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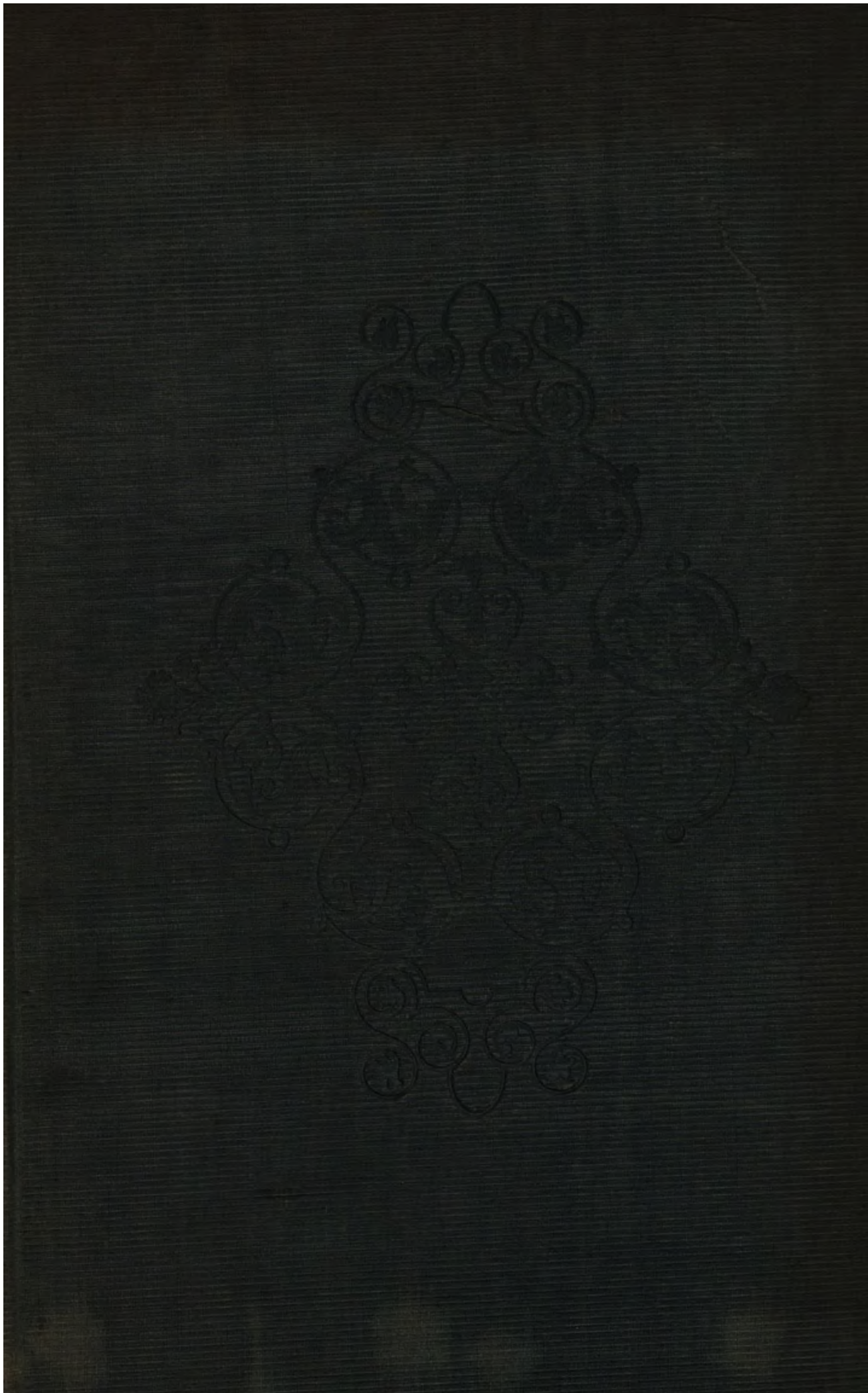
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39.

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**J I M C R O W .**



THE  
HISTORY  
OF  
JIM CROW.

BY  
JOHN BRIGGS.

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LONDON:  
SMALLFIELD AND SON, 69 NEWGATE STREET.

1839.

382.





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## DEDICATION.

