

NARRATIVE
OF
HENRY TUFTS.

BOOK III.

CHAPTER I.

Bright Venus, in her rosy car,
Invites to scenes of harmless war,
Young Cupid lends desire;
Sweet scenes, which tho' they stop my breath,
Cause but a momentary death,
And fans the lover's fire.

BEING once more in possession of liberty, while of too restless a temper to enjoy its comforts, in domestic repose, I set out in quest of new scenes, and new adventures. Not long had I paced the varied amphitheatre of life, ere chance directed my steps to Greenland.

Whether my good or evil genius conducted me thither, at this season, is a problem I cannot even now resolve. Whether I ought to felicitate myself on what befel me there; or, to deplore the consequent events, are mysteries, alike, too deep for my investigation. It so happened that I there saw, and conversed, for the first time, with a young woman

whose name was Abigail Kennison, who resided with one William Foss, of that town. Though a widow she was both young and beautiful; her manners soft and engaging, and her personal charms uncommonly attractive; such, at least, did she appear, at that period, in my, perhaps, too partial view. On farther acquaintance, finding her disposition amiable, I did not hesitate to pay her my devoirs, as a lover; during which, being quite a stranger to her and the family, I palmed myself upon both, under the fictitious name of Gideon Garland. Once a week, for three months, I visited, privately, this alluring object of my vows, at the end of which term she unfortunately proved to be pregnant. Having a knowledge of her situation, I grew timorous of consequences, and discontinued my customary visits; though, to conceal nothing, my feelings were greatly wounded by that restraint. My inclination plead strongly in her behalf; for she had in fact, bewitched my fancy, and riveted my affection, in a manner, which no other woman had hitherto been able.

For two long months, from my unmanly dereliction, she waited in patient expectation of my return, without seeking the means of redress; by that time, however, she had discovered my real name, and besides, that I was already married, and had a large family. Upon this unpleasing discovery, she went before a magistrate, and, legally charged me, on oath, with being the father of the child of which she was then pregnant. She then advertised me by letter, that seeing restitution by marriage was out of the question, if I would meet her in Stratham, the place of her former abode,

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a time she particularised, the affair should be there settled in almost any manner, I might choose. Accordingly, I sent her word, that I should not fail of attendance in obedience to her summons, and in this I was punctual; but found, to my surprise, that her honorable proposals terminated in her having an officer who seized me, the moment I entered the house. This treacherous proceeding, as I certainly conceived it, did not a little ruffle my spirits. I had anticipated, no such treatment, and was, therefore, quite unprepared for defence. In a few minutes the officer, in accents of abuse and irritation, requested an explicit declaration of my intentions. "You appear to be extremely knowing folks in business, said I; how indeed am I to settle this?" By paying the money, undoubtedly; or, if you prefer it, by going to jail, replied the officer. "I choose to go to jail, then, and you shall find out whether you have a fool to deal with or not." Having uttered this, I was taken, first, before a magistrate, and then as a legal consequence, carried to Exeter jail, where, as the keeper was seeing me properly disposed of, I jocosely said, "I have come to pay you another visit, Capt. Ladd; but not in a criminal capacity, therefore you cannot put me in irons, this time." Here, however, I stretched the truth. "Yes I can, exclaimed he." "We'll try your hand at it" repeated I. At this he gave vent to several reproaches; but, after blustering awhile, thrust me into the best jail.

Being thus confined, my mind was busily exercised in trying to devise ways and means to avoid paying for a child, which, nevertheless, I thought really my own. Though I really entertained a

passion, however criminal, for the poor girl; yet I resented the rough treatment, I had lately received at her instigation; and resolved, how well soever I had deserved that treatment in fact, to lay a plan, to requite the transaction. Many were my serious reflections, on this knottiest of subjects; but still the proper measures to be pursued did not so readily occur. At last however, I conceived, that, in case, I could bring the girl to settle, and take my security, while in prison, I should, in no wise, be compellable to discharge the security (in which, perhaps, I calculated without my host) or, if no other advantage accrued, I should obtain, at least, the privilege of absconding, which might serve my turn altogether as well. I concluded, therefore, to send her a letter, the first opportunity, with an offer of settlement either with herself or friends. But, as it happened, I was fortunately saved this trouble, for, on the third day of my imprisonment, two of the Selectmen of Stratham made me a visit, as well in behalf of the complainant, as of the town itself. After a few cursory observations, it was asked, what I allotted to do in relation to my imprisonment. "Have you authority to settle, demanded I, "Yes, our power is sufficient, as may appear by these papers." Accordingly, knowing I had a horse in Exeter, and supposing, perhaps, I might own other property, they offered to discharge me on my giving an obligation for forty pounds, lawful money. I acceded to this, and the jail doors being opened, they introduced a table, paper and ink, to conclude the business; but while this was transacting, the gates were closed upon us all. A note of hand was then written for forty pounds,

which I signed; an acquittance done, the doors formed, that I fit. I marched into the sitting-room; and in the venerable company of course on the and chatting over rallying way, "I promised, who?" "Who but I." "Who but Gentlemen, by tell you, a prison law, and consequently (quoth one of the question decided with his colleagues with a certain at Exeter. He tion and request their consolation a repetition of thundered in the ed them, was duresse, at the any action they he advised the ant, poor Nabb With this in the prison, not shot themselves

which I signed ; and they, on their side, gave me an acquittance against all further demands. This done, the doors were again set open, and I was informed, that I was at liberty to depart, when I saw fit. I marched out with the rest, and was ushered into the sitting-room, to talk the affair over, further ; and in the mean time, to share, in their honorable company, a bowl or two of grog ; a matter of course on these occasions. As we sat drinking and chatting over the liquor, I said to them, in a rallying way, "Now that the business is so far compromised, who shall pay for this bye-blow, you or I." "Who but yourself" cried they. "Not so, Gentlemen, by your leave, retorted I ; for, let me tell you, a prisoner's obligation is irrecoverable in law, and consequently void." "Think you as much (quoth one of them) by my troth, I will have that question decided in a few minutes." Without addition of a syllable more, he suddenly left the house, with his colleague, and away they hied to confer with a certain gentleman of the profession, residing at Exeter. Having stated facts, shewn my obligation and requested his opinion, they received, for their consolation, as they themselves acknowledged, a repetition of the doctrine, that I had so lately thundered in their ears. The obligation, he assured them, was invalid, for that, I might plead duress, at the time of making it, in abatement of any action they could bring ; so that, on the whole, he advised their compromising with the complainant, poor Nabby, in the best manner possible.

With this displeasing answer they posted back to the prison, not a little chagrined at having overshot themselves thus, but finding it too late to

mend a bad bargain, they concluded to let it remain as it was, so mounted their nags, and set out for the town of Stratham. How the difficulty was adjusted with Nabby, I do not remember to have made inquiry.

Directly upon their departure, I called for my horse, discharged the bill of keeping, and returned to my family, feeling no small exultation, at the kind issue of an affair, which in the outset seemed to threaten me with long imprisonment and great perplexity.

Scarcely had three days elapsed, before curiosity inticed me to revisit the comely Abigail, though I still felt a degree of indignation at my late rough usage. I was desirous of an interview, to learn the drift of her late conduct; and to see in what manner she stood affected at the fruitless termination of her process. I knew not but this might be the last visit she would ever receive from me.

When I entered her presence, I found her absorbed in tears, and apparently in much trouble and affliction. I was both surpris'd and softened, at the sight of her distress. No sooner did poignancy of grief permit utterance, than she gave vent to her complaints in strains the most pathetic; a faint specimen of which follows.

“Unfeeling man, (exclaimed she) your cruelty has undone me; my peace and happiness are destroyed, forever! Why, to compass my ruin, did you conceal your present marriage, your real situation in life? Why betray me with false promises, not in your power to perform? Had I been apprised of your conjugal connections, nothing could have bribed my consent to the lewd intercourse we have

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been guilty of, nor should temptations have allured me from the path of virtue and decency ! But now, alas ! the fatal die is cast ; my wretchedness is complete and remediless ; my reputation blasted forever, and destitute am I left of all earthly comfort. Already have my friends forsaken, and my relatives fled from me ; yet those evils, however mortifying, I might perhaps have borne, but for the cruel disappointment I meet with in losing you, forever ; a loss injurious to my tenderest feelings, and afflictive to my aching heart ; for, on you, I had placed my whole love and dependance, and fondly looked forward to that hour, which should have united us in the nearest and dearest of ties ! But, alas ! how cruel, how bitter has been my disappointment, and how insupportable are my afflictions ! The only remaining consolation, is, that my calamities will be of short continuance on this side the grave."

Here sighs and tears, intervening, obstructed her broken accents, and she was silent. The sight of her misery gave my heart a sympathetic pang, and sighs of compassion escaped from my swollen bosom. At that moment, I had made with cheerfulness, any sacrifice, however painful or great, to have lessened her distresses, or contributed to her peace of mind.

"Calm those fears, and cease those unavailing complaints, I beseech you, (cried I, taking her fondly by the hand) and believe me at all times your devoted friend. Believe me yet inclined, notwithstanding the trivial circumstance that has obstructed our harmony, to render you every assistance in my power. My heart is not formed of such obdurate materials, as to be insensible to your misfor-

tunes, nor has my former love sustained the smallest diminution. On the contrary, most joyfully would I remove, to the extent of my abilities, all anxiety from your breast; most gladly, contribute to the advancement of your felicity. Yes, my beloved girl! would you give me leave, most cheerfully would I relinquish both family and friends, and seek with you, alone, some distant retreat, in which we might live together in love and happiness, unnoticed and unknown; free from the obloquy of the malicious; and where I might dedicate a whole life to make you happy."

"Is the evidence of my senses to be trusted, (interrupted she) or is this the mere illusion of fancy? Do I hear truth, or only dream? Is it possible you could thus abandon your native soil, your domestic endearments, and forego all for my sake?"

"Nothing is more certain (exclaimed I) provided you assent to bear me company; for you are, indeed the mistress of my heart, and would richly compensate for every other bereavement." "If such be truly your sentiments (resumed she) I hold myself ready to participate in your good or ill fortune, and to attend your footsteps whithersoever you may see fit to go." Very gratefully did I thank her for the frankness and condescension she had manifested by this declaration; very warmly, too, did I assure her of my unabating and perpetual love.

Having thus disclosed our thoughts to each other, we made a firm and faithful agreement to flee away, in concert, to some sequestered spot, far from the reach of those who might be able to molest us, or should be opposed to our union. However, as

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cold weather was just at the door, we thought fit to postpone departure, till the spring ensuing.

In this way did we adjust all former grievances, and heal every subject of uneasiness. And now, that the storm of her passions had subsided, her mind grew calmer by degrees, till at length it recovered its accustomed serenity; this was an event which brought pleasure to my heart.

Our sensations, our desires, were now in unison, and led us powerfully to sanction this happy reconciliation, by devoting the remaining hours, to those soothing blandishments, which are indispensable on the adjustment of similar difference; to those soft indulgencies, which should ever form the firmest cement of friendship and love. At bidding adieu, I promised a renewal of customary visits at all seasonable opportunities.

Parting from the woman of my heart, I returned home, full of the thoughts of my novel resolution, but anxious, at the same time, to keep the whole affair a profound secret, till I could carry it into complete execution. Meanwhile I paid my mistress a number of visits, through the course of the winter, and made all suitable provision for her approaching illness. If I happened to move the subject of our intended departure, a momentary dejection would sadden her countenance, and some expression of reluctance escape from her lips. Her scruples were of the conscientious kind, as she appeared to be apprehensive, that my family would be injured by our elopement.

In the course of the winter I made a tour to Fairfield, a town lying northwardly of Pigwacket; and as land was cheap in that quarter, I pitched

upon it as the place of our future retirement, should my paramour be disposed to attend me thither.

With design to know her mind more fully on that important question, I paid her a visit early in the spring, found her in health, and was presented with the first pledge of our mutual love. No sooner had we retired, than I addressed her, to the following effect. "My dear Nabby! I have now come, on the wings of love and impatience, to visit you for the last time, as I trust, ere we shall bid adieu to these unkindly shores. I have presumed to call you mine, and it is a privilege I claim by all the ties of love and tenderness. The object of my present visit is to converse with you, the real mistress of my heart, and to know your mind more fully on the subject of our intended expedition. In a few days, if I meet with no obstruction on your side (which heaven forbid) I shall be in preparation for the commencement of our journey. I have considered that it may be best to repair to the town of Fairfield, because I have friends in that place, who are ready to receive us; there we may reside, unexposed to the shafts of the busy and revengeful. May I flatter myself with no demur on your part, or must I feel the pangs of disappointment, in a matter so near my heart?" "To confess truth, (replied she,) my mind is vexed with solicitude; portentous cares disturb my rest, and betoken the approach of ill. What will your wife and family say, if you forsake them, entirely? Will they not be reduced to misery and distress, and imprecate vengeance on my devoted head, as the cause of their sufferings? There is a principle within my breast, my actions notwithstanding, which tells me, it is not

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lawful to part man and wife ; and that, if we abscond thus clandestinely, our lives will be attended with bitterness and woe." "Suffer not, said I, such gloomy apprehensions to distract your mind, nor fancy that our departure will operate to the damage of my family ; for, the fact is, I am determined to leave home, at all events, even if denied your desirable company ; your conduct then, whether you go or stay, can effect in no wise the destiny of mine. But if my charmer, continued I, had any portion of that love and regard for her devoted friend, which he bears towards her, she would never hesitate thus." "After the proofs I have given you, replied she, you can indulge no scruples of my tenderness, nor of the power you possess over my fate ; and if you are bent on quitting these parts, I must resign myself entirely to your superior judgment." "Then, said I, God willing, before the expiration of three weeks, I will wait upon you with a horse and carriage, and pray be in complete readiness ; we shall be able to take with us a few of the most necessary articles ; the rest I would have you dispose of to the best advantage."

Thus having arranged with the delight of my eyes, our whole plan of procedure ; I hasten to mention, that the next morning I returned home, and, with all due secrecy, made the necessary preparations for departure. Within the time, prefixed, I was at her habitation in Stratham, with my horse and a cart and wheels, for, in conscience, I could not dignify my homely vehicle with the appellation of chaise. She was soon ready with her baggage, and we set off conjointly, she in the cart, but myself on foot, in the capacity of driver

I passed with the carriage through Lee, to take in a few articles, as yet there, in the hands of a trustee; this, however, was a miscalculation, for, of necessity, I must now pass near my own house. My wife, too, had gained some inkling of our meditated elopement; wherefore, being much irritated, she flew out of doors in a paroxysm of passion, and exclaimed with much volubility, "I have often heard of hell upon trucks, but never had a sight of it before now." To this most righteous invective I made no reply, but, leaving her in the height of her philippics, drove onward with great velocity, till quite out of sight and hearing of the family.

The distance from Stratham to Fairfield is one hundred and thirty miles, and it was our intention to remove thither, without useless loitering upon the passage. While this lengthy migration was performing, fortune bequeathed not a single indignant frown, nor played us one antic trick; on the reverse, our whole tour was but a scene of varied recreation. We proceeded by slow and easy stages, and received, from every quarter, the kindest hospitality on the road. Two whole weeks were consumed in this journey; but at last we had the satisfaction to reach the desired harbour, in prime spirits, and to put up at the house of Joseph Jackson, whom I regarded as a peculiar friend.

As Fairfield was at that period but thinly inhabited, the best land was obtainable, on very moderate conditions. Hard by my place of residence, was a tract, containing one hundred and seventy acres, for sale, of a superior quality. As I intended to settle in this quarter, I disposed of my horse, and every other article I could spare, and purchas-

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ed that valuable tract. After which acquisition, I made no useless delays, but proceeded heartily to work, at falling trees and clearing land. In this business I made so rapid a progress, that my neighbors assured me I should soon have a good farm. My prospects continuing to brighten, I built a house, resolving to sit down contentedly for life, and bid adieu to roving forever.

With my new companion, whose mental endowments were excellent, and whose disposition was extremely agreeable, I now lived in love and harmony, enjoying more real quiet, than I had seen for many years before. Each day added to the flattering probability, that Fairfield was to become the requiem of my toils. I saw nothing now to blight my hopes or disturb my tranquility, except the fears I yet harbored, lest haply I might lose my land by prosecutions for former miscarriages. To remedy this imaginary evil, I laid a plan to save my purchase; by conveying it, through the medium of a deed, to Jackson, my near neighbor, and, as I then supposed, firm friend.

I conferred with him, on the subject, told him my apprehensions, and the resolution I had formed of putting my land, for safety, into his hands, as into those of a friend, in whom I could repose unlimited confidence. He approved of the calculation, and promised to be faithful in whatever trust I might choose to invest him. Accordingly, without further reflection, and even without exacting counter security, I gave him a good deed of my whole land, which he was to reconvey to me at an hour's warning.

After this transaction, having a mixture of concerns to adjust, at Lee, and New-Market, the place of my nativity, I made an excursion to those parts, and there collected a number of small debts, which had been a long time due. After this, I negotiated sundry other important matters, and bade farewell to all my friends, not expecting to revisit them for some time to come.

Departing hence I made the best of my way homeward, till, on the path, I met with a vagabond Frenchman, who persuaded me to help him steal a brace of fat sheep. Just as we had dressed them, the owner caught us in the fact, and obliged us to refund two other live sheep, and pay him exemplary damages: This scandalous piece of business impeded my journey for several days.

But another mishap, far more grievous than the one just related, befel me at this juncture; for I must here relate, that while I was absent from Fairfield, a man, called Esq. Dow, went to that town with a pretended sheriff named Allen, in quest (as he said) of a horse, stolen by Henry Tufts, from Dow's father. In searching for my property, he heard of the conveyance I had made of my land, therefore, went and requested Jackson to give him a quit claim, bidding seventy-five dollars, by way of inducement; but threatening to drag him to jail, in event of his non-compliance. Jackson, disliking the requisition, persisted in refusal one whole day; but, being ignorant of the affairs of law, he, at last, was so far intimidated and wrought upon by Dow's threats and persuasions together, that he gave him a deed of my whole land, for which he received seventy-five dollars, the gratuity promised.

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Dow's greediness was far from being satiated by this acquiescence; for he next repaired, with his engine of iniquity, Allen, to my dwelling-house, where those remorseless knaves, in spite of all my house-keeper could say, or do, to the contrary, pillaged it of every valuable article; and, without legal authority, sold the whole at vendue, in which they were assisted by one Jesse Barker, who bought a part of the goods.

