far from being able to redeem the past, and venture another



throw for lady Vermin, he found himself utterly unable to swim any longer in that fashionable element which now menaced to close over his head. His carriages were seized, and an execution being hourly expected in his house, there was no time to deliberate. Ordering some valuables, therefore, to be thrown together, with the extraneous incumbrances of his wife and children, he set out, accompanied only by his valet, monsieur Rongeur, and his cook, monsieur Sublime, on a fine summer's morning for Brighton, whence he immediately crossed over to Dieppe, leaving the following letter for his respectable friend :

---

“ DEAR VERMIN,

“ I AM knocked up, and just taking flight ; but you shall hear from  
me

me when I rest the sole of my foot. I propose for Stutgard first. The enemies of the human race having barbarously deprived my ever dear lady Vesprin of her carriage, she will think herself infinitely indebted to you for the loan of one of yours, to convey her and her sweet children to the romantic bowers of Castle Vesprin; unless you will agree to accept her in exchange for lady Vermin, in which case I should esteem myself the happiest of men. I am now compelled to subscribe myself, your absent, though devoted friend,

"VESPRIN."

The attentive and polite nobleman to whom this billet was addressed immedi-



ately waited on lady Vesprin, to offer her his carriage and personal services, to assist her removal from Grosvenor-square before the bailiffs entered the house; and had occasion to congratulate her, instead of presenting his condolence, when he discovered that she considered her lord's absence as the greatest earthly happiness; and promised herself infinite gratification in making a much more conspicuous figure in Cornwall, and her rank would insure her more respect and admiration of her country neighbours, than she had ever been able to exhibit in town.

With readiness, and even alacrity, therefore, she quitted London, attended by her children, who, being mere children, were sensible only of the physical change from close confinement and hot rooms, to the purer air of the country, and



and the liberty of gambolling about at all hours over the lawns and woods, where they fancied themselves in heaven, and where the little girl daily improved in spirits and appearance; while even master Vandeleure's health received benefit, though his intellects still continued to exhibit a lamentable deficiency.

Nor did their noble father derive less satisfaction from the change of his abode.

Though de . . . society  
first circles he . . .

he had the resolution to abstain from play; and punctually discharging the interest of what he considered his debts of honour, he and himself enabled, by . . . of his income, to support, . . . gn towns where he resided, a living tolerably suited to his

After he had spent several years abroad, it was generally concluded that his estate had worked itself clear; but those who made the surmise did not take into consideration the depreciating circumstance, that he annually paid away a large sum for interest on his old debts, which consequently were liquidated by very slow degrees. Lord Vesprin, therefore, continued to grow poorer, when he was considered rich.

His only daughter, his eldest child, her daughter, was thirteen years old, gave no increase to his revenue, as he had already received the whole of her fortune. His orders, on this event, were that his son should be brought to meet

Weimar, where he proposed for his education; not end.

thoughts of returning to himself,

while



while he laboured under the necessity of contracting his expenditure to a very narrow scale; and that Miss Vandeleure should remain at Castle Vesprin, under the care of her governess.

Eight years had elapsed since this period, when Henry Dorian and his friend arrived at Vienna, where lord Vesprin, who was there considered as a native Austrian, received them with attentive politeness, and was of infinite service to them, by introducing them to the acquaintance of the most distinguished personages composing the emperor's court.

This was the fortunate means of affording them every advantage they could derive from Horatio's connexion with lord Vesprin; while their principles were much too firmly fixed, to be at all endangered by the laxity of his lordship's mo-



rals, even had the solemnity of Austrian etiquette not been of itself a check to licentiousness.

According to their original intention, they continued at Vienna till the spring of the ensuing year, when they quitted it to make a tour round the German states, in which lord Vesprin and Mr. Vandeleure volunteered to accompany them. This excursion, as they made some stay in every city of note, and especially at the residences of all the inferior sovereigns, occupied the whole of the summer and autumn, the conclusion of which brought them to Potsdam, where they determined to fix their abode during the winter months.

CHAP.

## CHAP. IX.

*A Young Lady in Love.*

DURING the absence of the two young friends, the time glided cheerfully and usefully away at Dorien Court and Briar Lodge. Edella grew so exactly the counterpart of her mother, that though that amiable lady was always lamented as lost, she was not missed by her poorer neighbours; and the chasm she left in the society of her equals around her, was supplied as soon as felt by the engaging qualities of her daughter, who possessed the rare talent of conciliating



all hearts, without ever sacrificing her sincerity, or giving in to the more blameable, though fashionable follies of the day. She was justly the idol of her father; and his approbation of all she did, and his opinion of her good sense and judgment, operated not to raise her value in her own eyes, but to give new force to her endeavours to exalt it in his.

On his second son's account, sir William for a time experienced some uneasiness, arising from the disappointment he felt at Dawnay's absolute refusal to make choice of any profession, when he wished him to decide in favour of the church or the bar; and he deeply censured what he considered as an inactive turn in a young man of a vigorous constitution and excellent understanding, till he discovered that the application of extreme activity



activity to very useful purposes was, in fact, Dawnay's primary object.

"I should not like to be a thump-cushion, sir," said he, to his father; "because if I took no pleasure in giving advice to my flock, I am sure they would take none in receiving it; and I would rather prevent disputes than promote them, which quite disqualifies me for being a lawyer. I once thought of the navy, and to be sure it is a very noble profession; but I believe I can do the fleet more good at home, than I ever could have done by serving on board."

"As how, I pray you?" inquired sir William.

"Have you any objection, sir," said Dawnay, "now that old Hutchinson is dead, and his son is too young for busi-

ness, to let me stand tenant for Westwood farm?"