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*My dear friend and servant QUAW,*

*THE estimation in which I hold you for truth, equalling that of any of my acquaintance; honesty, that enables me to trust you as freely as I trust myself; and gratitude, surpassing that of every other individual whom I have ever known; induce me to dedicate the following novel history of one of your colour to you as a record of your real virtues.*

**JOHN BRIGGS.**



## PREFACE.

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IT being a prevalent though erroneous opinion, that the semi-savage representation now so frequent throughout the British dominions and the United States, in the comic song entitled "JIM CROW," is a true picture of Mr. Crow, I have narrated in the following pages, as communicated to me by that gentleman, his parentage and his life, down to his marriage and withdrawal into perfect retirement on his estate, although pricked a Justice of the Peace for his county.



## J I M C R O W.



**M**Y father is an individual of ordinary talents and very moderate acquirements; born and bred a slave in Virginia, where he continues to reside, in some measure respected for his honesty and sobriety; preferring the location of his birth and early associates to the following of my fortunes,—saying that he is now better off than in his early life he at all ex-

pected to be,—being released from slavery, and possessing a cottage and garden his own property, having the society of a wife by far his superior in intellect, with numerous other associates in his neighbourhood,—whereas if he followed me, he would be going into countries that he had no very clear ideas of the habits of, where he did not expect he should often meet the salutation of “How dee, Cato?” much less any one who would have confidence in him for being an honest man besides myself, and those who might respect him second-hand on my account.

Adding, that with regard to myself, who would be his only direct companion abroad,—although he ever loved me with great tenderness as his child, and respected me much more from the bold spirit of my boyhood that he knew, showing that my mother’s blood flowed in my veins more than his did; and as he ever

from his first knowing her respected his wife more than he did himself, so he respected me the more for my taking after her in spirit rather than after him. Yet for all his love and respect, with gratitude for my having manumitted and otherwise put him in easy circumstances, my society was not so pleasing to him as that of many an individual whom he had been long fellow-slave with,—that there is too much outlandishness about my dress, my accent, and the subjects of my conversation to please him. That he never yet has travelled twenty miles from Richmond, and he does not desire that he ever should.

My mother gave me her history as follows :

“ I am, or rather I was, niece to Aldebaran, named after the first royal star ; who was childless and chieftain to Mount Isis, a small but independent territory west of Cashna. His brother, my father, I was only child to, and



reported to be beautiful, which brought many proposals from neighbouring chiefs to engage me to wife ; but Hermes, my father, and Sabian, high-priest of Mount Isis, with my uncle's consent, stuck to his purpose made at my birth, when he named me Ceres, of dedicating me a servant of perpetual fire maintained in honour of Osiris, or the sun,—the great spirit's agent, for creating life on the body of Iris, or the earth, an inferior agent,—one of Osiris' mistresses. And when the sun had completed eighteen returns to the place of his annual birth, which is the day of his being perceived to commence lengthening our light ; which accords with the twenty-fifth day of December, and has from the earliest recorded time been the greatest annual festival in Northern Africa, although not introduced into Europe, as I understand, till the days of Numa, second crowned head of Rome.

“ Early in the morning, before it was yet day, a prepared procession, as was the custom on consecration of each virgin to the sun, moved off from Bamboo, the name of our town; Hermes bearing a staff of twisted serpents, with myself bearing a banneret representing the constellation Virgo, in which my namesake is placed. Then followed a company of consecrated virgins, bearing a standard representing the Pleiades, by six stars being painted in gold and one drawn in lead, the last to represent the unapparent seventh; this standard indicated united sisterhood. Then, closing the procession, followed the priestess of the Sacred Fire, bearing her standard, representing Capricornus, by the figure of a monster, half-goat and half-fish, figured on it in stars; the throne of Vista, the star which she, the priestess, represents on earth. The procession proceeded silently through a long avenue leading from

the town, and had entered a lawn, the place for dancing and athletic exercises of the townspeople, when the first rays of the great luminary became visible, which was right time for bringing us to the top of a mound on the opposite side of the lawn, which mound commanded the view of a wide extended plain to the east, and afforded a clear horizon to see the sun rise from behind the deep, and received in his rays a servant to his emblem in Mount Isis; who, on the presentation then about to be made by Hermes, was to vow, as all her predecessors in that ceremony had, perpetual chastity and devotion to the care of the sacred constant fire, emblem of the sun. On whose first rays being visible in dawn of day, Hermes began chanting a hymn to his praise, which was repeated in verses by the entire procession; which hymn, literally translated, runs thus: ‘Hail, supreme visible sovereign of the heavens! First-