Dow was now about to decamp; but the people of Fairfield, supposing I should hear of the catastrophe, and not return; insisted on Dow's conveying my housewife to Stratham, her former residence, or, at least, some part of the way thither. To satisfy their murmurs he consented, though reluctantly, and set out with her for Conway, in Pig-wacket; between which town and Fairfield there was then a large tract of woods, twenty-four miles in length, without a single inhabitant. As it happened the way was rough, and our travellers so belated, that encamp they must, all night, in the wilderness. Having whiled away the sleepless hours till morning dawn, Dow, with some others, arose from the dewy couch, and renewed his journey; leaving Allen, who was unready to start, to conduct Abigail to Conway. As the gentleman last named (if the appellation, when applied to him, be not a profanation of terms) had a few amorous ingredients in his composition, he shewed a vehement inclination, before resuming his journey, to dance Sallenger's round with his tempting charge, seeing he had her alone in the bushes. Each art was tried, and every method attempted to win her consent, but she as constantly resisted his advances.

At last, finding her inexorable, and that bribes and intreaties were alike fruitless, he grew outrageous, and drawing out his knife, swore he would finish her on the spot, if she obstructed the gratification of his wishes. Unmoved by these menaces, she was virtuously steadfast in her refusal, till Allen, whose ardour knew no bounds, caught hold of his intended prey, and endeavored by main force, to rattle those charms, which he despaired of taking by other methods. His female opponent made the best possible resistance, and in the long struggle, received upon her fair bosom two cuts from Allen's knife. The scene was horrid in the extreme, but the hasty ravisher, struck at the sight of blood, as it issued amain from the wounds he had inflicted, and thinking too, that her fortress of virtue was impregnable, desisted from his ungodly undertaking. Allen, however, was much chagrined at the mortifying rebuff, while the injured fair, her spirits ruffled, and strength exhausted, sat down at a distance. Tears fell from her eyes, but, after the respite of a minute or two, she arose to take the horse, wishing to abandon the detested spot. Allen prevented her, swearing he would leave her to perish in the wilderness, as a punishment for her obstinacy. She was vastly agitated, insomuch that the ruffian was afraid to execute his menaces, and finally, gave her the horse while he went on foot, in which order they advanced to Conway.

She applied immediately, to the next Magistrate, complained of Allen's violence, and took out a warrant against him. A number of men turned out to assist in taking the culprit, but did not overtake him, till he had reached Eaton, where they found

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him at a grist-mill, waiting while his horse should champ a feed of corn. A sharp conflict ensued. Allen defended himself resolutely with his knife, and cut the hand of the foremost assailant, then darting through the midst of them, he made off, like a sturdy fellow, toward the thickets. The wounded man, pursued, with a cudgel, overtook and knocked Allen down, swearing he should surrender or die. Others running up to the combatants, Allen was secured, and, presently after, conducted to the main road in Eaton.

Here I met them on my passage from Newmarket. Dow, observing me, stepped up with two of his myrmidons, saying, "I will secure you." Accordingly, they took me prisoner, and hurried me away into the woods; it being their drift to prevent my yielding succour to my mistress, or being present at Allen's examination and trial. In this manner was I harassed and bamboozled, by those insidious knaves. Meantime, my faithful female, indignant at such treatment, like a true amazon, mustered seven or eight men, and placing herself at their head, sallied out for my rescue. Dow, at sight of those people, drew out a pistol, and presenting it to my breast, swore he would blow me through, if I moved a single step. My blood boiled at the tyrannical mandate, yet prudence restrained me, till my rescuers should have gotten within shot; but no sooner did this happen, than, by a sudden coup de main, I knocked the pistol from Dow's hand, and hurled it toward my friends. The heroic Nabby seized the pistol, and advancing toward Dow, (virago like) protested she would shoot him with his own weapon, if he did not instantly

set me free. Dow refused, declaring I was his prisoner, and threatening, with the utmost severity of the law, his annoyers, should they attempt the smallest interference. At this moment one of the company running up, smote Dow upon the back of his hand with a fustee, and fractured three of the bones; this was a decisive blow, and put an end to the contest.

Having regained my liberty, we were preparing to set off for the Justice's house, with a view to be present at Allen's trial; but we had not proceeded ten rods, ere obliged to halt on Dow's account, whose hand grew so painful, he could proceed no further. I undertook the office of surgeon, seeing no other was near, and replaced the bones, in the best order possible, binding up the wound with a linen handkerchief. This done, we all repaired to Capt. Wood's, in Eaton, where we found Allen in custody.

Here my companion gave me a particular detail of the mischief perpetrated by Dow and Allen, in their stripping me of all the property I possessed on the face of the globe, and of the shocking treatment that she herself had particularly sustained from the hands of Allen. Had I ever rendered my despoilers any injury, had I given them cause of complaint, I could now have borne, less indignantly, their nefarious conduct; but such was not the case, for in truth, I never was principal or accessory in stealing horse or other property from Dow or his father, during my existence. At the diabolical devices, then, of Dow and Allen, I felt the utmost indignation, and threatened both with plenary vengeance, the moment I should be at li-

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erty to take them to task. Allen could expect no lenity by reason of his atrocious attack upon Nabby, he was, therefore, quite anxious to compromise that part of the tragedy. To this end, he made us sundry proposals; but, at last, offered his horse, saddle and bridle, which, after some consultation, we accepted, and gave him a discharge in full.

This being settled, we went forward to Fairfield, to look after the wreck of our affairs there, and to visit Jackson, who had betrayed, so preposterously, my ill-placed confidence. I wished, among other things, to be thoroughly satisfied, whether he had really intended roguery, or not. On meeting, I reproached him with his venality, his perfidy, in bartering away my land for a song, miserably sung; demanded the seventy five dollars, he had received of Dow, and intimated my expectation of further reimbursements; but, to my great surprise, he refused paying even the paltry sum I demanded. The case was, by no means, even dubious; no remedy, beyond expostulation, was left me, for I had neglected counter security, when I gave him the deed. In a word; as my ill fortune would have it, I finally lost my land, and got nothing therefor, it being a clear case, that my credit was at too low an ebb at court, to undertake the prosecution of Jackson or Dow.

However, as my companion in sadness was legal owner of all the goods sold at vendue, she brought an action against Jesse Barker, for taking them from her house, and it justly cost him a good horse to compromise the affair. I must also take notice, that a short time after this, Dow disposed of my land for five hundred dollars, and that, in fact, it

has mortified my feelings, even to this day, to see into how excellent a farm it has been made.

Very possibly (do I sometimes exclaim) might that farm have yet continued my own, but for the folly and treachery of a pretended friend. O! truth, probity, justice! were you visible to mortal eyes, how captivating would be your charms! On the contrary, what a frightful figure do fraud, fil-lacy and deception compose! The poet and phi-losopher have exerted their ablest powers in eulo-gy of the former, and in shewing the horrid nature of the latter! those are, indeed, the props and or-naments of society; these, the plagues and curses of human life!!



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CHAP. II.

Accepto, claudenda est janua, damno.

When the steed is stolen, shut the stable door.

AS the unfortunate event, recapitulated in the last chapter, had been quite unexpected, my situation seemed desperate in extreme. I found myself stripped, at one blow, of all worldly property, and reduced to a state of absolute indigence, having nought wherewith I might procure, even the necessaries of life. In this deplorable conjuncture I could devise no remedy, no mode of relief; my fortitude, as well as presence of mind, forsook me entirely, and I sunk under the pressure of desponding care. I now bitterly reflected on myself for having the simplicity to put the least confidence in Jackson, and cursed my folly a thousand times, for having trusted the land out of my own hands. But my mistake was not in a situation to be rectified; repentance came too late, and was, consequently the more tantalizing to my feelings.

Good God! thought I, in what a signal manner have I lived, the sport and football ever, of malicious fortune! What a perverse fatality has attended me through every scene of my wretched existence! Has not each succeeding disaster been more intolerable than the former, and, indeed, every undertaking through life, altogether unprosperous? So gloomy and distressing were my cogitations, that the only comfort I received, was from the society

of my sympathizing mistress, whom I resolved not to abandon, more especially, on this trying emergency.

Of a truth, I had cause to thank my obliging companion for her superlative kindness at the unprosperous season I am now describing. With much tenderness did she endeavor to soothe and divert my uneasiness, and to alleviate my accumulated burthens, yet without avail; since,

On downy beds there's no repose,
For him, who no contentment knows;
Still less can that unhappy wight
Take quiet rest on straw by night.

In short, when she found my discontent to be permanent, and that nothing had efficacy to dispel my grief, she advised our quitting Fairfield; it had, indeed, been to us, the scene of wretchedness and woe. "Yes! (repeated I emphatically) it has been woe, unallayed with a single ingredient, that should induce our longer stay; I will, therefore, pack up the little all that fortune has spared us, and, attended by you, my faithful companion, quit the town in disgust, and travel, as chance may direct the way."

Shortly after this, goaded by poverty, we began a journey, westwardly, and passed, first through Coos, then continued our tour, till, after a tedious and troublesome march, barren of much incidents, we arrived at the town of Norwich in Vermont. Here feeling inclinable to repose, after the amazing fatigue we had encountered, we took shelter for a few days, at the house of one Johnson.

Our subsistence, in this route, had been derived from the same sources as formerly. Many people

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hearing of my long residence among the Indian tribes, had conceived a high opinion of my medical faculties, and were therefore very fond of my prescriptions; while the younger sort flocked, in my train, to learn their future fortunes, as though I had been the grand depository of the secrets of destiny. Sometimes, too, did the elderly approach my levee to enquire for lost goods, so that I had business enough, and was generally received with a hearty good welcome, go whither I would. Indeed I found it no way difficult to cajole my ignorant followers into the belief of whatever idle tale I was pleased to fabricate; how easy to deceive is the unreflecting multitude!

In respect to myself, it was the concurrent opinion, that I must be an extraordinary wizard, complete master of the black art, and able to employ the agency of the devil, whenever I saw fit. The belief of those things I endeavored to cultivate, well knowing, that reputation is sometimes of more advantage, in our intercourse with the generality of mankind, than are real acquirements, because a fool may possess it.

Having tarried at Johnson's a few days, and obtained a tolerable degree of rest and refreshment, we had thoughts of renewing the toils of our peregrination, but having grown familiar with Mrs. Johnson, and the rest of the family, she was particularly urgent for our longer stay, to the end I might help her husband in the management of his farm. Johnson's sentiments were in unison with his wife's; and as a more eligible place of settlement did not arise to view, we consented to the wishes of the family, and agreed to tarry in their

hospitable mansion, at least, for the present season. I engaged with alacrity in the service of Johnson, and received such good treatment, both from him and his wife, that I regained, insensibly, my usual serenity, and forgot, in a measure, the losses I had sustained at Fairfield. Besides, being blest with the company of my charming mistress, whom I esteemed more than all other women, I thought I had reason to felicitate myself on the prosperity of my present condition; because I was particularly exempted from such evils as had formerly disturbed my happiness.

While this agreeable scene continued,

Industry cheer'd the day, love crown'd the night,
Presenting objects gay, diffusing soft delight.

The same happy posture of things remained stationary for nearly the round of a year; but towards its close, an unlucky occurrence intervened, which affected my peace, and destroyed my repose; the particulars are briefly the following.

One day, I purchased a small quantity of leather, of one Benjamin French, and sold an Ichabod Marshal enough of the same to make him a pair of shoes. About the time this was done, Elisha Partridge lost a quantity of leather out of his tan pit, and from the circumstance of my selling leather, he became suspicious that I had stolen his. On that ground he had me arrested by special warrant, and carried before Esq. Burton for trial. As my witnesses were not present, the court was adjourned, finding bail for re-appearance.

On the day of trial, I carried French, of whom I had bought the leather, and some others, as witnesses; Marshal's shoes being produced, French

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swore to the fact of his tanning the shoelather, but the complainant Partridge and his two apprentices affirmed, that the leather had been tanned in their own yard. Thus were the testimonies diametrically opposite. Further, by the witnesses it appeared, that French, in tanning, made use of oak bark, principally, but that Partridge, for that purpose, used hemlock bark, only. French shewed also, that the leather, under consideration, had been tanned chiefly with oak bark; thus stood the facts; yet, after all, the justice gave judgment against me, and in the end, I had to pay thirty two dollars, which I had earned, every one of them, by the severest labour and toil. This mischief befel me, merely because the justice was not a tanner, and, therefore, ignorant of leather, as indeed, of most other things; while the footing of the unjust bill devoured all the neat earnings, that I collected while residing at Norwich.

My term with Johnson having expired, I removed to Bennington. Here a certain man, perceiving myself and partner to be itinerants, offered me the tending of his gristmill at the halves; which task, having, then, no prospect of better employment, I undertook, and was therefore obliged to abide pretty much at home, while at this place, being the greater part of a year. But to be thus restricted not corresponding with my cast of mind, I left the town; repaired to Pownald in Vermont, and dwelt in a house belonging to Josiah Barber.

This place, I made my home, for a number of months, and, for the support of myself and family, practiced physic the whole time, gadding about quack like, far and near, the character of Indian

doctor. By this conduct, I made out to live, generally, as well as heart could wish, and to lay something by, against future necessities.

While residing at Pownald, I made an excursion to Waterbury in Connecticut, and put up for the night at a new tavern, just opened in that town. The landlord had lately moved into the house, but not having brought home the whole of his furniture, I was obliged, much against my will, all may suppose, to lodge in the same room with a young woman, who was a guest there, as well as myself. I had been in bed about one hour, when, in the adjacent room, I heard a rough voice vociferating loudly, "God d——n it! where is my axe?" I was greatly alarmed, at the exclamation, thinking some mischief most certainly intended. I listened, but the bustle without, continuing, with a clangor, ill suited to alleviate my apprehensions, finally, much like a coward to be sure, sprang out of bed in my then situation, and pushing up the window, attempted to jump through, but my linen being caught by a nail, I was held fast in the passage. The young woman screamed, as all pretty women will, "murder," when instantly the door of our apartment flew open, and in bolted with wildness of aspect, the landlord, to enquire the cause of the uproar. Instead of answering queries, I demanded, the moment I could disengage myself from the window) what he meant by calling for his axe at that late hour. He replied, that having taken several of his children into bed, they had so besmeared him from head to foot, that he had been hawking for an axe, to make a fire, by which to cleanse himself. Repeating this, he left us; wherefore

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the mystery being thus solved, I returned quietly to my lodging. But the young woman's fright, as was also natural, subsided not. She appeared to be still more alarmed as the danger disappeared, and refused to be soon comforted, beseeching me, in accents of terror, to protect her from harm. I assured her she had nothing to apprehend, for that the noise had been occasioned by a mere blunder of my own; yet, if she deemed herself unsafe, I advised her to sleep, for better security, in the same bed with me. To this she made some demur; yet, soon after, as I wished, embraced the proposal; and to say truth, which I always intend, I was as highly pleased with the person of my fair associate, during the residue of the night, as I was anxious to obliterate an idea of the terrifying adventures of the evening.

The next morning we arose early from our delicious banquet, and, not regarding the invitation of the host, to stay to breakfast, called for our horses and immediately departed. On her way, I escorted my new acquaintance several miles, but before parting, invited her into an inn, and gave her breakfast, then bade adieu, and journeyed toward Pownald, meeting with nothing worth recital till I reached home.

Soon after this, I removed with my partner Nabby, and two children, to Wallingford in Vermont, where we abode some time. Here I procured a habit, befitting a doctor of physic, and set out on foot to make a tour through the country. Roaming along I came to a place near Number four, where I halted at an inn, and was presently joined by a female guest, who had fortunately requested lodgings for the night. With this miss, who was

indeed amiable, I soon scraped acquaintance, and so contrived matters, that one bed sufficed for us both until morning; I then attended her in quality of a lover, to her father's house, seven miles distant. Here certain seeming casualities protracted our courtship for the length of eight days, at the end of which I forsook my elysium by bidding the young lady farewell for the present. Hence I prosecuted my journey in a circuit toward home, and the first night brought me to a tavern, occupied by a beautiful young and debonair widow. Finding this woman approachable, I made immediate love to her cheek, as delays are dangerous, boasted of my great riches, and, to speak all in a word, obtained her favor to the utmost latitude of my wishes. Having dallied in her company two nights, I took my leave with assurances of a speedy return, and straightway revisited my Abigail.

At the end of two weeks I paid the blooming widow another visit, and was most cordially received. In fine, we agreed upon marriage. But on my urging the declaration, when I might hope for its consummation, she replied, that to save the speech of people, it was her mind to cut the matter short; so we named a time, in which I was to come and stay with her, till the nuptial ceremonies should be over. Having settled the preliminaries with this agreeable woman, and partaken largely of her favors, I departed; but it was not my intention, nor in fact, did I ever happen, to set eyes on her more. The above is one of those unhallowed transactions, which though they please some sinners, should afford no kind of satisfaction to the perpetrator, in the retrospect; of a truth,

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parallel instances of infidelity and deception fill me with shame and remorse, whenever they occur to mind.

On my way home, I passed, one evening, near a certain farm house, where seeing some clothes hanging upon a line, I ventured up, and grasped a man's shirt. At that instant a young woman came out to strip the line; but not finding the shirt, she cried out to her mother, "I can't find grandfather's shirt." "No matter, said the mother, you will find it in the morning." Knowing, however, she would experience a disappointment, I hastened along, and made out to reach home the next day.

Soon after, I commended to my partner a speedy removal to Connecticut, or New York, alledging, as the cause of my wishing to reside in one of those States, that I had friends and connections in both. As she expressed entire resignation to my better judgment, I packed up our scanty all, and with the family, consisting of my temporary wife and two children, directed my course to Connecticut, but finding, in that State no situation quite to our liking, I continued roving, till we had penetrated beyond the middle of New York.

My finances, by the time of finishing this expensive tour, were brought to the very lowest ebb, so that to support myself and family, with any sort of decency, required diligence, dexterity and finesse. Maugre all care, our straits were sometimes pressing; yet, with much cheerfulness, I exerted every nerve, the better to sustain the woman of my heart, and the tender offspring of our mutual love.

In no one place did we abide long at a time, but followed a straggling, irregular life, till heartily sick of so many unceasing migrations.

One day, as I was travelling to pick up a small matter of money by doctoring, I happened to approach a well looking house ; when, feeling a degree of fatigue, I went in, though merely with an intent to rest my weary bones, for a few short minutes. Here I learnt that the man of the house was very low in health, having been confined to his chamber with a lingering illness, for a long time. On requesting to see the invalid, I was introduced into his apartment, and after a short discourse, forgot not to intimate my profession as a doctor. Hearing this, the spectre of a man desired me to feel his pulse, and communicate what I thought of the nature of his disorder. I did so, and hinted, that by exposing himself to cold, unwholesome weather, and the noxious damps of nightly air, he had contracted so vicious a habit, that he never could shake off, (unless by great care) the effects of his imprudence. He asked if I could supply him with any thing sanative in his situation. I told him I could ; and, immediately gave him a variety of medicines, with instructions for their application. He then enquired if I had received no item of his situation prior to my arrival at the house. I answered in the negative ; for, indeed, I had heard no more of the man, than the bare mention of his name, as Doctor such a one ; but by that clue I had drawn conjectures as to the nature of his disease. Finding me, at length, about to depart, he requested my bill ; but I let him know, I should submit that entirely to his own generosity. After a short pause, he insisted upon knowing my demand, though, he said, he had made up his mind from which he should never swerve. I was still

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reluctant ; yet, as he seemed so urgent for my naming a sum, I told him, he might give me about a dollar. "Twelve, said he, will be little enough ; do, my dear, (speaking to his wife) take them from my bureau, and present them to the gentleman." I was really unwilling to receive so large a compensation, for a service costing me so little ; but he insisted upon my taking the whole, saying, his own calling, of a long time, had been similar to mine, and that my account respecting his frequent exposure to intemperate weather, and nocturnal effluvias, had been literally true. Thanking the gentleman for his liberality, and wishing him a speedy recovery, I took my leave, and a while after, had the satisfaction of hearing, that my patient had regained a complete state of health, and was practising physic, as formerly.