"For *Westwood* farm!" cried sir William; "what can have put such an idea into your head? The worst lot of land on my whole estate! the only farm upon which no tenant, even when it was at its best, could make a decent living; and now, owing to old Hutchinson's rapacity in tearing out the land, and my grandfather's unlucky request to me in his will, that I would grant him a lease, absolutely worn out to a barren surface. If I had happened to have a good farm vacant, I should not have been much surprised at your wishing to take it, because I have perceived you to have a strange hankering after fold-yards, and fat bulls of Basan, ever since you came from college."

Wolfe turned away at this refusal with a

And



“And very good things they are, sir,” observed Dawnay, speaking deliberately in an under tone, as was his invariable custom. “If I can feed fine beef for the use of the navy, it will be of more service by far to the sailors, because it will do them more good, than my living amongst them; and I shall not despair of being able to do that upon Westwood, if I only take care to avoid every thing old Hutchinson did, and do every thing he neglected. There would be no *amusement* in taking a farm that was as good as I could make it; and that is the case at present with all of yours, excepting this one: but Westwood being as bad as it can be, affords me very great encouragement; for I cannot make it worse, and I may chance to make it better; so, if you will only suffer me to have it at a low  
rent



rent at first; and then let me alone, I don't at all fear getting forward."

"It is a strange whim," said sir William. "Have you considered how long you must wait before you can possibly derive any profit from the undertaking; that *two* years management must be put into the ground before you can reasonably hope for *one* year's crop; and that any large stock must inevitably starve on land as bare as a quarry, and presenting almost as complete a surface of stones?"

"I like to see the stones," replied Daway; "they are a proof the land produces *something*; and if large stock will not live there, I will cover it with small stock."

"That may bring you mutton; but your sheep will not yield the fat beef you talk of."

"No,

"No, sir; but if one can't get beef out of mutton, sheep will make good land for feeding beef, only don't hurry them: and the longer my farm continues poor, the less rent I shall pay."

"You are a strange fellow," returned sir William. "But contending against this unaccountable turn of yours, let me ask you whether you will be doing justice to the classical education you have received, and to your father, who bestowed it as liberally upon you as upon your elder brother, if you render it wholly nugatory, by devoting all your time and attention to pursuits, which might be equally well followed up by my hind, whose mental acquisitions do not extend beyond reading, writing, and the four rules of arithmetic?"

"My wheat will not grow a bit the

worse



worse for my knowing Latin," said Dawnay.

"No; but you will not maintain that sending a load of corn to market can be called turning an university education to account; or that you could not have ploughed land, and reared calves, just as well, if, instead of going to Oxford, you had been sent to the day school at the end of the village, and gabbled over your lesson out of a chapter in Deuteronomy with your little rustic brethren? Fond as you are of the country and its occupations, I make great allowances for your disinclination against the bar; but by going into the church, as an excellent living is in the gift of our family, and the incumbent of it is an old man, you would secure to yourself the prospect of a rural life, with the option of amusing yourself,

to



to a certain degree, with this very farming scheme you are so fond of. Besides, a young man, whose sole pursuits are breeding and agriculture, is almost necessarily compelled to constant company with his men, and what low-lived habits may not that intercourse induce?"

"Not row-a-days," observed Dawnay, "when some of the first noblemen and private gentlemen in the kingdom are as proud of their pigs as their fathers were of their race-horses."

"Whereas," continued sir William, "the church, while it permits rustic avocations, is a gentlemanly profession."

"It is a very *black* profession," replied Dawnay.

"Well, well," returned sir William, "I perceive

"I perceive you had made up your mind upon this subject before you named it to me: however, I shall insist on your taking a little time to consider of it, before I give you a definitive answer; and if, after that, you continue steady to your purpose, you shall be indulged in your fancy with a year's trial; at the end of which, it is likely you will come to me, and that what Westwood may be taken off your hands again."

But sir William Dorian shewed no intimate knowledge of his second son's character, when he supposed it probable that a twelvemonth would effect any change in his sentiments. Dawnay formed not many opinions, because, not having an excursive fancy, there were but few subjects his thoughts comprised with-

in



in their range ; but what opinions he *did* form were engraven on brass, and indelible.

He had long had in contemplation the project of improving Westwood farm ; and had deferred the mention of it, only from consideration for the very old man by whom it was occupied. Far from being deterred by its : ed condition, he was impe : very circumstance, to : in the cause ; and a : with Dawnay always had the : strengthening resolution, sir William's arguments against the undertaking : him pursue his por : ness. Most surprising, therefore, the alacrity with which he commenced his operations. — A little army of labourers

was



was engaged; the wet lands were under-drained; the enclosures that were too large were subdivided; the old fences were laid; and the whole surface of the farm covered with fattening substances of every description—lime, manure, compost, old bones, old wigs, and whale blubber; insomuch, that in a high wind, Dawney's impure scented the gale for miles.

Nor was it with only inspection these gentlemen at six o'clock every morning he distinguished crossing the park, towards Westwood, in shoes, worsted stockings, and a topcoat, with nothing to distinguish him from any other gentleman, but his personal station in life but his person and his countenance, upon which Nature had so legibly written the word

gentleman,

*gentleman*, that the least discrimination possible sufficed to receive conviction of the fact.

In this garb he employed himself always the greater part of the day, and sometimes the whole of it, in a manual participation of the labours of the vineyard. He could guide the plough very tolerably; and was reckoned, by the best judges, to be an excellent former at sowing turnips: but when he began to cover his fresh seeds with sheep, *then* commenced the heat and tumult of the battle; then was every day, and almost every hour, of Dawney's time employed in yeaning, docking, washing, clipping, greasing, foot-paring, and ear-nipping; and as he occasionally pressed even Miss Dorien into the service, I have often seen her good naturedly employed with her  
maid



maid in cutting out and making body-clothes for his favourite sheep, of a finer sort than the rest of the community.