born of the Great Spirit! Fountain of light and of life to all the vegetable and animal world! To whom it is allowed to behold the Father! Thou Sun, who governs the sky by passing from house to house of the zodiac; accomplishing your circuit of the twelve in a year! You are called Sun because, after the Father, or Great Spirit, you are first in honour in the heavens. Hail! bright image of the Greatest!’

“When we were horror-struck by the appearance of a band of men, who suddenly sprang up, from being prostrate, within ten yards afore us,—not being discernible before, from being clad and masked of the colour of the green-sward of the lawn. They rushed forward, and their leader caught me up before I had time to reflect on my situation, or form an opinion of their intentions. Hermes too stood astounded with surprise, as all former religious proces-

sions of our country were treated as sacred from assault or molestation of any sort, by even the most savage bandits of the neighbouring countries, who frequently plundered our other people. The other individuals turned round and fled; but Hermes, recovering his perceptions, discovered the intentions of the enemy were to carry me off, and not spoil me of my rich robe and costly jewels provided for the occasion, appeared to apprehend for me a fate that he put robbery, or even death, in no comparison with. Determining to not survive the honour of his family, he sprang forward, armed with his caduceus only, on the steel-armed band, and levelled a blow at their leader, who stood forward to meet him, which blow was easily warded, and my dear, dear father instantly cut down by a stroke with a sort of battle-axe, that cleaved his unguarded skull to the nape, producing a cackling laugh of de-

light from the murderer at the achievement. By which time I was placed in a palanquin, and immediately after taken up by four of the band, who ran off followed by the others to a forest on the north side of the lawn. Proceeding but little depth in they turned to the west, using the precaution to obliterate their footsteps by the hindmost man, and of placing a scout in a tree commanding a view of the lawn. Aldebaran being apprised by the fugitives of the abduction of myself and slaughter of his brother, although not at all prepared to suspect that the sacred character of a procession in honour of the sun was violated, instantly rushed from his apartments with his small body-guard of twelve men. After having ordered the mayor of the palace to send off by his first-lieutenant the first hundred men that could be collected, that they might follow in his rear, and be ready to support him if necessary

against an ambuscade,—the band of the enemy appearing on the lawn, being only nine, including their leader,—and further ordered, that the next recruits that offered should be applied in doubling the town-guard.

“ Shortly after halting, my ravisher received notice from his scout of Aldebaran’s approach, who appeared and passed by at double-quick time in the direction that had first been taken with me; he being preceded by a file of his guards as an advance, himself heading the remainder with his royal standard, configuring a ram, the first zodiacal sign: meaning to show, that the chief who adopted it was the first entitled to command, of any one under the surrounding heavens. In honour of which constellation, from its being adopted for the leading standard, a living ram was maintained in the temple Aries, at Bamboo.

“ Some time after the passing of Aldebaran

the scout gave notice of the appearance of the main body, headed by the first lieutenant and his ensign-bearer, supporting the national standard, figuring Isis, or the Moon, our country's image, which followed their chief into the forest.

“Shortly after the disappearance of the main body, the enemy sent his scout to inspect the avenue leading to the lawn, who quickly gave notice that the coast was clear; when the whole unhesitatingly approached the lawn, crossed it, and proceeded to the southward at a quick pace, keeping within the shade of woods and jungles; the two sets carrying the palanquin by turns till nightfall, when they paused and helped themselves to abundance of prepared provisions, which appeared to have been concealed by them near a brook at some former time for the purpose. Portions were offered me, but the agitation of feelings that I had



been labouring under for all the day, prevented my being able to swallow anything but water. After being refreshed they renewed their march, but at a moderate rate, and inclined much more, as I could perceive by the bearings of the Lesser Bear, to the east.