For a number of months back, my chief earnings had been derived from medical channels, and I may here say, with propriety, that my experience in medicine, however small, afforded me frequent relief, when destitute of all other resources. My amiable companion, at this period, grew discontented with our itinerary mode of life, and was so importunate for my returning nearer to the place of her nativity, that I even acceded to her wishes, and removed back, to Connecticut first, and soon after to Marblehead, in the Bay State.



CHAP. III.

Oh when I see how that forebodes no ill,
How ready I am of greater blessings still,
The more affliction mock him in his joy,
And as he seems, sweep his joys away.

IN Marblehead, I hired a room in a
house belonging to Lawyer Sewall, and having
purchased some apothecary's drugs, and gathered
such a sarrage of roots, herbs, barks, &c. as clearly
entitled me to the reputation of a pharmacopolist at
least; I commenced business upon a more exten-
sive scale than heretofore, visiting many patients
and having employments both from high and low.
With so much diligence did I attend to my appro-
priate functions, that I cleared, one time with ano-
ther, at least three dollars per day. This tide of suc-
cess remained stationary the whole time of my em-
ployment at Marblehead, which was nearly six
months, and the fame of the notable cures I effec-
ed, extended to no small distance.

Thus was I prospered, at this period, in all my
lawful undertakings, and meant to pursue the same
still, in a way of truth and uprightness, not once
dreaming of the fatal calamities now in embryo, and
which I was on the eve of suffering; calamities
neither to be avoided nor procrastinated.

My luckless journal has now arrived at that de-
cisive epoch of my life, by me never to be forgotten;
when the most trying event, or rather the most
event, of my chequered existence, received this

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unwelcome birth and consigned me a devoted victim, to woes unnumbered, and bordering upon the confines of death. Although particular remembrance of those disastrous scenes are painful in the extreme, and my lacerated mind recoils at their recollection, yet a just regard to truth compels me to lay them before the patient reader.

In the spring of the year, 1793, I bought of a John Stewart, one silver table spoon, and five teaspoons of the same metal, (would to God I had never set eyes on them or him!) He told me he found them in clearing out a cellar, as he came from Philadelphia. Stewart being bare of cloathing, I supplied him with a fustian coat, and pair of stockings, by way of payment, and thought no more of the transaction.

My little family made daily use of the spoons; but one morning, while I was eating breakfast, a young woman entered my apartment, who happened to espy and know them. Leaving the house, away she posted to the former owner, Daniel Jacobs, of Danvers, and informed him of the circumstance. My apprehension was the immediate consequence of this. I was presently convened before Esq. Sewall, and questioned, as to the manner of my acquiring the articles; my answer to the court, was, that I had bought them of one John Stewart. For this man, then, immediate search was made; he was found, brought forward, and examined, but his testimony was hardly so explicit as I had wished; however, it amounted pretty nearly to a confession, that he had sold me the spoons. Thus far all was right, and I thought myself in expectation of a ready acquittal, as soon as Stewart should be brought

to a proper acknowledgment of the truth, which, saving self crimination, I expected he would. But a certain sheriff, (who was, as was generally the case, no friend of mine) being present, and fearing, I conclude, that Stewart would confess all, to his own detriment without doubt, called him aside, to sift, as I then thought, something more from the witness. What their private conference was, I know not, but Stewart immediately took leg bail, and made his escape; never after was it, most unfortunately, in my power, to investigate the place of his retreat.

By the above and other proceedings, it was plain, that my adversaries were contriving to fasten upon me the crime of burglary, in respect to Jacobs' house, of which enormity, God knows, I was then, as I am now, entirely innocent. I had no other witness than Stewart, whose testimony could assist me, in the least; I could, therefore, make no further defence; and the shocking result of the whole, was, my commitment to Salem jail, there to abide trial at the sitting of the next supreme court.

My housekeeper, Nabby, however adulterous our connection, was deeply afflicted at this most unlucky turn of my affairs. How piercing to my heart were her complaints, her tears, and lamentations! With what infinite regret did I leave, at this fatal period, her amiable society, and that of our innocent and beloved children, in exchange for the dreary mansions of a jail! But fate, cruel fate, had thus ordained the series of events, and to its rigid decrees I must submit of necessity.

Our parting scene was tender, was affecting, beyond my feeble skill of utterance. Scarce

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the smallest ray of hope soothe my imagination, that the exulting joy would return to me, of participating, again, in the cares or the comforts of my little family ; but on the contrary, gloomy presages of the nameless miseries awaiting, erected their dark dominion over the strongest powers of my fancy.

The sheriff, named above, led me to the horrid mansion pointed out for my present reception ; and when the grating bolts announced a close, an insuperable bar, " seem'd plac'd 'twixt happiness and me."

Ten desponding days, I lingered, in " durance vile," without a straggling ray of hope to beam on my benighted mind ; but at the end of those days of torment, I received a visit, welcome, though, at the grates, from a man and woman of former acquaintance. They purposely gave me much verbal abuse ; but, at the same time, furnished me, privately, with two compass saws, a screw auger, and gimblet ; and having rendered me this capital and unexpected service, took their leave, by bidding me " a speedy passage to the gallows."

This unexpected turn of fortune in my favor, so far removed disconsolate reveries, that, with the implements, I fell briskly to work, in the sanguine hope of cutting a passage through the walls of the prison. After a tiresome operation, I brought the process near to its completion ; when unluckily, at a critical moment, I was betrayed by a negro prisoner, who informed the keeper of my design.

My removal to Ipswich jail, the strongest, esteemed, in the county, was the consequence of this disaster. I had the address, as I thought fortunate,

nately, to secrete a compass saw between the outer and inner soles of my shoe. I had been cooped in this latter prison scarce twenty four hours, ere I began a resolute attack upon the grates, and so very rapidly drove my purpose, that, in three days, I sawed off all the irons, appertaining to one of the windows. My success thus far had been brilliant & every thing seemed to concur in favoring my escape, inso much, that I fixed upon the next evening for breaking bulk. How did my heart leap, at this juncture ! how palpitate after that liberty, which, I thought myself on the verge of realizing ! again, with what rapture did I anticipate the pleasing felicity, which, in some secluded spot, I might enjoy, in the arms of my dear mistress ! How vexatiously mortifying, then, was my disappointment, when I saw my plan of escape once more defeated. The keeper had made discovery of the whole ; at first I knew not how, yet, afterwards learnt, that, to one Lumber, a shoplifter, were my thanks due for the revelation of the secret.

The prison keeper rebuked me sharply for the mischief done to the jail, and then ordered my removal into another cell, of superior strength to the former. Now, as a punishment for late misdemeanors, and for better security, I was strongly handcuffed, and chained, by one foot to the floor. Fortunately, however, I still retained my little saw, and the day of trial drawing near, I spent no time heedlessly, but fell industriously to work, and cut through my shackles in such a peculiar way, that I could put them off and on, at pleasure. Thus was I at liberty to explore the limits of this horrid cell, but, on research, it proved so invincibly secure,

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most people, I think, would have abandoned the thoughts of attempting its fracture, deeming the task altogether romantic. But, as I had learnt by long apprenticeship, to encounter any difficulties, where was visible the least prospect of success; so now, with patient pains, I began the elaborate process of digging through the floor. This was a tedious undertaking, by means of the interruptions I experienced, continually, not only from casual visitors, but also from the prisoners themselves, who obliged me to use extreme caution, as the least disturbance in my cell was a sufficient token for alarm.

I was thus critically circumstanced; yet, in spite of the many obstructions that environed me, on all sides, I succeeded so far, in the course of a week, by dint of mere perseverance, as to drill a hole quite through the flooring. Its circumference was ample, and afforded me an easy gangway into the prison office, or vault, which, by the feeling, I thought might be penetrated with a mere trifle of pains. Upon the whole, no obstacles seemed capable of impeding my exit, save a quantity of dirt and stones, which lay beneath the floor, and which I found must be removed, to facilitate a sub passage into the jail yard. These difficulties were soon vanquished, except, that one huge stone lay across the way, so as to afford insufficient room for passing it, on either side. This was an impediment I had not anticipated; it was now obvious that no door of escape could be opened, unless the fatal rock, should by some stratagem, be displaced. The task appeared Herculean, yet I set about it with all the vigour I could muster. In the first instance my

efforts turned to the sinking of it by undermining; but, after repeated trials and much labour expended, that method proved impracticable. I next essayed to dislodge it by the help of a small pry, but it stubbornly refused to give ground to the feeble instruments within my limits.

For three whole days and nights did I wreck my invention, and waste my utmost strength, in plotting and executing ways and means to surmount this only remaining obstacle to my freedom; yet did constant disappointment attend all my exertions; the fatal rock was not to be removed.

Faint and dispirited with bootless toil and sleepless nights, I sat down upon a bench, wholly resigning myself to those gloomy thoughts which the idea of my situation naturally inspired. Hitherto I had flattered myself with the prospect of attaining a deliverance, by breaking the prison walls; but this last hope, like "the baseless fabric of a vision," had now vanished into air, and left but a span for the arrangement of new measures. Indeed, the day of my impending trial was near at hand; a day much dreaded, the mere thoughts of which, alas, staggered my resolution, and agitated my enfeebled frame.

Wishing, however, a momentary respite from the pressure of distracting care, I stretched my limbs, exhausted with ceaseless watchfulness and toil, upon a bed of straw, seeking alleviation from repose; but gentle sleep refused to shed its wonted, balm-blessings on my head. The whole of this depressing night to me was sleepless; and nearly in the same sad situation was I when the Thursday following the second Tuesday in June, 1790,

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same being the day of trial) made its ill boding appearance.

About eleven o'clock in the forenoon, the sheriffs conducted me from the prison to the court house, where the solemnity of the court, and the silence of the spectators, who had collected in crowds to hear the interesting trial, conspired to render the scene awfully impressive upon my feelings, beyond description.

At the reading of the indictment, the attorney general, James Sullivan, Esq. demanded if I knew for what crime I was about to be tried; I answered negatively; on which he gave me to understand, that I stood charged with burglary, a capital offence in the estimation of law, and that, consequently, the trial affected my life. The court demanded whether I had any counsel? I replied, no, and was directed to nominate such persons as I wished to assist me. I named Theophilus Parsons, Esq. but he declining, several of the bar recommended to my choice, Messrs. Sewall and Dana, as gentlemen of probity and talents, who would certainly do justice to my cause. To those gentlemen, then, I made application; and, without much hesitancy, they undertook the arduous, uninviting task of making my defence; I shall ever think myself under the highest obligations to these honorable characters, for their goodness to me on that momentous occasion.

The attorney general arose first in behalf of the Commonwealth, stating the charges against me with candour, and even, as I thought, with tenderness.

Two witnesses were produced, Daniel Jacobs and Margaret Medossy, his maid, who swore, that

the spoons in question were the property of the complainant, Jacobs ; that his house had been broken open in the night, when the same were carried away ; and that they saw, at the time, (though they confessed it to be a dark night) some man running out of the house, in a great hurry. This man, by legal construction, was interpreted to be myself, since the property had been found in my custody. I had no witness to produce on my side, as Stewart was not to be found.

Mr. Sewall opened my defence in a masterly and ingenious manner, the particulars of which I recollect but indistinctly, for, indeed, my mind was too greatly distracted at that time, to permit my being master of much recollection. He clearly and forcibly urged the incompetency of the witnesses, who, he said, were disreputable people ; known frequently to be intoxicated ; to keep a disorderly house, and to be, generally, of such bad fame and character, as rendered them unworthy of credence in cases like the present, where the life of the respondent was at stake. He stated, also, the probability of Stewart's having sold me the spoons, and dwelt on the moral impossibility of the witnesses being able to discriminate a man running out of a house in a night so dark, as was confessedly the one in question.

Mr. Dana also exerted himself to convince the jury, that I ought in justice to be acquitted, placing in a conspicuous point of view, the extreme hardship of my being convicted, and condemned to death, in a case of this kind, upon the testimony of witnesses so worthless and abandoned, as were those who had appeared on the trial. In a word,

Mr. Sewall at beginning to manner, but my acquittal. As soon as Sullivan again among other sale, and that in an affair of gave credit to such as those ed further, the offence, by the laws of God, the guilt of the life. He told the matter, as and that if it could be objected the conceived the much in my suffer him. Justice Pain jury, in terms sions as might (remember) the case, then con degree of cau The jury the ed into court the twelve, r being in the second time, against declar

Mr. Sewall and Mr. Dana, argued the cause, from beginning to end, in a very plausible and moving manner, but without the good effect of obtaining my acquittal.

As soon as they had closed the defence, Mr. Sullivan again addressed the jury, telling them, among other things, that it was, indeed, a hard case, and that they ought to be cautious, especially in an affair of life and death, in what manner they gave credit to witnesses of suspicious characters, such as those of Jacobs and Medoffy. He observed further, that, although burglary was a capital offence, by the laws of man, it was not so by the laws of God, but if their verdict should declare me guilty of that crime, legal rigor would exact my life. He told them, they had a right to consider the matter, as they should think equitable and just, and that if they acquitted me altogether, nothing could be objected to their verdict. In short, I conceived the whole strain of his discourse to be as much in my favor as his official character would suffer him.

Justice Paine gave the principal charge to the jury, in terms calculated to strengthen such impressions as might favor my cause, signifying, (as well as I remember) that the peculiar circumstances of the case, then confided to their decision, required some degree of caution and lenity in the construction. The jury then withdrew, and after a while returned into court "not agreed," Mr. Thurstin, one of the twelve, not coinciding with his brethren to bring in the verdict, *guilty*. They were sent out a second time, but the same gentleman was still against declaring me guilty of burglary. The oth-

er jurors were unanimous, but being unable to convince him, they went into court, as before, without coming to a definite conclusion. They were then sent out a third and fourth time; but the dissenting juror was told, that sufficient time for consideration had been taken, and that it was necessary to agree upon something. Now it was that much altercation ensued, but at last Mr. Thurstin, by some means or other, was prevailed on to concur so far with the opinion of his associates, that an unqualified verdict, declaring me guilty of the burglary was returned into court and recorded by the same. I was in court, when the tidings of this fatal determination saluted my ears; a few minutes after which I was conveyed to prison; but, within an hour, was again brought back to court to hear the definitive sentence. It was repeated to me by Judge Paine, and contained, among other things, these dreadful words, by me never to be forgotten "*That I must be carried from thence to the place of execution, and there hanged by the neck until dead.*" The dismal ceremony of reading my destiny having ended, I was remanded to prison, six weeks only being given me, in which to make the last necessary preparations for death. The day prefixed for my execution was Thursday the fourteenth of August, 1793.



CHAP. IV.

Yet forty days and Nineveh shall be overthrown.

BIBLE.

Sed fugit interea, fugit irreparabile tempus.

VIRGIL.

BEING thus under condemnation of death, I was put into rigid confinement, and loaded with chains. It was industriously rumoured, that despair would hurry me on to strenuous exertions with a view to effectuate an escape; to prevent which, the strictest attention was paid to every movement. Well might the vigilance of the keepers have discouraged any one, it certainly did me, since I was not only intimidated from attempting to break jail, but for a number of days, lay entirely listless, a prey to corroding care and fearful expectation.

At this deplorable season, an uncommon stupor benumbed my intellects; the usual fertility of my invention abandoned me, and death only, in haggard form, arose to my fearful view. But my faithful partner forsook me not; she visited me, in prison, at all possible opportunities, endeavoring to appease my wounded spirits, and, with the balm of comfort, to alleviate my afflictions. Such was her benevolence, that she freely imparted whatever she could procure, when she thought it would contribute, in the least, either to my ease or advantage. Her kindness tranquilized, in a measure, the dreary chaos of passions that reigned within my breast,

and lessened those distresses, corporeal and spiritual, which else, in this extremity, had been intolerable. Through her instrumentality, I conveyed divers letters to my friends, and to others, whom I supposed able or willing to afford me assistance. A number of my acquaintance condescended to make me repeated visits, bringing money and other necessaries, while every body seemed to pity my forlorn condition and think my fate extremely hard.

Mr. Thurstin, abovenamed, soon greatly regretted his consenting to the verdict of condemnation, on which account he went to Gov. Adams and the council; told them his opinion, and how uneasy he had been, since agreeing, contrary to his better judgment, to the verdict returned. Moreover, with much zeal, he represented me (and that more than once, I believe) as deserving the particular notice and compassion of his excellency.

Meantime, I prepared a petition, couched in becoming terms, and sent it to the governor, who, as I was told, had the power of pardon in his fee, beseeching that my punishment of death might be remitted, or exchanged for confinement to the castle, during life. To this petition I received no answer whatever. I afterwards forwarded another to much the same purport, but obtaining no answer, could not but consider his taciturnity, as an inauspicious omen. I wrote also a petition to the students of Cambridge college, praying them to intercede with the governor in my behalf, by petition or otherwise, as best suited their conveniency, and this they had the humanity to do, for which they have my sincere thanks. But beside those former applications, intreating a mitigation of my death

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another address from Ipswich, signed by many ladies of that town, was preferred to his excellency the governor, stating the peculiar austerity of my doom, and recommending me to consideration and clemency. To those humane and compassionate ladies, who in the hour of my adversity, condescended to intercede thus in prevention of my untoward fate, I tender the most humble acknowledgments; of their goodness and beneficence I shall retain, ever, the liveliest remembrance. Beyond the foregoing, divers other applications were made to the governor to move his mercy and justice in my peculiar case, but, above all, my reputed wife, Nabby, whose native eloquence was unexcelled, went in person, and in most pathetic terms addressed the governor and council, in my stead, praying that the punishment of death might be waved, and exchanged for confinement in the castle. The fervency of her supplications made a deep impression upon the minds of the members of the council, who confessed they never heard woman, nor indeed person, make so moving and pathetic an address before.

But to all those petitions and requests I received no kind of reply, nor indeed of encouragement, that any thing was likely to be effected in my favour; but rather did common report insinuate the contrary. This dark and dubious complexion of things filled me with horrible prognostics; bereft me of the prospect of pardon or reprieve, and blasted all my hopes concerning the petitions I had transmitted. No longer did I profit or expect advantage from the intercessions which had been made by others to promote my rescue from the fangs of death.