Sir William was perfectly astonished at this strange activity and perseverance—"I think the deuce must be in the lad," said he; "who could have thought of his having so unaccountable a taste?"

However, though people at first laughed at Dawnay and his hobby-horse, they became more serious when, even at the close of the first year, they perceived that Westwood could hardly be recognised for the miserable farm he had entered upon. Though the shortness of the time precluded any very material improvement, yet the outward aspect of the fields offered a very different prospect from what it had done. Not a weed was to be seen, nor a single blade of

twitch



twitch grass; every gate was whole, every fence in complete repair; and the cross lanes, wherein the waggons had formerly been overturned, and the shoulders of the draft-horses dislocated, were now hard and even. The farm-house too, where his foreman, a decent man, and his wife resided, wore an appearance of order and comfort, of which, within the memory of man, it could not have boasted before. All these changes had been effected without any noise or bustle on Dawnay's part; he went quietly about his work; never talked of his agricultural concerns, but when he was questioned upon the subject; and a stranger might have staid a month at Dorian Court, and seen him every evening at his father's house, when the business of the day was over, without suspecting he had been employing

employing himself at all differently from the generality of young men. His only recreations were hunting in winter, of which he was fond enough rather to ride over his own corn, than hazard being thrown out; and in summer, going to the various *sheeps* of cattle that were then beginning to be very frequent in the kingdom; nor was distance a consideration with him, when he knew that any superior stock was to be exhibited.

It will readily be believed that Dawney's leisure was too closely filled up, to allow him any idle moments for the tender passion: but the partiality of his former admirer, Miss Barbara Guineaman, seemed to derive new force from her contemplation of him in his new character. Hope is generally conceived to be a necessary aliment for love; but  
this



this young lady afforded an instance that overturned the hypothesis ; for Dawnay was so impenetrably deaf to her civil speeches, so absolutely blind to her languishing glances, and so indefatigably active in avoiding her, whenever he perceived himself threatened by her approach, that had Hope existed in her bosom, it must have lived against the most positive conviction, a circumstance usually deemed impossible in nature.

Nothing daunted, however, by his insensibility, she put in practice every manœuvre which she judged likely to awaken those sentiments that she probably flattered herself were only latent in his breast. The first of these was the affectation of a taste and inclination, strictly conformable to his own ; and the

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opportunity of giving an early indication of this, was afforded her by a portrait-painter, who, having resided a winter in York, made some stay at Doncaster, in his way to London. and was invited to Dorien Court for a fortnight by sir William, who wished him to clean and repair some of his family-pictures: as he was an artist of some skill, sir William and colonel Cranswick each wished to have a portrait of his daughter; and Miss Guineaman, then on one of her frequent visits at Briar Lodge, would not be passed over unnoticed. She therefore had her four sittings also; but anxious to manifest her partiality for rural life, would not consent to be taken as the other ladies were, in her usual dress, preferring the pastoral habit of Perdita,

as

as the actress who performed the character was represented in a small edition of Shakespeare's plays.

The effect of such a costume, applied to such a face and figure, was irresistibly ridiculous; and Edella was reduced to some distress, when Miss Barbara begged her acceptance of the portrait and that it might be honoured with a place in her dressing-room, an apartment where Darnay sat, when wet weather obliged him to keep within-doors, more frequently than in any other.

As, without an affront, the request could not be denied, the picture was accordingly hung there, a monument of folly and bad taste; and I never saw Darnay raise his eyes towards it, without perceiving an involuntary smile contracting the corners of his mouth. It is



certain that he, no more than any other, could doubt the reason why Miss Guineaman wished her picture should occupy a place in that particular room; but it is equally certain that the continued opportunities he had of viewing it, gave no assistance to her cause. When he was rallied on her account, as was frequently the case, he always assumed a very innocent and unassuming countenance; disclaimed all knowledge of the subject, all belief of her partiality; and usually replied—"It is only fancy;" or, "people are pleased to say so."

With a perseverance, however, not inferior to his own, the young lady directed all her efforts to engage, at least, his attention; and suddenly became so great an admirer of fine stock, that, whenever it was in her power, she promoted



moted a morning or an evening walk, according to the season of the year, to look at Mr. Dawnay's beautiful Devonshire cows, or super-excellent ewes of the Leicestershire breed. His fold-yard presented a group of objects, that never failed to call forth her vociferous admiration; and on being once told that a huge bull was gentle to approach, she laid her face to his ugly forehead, and exclaimed—"Oh, you beautiful creature!" in such a romantic tone, that the countenance of no person present could maintain its seriousness.

"By Jove!" whispered sir William, "she is consulting with the beast which of them is the handsomest."

But Miss Guineaman's tender passion led her to assume many characters utterly foreign to her nature, besides that

of an amateur of cattle. From being one of the most inactive of young women, she grew so passionately fond of riding on horseback, that the change could only be imputed to her having heard Dawnay commend his sister for often taking that exercise; and when she *could* engage him in conversation, she talked of horses, and hunting, and farming, while an answer was to be extorted from him; and then changed the key to botany, of which she understood as little as of the others, until he looked so piteously drowsy, that Edella or Lotharea, in mere compassion to him, drew her off; though oftener than once I have seen the evil effect its own cure, by her fairly talking him to sleep.

Sometimes, however, his sister and Miss Cranswick contrived little malicious  
snare



snared to surprise him into a *tête-à-tête* with his unwearied assailant. Once, on a summer evening, when she was at Dorien Court, and walking with Edella, they happened to meet Dawnay returning from Westwood; and Edella desired he would continue the stroll with Miss Guineaman, as she recollected some business that required her presence at home. Having dispatched it, she came into the library, where most of us were sitting, and whither, in less than ten minutes, she was followed by Dawnay alone.