“About midnight they entered a large court palisaded on three sides, in front of buildings of large extent, where I was put down, and shortly after received by two matronly-looking women, who conducted me to inner apartments and offered me fruit, showing me the accommodation of a bath in my bed-room. I took sparingly of their fruit, and shortly after went to bed; but from the feverish state of my blood could not sleep; which refreshment I much courted, for the purpose of preserving my strength, and of being able to appear placid and resigned to my captivity, till some opportunity should offer for me effect-

ing my fell purpose on the murderer of my father, whom I concluded to be lord of the mansion.

“Next morning, being looked in on by one of my jailers, I readily obeyed her commands, by signs, (she could not speak my language) of being followed into an adjoining parlour, where I had fruit the overnight, and found a plentiful breakfast there; but before I had sat down, my captor entered. Although I had been in constant expectation of his appearance from the moment of my having entered his house, and had been endeavouring to the uttermost to compose myself to appearing resigned to my circumstances, my feelings were so much additionally excited by his appearance,—figuring to my mind my defenceless father falling beneath his murderous weapon,—that my heated blood rushed so violently on my brain as to throw me senseless on the floor.

Water being applied, I quickly recovered, and found myself seated on a knee of my enemy, with my nether lip bleeding profusely, being bitten through. He spoke my language intelligibly, in which he endeavoured to soothe my feelings; and I, playing all the hypocrisy I was capable of, endeavoured to appear not displeased with him. Not being able to eat I obtained leave to return to my bed; and having got some sleep, after the loss of blood I had sustained, felt much refreshed when I was called to the evening meal, which I ate of, without seeing my enemy.

“On finishing I made signs to one of the women, applying to be allowed to keep my knife to carve some pieces of wood I found in the parlour into toys; she hesitated, and appeared to consult her companion, but at last nodded her consent to my application. Then I sat to work, and endeavoured to appear much

amused in fashioning little figures till I thought I had lulled suspicion, and walked away into my bed-room with it. The knife was rounded at the end, a form that I desired to alter; and applied myself very diligently, as soon as I was alone, to grinding the end to a sharp point on the stone pedestal of a table in my bed-room, which I effected with much labour, and felt great pride at my then circumstances;—nothing doubting that my enemy would meet me next morning as he had done that, and that he would unsuspectingly approach me with familiarities. But to my disappointment and mortification I found only my two jailers in the room, one of whom made signs that I should produce my knife to breakfast with; and not knowing better what to do, drew it from beneath my robe and set to eating. Both my jailers drew back in apparent surprise at the alteration of my knife: they

consulted together for a short time, and then seemed to regard me with indifference. Finishing my breakfast I kept possession of my knife, and renewed my endeavours of appearing amused with wood-carving, till one of them coming up, made signs that I should surrender it, which I evaded by continuing my work, and desiring by signs not to be disturbed; on which she assumed a stormy countenance, stamped on the floor, and ordered me by signs to return to my bed-room; which I gladly turned round to obey, and gave her an opportunity of pinioning me behind, whilst the other came up and extracted the instrument from my grasp: after which I was allowed to proceed to my bed-room, and was bolted-up outside; leaving me to the most mortifying reflections on my then almost hopeless chance of ever avenging my father's murder.

“ About four hours after, I was ordered out

to the parlour, where I found my enemy standing in the centre, with the instrument of my late fond hopes held between two fingers of his left-hand; who with a stern aspect and threatening voice demanded for what purpose I had ground my knife into a dagger. His apparent effort at alarming me so far raised my indignation that I declined answering him; and from the then position of circumstances, I found that my attempts at hypocrisy had proved a failure; therefore I cast him a look of scorn, and turned on my heel.

“To which he exclaimed, ‘Hussy! know you not the power that I enjoy over you?’

“Yes, replied I, refacing him; and despise it as much as I abhor the slayer of my unarmed father. And know, in addition, that the placidity of manners I endeavoured after in your presence was a sacrifice of my natural feelings to the preservation of my duty to my father’s

manes. I have been mild, the better to induce you to approach me unguarded, till an opportunity offered for me to fulfil the debt of gratitude that my dear father put me under in the last act of his life. I have failed and am contented, knowing that no wilful deficiency on my part enables you to live. You disappointed as fond hopes as ever I have cherished in my life, by not having unsuspectingly, as I thought you would, entered this room this morning before my knife was demanded of me. I say again, I have failed, and may never have a better opportunity of avenging the foul slaughter of my father; yet know, that with hardly the shadow of a hope now of paying my debt, I feel myself as much bound in honour by it as when I had first prepared my dagger for you. He, my dear father, threw up his life simply to show that his daughter's affections and gratitude were entitled to the sacrifice; and you,

monster, who executed that sacrifice, shall not find her unworthy of it.