To prepare, then, for departure hence seemed to be high time, since to me, according to the deadly sentence, two weeks only were remaining on this side the grave. The awful thoughts of exchanging worlds, in my present unprepared frame, smote me with horror of mind, and with a dismay the most exquisitely painful. How short a time, in which to make those extraordinary preparations necessary for changing time for eternity, did two weeks appear! How impossible to set about so great a business, in my present distracted situation, did I think it; especially as my life and conversation had been always so totally repugnant to every consideration of a religious nature! How bitterly, then, did I deplore former follies, and the fatal consequences of my glaring misconduct! Alas, thought I, to what a miserable end am I born! how completely wretched has my past life ever been! how many hardships and distresses have I borne! how many follies and crimes have I committed! how many trials have I encountered! how many dangers, escaped; and with how many calamities and evils have I, at all times, been surrounded! what a gloomy retrospect do the horrid scenes of my strange life afford! the aspect, how sombre, of the ruthless picture, and how totally thrown into shade! In fine, how small a portion of happiness have I experienced, and how few and fleeting have been the halcyon days of my melancholy existence! With reflections similar to the above was my perturbed imagination perplexed incessantly, at this momentous period.

But to resume my irksome tale. The days yet remained to me being few and passing

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with a rapidity that awakened amazement ; and as whatever I intended to do must be speedily, if ever, effected, it occurred to my thoughts afresh, that I had better, once for all, make a last final effort in procurement of deliverance. Wherefore, with a saw, which I had hitherto preserved, I fell to cutting off the grates, though of a monstrous and forbidding size. I soon made considerable proficiency ; but, as destiny ordained, my design, when all but completed, was entirely discomfited by the prisoners, who notified the jailor of my desperate attempts.

On this side the grave I knew of no other device, of which to profit, save the one I had last attempted ; it was plain, therefore, I could do nothing more nor less, than await, with resignation, the approach of my awful fate, and prepare for a final exit from this fluctuating scene of things.

One morning, as I was sitting in a very disconsolate posture, a devotee to misery and despair, I was visited by a certain physician, who accosted me with an affability and good nature, not always to be expected from a stranger. Indeed, sunshine sat upon his countenance, and honey distilled from his lips ; but, after continuing his discourse some time, and presenting me with the grief dispelling goblet, he introduced the subject of his business, which was, to purchase my body, after death, for a skeleton. He thought there could be no harm or inconvenience in this, but to tempt a more cheerful compliance, proffered me a couple of guineas, in hand, beside other favors. Notwithstanding his easy introduction, the proposal struck me with horror insupportable, so that I repelled his suit with an asperity that prevented further solicitation on that behalf.

Directly upon this, I was visited by another gentleman, from Newburyport, who offered me seventy dollars for license to publish a narrative of my adventures. I informed him, that, in present circumstances, I had neither leisure nor inclination, to bestow the thoughts of a moment upon matters of that nature. But, to obviate this, he suggested, that he wished me to sign a paper of three or four words only, for that he knew enough of my history (with what he should be able to pick up) to make out a handsome narrative. On hearing the gentleman say this, it struck my mind, that, although I should have no use for the seventy dollars, myself, yet that sum might be serviceable to my companion, and requite her, in some small measure, for the numerous kindnesses she had shewn me in my recent adversities. Accordingly, I told the man I would take a week for consideration, and to consult with my friends on the subject, at the end of which time I would give him a suitable reply. He approved of this caution, and, having promised to return for the result of my deliberations, left my cell for that time.

A few hours subsequent to his departure, came along Esq. Manning, a gentleman whom I much respected. I acquainted him with the proposition I had received for a narrative or journal of my life, and begged him to assist me with his able advice. He said it was his opinion, that I ought, by no means, to concur with any plan of the kind, at present, for it might frustrate the effect of the petitions and other measures, which were in operation to avert the consequences of my sentence. Furthermore he counselled me not to despond,

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hope for the best, adding, that he himself would go to the governor, and do all in his power to have me reprieved, or sent to the castle. The counsel and encouragement of this good man infused a gleam of hope into my desponding heart; always shall I preserve a due sense of the prompt and substantial benefits, which I received at his hands.

The next day was brought me an anonymous epistle to the following purport.

Ipswich, August 5th, 1793.

SIR,—I HEARD, last evening, by mere accident, of your receiving a visit from a gentleman belonging to Newburyport; and that his object was to procure toleration to publish a journal of your life. At this crisis of your fate, I must advise you, as a friend, to listen, in no respect, to a proposal of that kind, as the transaction would presently take air, and obstruct, perhaps, the good effect of the petitions and other expedients, which have been used to effectuate your rescue from the gripe of death. It is suggested, too, that you are to furnish some final answer to his proposal, within a week. As you value your life and safety, I admonish you to be firm and steadfast in refusing this and every other similar application, at least for the present. I hope you will improve these friendly hints to your own advantage, and, of this scroll, keep the contents to yourself.

From your well wisher, &c. —

Before the receipt of this letter, I had fully made up my opinion, as to the subject of which it treated. The advice of Esq. Manning, had confirmed

me in a decision to decline all overtures, for the present, relative to my narrative, or its publication. Thus, when the gentleman from Newbury, called again at my window, for an answer, as had been our former conversation, I gave him an explicit denial.

On the Sunday next preceding the Thursday, on which I expected to launch into the world of spirits, I attended public worship, through the kind indulgence of the sheriff, as had been my constant practice for a number of sabbaths previous. I made my appearance loaded, as I was, with manacles and chains, to the end that a stronger impression might be wrought upon the sensibility of the spectators, and their commiseration excited in reference to my unhappy fate. A miserable fellow mortal, loaded with trammels, and upon the brink itself of eternity, must, of course, be a spectacle at once solemn and distressing! Well might the sight of such wretchedness agitate the feelings of the humane and reflecting! Even so, at this time, did my appearance in the meeting excite universal compassion; the sympathetic sigh escaped from the benevolent breast; and soft emotion was visible in the countenance of each beholder. But the heart-felt distress, the horrible forbodings, which on that memorable day, I myself experienced, especially during performance of divine service, remain deeply graven, on the tablet of my memory, in characters too indelible to be effaced by the corrosions of time. My distress, however, arose not so much from the fears of death, though awful, indeed, in itself, since a few momentary pangs would complete its triumph, as from the dreadful thoughts of appearing, in my present unprepared state, before

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After divine service I was again consigned to the same loathsome station in prison, which hitherto I had occupied, and measures taken to preclude even the possibility of escape.

My friends, still continued to visit me, and to administer to my necessities in the kindest manner. Here gratitude prompts an acknowledgment of the great obligations I am under to divers gentlemen of the priesthood, for favouring me with repeated visits during the horrors of this imprisonment. For their pious admonitions and zealous endeavors to promote my spiritual welfare, and fortify my mind against the shafts of adversity, they are entitled to my peculiar thanks. Particularly, I feel much indebted to the Rev. Mr. Frisbey, of Ipswich, who gave me frequently, the wholesomest instruction, and endeavoured to elevate my thoughts above the servile fears of death; to enlighten my understanding, and to inspire me with the hopes of a blessed immortality: I trust his godly counsel and fervent petitions, for my spiritual amendment, will not be wholly thrown away.

With pleasure, did the limits of my paper admit, would I particularize the many favours of a temporal nature, that were shewn me by a number of well disposed persons, witnesses to my cruel sufferings. But I must repress diffusion, and observe only, that most of my visitors treated me with great kindness; seemed heartily to pity my obnoxious fate, and endeavoured to soothe the bitterness of my afflictions. Their attempts were unavailing,

my heart was inconsolable, since hope, the cork of life, was beyond my grasp.

If I took a cursory view of past life, I could discern nought therein, which was capable, in the least, of affording satisfaction; for little else than dissipation and mischief had been its uniform productions. I now felt the want of the support of religion and virtue, and found, with the force of conviction, that the great, the primary source of peace to the human mind is the consciousness of having travelled in the paths of uprightnes; that, in proportion as a man's life is well or ill spent, his real happiness or misery may be calculated. Alas! of this happiness I could only lament the want; each successive day, by abridging my momentary span, loading me with increased apprehensions, and presenting to my view new traits of misery and wretchedness.

How gladly, at this juncture, had I drunk of the waters of Lethe, and quaffed everlasting forgetfulness? but, in vain were all my wishes and imaginations; they availed not to suppress the rising sigh or ease the mental pang! Even my slumbering hours were not exempt from disquiet, since, from the day of condemnation, I could scarce close my eyelids in sleep, but images of deep distress would present themselves to my distorted vision. Very frequently I dreamed of being hurried to the place of execution, and of swinging off the stand, though it generally seemed, as if the rope gave way, and that my body was dashed precipitately against the ground. This I was willing to construe into a distant prognostic, that, by some means or other, yet inscrutable, I should finally evade my ter-

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doom. Sometimes fancy painted me as creeping out of jail, beneath the floor, with amazing difficulty; sometimes did I imagine myself at large in the open street, but with little or no strength to flee from my pursuers; thus was I agitated whether sleeping or waking.

One day about noon, as I was lying on a bed of straw, I received a smart rap on the crown of my head; I was wide awake at the instant, and could therefore be liable to no misconception or delusion. I cast my eyes about, but saw no living object, not even a mouse was stirring; indeed I was wholly alone in my cell at the time. The singularity of this occurrence alarmed me greatly; I knew not in what manner to account for it, nor have I to this day made out the least probable solution of the mystery.

The day next before my expected execution, the faithful Abigail made me, for the last time, a visit in prison; but her presence, by bringing to mind former happiness, served only to enhance the bitterness of our present evils. Having bewailed our hard destiny and accumulated misfortunes, till evening had spread her sable mantle around the prison walls, we took a solemn and final farewell of each other, expecting no more to meet on this side eternity. Good Heavens! how many, multiplied sufferings, both of body and mind, have fallen to my share?

But now appears the dreadful morn of August the 14th, which terror had depicted, as the last I should ever behold. Between the hours of two and four, afternoon, if I recollect exactly, was my sentence of death to receive consummation. On

this day, every object meeting my eyes seemed to be enveloped with a deeply tinged gloom, and to assume the ghastly visage of death, while every sound invading the ear increased my perplexity and distress. Although, so many repeated messages had been transmitted to the governor, I learnt not that grace was likely to prevail, or that measures had been adopted for my pardon or reprieve, but the contrary.

About eight o'clock I descried the sexton passing by with his pick axe, hoe and shovel, to dig my grave beneath the gallows. This horrid sight almost petrified my senses, and fixed me as a statue, in speechless astonishment.

An hour or two after, a certain schoolmistress, coming in, and looking through my window, exclaimed in a tremor, that she had just beheld an awful sight, namely, a coffin made and a grave dug for a living man. Her abrupt speech affected me with new surprise, and augmented, if possible, my unutterable consternation.

By this time multitudes of people were fast arriving in order to be spectators of the melancholy execution. I saw them in crowds, through the grates, and heard them often enquiring, "Where is the man who is going to be hanged?" "At what time will he be hanged?" At last Edward Brock, a prisoner overhead, damned them aloud, and said, "I am in good hopes you wo'nt see that sight to day." At this exclamation some of the people cried out, "Dear me! hear how the man swears, when he is just going to the gallows." The last hour of my surviving time drew near, I shuddered at the sound of every footstep, as it had been

the approach of the angel of death ! Each moment, was my imagination upon the rack, lest I should hear the iron bolts resound, and the prison doors grate, on their revolving hinges, to open a passage to the scaffold.

While brooding over these images of terror, my attention was suddenly arrested by the arrival of several deputy sheriffs ; at sight of those ministers of vengeance a general tremor pervaded my whole frame. I verily believed, that the curtain was about to drop upon the last closing scene of my life's disastrous drama. They perceived my perturbation, and, from motives of humanity, were solicitous to administer consolation, declaring, that, although they came on this ungratefully errand, they still felt for my misfortunes, and should be happy to procure their alleviation. The accents of philanthropy, even in my forlorn condition, sounded gratefully in my ears ; may I remember to succour, (when ability permits) the distressed of others !

At three o'clock, afternoon, the officers gave me notice, that they had received no orders for my removal, as yet ; but were now in momentary expectation of a warrant for conducting me to the place of execution. To pave the way for extremities, they inculcated the invincible necessity of a due submission to the laws ; yet, were anxious to appease the agitation of my spirits. While those extraordinary scenes were on the tapis,

The wheel of unremitting time was rolling on
Toward th' important hour of four, the time prefix'd,
Ere which to close my fate. The hour I wish'd o'erpass'd
Adjudging it the crisis of my fearful doom.
At length, with tardy steps, reluctant, did arrive
The moment big, and mark'd, by iron hand of time ;
Its knell brought tidings sweet and grateful to my heart ;

Did joy dispense, and hope and transport to my breast;
 Since now the pangs of death I fondly thought to shun,
 And live again to happiness, and blest repose.

In other words, at four of the clock precisely, the flight of the fatal hour was announced by the deputies, who assured me, that no message to my detriment had arrived, within the time; so that the matter was now made certain, that execution was respited; but for how long they could not avouch. These were thrice grateful tidings, yet the business seemed enveloped in mystery insoluble; for the residue of the eventful day, however, I met with no new alarm or fresh disturbance.

Thus by the goodness of God, did I at this time, very contrary to my fears and expectations, escape the bitterness of death; and although I knew not the length of my reprieve, yet the present deliverance exonerated my feelings of a vast load of inquietude. Peradventure some may admire that the thoughts of death should excite in me such wonderful alarms; but I can tell them, from experience, that the stoutest heart will quake even at its anticipated approach, and that the poet's ideas were correct, when he said,

"Death at a distance we but slightly fear;
 He brings his terrors, as he draws more near."

The people, who had collected to the number (as was said) of three thousand, dispersed in the same manner as they came; but seeing their gathering had been little gratifying to my feelings, I was far from regretting their departure.

Soon as the shades of evening prevailed, I betook myself to early repose, for in truth I had received small refreshment, from sleep or food, I know not for how long. Now then, being retired

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from the converse and bustle of the world, and having a fit opportunity to contemplate on my surprizing deliverance, I found abundant cause (wicked and inconsiderate as I generally was) to thank the Father of mercies for his divine interposition in my behalf. The ensuing morning I awoke from sleep, in better health and spirits, than I had lately enjoyed, and received a visit from my companion Nabby. Upon review of this unexpected turn of things in my favor, her transports were excessive, and her belief sanguine, that my punishment, in the end, would be exchanged for confinement at the castle. I received visits, also, from others of my friends, who congratulated me on the present favorable aspect of my concerns.

Soon as conveniency admitted, I sent to Governor Adams, to know the result of my destiny, but could obtain no intelligence in the least. I lingered in uncertainty until the eighteenth of the then next September, when information was brought, that I was to be sent to the castle for life. These had been doleful tidings, at any other period, yet I now received them with joy and thankfulness.

No long time was given for contemplation, ere a sheriff arrived with the order of removal, and conducted me to the castle, which is situated on an island in the harbor of Boston.

The castle, so called, is a fortress of some strength and commands the entrance into the harbor's mouth. About thirty pieces of artillery were then mounted on its battlements, the whole being occupied by a company of soldiers, stationed there, to superintend the works and guard the criminals. At the time of my arrival, fifty or more persons, of that de-

scription, were under confinement, and doomed to hard service. They were a motley crew, consisting of different kinds of people, as well black as white, and of divers nations and languages; to wit, some French, English, Dutch, Spanish, Irish and American convicts; the latter, however, were the more numerous order. On further acquaintance, I found them a heterogeneous mixture of as vile miscreants and execrable wretches, as human conception could have framed ideas of; there had been no impropriety in pronouncing them the mere dregs of human nature; the refuse and offscouring of the whole globe.

In such detestable society it was impossible to see either peace or comfort. The principal employment assigned them was nail making, of which the soldiers had the superintendance, and, upon the smallest appearance of idleness or obstinacy, would beat them like dogs.

I was immediately set to work with the rest; but in truth, had no particular gust for my new employment, and still less for the company of my associates. They were, in fact, addicted to every species of villainy, which they could possibly perpetrate with impunity, such as cursing, swearing, cheating, lying, quarrelling and stealing from one another, for which misdemeanors, they were frequently reprimanded by the sentries, and sometimes treated with inhuman cruelty. But rigorous treatment was so far from reclaiming, that it served only to increase their vicious habits, and to inspire them with a spirit of revenge against their overseers, whom, as well as the rest of mankind, they considered as enemies, on whom they were justified in making whatever reprisals.

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Such was the company among whom my hard lot had now fallen, and the contemplation which arose was a source of unceasing vexation. I incessantly pined after that liberty, of which, by folly and indiscretion, I saw myself so totally divested.

At the termination of each day's labor, we were all shut up in prison, as sheep in a fold, and, for prevention of escapes, in the night, were critically guarded by centinels without.

Our lodging was most uncomfortable, being nothing better than the soft side of the prison floor, with a tattered rug or blanket for a covering; which, seeing we were destitute of fuel, was hardly sufficient to keep us from perishing.

Early each morning we were turned out to perform our daily task of nail making, or by chance to repair fortifications, and such, with little variation, was the routine of business the long time I resided at the castle.

The majority of the prisoners, being very restless and refractory under the severity of their discipline, and the hardships they endured, were continually projecting methods of escape, and not altogether unsuccessfully; for, once in a while, one or two, and sometimes more of them, maugre the circumspection of the guards, would find the means of elopement. I recollect, that once in particular, eleven of them absconded in a body, by the connivance, as was supposed, of the sentry, their guard. They left the island in a fishing smack, which they made bold to seize; but, being hotly pursued, had to fight in self defence, before passing the harbor's mouth; some circumstances, however, turning up to their favor, they, at last, made shift to get out of

harm's way, and finally escaped. Those and similar desertions would have thinned the ranks, and greatly diminished our numbers, had not the occasional arrival of new malefactors, as bad or worse than the former, furnished ample supplies, and thus kept the stock good.

Our provisions, for the chief part, were coarse bread and bullock's heads only, the same being usually tainted before leaving the shambles. Horrid stuff! the nausea arising from which was so extreme, that I had much ado to swallow even a quantum sufficient for the sustentation of life. By degrees I became emaciated, nearly to a skeleton, yet was not the less compelled to turn out, and perform ordinary duties with the rest of the prisoners.

One day, as I was helping unlade a vessel, I had the misfortune to tumble over a wharf, and break one of my arms! As I had no surgeon to attend me, the accident was peculiarly distressing. I lay, for a long while, in a perilous situation, and suffered so dismally from the want of suitable medicines, attendance, and the necessary comforts of life, that I frequently despaired of any recovery. Many a time I wished, that the sovereign arbiter of events had been graciously pleased to end my complicated miseries by a speedy death; yet, considering that life was sweet, even to the beasts that perish, and to the animals of the lonely wilderness, it would return to my thoughts, that man, more particularly, should live in the use of means, and cherish self-preservation, as a duty indispensable.