"What have you done with Miss Guineaman, brother?" said she.

"Nothing at all, sister," replied Dawnay.

"Is she come in from her walk?"

"I'm sure I can't tell, sister."

"Why, where did you leave her?"

Edella



"I did not leave her anywhere, Edella."

"How did you part then?"

"She left me."

"No offence to your veracity, brother, but I can scarcely believe that."

This not being a question, Dawnay, probably, did not hold himself bound to return any answer; for he continued silent; and took up a book that laid near him.

"Well, but," said Edella, whose curiosity was excited, "where did she leave you then?"

"You wont believe she left me at all," returned Dawnay, smiling: "perhaps she is with me still."

"Where did you see her last, you monkey?"

"In the little paddock, sister pug."

"And what induced her to leave you?"

"She

"She went after some oxen."

"Some oxen! what to do with them?"

"That's more than I know, sister; she said she would bring them home."

"I cannot understand you, for my life," said Miss Dorian. "But if she told you so, why not stay, and help her to drive them?"

"Because," answered Dawnay, shaking one foot violently over the knee of the other leg, "as soon as she went away, I drove home myself as fast as ever I could."

"I think," interposed sir William, "you are putting some joke upon your sister. There are no oxen either in the little paddock or near it."

"She said something about oxen, however," returned Dawnay; "and I am pretty sure she talked of bringing them home."



At that moment Miss Guineaman entered the room with a great bunch of field flowers in her hand, of the commonest kinds; and running up to Edel-la with clumsy vivacity, she exclaimed — “ See here, my sweet friend, what beautiful specimens of Nature’s everyday-dress I have gathered since you left me; here’s some meadow’s pride, sweeter than any hot-house plant, and lady’s fingers, and lady’s bed-straw.”

“ But where are the oxen ?” said Edel-la; “ are they coming in too ?”

“ Oxen, my dear love ! what is it you mean ?”

“ Nay, I hardly know myself ; only my brother said you was gone after some ; and he believed you was driving them here.”

“ Oh, the wicked creature ! I declare I

do



do wish you would keep him in better order; he grows as mischievous as *any* thing! I told him I saw some uncommonly large ox-eyed daisies under the opposite hedge of the paddock, and I would just run and fetch them, if he would wait of me; and, do you know, when I came back, the ungallant wretch had actually disappeared, and, I see, had returned home without me."

"Oh, they were *daisies* you meant," said Dawnay, affecting only just then to comprehend her; "I am sure I thought you had said oxen."

"Fie, brother!" said Edella. "How can you be such a recreant? I shall really begin soon to fear you are incorrigible."

"Now, my sweet girl," cried Miss Barbara, in a tender tone, "do not talk

that way, I beseech you: Mr. Dawney shall not be scolded upon my account; if your irascibility is quite uncontrollable, direct it against me, I entreat; let me only suffer;" adding, in a half-whisper, and with a gentle sigh, which she meant to be very heart-piercing, "*I am used to it.*"

Colonel Cranswick, who happening to be the nearest to her, overheard her soft complaint, burst into a fit of laughing, which a little discomposed her, till he attributed his mirth to a ridiculous anecdote he was reading, but which, on his repeating it aloud, hardly warranted his gaiety. However, it reconciled her to herself, which was not, at any time, a difficult undertaking.

I have reason to believe that the colonel took an opportunity soon after this  
of



of arguing with her on the folly of her predilection for a young man, who had shewn himself so utterly insensible of her attractions, and the still greater absurdity of so plainly manifesting it. But Mrs. Cranswick's encouragement of her ill-advised partiality, and the unlucky circumstance of being herself destitute of those finer feelings of delicacy, which, it is to be hoped, few young women who have been well brought up are without, were more than sufficient to counterbalance all his advice.

Not long after, her attachment, as she used sentimentally to term it to her cousin Lotharea, reached its acme, being aided by the powerful co-operation of jealousy.

It will reasonably be wondered at how any action of a man, living as Dawnay lived,



lived, could possibly excite such a sentiment; but a slight foundation will always suffice for that painful superstructure.

He had been from home above a fortnight, seeing various stock in Leicestershire, and other parts of the country; and on his return, appearing more retired within himself, and more silent than usual, Miss Guineaman took it into her head that he was shy with her in particular; and thence concluded that he had to a certainty fallen in love with some lady whom he had seen during his excursion. The fact was, that Dawnay had caught a severe cold by riding two days in very wet weather; but as it was a sacred custom with him never to complain, no one knew the circumstance, till some days after. In vain the unhappy Barbara, as she

she styled herself, questioned her cousin Edella, and every body else she saw, if they knew what was the matter with Mr. Dawnay? Finding no one better informed than herself, her suspicions were quite confirmed. Love, and love only, was preying upon his spirits! She could pity him, she said to Lotharea, indeed she could pity him; for, too well, she knew what he must endure! But what would she not give to learn the name of the happy, happy woman, who had so ruined the hardest heart in the world! she asserted to Miss Dorian, that her brother was most undoubtedly caught in Cupid's net at last; and Edella was cruel enough to reply, she wished with all her heart it might be so.

They had been talking on this subject one day, on a bench in the garden, when  
their



their conversation was interrupted for a few minutes by Dawnay himself passing by. He staid not long, however; but having drawn out his handkerchief while he stopped, Miss Guineaman discovered on his retiring, that a folded paper had dropped from his pocket.

She flew to pick it up—"Now, now," cried she, "what a chance is here of proving my conjectures right! this may be either a letter from a lady, or a rough draft of one of his own."

"For shame," said Lotharea; "you surely would not open a private letter, cousin! give it to Edella, to return to her brother."