“ He replied, ‘ I strongly suspected you yesterday morning in your ravings ; I know you now ; ’ and walked out.

“ That evening and night passed off not remarkable. The next morning I was called to breakfast earlier than the two preceding ; and the woman who called me showed a very kindly feeling for my circumstances. After my breakfast they came up to me, one in tears, and the other with a sorrowful countenance, and made signs that I should allow them to take off my robe first, then my linen and sandals. The jewels that were on me when I was captured were not taken from me ; but I had not resumed them or my turban from my taking them off the first night of my imprisonment on going to bed. At the close of my being stripped, they bound a coarse chequered



scarf round my loins ; when the most sorrowful burst from my presence into my late bedroom, and the other led me out into the court, where I found a vast number of other wretched creatures, all clad like myself, and coupled by means of two rings linked together ; one ring locked round the right wrist of one, and the other ring round the left wrist of the other, forming a line ; one girl, about my then age, having her ring ready locked on her left wrist, was hindmost ; to which girl I was coupled, and the whole marched off.

“ I looked round for the object of my abhorrence, and was disappointed in not perceiving him.

“ The guard I was then under were people of another country to the last, and armed with muskets : their language I no better understood than I did that of my former guard, or of my late jailers ; but the leader, an active

swarthy-coloured man, was a linguist, and conversed in the language of each country of his prisoners. I availed myself of the first opportunity that offered of drawing him into conversation, of inquiring after my enemy, the better to find him out should I get released from bondage; and he, the leader, being very communicative and otherwise indulgent, so far as his prisoners being detained in bondage would admit, informed me that my enemy was named Samuel, and was considered to be a great prophet by his subjects; which character he maintained by means of spies, and by delivering his prophecies in parables that admitted of various constructions; he was also a worker of miracles, which were the consequence of his art in legerdemain, and his people's ignorance of it; which devoted them entirely to his will, and enabled him to make more captives and sell more slaves than any other chief north of

Guinea. His subjects were now under the belief, through his persuasion, that they were the elect for extirpating heresy in northern Africa, which occasioned them readily to take part with him in hewing to pieces all captives whom slave-dealers refuse to purchase; a practice that their natural feelings would revolt at, if he did not persuade them into the belief that that judgment was ordered by his god through him, Samuel, as an atonement for the false belief of the fathers of those captives whom he did not want for his own service, and could not sell.

“The guide remarked that he saw I had been brought out of the palace, the like of which frequently occurred, as Samuel, whenever he wished to introduce a new handmaiden (as he called them,) to his apartments, took such offence at the conduct of that of the old that he least approved, as to condemn her to ba-

nishment, and she was accordingly sold, to make room for the new one; but he had never seen so young a cast mistress brought out before; and, he must add, never one of any age so beautiful.

“ I let the guide remain in ignorance of my history so far as I decently could.

“ Nothing further interesting occurred in travelling across the country, sometimes a-foot, and sometimes floated on rafts down rivers, till we reached the ocean and were put on ship-board, where I found a throng of prisoners like myself. The ship filled me with admiration, which amused my ideas for a moment; but I quickly relapsed into a view of my destitute situation; and, leaning against a bulwark, felt a tear stealing down my cheek, although all around me, who were the girl prisoners, having the liberty of the main deck, were in high spirits.

“ At this moment I felt a tap on my left shoulder, and looking round, beheld for the first time a white woman. Her countenance so strongly indicated a benevolent heart, that I was immediately excited to compassionate her natural infirmities, apparent in her constitution by her slender straight hair, but most conspicuous in the texture of her skin; showing that it could not protect her flesh and blood from an austral breeze for much time without excoriating and falling off; much less time could it bear the rays of the sun. But her eyes beamed forth benevolence in lustres that I had never seen surpassed in my own country; which showed me, that although she was far inferior to my countrywomen in physical accomplishments, she was equal to the best of them in love and charity, and therefore entitled to my confidence and highest respect.