While I was in this unfortunate situation, my supposed wife, Nabby, once in a while, would come to my new residence, bringing clothing, and

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cordials as might be purchased with her scanty earnings; thus alleviating, by her friendly help, my uncommon calamities.

After two months painful illness, I regained strength to cripple abroad, but having neither shoes nor much clothing, and it being, too, the extreme of winter, I felt myself in a very slender condition. On this account, however, I was nothing favored, for soon as my convalescency became visible, I was set to work, and forced to perform daily labor, in the same manner, as if I had been quite healthy, and well equipped for the season.

To these hardships I submitted with patience, till, by being bandied about so incessantly, barefoot, through frost and snow, my feet and ankles were frozen to such a degree, that the skin and nails wholly dropped off. This new misfortune confined me to quarters for a season, but no sooner was I in plight to crawl about, than I was driven to and fro, as heretofore, which caused my feet continually to bleed, and prevented their healing. To complain signified nothing, for, with my haughty task-masters, complaints were but the signals for more blows and greater severity.

No one can imagine, unless he has felt the like, much less can I describe, my uneasy sensations at the shameful oppressions, the vile indignities, I was forced constantly to endure, and those too without a murmur. Of a truth, in my estimation of things, I was now reduced to an absolute minimum, an evanescent quantity, incapable, as it seemed, of further diminution. On what side soever I cast my eyes, the prospect appeared cloudy and discouraging, yet being already at the bottom of fortune's wheel, I

rightly considered, that every new revolution might possibly lift, but could not depress me.

Owing to the evils I have depicted, the present winter seemed the most tedious I had ever beheld; yet, at length, did spring, the object of my longing desires, return, and with it its attendant blessing, warm weather. I had suffered so incredibly from cold and nakedness, during the late inclement season, that, never was the desired haven more acceptable to the worn out, weatherbeaten mariner, than was the approach of vernal bloom to me. The genial warmth of the new born year gladdened the face of things, cheered my long lost spirits, and again revived in my breast the soothing hopes of future deliverance. Again I fancied that, in the course of events, I should yet escape from this detested castle and its surrounding evils, whose prototype never had existence (I am positive) short of the infernal regions.

As the summer of 1794 advanced, it stood the soldiery in hand to exert more vigilance in prevention of desertions, for the criminals, disrelishing their execrable diet and ill treatment, were continually devising plans of emancipation. My own exigencies were egregiously pressing, so that many a time I had bartered, with cheerfulness, my every particle of property for one comfortable repast; yet could rarely obtain a single mouthful even by purchase. One evening, while in this extremity, I made out, through the assistance of a negro prisoner, to obtain thirty weight of pork from the cellar of Major Perkins, the commandant of the castle. I had renounced the commission of theft in my own person, therefore persuaded the black

to enter the prison, accomplished, spoils, and was my wife.

Shortly after my friends, wife, and I was, at heart failed. Thus were a

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to enter the premises, while I stood sentry, which accomplished, we made an equal dividend of the spoils, and were so lucky as to escape detection or surprize.

Shortly after this I received a visit from sundry of my friends residing at Malden, who offered to disguise, and convey me off the island; this proposal I was, at first, tempted to embrace, yet finally my heart failed, and I gave up the project.

Thus wore away the summer of 1794, till drew near the fourth of July, the anniversary of American independence. We heard that preparations were making, in many places, for a joyful celebration of the day, in remembrance of that auspicious era, which gave freedom to the western world. To us, poor prisoners, the favor of enjoying this festival was indeed denied, yet it being quite as prudent, under the frowns of malicious fortune, to be merry as sad, and much more delightful to the feelings, I think it not amiss to give place to an ode, written at that time, as much as possible, in the then enthusiastic spirit of the times. The sons of the muses will forbear criticism.

Hail! heroes, patriots divine,
On whom the rays of freedom shine
With bright meridian blaze,
Once more conven'd to celebrate
Your rising empire's glorious date,
And Freedom's column raise.

With wonder let old Europe view,
The mighty fabric rear'd by you,
Whose temple soars sublime;
See sov'reign Independence rise,
With sacred front to meet the skies,
As durable as time.

The poet's soul, with hallowed fire,
 Shall kindle, as he strikes the lyre,
 With thrilling rapture glow;
 In sweetest strains attune his lay,
 And celebrate that glorious day
 Which makes his music flow.

'Tho' eastern realms should agonize,
 And Europe view the godlike prize,
 A phantom both pursue,
 Columbia only feels that plan,
 Which realiz'd the rights of man,
 And brought those rights to view.

To dissipate those magic charms,
 Which bound a world in slavery's arms,
 And solv'd the Gordian tie;
 This act decreed by mighty fate,
 Gave liberty a lasting date,
 A name which cannot die.

With reeking sword we sought the prize,
 The brightest gem beneath the skies,
 Whilst blood in torrents ran;
 Freedom to Victory stood allied,
 The laurel won, while on our side
 Fought heav'n and Washington.

Then loud proclaim th' important hour,
 That broke the iron rod of power,
 And blest this happy shore;
 May distant ages tribute pay
 To celebrate th' auspicious day,
 'Till time shall be no more.

I had already lingered at the castle three fourths of a year without seeking the means of escape, but the freedom I had once enjoyed, would sometimes obtrude itself like the image of a delicious dream, and force me to regret my present slavery. Major Perkins had occasionally employed me in

little services, and had pleased him; to abuse his confidence the island, w about twenty acre rable; but, one desire of musing i plex circuit, than ed the last extrem little out of ken, I rounding scenery. the landscape inspi various distant obj perfect unison with viewed the encircled happiness; fur held the harbor of at rest, as it seeme spect before me ext tory; yet would b I imagine, to an u this melancholy t eel grass (no unuf the neighborhood struck my mind, t veniently, enclose swimming over t by heaven, I'll eff perish in the utter ever dear and valu ell man not adve en seas, then, m tractions to thy l sea of regaining l

little services, and my alacrity in the performance, had pleased him ; wherefore, on my promising not to abuse his confidence, he gave me licence to traverse the island, whenever, I saw fit. It contained about twenty acres, enough to afford a tolerable ramble ; but, one afternoon, led by an irresistible desire of musing in solitude, I made a more complex circuit, than usual ; passing on till I had gained the last extremity of the strand. Here, being a little out of ken, I stood and contemplated the surrounding scenery. The majesty and solemnity of the landscape inspired me with a kind of awe, whilst various distant objects assumed a disconsolate air, in perfect unison with the gravity of my feelings. I viewed the encircling waters, fatal bar, alas ! to my happiness ; surveyed the face of the country, beheld the harbor of Boston, and saw the lands lying at rest, as it seemed, beyond the ocean. The prospect before me excited ideas, by no means consolatory ; yet would have been undoubtedly delightful, I imagine, to an uninterested spectator. While in this melancholy frame, I observed a quantity of eel grass (no unusual sight in this place) floating in the neighborhood of the shore. A thought now struck my mind, that, peradventure, I might, conveniently, enclose my head in this grass, and, by swimming over the river, make a happy escape. By heaven, I'll effect this, articulated I, audibly, or perish in the attempt. O freedom ! ever grateful, ever dear and valuable to the human breast, what will man not adventure in pursuit of thee ! Should even seas, then, much less paltry rivers form obstructions to thy purchase ! The pleasing conception of regaining liberty, had filled my imagination

with such animating prospects, that, spurning to reflect on seeming difficulties, I caught a billet of wood, wrapped my head in a tuft of grass, and committed myself instantly to the swelling billows. My progress was slow, but so well timed, that, sure as a gun, I had escaped question, if an ill occurrence had not obtruded at this critical crisis. A certain soldier, from his watch tower, happened to espy the bunch of grass floating at a distance in the stream; he, at first, accidentally kept his eye upon it, and found that it progressed in a direction contrary to the current. This was a phenomenon, and naturally created suspicions, where every motion was watched, that some of the prisoners were effecting an escape. Accordingly, several of the soldiers jumped into a jolly boat, and rowed off to unravel the curious mystery. I saw them approaching, and at sight thereof was, literally, in a sea of perplexity; yet I lay still as a mouse in a cheese. They were along side of me in a trice; unhooded their poor prisoner, and took me into the boat. What could I do, or say? Of a truth, vexed and confounded, as I was, I remained mute as a fish, while they were very merry, on seeing me, sleek as a half drowned rat, and shivering with the cold. In this disorder, I was hurried before Maj. Perkins, who bequeathed me a most piping lecture, swearing, that if ever I attempted another elopement, I should be strung up without remedy. The foregoing accident discouraged me entirely, from all further thoughts of escape, till good providence should provide some safer channel of deliverance.

Affairs at the castle continued pretty much in their ordinary train; the same dull round of ex-

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cises prevailing, till the October following, when its appearance solemnly reminded me, that I had lingered out a whole year in the vile condition of a slave ; and that, yet, I remained in absolute uncertainty as to the duration of my future servitude. What man could have acquiesced, contentedly, in a state of such abject debasement ? Indeed I possessed not that degrading ductility, but gasped after that liberty, the procurement of which, for cogent reasons, I feared now to attempt, though I thought it not impracticable to elude the vigilance of those Argusses, my keepers, had I dared the experiment.

A cold winter coming on apace, my former grievances, proceeding from the want of apparel and bedding, reassumed their wonted energy. Those evils, added to my sufferings from labour and fatigue, and from the multitude of vermin, that perpetually infested the castle walls, kept me quite languid in body and low in spirits ; never can I forget the plagues that beset me at this unfortunate period !

A number of my fellow prisoners were flashmen, (as they termed themselves) an appellation appropriate to such rogues and sharpers, as make exclusive use of the flash lingo. This is partly English and partly an arbitrary gibberish, which, when spoken, presents to such hearers, as are not initiated into its mysteries, a mere unintelligible jargon, but in the flash fraternity is, peculiarly, significant.

I have once made mention of the above language, and learnt the use of it while at the castle, I here subjoin a specimen of sundry fashionable words and phrases of that infernal dialect. It was

imported in gros from Europe, and no part of it, to my knowledge, has been hitherto communicated to the public.

Nomenclature of the Flasz Language.

A cove,	signifies	a man	Prad	a horse
Flat		a foolish man	Spread	a saddle
Kinchen		a child	Pradholder	a bridle
Mitre		a hat	Hookses	(neat) cattle
Lang tog		a coat	Lour	money
Jarvel		a jacket	Suck	rum
Kickses		brooches	Kin	a stone
Leg bags		stockings	Snuikin	a bed
Crab		a shoe	Quid	a guinea
Quillpipes		boots	Wheel	a dollar
Smish		a shirt	Hog	a pistaren
Clout	a handkerchief		Grub	victuals
Trick		a watch	Yapster	a dog
Chiv		a knife	Thumpkin	a barn of hay
Pops		pistols	Glaze	a square of glass
Chant	writing of any kind		Rum cove	a gentleman
Briar		a saw	Quisby cove	a mean fellow
Wibble		a manger	Rum blowen	a gentlewoman
Gentleman		a crow bar	Quisby gorge	a mean (dirty)
Spiker		a nail		[fellow
Blamer		vitriol	Napping his bib	crying
Roran		the sun	To star a ?	to cut out a square
Oliver		the moon	glaze }	of glass
Glin		the stars	Undub the ?	unlock the door
Darky		cloudy	jigger }	
Dinge		a dark night	Undub the qua	unlock the jail
Dingy cove		a negronnan	Crack the qua	break the jail
Dub		a false key	To crack a ?	to break a shoe-
Jigger		a door	crabkin }	maker's shop
Qua		a jail	House the glin,	put out the light
Qua keeper		a jail keeper	Petre yourself	(a watchword)
Drag		a prisoner		[take care of yourself
Blangs		irons or handcuffs	You're spotted	you are [blot]
Nipping jig		a gallows		[be found]
Topt		hanged	I'm hammers to ye	
Teasing		whipping	I know what you	

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I'm dead up to the cove
 I know the man well
 A horney's a coming
 a sheriff is coming
 He's going to the ripping }
 jig to be topt }
 { He is going to the gal-
 lows to be hanged
 To scrag a lay, to take clothes
 [from the hedges
 To go upon the bonny lay
 to undertake highway robbery

Evening sneak
 { going into a house by night
 the doors being open
 Water sneak breaking into a
 [vessel
 Touching a cly, robbing a pocket
 To do him of his blowen
 to rob him of his wife
 Prad napping horsestealing.

From this sample it may appear, that nouns and principal verbs, as being the more important words in a sentence, are generally flashified; while pronouns, auxiliary verbs and abbreviations retain their English uniform; so that the flash tongue is nothing else than a mixture of English, with other words, fabricated designedly for the purposes of deception; it can be useful to rogues and sharpers only. I once acquired such a facility in this dialect, as to converse in it with much the same ease, as in plain English, although now I have lost its familiar use. But no more of this futile language; may it return to Europe, where it received its misshapen birth.



CHAP. V.

The castle is (prime truth to tell)
 A little Tartarus or h-ll,
 And its inhabitants, past doubt,
 Are allied to th' infernal scout ;
 Troth, 'twas a scurvy hit to be
 Condemn'd to this black company.
 I've pac'd the town and country through,
 Yet never met so d-n'd a crew.

AT all vacant hours I amused my fancy with flash frivolities, 'till, the circuit of a second winter, since my abidance in this rueful spot, having finished its frosty round, the mild advent of spring convinced me afresh, that life's best days were wasting away in bondage.

The little property at my command on my arrival here, was, ere this, wholly expended ; so that my wants grew more uniformly pressing than heretofore, and the cares of futurity, unwelcome intruders, assumed a more unpromising aspect. To complete my wretchedness, the blasphemies, buffooneries and brutal manners of the convicts grew more and more repugnant to my feelings ; for admitting my own frailties to be many, and my faults heinous, yet never was I seriously addicted to some of theirs ; swearing, for instance, I viewed as a vice foolish and unprofitable ; wrangling or making sport of others, I conceived a practice or diversion fit only for the basest of beings.

Many were the altercations, the quarrels, which I had to encounter, with those worthless rascals

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many the scurrilities, that, from time to time, I was constrained to pass over; for, to retaliate on such wretches signified little, and to remonstrate less. The only alternative in my gift, then, was to put up with my grievances, and, however mortifying the necessity, to bear in silence my wrongs.

In fine, though my own degradation was to the last extremity humiliating, yet I heartily despised my viler associates, and thought, with certain gentlemen, who came to view the island, that the castle, with its inhabitants, resembled a little hell.

Whenever my reflections led to the subject, much would I regret the happiness of those delightful times, when I was at liberty to rove from place to place, and from clime to clime; an employment always congenial to my dearest wishes. Much too, did I regret my late loved mistress, in whose company I had seen so many agreeable hours; a mental comparison of which, with my present infelicities, led me into the subsequent train of reflections, which I have here thrown into a kind of verse; for the insertion of which, I must, again, intreat the pardon of good natured critics.

What doleful scenes are here, compar'd with these
Which lately to my pleasing vision rose,
When Happiness, bright goddess, by her power,
Lull'd all my cares to rest and sooth'd each hour.

In converse sweet, with my lov'd female friend,
Contentment mild, did all my steps attend,
While former sorrows lost their wonted sway
In the soft pleasures of each blissful day.

Whether with her I trod the rugged road,
Or in the humble cot prefer'd abode,

Still was I happy, still fair liberty
And love inspir'd extatic bliss and glee.

Whether, physician like, I tri'd my skill,
Or bore the humble drudging of the mill;
Or if I toil'd in yonder fruitful field,
Still did each labor num'rous blessings yield.

Thus was I joyful, in whatever state,
With my sweet partner, and my pleasing mate;
Her social converse brought me clear delight,
In weal or woe, by day, but more by night.

Or if, perchance, we sought the shady wood,
Or on the mountain's brow in silence stood,
Surveying nature's grand majestic face,
E'en woods and mountains cheer'd the gloomy place.

Or whether we more pleasing prospects caught,
And flowery fields and verdant landscapes sought;
Or, on the streamlet's mossy bank reclin'd,
View'd limpid waves in brisk meander's wind;

Still was I blest, and in her snowy arms
Felt free from all but gentle love's alarms;
Content with fortune's lot, I sought no more,
Nor courted the rich miser's ample store.

But now, alas! how sad is the reverse,
Lo! here I'm doom'd to every human curse!
To share the suff'rings of a horrid band,
The refuse, filth and scum of every land.

Say ye *** when shall I break the galling chain?
Or gain deliv'rance from encreasing pain?
When, gladsome, quit this most infernal crew,
And seas and rocks divide me from their view?

Though, while a prisoner, I was unprepared
to solve the above queries; yet I may now reply
to them without conjectural embarrassments. For

ing spoken of the manner of living at the castle, and related the more material occurrences befalling me there, I must, to avoid repetition, pass over many matters analogous to those already noticed, and proceed to observe, that my detestable servitude continued, without intermission, five years in the whole, which brought the autumn of 1798. That tedious space having elapsed, a lucky event took place, which paved the way for my deliverance, as well as that of the other prisoners, more effectually, than could have any scheme within the breach of our sagacity. The event was this; the commonwealth of Massachusetts ceded the castle, with its dependencies, to the government of the United States, on which transaction it was predicated, that the removal of the convicts from the island would be a necessary consequence.

Tidings of this favorable event being circulated among the prisoners, joy sparkled in every eye, and transport filled each bosom. For my own part, I now calculated upon a restoration to freedom, as a real certainty, and fondly anticipated the beautitudes of future ease and repose.

Not many days intervened, before my expectations were, in good measure, realized, by the actual arrival of an order for our removal hence, and circular distribution in the common prisons. It was my lot to be carried and shut up, with five or six other of our worthies, in Salem jail; but in this receptacle I had no intention of abiding long, since, by my present idea of things, I had suffered already competency of evils to satisfy vengeance, the most inexorable, and for imputed crimes, of which I had been in no wise culpable.

While meditating on the best means of escape, I was visited by the jailor, removed by his injunctions into an upper apartment, and there secured till further orders. On taking leave, he vouchsafed to observe, that the room was in a slender predicament, wherefore, I must behave peaceably, if I intended to tarry long. I made no reply, but thought the hint a plain indication of his wishes to be well rid of his visitants. So, losing no time, I examined the limits of my cell, and presently discovered several pieces of moveable timber. It was then about the middle of the afternoon, but scarce had twilight discoloured the face of things, ere I fell to work, and, in half an hour, opened a sufficient breach. This done, I clambered over into the entry, and, in the next minute, gained the open street; but whether my fellow-prisoners were apprised of my attempt, I cannot determine.