"Oh, look, look! it is a letter, directed to him in a lady's hand—indisputably a lady's hand!"

"Never mind," replied Lotharea, quite  
angry



angry with her; "his letters are no business of ours; return it immediately, or, indeed, I will acquaint him myself with your conduct."

"Oh, do, if you like! It will be a good joke!" exclaimed Barbara, attempting to look merry with tears in her eyes; and was proceeding to unfold the letter, when Miss Cranswick endeavoured to take it from her; and Edella sat by, a laughing spectatress. But while their contention lasted, they suddenly heard advancing footsteps; and in a moment sir William Dorien and colonel Cranswick appeared, turning round the corner of the walk that winded amongst the shrubs.

"Lotharcea!" exclaimed the colonel, "are you and your cousin at high words? we heard your voices very loudly."

"Oh,"

"Oh," said Miss Barbara, half crying, yet affecting to titter, "we have discovered a grand secret, and Lotharea is afraid of its being divulged—that's all; only a love-letter, sir," continued she, to sir William, "which Mr. Dawnay has just lost out of his pocket."

"Bless his heart!" cried sir William; "I'm glad to hear it. Let us have it by all means: I would not lose such a sight for the world! and I thank you heartily, my dear Miss Guineaman; but for you, I might never have been so gratified."

She then gave him the letter.

"A lady's hand, indeed!" cried he. "Now, Dawnay, by your leave!" He opened it; and with perfect composure of features, and a solemn voice, read as follows:—

"Quorndon,



---

*" Quorndon, July 10th, 18—.*

*" Mr. G.'s carcass, 92lb. 8oz.  
Loose fat, 11lb. 14oz.—Fleeced, 7lb. 4oz.  
Mr. L.'s carcass, 99lb. 7oz. Loose fat,  
13lb. 15oz.—Fleeced, 4lb.*

*Sir T.W.'s carcass, 112lb. 12oz. Loose  
fat, 13lb. 7oz.—Fleeced, 0lb. 0oz.*

*Mr. H.'s carcass, 102lb. 8oz. Loose  
fat, 10lb. 4oz.—Fleeced, 4lb.*

*Lord B.'s carcass, 130lb. 9oz. Loose  
fat, 14lb. 0oz.—Fleeced, 0lb. 0oz.*

*My own carcass, 85lb. 12oz. My  
loose fat, 11lb. 12oz.—Fleeced, 4½lb."*

---

*" These are very odd phrases for a  
lady in love," said sir William, when he  
had finished ; " and these are all the con-  
tents*



tents of the letter, or rather, the cover of the letter: it remains to be known who directed it."

"I can tell that," said Edella, laughing immoderately. "It was directed by one of Mr. Cremorne's nieces. I had occasion to write to Dawnay while he was in Leicestershire; and, afraid of being too late for the post, having other letters to seal, I desired Charlotte to add the superscription to this. I see he has torn off the written part of it, and inserted these precious memoranda of his own and other carcasses in the cover."

Miss Guineaman's titter was now no longer affected; it proceeded from the heart; and she seemed as much revived by the discovery that this letter was not a *billet-doux*, as if it afforded a certain pledge that he never would write or receive

receive one as long as he lived. Like all other persons of weak understandings, who never can preserve a medium, she immediately sprung from one extreme to the other; and, rising from what she called the depth of despair, she, in an instant, became convinced, that with his *fine heart* and good disposition, he must sooner or later become sensible of her own unremitting regard. In vain Lotharea gave her to understand, as gently as she could, that she thought her very silly; and in vain Edella expatiated on the improbability of her brother ever finding leisure to fall in love. She hoped on, in spite of Fate; and with admirable consistency, after her professions of unremitting affection, bethought herself of a quaint device, which she believed must infallibly secure her conquest. She de-

received  
terminated



terminated on most abruptly withdrawing her gracious favour (in appearance) from the object she had hitherto so distinguished, on treating him with coldness, and avoiding him with disdain.

Whether Dawnay ever remarked this surprising change in her procedure, is a mystery which only himself can solve; for he never said a syllable upon the subject. But certain it is, that meeting him one evening in a narrow passage at Briar Lodge, after, perhaps, accidentally encountering him several times in the course of the day, she said, while she scornfully drew herself up—"Lord bless me, Mr. Dawnay! I think you are always in my way!"

"Indeed," replied he, in the mildest tone imaginable, "it is not my fault; for I am sure, Miss Guineaman, I do my  
best



best to keep out of it." Having effected a hasty retreat, he met his sister, who, wanting to say something to him, passed her arm through his, and would have led him back; but he hurried off, saying—"No, no, there is Miss Barbarossa there, and I would rather walk ten miles the other way."

## CHAP. X.

*An Old Lady in Danger!*

So happy were sir William and his friend at home, that they seldom thought of stirring abroad. The former had done his duty as high sheriff for the county, and colonel of a corps of volunteers; he was often foreman of the jury at York assizes; and almost always in the chair at a loyal county meeting; besides acting assiduously as a magistrate for the improvement of his neighbourhood, and keeping an excellent pack of hounds for its diversion.

Colonel



Colonel Cranswick, constitutionally contented, proud of his son, of whom he received the most flattering accounts; proud also of his daughter, who was amiable in temper, and lovely in person; delighted with the prospect of their both connecting themselves with the family most dear to his heart—colonel Cranswick, happy in the neighbourhood of his most intimate and most valued friends, was the soul of gaiety, and the center of attraction to all around him; and Mrs. Cranswick having, in fact, nothing to complain of, and hearing her sweet Lotharea praised, as the handsomest girl in the West-Riding, proved her good humour, by dressing like a girl of sixteen, and prattling, without remorse, to all her guests.