“ She spake to me at first in a language that

I did not understand; but on my saying so to her in Isisian, she readily understood me, and found words enough in my language to make me understand her generally. She bade me relate my history; which the confidence she had inspired in me brought forth fully. When I described the fall of my father, I saw a tear roll on her bosom, which spake more for my attachment to her than a thousand poems in her praise could have done.

At the conclusion of my history, she told me that I must not continue to harbour revenge for my father's murder; that I had already carried it to a degree that was quite astonishing; that my exalted feelings of gratitude, if communicated to the world, would be received by the general mass as a fiction of the brain, beyond the reach of reality. 'I see by your feelings,' said she, 'that you are entitled to my care; I will prevent your tender frame and sensitive

mind, so far as I can, from being abused in the long voyage we have commenced.'

"This was the captain's wife, who stepping on the quarter-deck, where her husband was walking to and fro, held him in conversation for some time, which drew several sullen looks from him on me. The lady returning, conducted me into the cabin, showed me her berth, and a settee near it, which she said was to be my lodging-place. She then, showing me how to assist her, altered one of her gowns so that I could wear it; and giving me a change of her linen also, I dressed myself before I returned on deck, which occasioned me to be looked on with some surprise by my fellow-prisoners.

"My mistress (for I was now duly installed the lady's-maid,) bade me endeavour, and afforded me the fullest assistance she was capable of, to learn English; which I, in the hope of being more useful to her, and thus discharge

the debt of gratitude I was under for her kindness to me, laboured hard to acquire, and had succeeded to a degree, at the end of the voyage, that surprised every American on board.

“The ship had cleared at Havannah, and sailed under Spanish colours, but the property of her, and her crew were American. On arriving at Havannah, my mistress gave me a full supply of well-fitting plain clothes, and three days after took passage in a trader to her native town, Richmond, Virginia, for herself and me, engaging the master of the trader to assist her in smuggling me ashore; and from the circumstances of my rapid acquirement of the English language, and being well-tutored how to demean myself ashore, I never appeared to be suspected out of her family for a new comer.”

My mother's constitution appears to have been merely sufficient for producing me to the



world, and she was preserved in existence without any further increase by the extra kindness of the most indulgent of mistresses.

When my circumstances admitted, I treated with her master, purchased and manumitted her; which, when she heard of from me, she declared her happiness at, from the credit that it had done me, as she said; and at the same time declared her determination never to quit her mistress so long as she was capable of being serviceable to her. Her mistress, learning that Ceres was manumitted and refused to follow me and my rich fortunes, decided, as she thought, to change her position in the family, by requiring only her companionship, and appointing another individual to her services. But my mother understanding the arrangement, presented herself to her mistress, and declared that she would then for the first time, either by will, word, or deed, not submit to her mis-

tress' orders ; that she would resist with all the strength she enjoyed, through her kind mistress' indulgences, supported by the proud courage she inherited from her noble ancestors, all interference of any servant who should come forward to take up the execution of those services that rendered her more pleasure than all the world else could afford her—unless it was to meet the blood-stained prophet Samuel on fair terms of battle.

On my birth, my father declared my name to be James, after the great river that washes the foot of the town of his and my nativity, which was soon contracted into Jim, which I universally went by till I was taken apprentice ; when my teacher, having an elder boy of that name, said he must give me a new one, that he might not be running the risk of having two come to him at times when he called one ; and, after a short consideration, told me that

he should call me Crow. I suppose he made this adoption from my skin being very black, in some measure resembling the plumage of the bird of that name, which was taken up generally for me at the Hotel.

Being banished the State of Virginia, and arriving in New Orleans, Louisiana, where I became the property and servant of a new master, who inquiring my name, and learning from me that at home, in Richmond, I was called Jim, and at my place of business, Crow, said, "You shall retain both, and henceforth be called Jim Crow. Perhaps by this trivial act of my adding Crow to your proper name, I have given the cognomen to a family who will cut a conspicuous figure in future history."