Thus, after a series of years, and a multiplicity of inquietudes, did I find myself at full liberty to order my conduct, as suited the volitions of my own mind, a privilege unpossessed of a long time. Near the confines of the prison I made a halt, to recover respiration, and to consider of my better course. My hesitation was indeed momentary, for tickling desire soon turned my steps toward Lea and Greenland, to visit my primitive friends; but, above all, my old companion Nabby, who now engaged my concern, and who abode, as I presumed, in the Town last mentioned.

Thus I set forward musing as I went, upon the versatality of human affairs, and upon the strange alternation of events, which had chequered, surprisingly, my late untoward fate. I now resolv-

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ed in idea, how I had been abused and persecuted for the last six years; torn from social enjoyments, and sentenced to finish my destiny by a halter, but, at length, exempted from that penalty, by being doomed to eke out a wretched existence in the exilement of the Castle; and lastly, in what manner, by a sudden transition, as though fortune had been weary of her malignant exertions, I was now cast penniless into the wide world, and left to shift, as I could, for my own support and well being.

It was near the close of the month of October and the night serenely cold, when I thus commenced my extraordinary journey toward Lee; my apparel was composed of hair and tow, extremely thin and much tattered. Thus poorly accommodated, I began to feel, ere marching a mile, the stinging effects of the frigid air; but seeing no remedy for the evil, put the best foot forward, till I reached Haverhill ferry. Here I found it impossible to pass over without the ferryman's assistance; but, alas! for fear of detention, I durst not awake him. Shivering with cold, therefore, as an aspen leaf with the wind, I veered to the left, and travelled up stream, two miles, to Ox ferry, where finding an old leaky canoe, I ventured to cross over in that flimsy vehicle. Still, I had other difficulties to surmount, for, by the time I had gained the opposite shore, my limbs were quite torpid from the keenness of the nocturnal air. Not daring to enter the abode of man I set off in quest of some den or other retreat, where to prevent perishing, I might roll up in some kennel of a litter of hay, till morning. Luckily, within the limits of a field, I found a birth to my liking, so creeping in-

to a hay mow, my senses were quickly dispatched to the regions of forgetfulness, and I obtained in sleep a few hours of undisturbed, exhilarating repose.

Awaking late in the morning, I sprang up and jogged onward, till feeling weak and faint for want of nutriment, I ventured into a mean looking house, and obtained, of a poor woman, a slender repast, being the utmost her penury could afford. This friendly bounty enabled me to reach Exeter, which I entered about dark, and procured supper at the house of an old and approved friend.

While here, at my ease, and dreaming of no harm, to be sure, a report was circulated of my being in the town, and not only so, but a dozen or more people were collected to seize my person, as a deserter from confinement. Their design was well meant and cunningly devised, yet I discovered it just in season to give them the slip, by a speedy decampment. This flurry over, I pressed onward, and made out to reach Lee the same evening, though at a very late hour.

As I had too much pride to appear publicly in the garb of a tatterdemallion, as was my present condition, and besides, was very doubtful what kind of reception I should meet with among the wary inhabitants of the place, it seemed most prudent to keep close for a season. Accordingly I took private lodgings at my elder brother's house, and there gained a particular account of the removal of my first wife, and several of my children, from Lee to Lemington, in the District of Maine, in which town my sons owned land, and now lived in favorable circumstances. This news surprised me greatly

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ly, being the first hint I had received of the affair, if such be the case, thought I, soon shall I bid adieu to Lee, forever!

While in my present asylum, many favours were shewn me; my brother, in particular, gave me a fraternal welcome, and contributed liberally in mitigation of my wants. I likewise saw and conversed with a number of my quondam friends, who generously supplied me with some of the most necessary articles for my situation. By their help I was in trim to exhibit a more decent appearance, and, in compliance with their kind invitations, visited each at his own house, where I was received, as one risen from the dead.

For upwards of ten years, next preceding the present visit, I had been an alien from Lee, without once seeing the place; consequently the manners of the people, as well as the appearance of things, had sustained great alterations. My old adversaries had pretty much forgotten our former bickerings, and their own resentments. They now seemed inclinable to assist, rather than insult me, thinking, perhaps, I had paid the full price of my former transgressions.

Tarrying, some time at Lee, and finding that none were desirous to give me the smallest disturbance, I repaired to New-Market, and was received with much philanthropy by the people of that town. On hearing my story, they strongly advised my repairing to Lemington, to see my children, who had gone thither, and who, they said, were well settled and in such good circumstances, that doubtless they would assist me, after the sad vexations I had met with in life. I thought well of

their augury, but my mind was wavering, for my esteemed Nabby, like a powerful magnet, drew me toward herself, with a potency I scarce knew how to resist. However, on sober reflection, I thought to pursue the advice of my friends, and stay at Lemington the approaching winter, should my boys be inclined to shew me a cordial welcome. Promotive of this resolution, some alterations had taken place in respect of my dear companion, the long lost Abigail, which I shall here relate. To do this I must recur to the period of my confinement at the Castle, for the sake of observing, that she, as a faithful sharer in my ill as well as good fortune, had lingered in and about Boston and the neighbouring towns, for several years, in hopes of my dismissal, or, perhaps, escape. But, at length growing weary of my long detention, and hearing it said, that not the least probability existed of my future enlargement, and being also in no condition, to support herself and children any longer in Boston, she concluded to return to Greenland, and throw herself and family (now four in number) upon the indulgence of her friends. This plan was carried into effect a few months prior to my unlooked for release, and she continued with her relatives and friends in Greenland, till visited by her own brother, whose place of abode was at Rockingham, in Vermont. At his pressing request she removed to his habitation, where, at the time of my castle-deliverance, she still resided.

As I wished to have seen and conversed with her, prior to my departure, her absence was a subject of no small anxiety; but at last, having found an opportunity to send her a letter, by way of the

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Post, I adjusted all affairs, and set out directly on my journey for Lemington.

It was about the beginning of December, when I had the pleasure to set foot, for the first time, within the house of my son Simeon in that town. I found him, as also my Son-in-law, and their families, with my old wife Lydia, and our youngest child, all in good health. Our other children had been put out apprentices, and were all provided with suitable places of abode. To my entire satisfaction I now saw, that though report was prone to exaggerate, yet, in the instance respecting my two sons, it had made no undue representation of their prosperity, for each of them possessed a well managed farm, and lived in rural affluency. They received me with cordiality, and shewed me the kindest attention. I felt both delight at the generous treatment I received, and happiness at the prosperous establishment of my children; yet, even here, fate had reserved for me conflicts of a trying nature; a struggle, however, bearing little affinity with any of antierior origin. It concerned my old wife Lydia, and my young (reputed) wife Abigail: and the difficulty was, with whom of the two I should cohabit in future. This mental embarrassment was owing to my children, residing at Lemington, who, since my return, had been anxious, pressingly so, that I should forsake my mistress, entirely, and cleave thenceforth to the wife of my youth, my only lawful one, as they, rightly described her. I hesitated, but, to carry their point, they added to persuasion many alluring offers of assistance, and, Heaven knows, I much needed, at that time, both succour and encouragement from some quarter or other.

Five disastrous years I had spent at the Castle, without earning a penny for myself, since all I could there rake and scrape had been scarce sufficient to bar a divorce of soul from body. What measures then could I now adopt, exonerated as I was of all earthly advantages? After many reflections upon the advice of my two sons, and weighing the pros and cons, demurely, in the balance of fair reasoning; in the course of which, I calculated honestly on my present situation; that I had reached, actually, the decline of life, being in the fifty-second year of my age, with my corporeal vigor and mental powers perceptibly abated; that I felt poorly able to prosecute such fatiguing marches, or to encounter such extreme hardships, as had been those of former endurance; that, no other means were visible of pushing my future fortune through the world, except those I had heretofore practiced; meagre penury, in the meantime, staring me full in the face; I say, after these and various other reflections, I even coincided, with little self satisfaction, to forego all future connection with my dear mistress, should the step be compatible with my former promises. On the other hand, it touched me to the quick, to think of quitting the woman, who had followed my fortunes, hither and thither, through evil and good, and who had attended me so kindly in my greatest afflictions both of body and mind, cheerfully supplying my wants to the extent of her ability, when I was deserted by every other person; not to mention, that I had four children by her already, and loved her, unquestionably, beyond all other women upon earth. Ah, me! what a stint was it to control my passions on the present occasion? Yet

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having once concluded to listen to the remonstrances of my wife, children and friends, and to effect, if it could be, a separation from the woman of my heart, I lost no time, but wrote her a line, fully expressive of my sincere love and regard, and grateful acknowledgments for all kindnesses I had received; stating, the reasons, however, why I supposed our separation unavoidable, and concluding with my best wishes for her perpetual happiness. This billet I found means to convey; and not long after, received an answer, in which she appeared not insensible of my ingratitude, but, nevertheless spoke of a separation, as a point settled and unalterable.

Never since have I had the privilege of seeing her, but although cruel fate has decreed our separation, I shall ever feel a tender affection for her person, and a lively sense of gratitude for the benefits she once had the goodness to render me. Those benefits are enhanced a thousand fold, from the consideration, that I received them when struggling with woes too weighty, in a manner, for the endurance of humanity.

I understand she has been wedded, some few years, to a respectable man, and is now living in the interior of the country, where she enjoys the comforts of life, but without its luxuries. Sincerely I pray, that, during life's remainder, she may reap much more happiness, with her present husband, than possibly could have fallen to her share in my company or keeping.

Having adjusted, in the manner above recited, the foregoing troublesome affairs, I took quiet possession, and, turf and twig, possession of my primitive wife as of fee, and we resided together as

baron and feme at Lemington, aforefaid. Our iffue had been nine in number, moft of whom were as yet living. We confidered them as the pledges of our former love, and notwithstanding the frequent defections and numberlefs matrimonial infidelities of which I was chargeable, we contrived to dwell together in tolerable harmony. Indeed, my old wife was miftrefs of feveral convenient though rare qualities, one of which was, ſhe had a knack at difpenfing with fome of my irregularities, which a more squeamiſh ſtomach had not digeſted ſo eaſily. To this might be added, that ſhe was a very notable and diſcreet houſewife, ſo that, never was her perſon, in the leaſt degree burthenſome or expenſive to me; but, on the reverse, ſhe had contributed to the ſupport of the family more than I myſelf had, or, in my embarrassed circumſtances, could ever have been able.

As it was my allotment to fettle permanently in Lemington, I purchaſed a piece of land, and, by the help of indulgent friends, erected thereon a ſmall, but commodious dwelling houſe. In this ſituation I led a peaceable and harmleſs life, my time being ſpent, either in clearing land, or marching to and fro in quality of Indian Doct^r. Meantime I had leiſure and opportunity to ruminate upon the multiplicity of horrible ills, and almoſt unparalleled ſufferings, that former miſdeeds, eſpecially the depredations I had made upon the property of others, had drawn on my devoted head. In brief, it now appeared on review, that I had ſubſtantial reaſon to abominate theſt to the lateſt hour of exiſtence; wherefore, I was led to reſolve, ſeriously, that no temptations, in ſome

ſhould induce a regret. And really, ever ſince, obſervation I adopted day I received the moment of record clandestinely from amount of a ſingle

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I had purſued perhaps a year, v (to names) having Lemington, and to convince him; miting none of ſent Sheriff to ſe Conſcious of inned on the expen

should induce a renewal of such shameful enormities. And really, in respect to theft itself, I have, ever since, observed, most religiously, the determination I adopted at that period; since, from the day I received sentence of death, to the present moment of recording the fact, I have never taken clandestinely from man, woman or child to the amount of a single pin.

As our little household consisted, at present, of only my old wife, myself, and youngest child, I found that it transcended in no wise my honest endeavors to support it decently; this encouraged me to persevere in well doing. In fact, I derived no slender advantage from my constant exertions in the medical line, my travels were both east and west, and seldom did I return home unsupplied with necessaries. Besides, I frequently visited the Shakers, a society of Christians residing at Alfred, who, from the commencement of our acquaintance, have been ever increasing in my veneration and esteem. With much gratitude I make mention of the charitable philanthropists, in that place, because, first and last, their bounty has been manifold and they have rendered me important services.

I had pursued the course of life, above described, perhaps a year, when a certain gentleman (to call no names) having lost his horse, made a journey to Lemington, and taxed me with the theft. I tried to convince him of his mistake, but in vain, for admitting none of my excuses, he advised the attendant Sheriff to seize and convey me to Dover jail. Conscienceless of innocency in this behalf, I remonstrated on the expence and loss of time attendant on

the journey; still, I was willing to accompany them on condition of reimbursement, if found blameless. But no! they would make no such compromise; suggesting, that, if I would take horses, I had also, stolen, undoubtedly, the clothes I had on (for they saw me clad in a pretty decent suit.) To obviate this calumny, I asserted, that to the bounty of the Shakers, it was owing, that I could call those clothes my own. This they heard with a sarcastic sneer, and in hopes of detecting my fallacy hurried me off to Alfred, where, on entering the town, we happened to meet with a party of Shakers, at work on the highway. To those honest citizens the question was propounded, and answer immediately returned, that my suit of clothes was a voluntary gift from their own fraternity. This point cleared; the Shakers in turn, demanded, with some spirit, whither they might be carrying me, and were told, "To Dover Jail, for horse-stealing, and being a rogue." The Shakers said, they had no belief of my stealing a horse, and, as to being a rogue, I certainly had the looks of the honestest man of the three; being an old friend, whom they would not see dragged culprit like, any farther, unless sanctioned by proper authority. This prohibition nettled my conductors, who, being unable to produce a shadow of legality for their arbitrary proceedings, set me at liberty and suffered me to return home. A while after, the lost horse was found, so that my innocence became clear, as the noon-day sun; yet, I have repressed the man's name who treated me thus, in the sincere hope that he will one day repent, and make amends for the trouble he thus occasioned me.

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The next thing exigent of mention, and consequent on my return home from Alfred, is, that I received the distressing intelligence of the decease of the illustrious Gen. Washington, that truly magnanimous patriot, who had been the political favourite of his country, and founder of the American empire; a man more worthy of being stiled "the great," than any of the Alexanders, Pompeys or Charleses who ever swayed a sceptre. His death took place, as the world knows, on the fourteenth of December, A. D. 1799, and was universally lamented, through the land of his preservation, by all ranks and orders of men. As a faint eulogy on his virtues, as a small tribute of praise to his sacred memory, for the matchless services he has rendered his country and the world, I here subjoin the following stanzas, on that melancholy occasion, being a transcript of those ideas, which are, more legibly, written on the table of my heart, and which, I trust, no accident will ever efface.

What dismal sounds invade the ear !
 What gloom o'erspreads the sky ;
 What solemn tidings do we hear !
 What piercing, heartfelt cry !

Hark ! 'tis the mournful trump of fate,
 " Great Washington's no more ;"
 Freed from this fleeting, mortal state,
 He seeks the heav'nly shore.

His glorious race on earth is run,
 Immortal lives his fame ;
 Admiring worlds, O, Washington !
 Shall still exalt thy name.

With liberty, to bless mankind,
 To fight for freedom's cause ;

For these were form'd thy godlike mind,
By fate's unerring laws.

When heav'n in wisdom plac'd thee here,
She thus address'd her son ;
" Go ! save America, thrice dear,
Nor fear, brave Washington.

There found an empire, far and wide,
On Freedom's sacred shore,
Where lawless tyranny and pride
Shall vex her realm no more."

Immortal Washington obey'd
Th' empyreal decree,
And well achiev'd the glorious deed,
And founded liberty,

This done, celestial anthems rise
On harps of purest gold,
Angels invite him to the skies,
The heav'nly gates unfold.

Columbia, mourn, in weeds of woe,
Your chief, your patriot gone,
Let ceaseless tears in concert flow,
For Freedom's fav'rite son.

Yet, while our fond affections glow,
With mingled grief and love,
While still we mourn his death below,
O, sing his birth above.



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CHAP. VI.

Ill habits cleave like birdlime to poor man,
Stick, like contagion, shake them off who can ;
What vices we imbibe in youth, behold,
Like shadows, will pursue us, when grown old.

HAVING introduced the venerable name of that great and good man, whose exalted virtues were made the subject of the foregoing little poetical essay, I deemed it more decorous to wind off the last chapter, without introducing further remarks concerning myself. I shall now resume the thread of my discourse with less violation of the rules of decency.

For the space of twelve months subsequent to the painful event just related, I remained firm and steady at home, in pursuing my ordinary business, which, generally, was dealing out medicine and cultivating a small farm. Between both I had full employment, and provided for my small family in a decent and comfortable manner. My fame as an Indian doctor encreased daily, and to my exertions were ascribed various extraordinary cures ; of this commendation, indeed, I rather supposed myself not absolutely undeserving. Regular physicians will, naturally, smile at this seeming self sufficiency, as some, even of that description are extremely fond of having all medical science exclusively confined to their own fraternity. Let them enjoy comfortably their fancied superiority, I wish neither to detract from their merits, nor to overrate my own.

Being now between fifty and sixty years of age, I began to think, as doubtless will others, that it was high time to have sown my wild oats, and to have shaken off my old tricks and corrupt habits; at the same time setting about a very necessary piece of business, to wit, reformation. Indeed, at the time I treat of, my thoughts dwelt, with unusual elasticity, on the subject of a future well being; while, too, the image of past life presented itself to view in colours the most alarming, filling me with anguish and remorse. What salutary effects had been the result of those conscientious reflections, if an adventure, unfriendly to morals, had not caught me by surprise, and suspended, for a time, the operation of those friendly principles, which were striving, I believe, to acquire some dominion over my vices, I pretend not to say. True it is, a man of my standing, in years, at least, should have been a better proof against temptation, such as I allude to, and with remorse should confess his weakness in tamely yielding to the assault; yet, as I have hitherto related facts, without disguise, I must, for uniformity's sake, continue that practice, however future comments may tend to my disadvantage. Without more apology I shall relate the adventure.

A certain young woman, of religious deportment, I must conceal her name, called at my house, one day, in the absence of my family, to borrow my horse, to ride a few miles, to a newlight meeting, and for the favour she engaged to pay half a dollar on her return. "The horse, young woman, said I, is at your service, only the money must be paid first, for, you know it is ticklish trusting these hard times." She hesitated, since, horse or no horse,

half a dollar, promptly advance. What, positively, some other could be obtained, my inflexible, allured, flattered, as prompt in refusal, to promote payment might be a capital, since I would take personal service. In fine, I named the modesty's sake, I thought this was enough then saw reddening for the mortification of a religionist, after a negative, which, having been fulfilled, her steed with age and gravity of a instance may be Ovid's rencontre proof, that like his my juvenile eccentric great difficulty, familiarized to temptation, when points of view.