But her felicity was at its height,



when her husband being steward for Doncaster races, it became to her a sort of duty to appear there with her daughter. Sir William, desirous of paying a compliment to his friend, chose to be of the party; and prevailed upon me, as if I had been a scientific man upon the turf, to accompany him for two days. Edella preferred staying at home with Dawnay; but Miss Guineaman eagerly availed herself of the opportunity of shewing her fine clothes in public, and assailing the heart of some swain more susceptible than he who had so long been the object of her unavailing assaults.

The meeting was a crowded one; and the equipages and the company were very splendid. The connoisseurs affirmed the sport to be excellent; and the ladies  
and

and the beaux spoke in raptures of the ball; with the exception of sir Edward Falconer, who acted as joint steward with colonel Cranswick; but appeared wholly insensible of the gaiety of the scene around him, and the charms of the young beauties that embellished it; while he spoke in such terms of regret of Miss Dorien's absence, as led to the conclusion that he would have received more than ordinary delight from seeing her.

The stand was extremely full on the day the St. Leger was run for; and that race was immediately succeeded by another, which appeared to excite even a still more lively interest in the minds of several persons present, especially in some young ladies, whose brothers were to exhibit their proficiency in race-riding in a contest with each other. This



was a Welter stakes, for which four gentlemen were to start, three of whom were well known, being residents in the neighbourhood, while the fourth, who rode a horse belonging to lord L——, was a stranger, whose name had not been mentioned.

The first heat was won easily by sir Edward Falconer's brother, who rode his own mare; the second rider tried hard for the victory; but without ever being able to reach him; and lord L——'s horse merely saved his distance. At the commencement of the second heat, the odds were in Mr. Falconer's favour, and they continued so for some time, till the horse which had previously come in second appeared gaining so fast upon him, that the general opinion was beginning to change; when, just before they came  
opposite



opposite to the stand, lord L——'s horse giving a sudden and surprising spring in answer to the whip, flew past them both, and won by more than half a length. Much money was lost upon the heat, and much more was betted upon the remaining one, the odds being then considerably in favour of the stranger.

The anxiety of the young ladies related to the contending riders seemed to spread throughout the stand; and I could not help feeling my wishes as earnest as those of any there in favour of Mr. Falconer, whom I knew to be a most worthy young man, and whose family I very highly respected.

At length the bell rang, announcing the third heat; and every eye was eagerly directed towards the equestrian candidates; all of them fine figures, and neat riders,

riders, and all gaily dressed, excepting the stranger, who was in a plain white satin jacket and cap. They had an equal start; and for half way round the first time, lord L——'s horse was third, and Mr. Falconer laid close behind him, when, from some entanglement of feet, the former fell, and his rider rolled over his head. Mr. Falconer's mare leaped over the stranger as he laid on the course; but her velocity was somewhat impeded by the action; however, she was so much superior to the two other horses, that the name of Falconer resounded in a tone of triumph from all his friends, when a sight, that astonished every one, occasioned an universal shout of surprise, and involuntary admiration.

The stranger, on the instant after Mr. Falconer's mare had cleared him, arose,

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A M

caught



caught his horse, which had scarcely been so nimble as himself, vaulted into his seat, and set off at score. All this seemed done in a moment, and what followed appeared rather the action of a bird than of a horse; the corners were so neatly turned, the stranger rode so steadily, and laid so true to the inside of the course, that the ground he had lost was soon recovered. Near a quarter of a mile from the winning-post, he had overtaken Mr. Falconer, then the forwardest of his antagonists; and the shouts of the populace rent the very air; in fine, lord L—'s horse shot a neck's length beyond the mare so evidently, that the race was decided without hesitation.

Immediately all the gentlemen who felt particularly interested in the sport ran down stairs, to ask and answer ques-  
tions,



tions, and to inquire if the stranger or his horse was hurt. Sir Edward Falconer and colonel Cranswick, as stewards, paid every polite attention to the former; and finding him somewhat shaken by his fall, persuaded him to come back with them into the stand, from whence, without fatigue, he might view the remaining diversion. Accordingly they returned with him; and he leaned on colonel Cranswick's arm as he entered, like a youthful hero glowing from conquest; but surely never hero before wore an aspect of such fascination; the effect his appearance produced on the ladies resembled magic; he had, indeed, the finest countenance, and the most faultless figure that I, who used to contemplate sir William Dorian, in his youthful days, as an example of perfection, ever beheld;

held; and his look, withal, was so mild and ingenuous, and his demeanour so unassuming, that while every eye gazed, every heart applauded.

Colonel Cranswick immediately led him up to his wife and daughter, who were standing amidst a group of ladies, and introduced him to them by the name of *Mr. Wanley*. Having received their civilities, and returned them with peculiar modesty and elegance, he was compelled to sit down; and surely, if the notice and approbation of the fair sex can gratify the heart of man, Mr. Wanley must, that day, have been most amply gratified. He spoke little; but was all attention when any lady spoke to him; and having his eyes generally cast downwards, he had a mode of raising them slowly to the face of the fair speak-



er, and fixing them with a look of tender interest there, which I heard several of them afterwards own, was in no common degree bewitching. Little, I believe, many of them thought, or even saw, of the races that ensued. Mr. Wanley seemed to engross every idea; and every bright eye sparkled, when, in reply to their inquiries, he professed himself quite well enough to attend the ball in the evening.

As our party returned into the town, Mrs. Cranswick and her niece even wearied me with his praises, disposed as I was to join in them; but with some regret, and some foreboding, I observed that Lotharea was studiously careful not to say one word. I should better have liked her agreeing moderately with her mother and cousin.