My mistress had a son born a few months before I was, and as soon as I acquired sufficient discretion to behave tolerably decent, was admitted the playfellow of my young master,

whom my mistress taught in due time to read and write. The alphabet she taught by engravings on bone, giving her son a few letters at first, and as soon as he understood them, added another; going on adding one of the remainder as fast as he understood what he previously had in his possession, till the whole, capital and small, were his. These bone letters were our general toys, which occasioned me to learn their distinguishing characters and sounds from him as fast as he acquired them from his mother; and, from my being generally by whilst he was taught to spell, I learned to connect the sounds of the letters into syllables, to my mistress' astonishment, faster than he did: and the first lesson put into his hands to be read, after he had stammered it through and laid down the book, I, having obtained leave, took it up and read with facility.

“What a pity, Jim,” exclaimed my mistress, “you *should not* be literally educated!”

To which my mother, being present, replied, “And why should he *not* be educated, my dear mistress?”

“Because,” added my mistress, “the laws of the state prohibit it; visiting the teacher of reading or writing to a slave with heavy penalty.”

My mother lowly bowed, and proceeded with her sewing.

My mistress then said, “I shall not teach Jim, but so much as I can teach George, (her son,) which are reading and writing, it appears that Jim, through his superior genius, will learn, unless I was to turn him out of my parlour, which his own merit occasions me to spurn the idea of; and on your account, I would as soon turn out my own boy as him.”

My mother, blinded with tears that she wished to conceal, quitted the room, but quickly returned to her work with the most placid countenance.

The art of writing I did not acquire as fast as my young master, although I practised much on his copies with dry pens, and frequently tried imitating them on neglected paper, much of which, I believe, was intentionally thrown in my way by my mistress. On one occasion, two books, containing each the same copies, were bought by mistake; my mistress throwing down one said, "That's of no use to George; take it Jim."

But on the departure of my young master for college, I could write legibly, and had even attempted a letter afore his quitting, congratulatory to my mistress on the return of my master into the river after a prosperous voyage.

My mistress cautioned me against letting

my acquirements be known out of her house, which I duly attended to as I thought; but being applied for apprentice to Boots, at the Washington Hotel, where I received my second name of Crow, and spent a year and two months in learning his business, and gave good satisfaction in brushing clothes, blacking and burnishing boots and shoes, running messages, &c., to the increased emoluments of my master, Boots, in vails.

Often making opportunities for indulging in reading. Writing I could rarely practice; but being informed by my mother, of our mistress having received information from college that master George had received the great medal in an examination of the students just then made, awarded him for elocution, of which distinction our mistress was highly delighted, and which determined me to write her a congratulatory letter, which I engaged my mother to call on

me for the next morning. In the course of the day I provided the materials, secreting them in a newly opened case of Jefries' blacking, in the boot-room; and after the business of the day was over, the lights extinguished, and the other boys gone to bed, I returned to the room, relit a lamp, spread my handkerchief on the blacking table, to prevent my paper getting soiled, laid my sheet on it, placed my thumb viol of ink before it, drew out my well-prepared pen, and began :

“ My mistress,

“ I humbly crave the liberty of expressing the joy that I feel at my young master's victory at college, in the high accomplishment of Elocution.

“ On his account—”

I had written thus far, when Mr. Democrat, the master of the hotel, turned the latch, the



only fastening to the door, and put his head in. This individual, having occasion to go into the yard, was passing by the boot-room, when he descried rays of light round the door shutter; and from it then being after time for business in that department, looked in.

“ Writing !” said he, “ what? who? Crow !”

“ Here, sir,” said I, stuffing my sheet into my pocket, and my handkerchief after it, pushing my ink and pen behind some jugs of blacking on the table, and stood ready to receive his commands.

“ What treasonable work is it that you are engaged in?”

“ None, sir.”

“ None! I guess you were writing; or, perhaps, you were only drawing a plan for the destruction of this town. Is Boots an accomplice with you in the project?”

“ This sheet, sir,” drawing out my paper,

“will show that I have been using it simply in dutiful respect to my mistress.”

He hastily seized the sheet, and running his eyes over it, exclaimed, “What a clerk at writing! Who taught you? ha!”

“No one, sir.”

“No one! hah! hah! hah! Put out the lamp and go to bed; we’ll talk this over tomorrow, I guess.”

I obeyed; and next morning entering the boot-room, found Boots and one boy were in afore me. Boots having discovered my ink and pen was interrogating the boy, about them; and on my entering applied to me. I told him the whole story, including the master’s expressing a suspicion that he, Boots, was a party with me for destroying Richmond.