Not many days gracious behavior mounted my steed

half a dollar, prompt pay, was more than she could advance. What then to do, she knew not, for positively, some horse she must have, and none other could be obtained. Her perplexity was obvious, my inflexibility unshaken; she intreated, allured, flattered, but to little purpose; I was as prompt in refusal, as she in importunity. At length, to promote a compromise, I suggested, that payment might be made easy, without the aid of a capital, since I was not absolutely disinclined to take personal services, in lieu of all other requital. In fine, I named the conditions that should, alone, entitle her to the loan of the horse, though for modesty's sake, I choose not to repeat them here. This was enough to excite those blushes, which I then saw redden on her cheek; I, too, was preparing for the mortification of a rebuff; but the young religionist, after a little hesitation, and a few female negatives, which often carry a far different meaning, gesticulated her assent. Articles of agreement having been fulfilled to a punctilio, she mounted her steed with agility, and rode away with the air and gravity of a vestal of threescore. The above instance may be compared, not inappositely, to Ovid's rencontre with Corinna, and is a pregnant proof, that like him I had not mastered sufficiently my juvenile eccentricities. It may also evince the great difficulty, of overcoming iniquity, when long familiarized to the practice of it, or of resisting temptation, when she presents herself in alluring points of view.

Not many days transpired after the above ungracious behaviour, ere I equipped myself *cap a pie*, mounted my stout horse, and set off on a medical

excursion toward Nova Scotia. The whole of this extensive jaunt was crowned with brilliant successes. I perceived, as I passed along, that the face of the country had undergone great changes, and had become much more populous than when I saw it last. Though, as many of the settlers were emigrants from New Hampshire, and the northeasterly parts of old Massachusetts, where I had frequently rendezvoused, my looks were generally distinguished wherever I set foot. For that reason I durst not borrow such a strange diversity of antic shapes, as Proteus like, I formerly did, when strolling through these regions. Of a truth, I was forced to relinquish both preaching and praying; and, as for theft, I considered that as a reprobated resource, which I had solemnly renounced forever. Hence the only surviving hobby horses, within my circumscribed see, were doctoring and fortune telling; but on either of those, alternately, I could traverse, with eclat, the highway of life, without being pestered with the fears of want or the sighs of ambition.

While on this route I heard of the death of my old associate, Richard Dennis. It happened in the district of Maine, about a year previous to this; the particulars of which tragic event were repeated to me as follow.

Dennis had been arrested for house breaking, and as the sheriff and keepers were escorting him to prison, they entered a certain part of the road, which lay contiguous to the margin of a river. In this spot Dennis made a momentary halt, and then, with a view, I suppose, of escaping by swimming, leaped suddenly from the shore to a large rock,

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twelve feet within the stream. On this cliff he stood, pinioned as he was, yet undismayed, an object of horror and amazement to the terrified beholders, who were apprehensive of fatal consequences. It was manifest, that some desperate purpose was labouring in his agitated soul, wherefore, they called out to their prisoner to retreat, but he did not regard them. They essayed to reclaim him by means of wooden hooks or poles, but he disdainfully repulsed their efforts; till finding himself in no capacity to preserve longer his station, he plunged precipitately into the water. His intent in this, as it should seem, was to gain the opposite banks; but the freshet being high, the stream rapid, and himself encumbered with manacles, his strength was inadequate to the rash undertaking. Thus, while buffetting the current, or struggling for life, he was carried down stream, and buried in the whirls of the torrent. A while after, his remains were taken up, by a number of Indian fishermen, at the distance of twelve miles from the fatal spot.

Such was the untimely end of my old accomplice Dennis, but, in all probability, the fear of the gallows provoked him to hazard so foolish and desperate a measure. I think this the more likely, because when we lived together in habits of intimacy, I have heard him often protest, that no authority should ever hang him, while he possessed the means of putting an end to his own life. So much for my old fellow laborer; peace be to his manes; for little happiness, I ween, could possibly betide him while here on earth.

On my way homeward I visited the shakers of Alfred, and that friendly people did not suffer me to leave them without fresh samples of their munificence. I have cause to esteem them, and shall, till life ceases to vibrate. How different has been their conduct toward me, when depressed by poverty, from that which some other religious professors have manifested, when in much worse circumstances; professors, who, under the mask and garb of sanctity, are ever seeking to defraud their neighbors, and grind the face of the poor; hypocrites, impostors, and wholly unworthy the name they feloniously usurp.

Though disposed to declaim thus against zeal and sanctified hypocrisy, I still retain a peculiar veneration for the sincerely pious, whom I esteem as the salt of the earth, and the brightest ornaments of society. Godly piety, is indeed a sublime qualification, and the first, best source of human felicity.

Ah blest religion, pure and undefil'd !
 Thy pleasing theme imparts serene delight,
 'Transforms to hope the fears of misery's child,
 And to the poor dispenses heavenly light.

But to proceed. Leaving the shakers, I posted home, but was there incommoded, by means of sundry people, who were searching for one of my castle comrades, who, forgetful of former calamities, had stolen a valuable horse. The aggressor had, indeed, been under my protection for upwards of four months, and for his personal security, while with me, I stood sponsor; for which reason I was the more anxious to facilitate his flight. I succeeded in my trust, and it being my friend's intention to abandon our quarter, forever, by way of requi-

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al, he gave me not only his stolen horse, but several notes of hand, against responsible persons residing at Waterborough. The horse I turned to good advantage, and was so lucky as to collect the whole amount of the notes; so that I cleared, through the misfortunes of this man, to the tune, at least, of three hundred dollars.

I was now enabled to discharge every debt I owed, with honor and punctuality, and to lay out for a more decent and advantageous mode of living than heretofore. Every undertaking seemed to be prospered under my hands; when, suddenly, a new disaster dispelled all hopeful prospects, and gave me fresh proofs of the instability of human prosperity. Being one day on a small journey, I received a desperate fall from an unruly horse, by which I broke an arm and a rib, and dislocated my wrist. Several months, I was confined with this tremendous visitation, ere returning health permitted a resumption of customary employments. At length, however, I got the better of all complaints, and set my face toward the north, resolving, if health continued, to perform a tour of some considerable length. With this view, I set off with my baggage, assuming, uniformly, the port and dignity of an old sage physician of long practice and experience. In the course of my rambles I went to the White Hills, sometimes called the "Lady Mountains," where, among other curiosities, I had a sight of the huge stone, that rolled spontaneously down those hills in the year, (if I mistake not) 1798. In size it was large as an ordinary meeting house; it took its departure from near the summit of one of those mountains, and continued its progressive descent, as much

as three fourths of a mile, until a deep valley arrested its further progress. The path cleared in the journey of this stupendous rock, appeared to be four rods in width, and was swept, quite clean, of every standing tree, great and small. The inhabitants of the adjacent country, for several leagues round, heard the noise of the descending mass for nearly, as it seemed, a quarter of an hour, and conceived it the report of a great earthquake.

Leaving these mountains, I touched at many other places. Having, at last, indulged my desire for travelling, I arrived at Lemington in perfect safety. The spring of 1802 had already advanced, so that, my agricultural affairs requiring immediate attention, I applied to them, for a season, with much diligence; but no sooner did circumstances permit, than I set off again toward the east, and after rambling some time, in another of her frolicsome moods, dame Fortune conducted me to Old Wells. Here by mere accident I came across a brisk young widow, one whose person was faultless, her smiles bewitching, and her worldly goods far from inconsiderable. I perceived she had no knowledge of my person; so, without demer I invoked the little mischievous deity, and had the pleasure of a most gracious reception. Our courtship equalled, in duration, Jonah's continuance in the whale's belly, that is, three days and nights; the whole of which time passed so pleasantly, that I never shall expect hereafter "to forget the widow." It should also be noted that our union in marriage was fully agreed on; three months after that being mentioned for its real solemnization. Sooner, she could not be ready, as her wedding

at and many others be provided. Thus, I length, till my visit, when I reluctantly, by bidding fare

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suit and many other preparative articles must first be provided. Thus, I studied and practiced deception, till my visit was eked out to a critical length, when I reluctantly quitted the fields of delight, by bidding farewell to the enraptured widow. Leaving Wells, I hied to Portland, then passed on to Alfred and other unimportant places; but, lastly, returned to Lemington, my thoughts still running, incessantly, upon the beautiful widow. The above stipulated term sped away; yet I neglected to return equipped for the matrimonial voyage, as the pleasing dreams of my bride elect had fondly anticipated; wherefore, being in a nettle, she enquired out the place of my abode, and dispatched a man and horse to know the cause of my absence. The messenger came to Lemington, where, hearing of my family connections, he neglected the delivery of his message, and posted back with the ugly intelligence that I was a married man already. How the poor widow digested the bitter pill, I had little privilege of knowing; I knew, however, that very possibly, this wild adventure might be productive of some perverse consequences; I, therefore, forsook home, and journeyed a round pace toward Connecticut. In my travels, this rout, I passed through Ipswich, where I saw a number of my old female friends; the sight of whom brought to my remembrance afresh, the numerous benefactions conferred upon me, in the worst of times, by the ladies of that town. It recurred to mind, in what manner they had petitioned for my release, when suffering in prison, under bonds and condemnation, and surrounded with all the terrors, all the machinery of death.

CHAP. VII.

When wanton women guide the helm,
 No wonder surges overwhelm
 The crazy bark, a shatter'd wreck,
 Its lading tost from hold and deck.

FROM Ipswich I shaped my course northwardly, and after a short residence in different places, returned home. I was soon after requested to visit, in a medical capacity, a sick young woman, then in the eighteenth year of her age; but whose name, because of the recency of the transactions connected with this, I choose to repress. She was the daughter of a neighboring farmer, and had been, of a long time, in a weak and languishing condition; so much so, that it was verily supposed, her malady would terminate in a consumption, and thus end her days. She had sought relief both far and near, and had tried many prescriptions to no kind of purpose; for, in spite of remedies, her disorder continued to gain ground, and she, proportionably to decline. In this state I found her almost emaciated to a skeleton. It was obvious to every one, that her situation must be extremely precarious, and her recovery to health altogether problematical; yet, at the earnest desire of her friends, I undertook the unpromising task of prescribing for her cure.

As my private opinion had been opposed even to the ordinary use of apothecary's drugs and chemical medicines, which, being the growth chiefly

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foreign climates, different from, and perhaps, more unhealthy than our own, I considered less congenial to American constitutions, than medicines, the production of our own soil; I, therefore, confined my patient entirely to the use of the latter. My remedies were vegetable and simples; and I had the vanity to suppose, that my long intercourse with the Indian doctors, and frequent practice, ever since, had taught me to apply them with becoming dexterity. And as the complaints of my patient were similar to those from which the Indians had formerly relieved me, I chose to rely, in her case, upon the methods of cure prescribed by the Indian physicians in mine. Whether my judgment were correct or not, it ill behoves me to say; yet, true it is, that my choice of means was surprizingly successful, even beyond my greatest expectations. After several visits the poor invalid began to show symptoms of amendment, and in a few months more, regained as complete a state of health, as she had ever been known to enjoy.

During the progress of her cure, I had paid the most diligent attendance upon her person, administering many of the medicines with my own hands; by which, and other assiduities, I ingratiated myself insensibly (though God knows undesignedly) into her good graces, and made no slight impression on her heart. This discovery, though unnoticed by the rest of the family, was by me most easily observed, as every word and gesture, which escaped, contributed to its confirmation. My surmises, however, were confined to my own breast, not even to her did I betray this knowledge, for, I wished on family accounts, that the fatal flame,

which seemed to be kindling in her bosom, might expire in embryo. To promote so laudable an end, I relinquished the pleasure of visiting at her father's house, and studiously avoided all possible occasions of personal intercourse. This was my expedient for a while, till, one day, happening to be caught in her company, she made use of the opportunity to acquaint me, in plain terms, with her sentiments, and the situation of her mind. The subject was introduced by expressing her great satisfaction at the unexpected recovery of her health; she then proceeded to thank me, in pathetic terms, for the useful services I had rendered her. Under providence, she ascribed it to my care and attention, wholly, that she was yet in the land of the living, and in a situation to express her gratitude for the amazing pains I had taken on her account, averring it impossible to reward me in a way adequate to her wishes, or my deserts. I assured her, that my recompence was already ample, from the pleasure I took in having promoted her welfare; that therefore I must reject the idea of all further compensation. "Never, (rejoined she) can my greatest benefactor be repaid; the best, the only requital I can make you, for saving my life, is to declare you welcome to the last little of my property; and greatly should I rejoice, if the poor bequest were increased a hundred fold. Yes, Mr. Tufts, to speak ingenuously, in nothing could I receive so much satisfaction, such peculiar delight, as in devoting my all to your only service." "I thank you kindly, dearest miss, said I, for this pleasing testimony of your gratitude; but permit me to repeat, that I am thoroughly satisfied; that I will

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no other requital, than what I have already received: Yes, Madam! I feel myself richly rewarded for the too trivial pains I have taken, and therefore, intreat you that all further observations may be waved on the subject." Here our conversation paused, for a moment; but was quickly renewed by her wishing, though in faltering accents, that I might not be amazed at her singular discourse, since she loved and esteemed me beyond all others on earth. I replied that her declaration would have been more particularly transporting, but for the chilling reflection, that I was already bound in the matrimonial chain, which she certainly knew, and therefore in no situation to enjoy the benefits of her partiality. Here, repressing the rising sigh, she proceeded to observe, that her happiness would be superlative, were she permitted to abandon all, and follow my fortune, to some remote quarter, where we might contribute, to the lasting felicity of each other. This declaration demonstrated so great a degree of ardor, that it instantly excited mine; indeed I had quite forgotten my former resolution, to forsake the company of this bewitching girl, I therefore, told her, that in case she was sincere, I would undertake to escort her, far from the reach of those who might wish to annoy us, and would be careful to supply her with all the comforts, not elegancies, of life. She appeared to be mightily pleased with this declaration, and promised, with alacrity, to be ready for removal at a moments warning. I observed that the exact time of departure must be a matter of uncertainty, depending entirely upon contingences, since much must necessarily be done previous to leaving the town, and

that with much privacy ; but that I would immediately return home, and with all diligence make the requisite arrangements, and, when the fortunate moment arrived, would acquaint her with my whole scheme. I desired her, by all means, to be in momentary preparation, as the least delay might possibly discomfit the whole important design. Assuring me most solemnly that there should be no kind of failure on her part, I took reluctant leave of my lovely charmer, for that time. I would beg permission to note, in this place, that, however singular it may seem, for one of the fair sex to make the declarations and overtures above related to a man advanced ; with my accustomed veracity, I must declare that I have preserved not only the sense but the spirit of the original dialogue, as nearly as my recollection would enable me.

I hasten to observe, that my late extraordinary engagements were continually uppermost in my fancy, impatiently urging me to the possession of my new mistress, who, though no beauty, was yet endued with those attractive qualities, which rendered her, peculiarly, an object of desire. The better to provide for travelling expences, therefore, I immediately converted into money such of my effects as might be disposed of with secrecy. I then settled my other business, and feeling much anxiety to elope, notified my little mistress in what place to meet me. She was punctual ; we both gained the angle of taction, without exciting the least suspicion among the people of the neighborhood. As it fell out I was provided with a horse, able-bodied and an excellent traveller, we therefore mounted conjunctly, took the road to Kennebec, and with

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regret, bade adieu to Lemington, though we wist not but forever.

The first thirty-six hours were spent in travelling, both night and day, with the greatest expedition. Sometimes I marched on foot, sometimes proceeded on horse back, continually agitated, however, for fear of some disaster. Many times did we cast fearful glances behind, lest we should behold a group of pursuers in the rear; but our alarms were groundless, the fact being, that nobody had attempted as yet, to trace out our footsteps.

By this time we were more than one hundred and twenty miles from the place of departure, but so vastly fatigued, that it was impossible to proceed an inch further for the present. We alighted at a house to gain some refreshment, when thinking ourselves quite out of danger, we concluded to tarry the remainder of the day and the night ensuing.

The good folks of the house being informed that we were man and wife, supplied us with a single bed only; this omission, however, gave us no umbrage, in the least; on the contrary we took possession of our new lodging with the same regularity, as though this habit had existed for years.

Over the transporting scene which naturally took place between me and my pleasing bedfellow, during this first trial of our amorous skill, I shall draw an impenetrable veil; and pass on to mention, that the next day we prosecuted our journey, as we did the day following, without the slightest cross accident on the road; but, on the afternoon of the third day, we happened to be overtaken by a well looking traveller on horseback. At this moment I

was walking, with a view to ease my horse; so that my progression could be none of the swiftest; nevertheless, the man unknown, as if fond of company, slackened his pace, and vouchsafed for several miles together, to amuse my companion and me with his facetious conversation. This brought me to a place called the six mile woods, just in the borders of which we met several people, one of whom was going to advise with a certain doctor upon the case of a man, who lay ill at some distance. I halted to confer with the strangers, but my girl and our fellow passenger moved moderately on.

The road through the woods, being straight, was perfectly visible for a great way a head; and, while I was busied in discourse, my mistress and man had proceeded nearly a mile, appearing however, to have then quickened their pace. I felt uneasy at this circumstance, so that, giving the travellers the best of my counsel for the sick man, I bid them God speed, and hastened to overtake my company.

Inasmuch as my sweeting was now alone in the wood, with an utter stranger, it is not unreasonable, to suppose, that I placed the best foot forward; this in fact I did, but, after a deal of hurry, caught not a glimpse of the runaways, till I had traversed nearly the whole extent of the forest. But when I had done this, I again stretched my visual orbs ahead, and happened to espy them aloof in the very suspicious act of remounting their horses.

Judge now, ye husbands and lovers! for ye alone will be able, what were my sensations, and what my astonishment, when I detected my beloved mistress in the strange attitude above

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ed! Her conduct, unless viewed in the worst light, appeared utterly insoluble! What honest inducement could she have had, reasoned I, for dismounting in this dreary forest, with an absolute stranger! None decidedly! Vexed with those ideas, I quickened my pace, and, at last, overtook the fugitives, near the out skirts of the wood, just as they reached the tavern of one Stevens, in the town of Sebesticot.

As the demon jealousy had taken hold of my imagination, and fired it with indignant rage, I wished to develop more fully the supposed treachery of my mistress, in order to requite her accordingly. But the case requiring brevity, I could think of nothing else in my agitation, than to charge the culprits with the fact, and then draw conclusions from the effects of the accusation upon their countenances, at the moment of surprise. I had scarcely adopted this expedient, but an opportunity offered to put it partially in practice; for the landlord, coming out, stepped up to my mistress' gallant, just as she was entering the doors, and greeting him kindly, asked us both into the house. In an angry tone, I assured the landlord, I should never associate with a man, who had injured me so basely, as had the fellow before us; at the same time I made enquiry for a Magistrate, to whom I might resort for some kind of recompence. As I uttered this, I kept a watchful eye upon the supposed culprit, and discerned in his aspect both guilt and fear depicted in colours too visible for misconception. His confusion was proof enough, though extorted by surprise, that my suspicions were well founded. Vexation and grief at the

thoughts of my girl's perfidy, as may be well supposed, diffused painful emotions through the inner recesses of my heart. The fellow believed her to be, ipso facto, my wife, so that, dreading my displeasure, he declined entering the house, but, watching our motions, sneaked away unperceived; so that I never set eyes on him more. The dastardly conduct of this fellow led me to reflect upon the humiliating nature of guilt, how it disarms the hero, debases the man, and inspires the wretch, its possessor, with the weakness of cowardice and evasion.