In



In the evening, at the assembly, this captivating youth lost no part of the favour he had conciliated in the morning. Without being lively, for at intervals a languor, almost like dejection, came over his features, he had the appearance of cheerfulness and perfect ease; and talked to all the ladies, who really crowded around him, without being particular to any one; he was an uncommon fine dancer; and a variety of partners professed that his conversation was sensible, gentlemanly, and agreeable.

Of the number of these was Lotharea; but she, in her observations, was as guarded as she had been in the morning. Mrs. Cranswick, however, to whom, during the intervals between the dances, he paid more attention than to any other person,

seemed to regard him with a partiality, that increased every hour: she treated him with all the familiarity of an old acquaintance; walked up and down the room with him arm-in-arm; and, long before the company broke up, addressed him by the plain appellation of Wanley. The good sense of colonel Cranswick led him, no doubt, to blame the precipitation of this intimacy; at the same time that he acknowledged the object of it to be so pleasing, that it would hardly excite surprise.

"It excites none in me," said sir William, in a whisper, to myself, "nor any other foolish thing she does; but I hope Lotharea will not catch the influenza, for poor Harry's sake."

"I hope not also," returned I; "yet I should



should like better to see her led out at this moment by Mr. Dorien, than by this universally-favoured gentleman."

Mr. Wanley called upon Mrs. Cranswick the next morning, at so early an hour for visiting, that our party were still at breakfast. She expressed herself delighted to see him; and, placing him on a seat next to her, from whence she had dislodged some other person, her thoughts, looks, and discourse, were all attracted towards one focus. The rest of the company had no occasion to be at any pains to entertain him; they had, on the contrary, no alternative but to listen to the civilities of Mrs. Cranswick, which almost amounted to adulation; and often excited a scarcely-perceptible smile on the countenance of sir William Dorien; while an unwonted contraction of

of



of the brow now and then clouded the hilarity of the colonel's.

On directing my attention to Miss Cranswick, I could perceive no alteration in her, for she was naturally shy and silent before strangers, and now hardly spoke; and only one slight circumstance could at all induce a belief that she considered him as more than any other stranger. On his entrance into the room, she coloured very deeply; and it was some minutes after before she raised her eyes from the breakfast-table.

Once possessed of the company of her favourite, Mrs. Cranswick would not consent to be any more separated from him that day; she insisted upon his taking a seat in her carriage to the race-ground, and when he would modestly have declined it, alledging how numerous a party

ty she had of her own, she raised his objection, by drafting whom she pleased into that of sir William, as if she had been entitled to an equal command over both equipages—"And as to the colonel and Cremorne," said she, "I know they like best to go on horseback." On our admitting this, and finding all opposition to her will unavailing, he acquiesced; and soon after attended the two young ladies to the place where Mrs. Cranswick introduced a number of her friends, that it seemed as if she made an exhibition of him; and she had all the appearance of having obtained a prize that she was very proud of.

All this time he paid no particular attention either to Lotharea or Miss Guineaman, noticing them both in an equal degree; but he appeared anxious to conciliate



ciliate the favour of sir William and the colonel, and altogether succeeded in the undertaking; though they were content to shew their approbation of him in a more moderate way than the old lady.

Indeed, this day was destined to raise him to the pinnacle of her good graces; for on her leaving the race-ground, one of the horses to her carriage taking fright at the recruiting-party,

became so frightened that he forced the carriage to the side where she sat; so far up a steep bank by the road side, that an overturn appeared inevitable.

Mr. Wanley very nimbly contrived to open the coach-door, and lifted out Mrs. Cranswick, who, dreadfully frightened for herself, most clamorously vociferated—

“Take me out! take me out!” He carried her in his arms a few paces from the carriage,



carriage, assuring her there was no danger; and, having seated her on the grass, returned to rescue Lotharea and her cousin from their disagreeable situation; but they had already quietly stepped out; and two or three servants having got to the head of the frightened horse, the carriage was brought back into the middle of the road, where, as soon as he was quite pacified, the young ladies resumed their seats; but nothing could dissuade Mrs. Cranswick from walking *à me*, in defiance of the crowds that were pouring back into the town, and the whirlwinds of dust that flew over her head.

At that moment, colonel Cranswick and myself, who were on horseback, overtook her; and on hearing what had happened, the colonel desired Mr. Wanley would return to the carriage, saying, that

that he himself would accompany his wife home, since it was her choice to walk ; but Wanley politely entreated he also might attend her, since she had been so very much alarmed, and begged me to escort the young ladies, whom it might not be proper to leave quite alone, lest the horse should again prove unmanageable.

This was agreed to ; and Mrs. Cranswick now seemed to consider Mr. wanley as the first person in creation ; she invited him to dine with her ; but with a sense of propriety, that much pleased her husband, he begged her excuse, as he did not wish, he said, to diminish the party at the stewards' public table, by the absence even of so insignificant a member as himself. She contested the point very loudly and very vehemently ;



hemently; but he evaded her request with dexterity and politeness.

"Well then, sir," said she, "you shall pay handsomely for having your own way—I shall expect you in my box at the play to-night." He bowed in acquiescence. "Nor is that all—I'll teach you, sir, how to refuse me!—To-morrow we go to Briar Lodge; and you go with us for a few days: don't tell me of engagements; I wont hear of them."

Colonel Cranswick, after what had happened, could not avoid seconding his wife's request; and after some hesitation, which she most impetuously overruled, Mr. Wanley at length consented. If his visit, upon so short an notice, was not obtrusive, he should be happy to wait upon them. This promise past, Mrs. Cranswick rose into the most troublesome good



good spirits; and, much as I always disliked the noise and confusion of a race-ordinary, I sincerely regretted I had not *that* day preferred it to Mrs. Cranswick's party at her lodgings, as the pleasanter society of the two.