Tarrying an hour at the Tavern, for the benefit of refreshment, our journey was renewed; but the moment myself and trull were clearly out of earshot, I began a grating lecture on the score of her perfidy, more especially to a man, who had relinquished house and home for her sake. However, she set up a defence, just such a one, indeed, as might be expected from such a woman; it being a denial, in toto, of the facts. I assured her that evasions would be useless, since her gallant had disclosed all; but that, still, I was willing to forgive her, if she would acknowledge the fault, and do so no more. This I told her was my ultimatum, for on no other footing could I ever restore her to favour. Our debate was long, and many were the tears that descended from her eyes, till finding my resolution firm to abandon her, unless she made the concession required, and supposing too that her partner in guilt had betrayed all, she at length confessed her misconduct, yet sought to palliate it, saying she had opposed his desires to the bat's ear, till overcome by force and pecuniary allurements.

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"But now, cried she, I am convinced of my error, and suffer as you must need suppose, the severest compunction" I intend, to be as good as my promise, interrupted I, and shall, for this once, overlook all, though if henceforth you give me the least room to scruple your fidelity, believe it a fact, at that moment I renounce you forever.

Such were my denunciations, and such, my real intentions, while in return the young minx promised the best fashions in future; thus terminated for the present, our displeasing altercation. My mind, however, was ill at ease, for, previous to this shock, I intended to have sought some commodious retreat, in which to have spent, with her, the remainder of my days.

We now pursued the journey in apparent good friendship, and our next port was Wiscasset. Here I visited several sick people; but, feeling anxious to pursue our flight, went on to Penobscot. In this place I continued dealing out medicines, for, perhaps a week, when news being carried to Doctor Thomas, the practising Physician in, those parts, that I was busy among his customers, he became highly exasperated. I happened to meet him, one day, in company with several gentlemen, when he rebuked me, sharply, for my meddling officiousness, as he termed it; a smart altercation ensued, principally upon medical subjects, but its issue was, very little, to the Doctors credit or advantage.

Quitting Penobscot, our next stage was to Sandy River, in Farmington: Here we took lodgings, with my cousin Elder Tufts, a lay-preacher. This man of zeal, observing that a she animal formed part of my baggage, was suspicious of a little criminal-

nality in our connexion ; he therefore took it on himself to be very inquisitive about whom the girl was, and whither we might be going. To ease his conscience, I told him she was my wife's near relation, whom I was conducting to her friends in the east, with whom she proposed residing in future. This account was satisfactory, but my kinsman's preciseness was so unaccommodating, that we bade him God bless him, early in the morning ; passed over to Belfast, and took lodgings at a house, the only inhabitants of which, were, an elderly man, a young woman, her child which was an idiot, and lastly an Irishman, a transient person, and whose occupation was that of a teacher or pedagogue. During the Irishman's stay at this house, he and the young woman, above mentioned, had performed for each other the more essential duties of husband and wife, without the intervention of the priesthood. I tarried here a number of days, and on calculation, found, that, since leaving home, I had more than cleared all travelling expences by medical and other casual emoluments.

One day, while at Belfast, I had been on a visit to a sick person, and did not return to my lodgings till near bed time. On entering the door, I was met and accosted by the hostess herself, almost out of breath, who informed me (in a fit of jealousy no doubt) that my wife, as she called her, was locked up in the next room with the Irish schoolmaster ; adding, that, in her opinion, she was no better than she should be. I requested some explanation of this, and was told, that my informant, through a crevice, had peeped into their room, where she beheld them very lovingly folded together in bed.

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and by other palpable indications, was positive that they were furnishing my brows with a pair of antlers, vulgarly called horns. Though my hostess did not express herself precisely in the terms above mentioned, yet such, in fact, were their plain import. I stood aghast for some minutes, stupid with surprise, and without uttering a syllable. My feelings it would be difficult to describe, I shall therefore waive the attempt, and remark, only, that, at last gaining utterance, my loud execrations so marred the sport of the loving couple, that they abandoned their retirement, in haste, and sped to another apartment. I did not follow; but, having now a recent instance of the infidelity of my mistress, I was convinced, beyond a doubt, that lasciviousness was, indeed, her constitutional and incurable failing. For that reason, I was resolved to place, henceforth, no manner of confidence in her delusive professions or fair speeches, repenting egregiously, that I had been so unwise as to leave my own family, and stroll about, like a wandering Jew without a jacket, for her sake. I felt also a tincture of regret, on reflecting that my fond expectations, my delightful dreams of happiness in her blithe society should be thus blown and dissipated forever. Though effusions of tenderness would sometimes arise, I knew it behoved me to check them; for however indelicate my own conduct, I could ill brook a partner, whose person was at any man's disposal, whom chance or design might fling in her way. In a word, I was vexed at the arrant folly I had shewn in bringing upon my back this new load of dishonor, this unnecessary distress by listening to the persuasions of a wanton, and

longed for some casualty, that should separate us, effectually, forever. But to forsake her in a strange land had been base and dishonorable; hence, my brain was puzzled in the choice of expedients; at last, however, I resolved to give up our settlement in the east, and to visit Coos or Canada.

This decree was communicated to my paragon of fidelity, but was far from obtaining her cordial acquiescence. I told her my resolutions were invincible; that I could not think of an established residence in this section of the country, though nothing but her own conduct could have altered my first purpose. "I was certainly disinclined," continued I, "to be convinced of your libidinous propensity; but when I see proof rise on proof, and still the last the strongest," I can no longer resist the evidence of my senses." As if touched with my reproaches, she seemed mightily overcome, burst into a flood of tears, and assumed all those airs of pretended contrition, which one class of women can command at pleasure. Though her efforts, were assiduous to soothe me, my inquietude increased; I, therefore, hastened to defray my expences at Belfast, and prosecuted our travels, till Canada received us into its rude yet friendly bosom.

In this new world we visited many parts and places, too tedious for enumeration. Growing weary, however, of Canada, as was natural to my removing disposition, we made a sudden roving to Tamworth, in Newhampshire, subsisting very sprucely, the whole way, upon my professional earnings.

From Tamworth we came to Meredith, thirty miles; here I was readily recognized and saluted

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by the appellation of Dr. Tufts. This urged my abrupt departure, and Hanover was the next place, which, attracting our notice, invited a temporary sojournment. This is a neat, flourishing village, being the seat of Dartmouth university, the only collegial institution in the state, and as highly reputable as any one on the continent.

We took lodgings at the house of Mrs. Greene, purposing to abide there, for, at least, a week. Upon retrospect of our adventures, we here found that we had been absent from Lemington between four and five months; had seen divers parts of the country, and had travelled to the tune of one thousand miles. But should the frequent mention of such elaborate journeys dispose any to scruple the veracity of my journal, I would obviate all objections by observing, that I was well acquainted with the country, and enured, for many years, to much travel, and to great expedition in my routes; to-day, for instance, I might be in Lee or Canterbury perhaps, and by tomorrow, fifty or an hundred miles distant; this being considered, the seeming inconsistency of my account will, at once, vanish.

But to pursue the thread of my relation, which is now, to the great joy of the reader, perhaps, drawing to a close; our station at Mrs. Greene's proved so easy and agreeable, that we thought best to postpone removal, till the waste of strength and spirits expended in those late wearisome rambles, should, in some measure, be repaired. One hundred and twenty miles from Lemington, we had not the slightest idea of being discovered or overtaken, by any of our offended kinsmen, which rendered us quite easy, on that head. But our imagined securi-

ty was fallacious, for exceedingly early, one morning, while I and my sprightly companion were still in bed, several men, armed with clubs, forced open the doors, and rushed into our apartment; among whom, dismal to relate! I distinguished the hateful features of my girl's father. His abrupt appearance, in our present condition, was a doleful surprise, as must be supposed, and an unutterable astonishment and mortification to us both. I hastily caught my apparel, and attempted to dress, but in this was frustrated by the old Grecian himself, who spying his daughter in bed, under circumstances so monstrous, broke forth into a most vehement passion, swearing, outrageously, he would instantly have my life. This I had reason to believe, for, without giving me a moment for defence, he struck my arm with his club, and seemed stubbornly bent on pushing his threats against my life, into instant execution. My arm was totally disabled by the blow; but the rest of the mob, fearing the consequences of his vengeful phrenzy, interposed with effect, and thus prevented the effusion of blood. However, they officiously lent a hand for securing both the young woman and myself, and having fitted themselves for the scene in contemplation, by a cherishing glass, removed us both to a place of safe keeping.

Thus was I caught as a bird in a gin; but in order to account for the unexpected appearance, at this juncture, of the girl's father, it will be necessary to retrograde a little, for the sake of noticing, that one of those people, who happened to see and know me, as I passed through Meredith, had occasion to travel toward the east. This man con-

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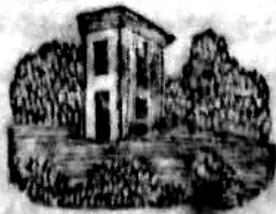
menced his journey, just as I left Meredith, and passing through Lemington, he there saw and acquainted the girl's parents with my having been at Meredith, in company with a young woman, who, of course, must be their daughter.

On this news the old man mounted his nag, in a mighty bluster, and coming to Meredith, obtained such correct information, that he easily traced our route to Hanover, where he succeeded in making us both prisoners in the manner above noticed.

Our surly dictator first took us before a civil magistrate, which, in his plan, was a preparatory step to my being sent to jail; but the cautious justice disinclining to intermeddle with such odd kind of business, the old blunderbuss, my prosecutor, was balked of his intention, and forced to abandon it. For the sake of revenge, however, he took possession of my valuable horse and baggage, then ordering his female truant to pack up her alls, they prepared, instantly, for home. With this injunction, terrified at his menaces, she refused to comply, while he, with the fury of a bedlamite, protested, go she should, dead or alive. At last, by force and arms, he made out to place her on horseback, and in this manner, with girl, horse and baggage, they set off from Hanover.

Although I felt no subordinate degree of humiliation at being circumstanced thus, and bereft of my mistress, in so imperious and triumphant a manner, and by a man too, whose capacity and experience I held in the utmost contempt; yet, after all, the loss of my horse and other effects constituted, in my mind, the grosser mischief, and more material injury. In truth, the exceptionable conduct of

my lost female, from nearly the beginning of our connexion, had proved a pretty strong antidote against the danger of inordinate partiality towards her person; but, to be left destitute of all earthly subsistence, and one hundred and twenty miles from home, was a subject not of mental regret only, but real embarrassment. To return to Lemington during the present hurricane, I deemed unadvisable; I therefore, made up my account to wander from house to house, and from place to place, in order, to pick up a casual subsistence by such paltry arts, as heretofore I had practiced so successfully. Thus intending, I left Hanover, and took a circuit through the country, scarcely caring whither; yet was unable to flee from the upbraidings of conscience, or to console myself for the blunders I had so madly committed. Go where, or into what company I would, still did cutting reflections, on the bitterness of impending ills, lacerate my bosom, and disturb its quiet. The image of an ill spent life, like the ghost of Banquo, haunted my imagination, incessantly, and tempted me to censure the malignity of destiny, when my employment had been far better in cultivating a belief, that I had merited those disgraces, in reconciling myself to the endurance of them, and in arming my mind against the future commission of crimes, such as had caused the present calamities.



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CHAP. VIII.

The soul's dark cottage, batter'd and decay'd,
 Lets in new light thro' chinks that time has made :
 Stronger by weakness, wiser men become,
 As they draw near to their eternal home.

WALLER.

ROVING about till I thought the dis-
 pleasure of my foes, and the rumour of my follies
 had a little subsided, I again ventured to shew my
 head at Lemington, though much ashamed of my
 late scandalous elopement, and of the mode in which
 it had terminated. My chagrin was the more poignant,
 since I could not but know, that my two sons,
 who were men of morals and account, and who pos-
 sessed families of their own, would vastly disrelish
 my ill behaviour, and withhold, perhaps, those ne-
 cessary contributions, which, of a long time, I had
 been used to expect and receive at their hands.
 Thus inwardly teased, I approached with shame and
 distrust to that habitation, which I had abandoned
 so preposterously ; and there found, within its walls,
 my old wife, who was assiduously engaged in do-
 mestic concerns, after her usual industrious
 manner. She was not a little astonished at my
 sudden appearance, nor was I, in a less degree,
 abashed and confounded at her presence. To set
 up a justification, or even to extenuate my irregu-
 larities (during the present temper of my helpmate)
 seemed hardly to invite the experiment, I there-
 fore attempted neither. Reproaches and revilings,
 for conjugal infidelities, issued in volleys, from her

mellifluous notes, and became the order of the day, till the tempest of her passions was wrought up to the sublimest pitch of phrenzy. It was manifest there could be no immediate calm; wherefore, I imported me to put on the whole armour of resignation, or quit the field, entirely, to my enraged antagonist.

Of the venerable dame, my spouse, it could only be said, "she was once young;" for with pretty large strides, she had now advanced towards her grand climacteric, being my elder by a number of years. As one would have supposed, it was high time for the old lady to exhibit a small portion of indifference for the hymeneal banquet, and to the indulgence of others in its delicacies; far otherwise; her juvenile feelings were not so forgotten, but she could view the itinerary, my capers and those of my female adventurer in the same odious point of vision, as though madam herself had been yet on the threshold of twenty. Be this as it might, the multiplicity of certain lectures, that were constantly chiming in my stunned ears, I had scarce thought pardonable in a newly wedded wanton of the age just mentioned. They reminded me of the old Welch epigram, which, in a sense, may be apropos to our purpose;

"Women, like men, will fade away,
Their eyes grow dim, their teeth decay,
But while they breathe the vital gale,
'Tis strange their tongue should never fail."

How long ere those grating peals, had their vehemence been permanent as spiteful, must have put me to flight, is now problematical, since, before I was driven to that extremity, the torrent of her

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eloquence subsided, and left me to recover, by slow degrees, my ordinary standing in the family. In other words, after a deal of declamation, my considerate spouse, as in days of yore, repeatedly, for now, to prevent mischief, restored her contrite yokefellow to customary favors; of which, condescension and goodnefs, I hope to retain such lasting remembrance, as may in future deter me from provocations of a like filthy nature.

Since that period I have carried my dish pretty uprightly; have been guilty of few or no misdemeanors, but have persevered heroically in regular habits and virtuous resolutions. At times, however, I still budge about, as a travelling physician, in the hope of acquiring, in an honest line, if possible, a few pennyworths of bread, a meagre, but needful pittance, to aid me to the goal of life's painful pilgrimage. By endeavoring to advance the benefit of my fellow creatures, and do all the good I can, I hope to make some little atonement, in the latter part of my life, for the many mischiefs and evils, which I brought upon myself, my family and others, in the earlier stages of it. And now, thank God! I enjoy, through the medium of my own industry, a comfortable livelihood; yet am subject to frequent remorse, and much disquiet, on the score of my past dissipation and glaring misdemeanors. Sincerely, I pray, that the bitter misfortunes here recited, may be a caveat to others, and a mean of deterring them from such flagitious pursuits and diabolical devices, as reason and conscience do not approve. By sad experience, I can say, that the ways of wickedness are not pleasant, nor her paths those of peace; if the forbidden morsel be pleasing to the palate, it will, assuredly, be bitter in the digest-

ion; therefore, whoever would see blessings and happiness, whether in life or death, let him keep himself in all innocence, and follow unerringly the golden rule, "to do unto others, as he would wish to be done unto." May such be my motto and guide henceforth, 'till the candle of life shall refuse to glimmer in its socket.

Thus, in the foregoing sheets, I have given, with as much perspicuity and brevity, as was practicable, in my situation, a general account of the adventures, travels, sufferings and persecutions, which have attended me, first and last, through the boisterous vicissitudes of life; I have worn no masks, no disguises, but have appeared in my every day dress. Although the matter has been culled from the rough, chiefly by force of memory, (for I kept few regular minutes) yet who so shall read these pages, will know my real character, as well as a long personal acquaintance could have enabled him. I have kept nothing back, nor ought have I extenuated; neither have I dealt in ornamental flourishes, for to the graces of refined composition I have little title, or indeed ambition, to lay claim. Plain truth I adopted as a polar star, which I intended to pursue invariably, without compelling the reader to dance over the fairy land of metaphor, or grope through the darksome vallies of allegory.

If sundry of my adventures should appear small and trivial, I can only say, that of such sort of stuff, generally, has my life been composed. Things of a trifling import may serve to develop the traits or peculiarities of a man's character, and I wished to place mine in some conspicuous point of view, for I believe it to be indeed without example or parallel.

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Should any of the rising generation, by a perusal of my story, learn to avoid those quicksands of vice, myself amply compensated for the trouble I have taken in its compilation. "The wages of sin is death;" the wages of a vicious, dissolute life is punishment. That punishment, if not inflicted by the ministers of the law, is still our certain doom, by the invisible hand of inexorable justice. My iniquities have been regularly visited with pain, poverty and stripes; the examples, therefore, are full of moral, and teach, beyond a doubt, that our actions, to insure happiness must be good; the contrary of which my own life most abundantly demonstrates. To hold up to view the monster sin, in his odious and abominable colours, must, and ever will, have a similar effect with, if not a more powerful one, than the picture of virtue arrayed in all her alluring and attractive charms. There is, therefore, a positive and negative example; each in its tendency having the same effect upon the lives and morals of society. That my history is of the negative kind I need not inform the curious reader; since, indeed, I have taught virtue, by the practice of vice only, throughout a troublesome life. The lines of the greatest of poets will here illustrate my ideas.

"Vice is a monster of so frightful mien,
That to be hated needs but to be seen."

Before concluding, I beg leave renewedly to acknowledge the numberless obligations I owe to diverse gentlemen and ladies, for their disinterested kindnesses to me, both while under condemnation of death, and while at the castle, as also in many other of my trials and exigencies, as well before as after

those periods. That they may be rewarded for their beneficence, both in this world, and in that which is to come, will be an object of my earnest intreaties. In respect to such as have injured me I heartily forgive them, as I hope the supreme arbiter of events and judge of all things will vouchsafe to forgive me. I wish not to harbor resentment, and am determined to carry rancour against no one, in my bosom to the grave. I hope too that others will overlook the injuries they have sustained in the loss of property, or otherwise, through my means; inasmuch as I lament sincerely my injustice towards them, resolving, carefully, to shun similar aggressions for the future. Heaven grant I may do no more wickedly.



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