The next day would have been still more wearisome to me, had I been of the party to Briar Lodge; but sir William, who was as tired as myself of this folly, would not suffer me to pass the gates of Dorien Court; and after a quiet evening with Dawnay and Edella, which appeared spent in paradise, after the din I had endured, I was happy to return to my own tranquil pan

Within the ~~house~~ however, a general promise to dine at Briar Lodge compelled the baronet's family and myself to encounter Mrs. Cranswick again; I say

Mrs.

Mrs. Cranswick, because, in her present frame of mind, she was incomparably the most audible person in her house. The sweet-tempered Lotharea, delighted to see her mother so happy, never left her side. Miss Guineaman, evidently very desirous of afflicting Dawnay with as strong a paroxysm of jealousy as she had lately undergone herself, pretended to hang upon Mr. Wanley's words; while he was as much the prisoner of Mrs. Cranswick, as any unlucky gentleman beneath the shade of ill-fortune was ever the prisoner of a rude-handed bailiff.

Those who wished to be rationally cheerful walked with the colonel beyond the reach of his lady's voice; and the good nature with which he smiled at her remorseless exertion of it, placed him in a very amiable light.



"It is agreeable to see any body so highly pleased," said he; "yet I confess, were my wife a younger woman, or Wanley of an age nearer to her own, I might not participate very cordially in her delight. It is impossible, however, not to like him, for he is sensible, well-informed, gentle, and unassuming. I hope his departure will not break Letitia's heart; for he has given me to understand he cannot think of protracting his visit beyond the day after to-morrow; but he seems anxious to engage some small hunting-box, or cottage, in this neighbourhood for the approaching winter; should he succeed, I suppose we shall all see much of him."

Miss Dorlen and Dawnay, to whom Mr. Wanley was now introduced, joined in the colonel's sentiments of him; and I jestingly



jestingly cautioned Edella to beware, lest the merit we gave him credit for, and the graces of person we saw he possessed, did not shake her fidelity to Horatio.

"Oh, Mr. Cremorne," said she, "you affront me now.—Is nothing binding but parchment?"

No circumstance alleviated Mrs. Crauswick's sorrow upon her separation from this new idol she had singled out for her adoration; save his assurances that he should, if it were possible, fix himself within the range of sir William Dorien's hunt; and that he should frequently avail himself of her indulgence to pay his devoirs at Briar Lodge. Indeed she was at so much pains herself to inquire for a situation that might suit him; till, at length, he resolved on settling at Doncaster, in lodgings

lodgings that were commodious enough for a single man.

Here his gentlemanly manners soon brought him acquainted with most of the neighbouring families; and in many he became nearly as great a favourite as at Briar Lodge; yet he did not appear to solicit intimacy with any, and still less, intruded without invitations that were often even repeated before he accepted them. Though he constantly hunted with sir William Dorian, he never came to his house unasked; yet occasionally engaged both the baronet and his son to meet small parties of gentlemen at his lodgings. Dawnay liked him so well, that he professed to have discovered only one objection against him, which was, that of being an idle man without any profession.



profession. However that might be, Dawnay could not long charge him with having no pursuit; for before the winter was over, his visits at Briar Lodge were so often repeated, and his attentions, when they were not engrossed by Mrs. Cranswick herself, became so pointedly turned towards Miss Guineaman, that there could no longer be a doubt she was the object he held in view. When rallied upon the subject, he never denied, though he did not absolutely acknowledge this; but usually replied by either a bow or a smile, as happened one day when, as Dawnay and I were taking a morning ride, we met him on the road to colonel Cranswick's—"I am going to Briar Lodge," said he; "will you turn back, and go with me?"

"No, no," replied Dawnay, speaking



very slow, "you are going to Barbary, and that is too far for us."

In the course of this winter, an old lady died, who possessed a small, but very desirable estate, adjoining to sir William Dorian's property; and her next heir, a distant relation, who resided in the south of England, and was embarrassed with debts, determined on selling it, to remove his difficulties. It was of more value to sir William than it could be of to any other purchaser; and it was an object of peculiar interest to him, because many parts of it intersected his ground. He was anxious, therefore, not to lose the earliest opportunity of securing it, lest it should be bought by some interested land-jobber, with a view of disposing of it again to advantage, or of dividing it into small shares, which eventually

tually might prove very disagreeable to sir William, by giving him a variety of neighbours, troublesome perhaps to his game, and unpleasant in themselves.

But solicitous as he was to prevent these inconveniences, he was unwilling to conclude the purchase without the concurrence of his eldest son; and as it was always intended that Mr. Dorien and Horatio should not remain longer than two years abroad, of the completion of which period there did not want many months, sir William determined to accelerate Henry's return, not only that he might himself inspect the estate in question, but also because his signature was necessary to certain deeds, which were to be executed before it was bought.

Accordingly he wrote to Potsdam, where the young travellers then were,



communicating the business on hand, and his wish to Mr. Dorian; while another letter from colonel Cranswick to Horatio left it wholly at the option of the latter, either to accompany his friend home, or to continue abroad the projected time.

As early as it was possible for him to do so, Henry Dorian obeyed his father's summons, bringing with him letters from lord Vesprin and Horatio, the latter of whom had, with much reluctance, yielded to the pressing instances of his lordship, to spend part of the summer with him at Venice. Being, as he observed to his father, bound by promise not to solicit the hand of Edella, until he came into possession of his late uncle's property, he acquiesced, from the recollection that he should not the sooner call  
her

her his own, by hastening his return home, and thereby ungratefully refusing the request of a kinsman, who had laid him under constant obligations ever since he left England; not but that Mr. Dorian averred all his own influence to have been necessary, as well as lord Vesprin's, to dissuade his friend from losing such a favourable opportunity of seeing a city that so eminently excited the curiosity of all strange



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