The old man drew back in horror from me, saying; “Then you are a writer, Crow! Perhaps you can read too? ha!”

I answered, "Yes, I can."

He raised his hands up, the palms showing forward, and exclaimed, "Boy! you are a lump of ruination. If I had known that you had so much danger in you, I would have as soon brought a rattlesnake into this room as you. The Lord have mercy upon me! You are worse than gunpowder in a thunder-storm without a Franklin conductor. Crow, I discharge you from my business. The remainder of this year that you were to serve me, and would have been a great assistance to my vails, for teaching you my art in the first year, I give you up,—or, I guess I should say, I give it up to your owners. Go, boy, do!"

I turned round to quit, when I met a summons from Mr. Democrat for Boots and myself; at which Boots exclaimed, "Why does master couple me in the same breath with a writer,—ay, and reader too? Thank God! for

all I cannot say that I am free from lying, stealing, adultery, and such slight offences, can most solemnly guess, that I never have once or more times in my life been guilty of those most damning sins in a slave—writing and reading.”

Appearing before Mr. Democrat, he demanded of Boots what he knew of my being taught to write. To which Boots replied, that he knew nothing of my wicked writing till just then I had told him of it: for which he had discharged me from his employ. Mr. Democrat said that I had been guilty of no wicked writing that he knew of, but my teacher of writing had been guilty of a violation of the laws of the state; and he felt it his duty as a citizen to expose the fact to adjudication.

He again put the question to me, “Who taught you to write?”—to which I replied as afore,—“no one.” He then inquired of Boots

how I had been spending my time previous to coming to the hotel? and was informed that I had spent it exclusively at my master's, under the general charge of my mistress, as the captain was much abroad in command of his ship.

Mr. Democrat said he had strong suspicions that Mrs. Nautilus (my mistress) was the offender in question; at all events she must be privy to the offence, from the circumstance of my having attempted to write to her: therefore he should apply for an inquiry on Captain Nautilus, she being exempt from the pains and penalties of the law for misdemeanour, by her coverture in marriage.

“ Now,” said Mr. Democrat, “ who in the Nautilus family can be called on to give testimony towards the principal? Has he any free servant?”

“ No,” said Boots; “ all are slaves.”

“ Has he a child, or children, grown up above infancy?”

“Yes, one, who is at college.”

“Ay,” said Mr. Democrat, “he is mentioned in Crow’s letter. What is his proper name?”

Boots said he had two names, but he did not know which was the proper; one was George, and t’other Nautilus.

“Well,” said Mr. Democrat, “I guess my measures are taken. Is Captain Nautilus in town?”

Boots stepped out, and quickly returned, saying, “Yes; he arrived in the river two days ago.” When we were dismissed.

I went home, and finding my mother and my mistress in her sitting-room, related all that had occurred on my intended letter to her.

My mistress said that she saw no blame to attach to me: that it was one of those accidents that human foresight was incapable of guarding against. She could only pray that it may not be so far used to my disadvantage as

to occasion me being banished the state, as sometimes occurred in such cases.

My mother said, as I was so happy as not to have shown any moral cause of blame, it was my duty to be resigned to whatever may occur on the case, after having made my best honest exertions to avert what I thought would be evil; with which, whatever may happen, would be best. If banishment, it may prove to a better country; or even death, in innocence, may prove a salvation from a disgraceful course of later life, and ignominious end. Not that she was a fatalist: Hermes taught, and she believed, against fatalism; having seen that vegetables as well as animals were allowed a degree of free-will for their preservation and comfort, but not allowed to alter the dispensations by prayer. None prayeth who reflecteth, except those who doubt the Omniscience: none prayeth, except for hire in some form or other, who

reflecteth on the unprofitable vanity they see in the practice ; which is a taking of the name in vain—a dictation profane.

“Ah, Ceres!” said my mistress ; “the exalted confidence taught by your High-priest of the Sun is unsuited to the cowardly spirit of the generality of mankind.”

About an hour after this a summons was left for my master, calling him to appear himself, and bring forward his slave-boy James, *alias* Jim, *alias* Crow, by ten o'clock the second day after, before the sitting-justices of the day, at the town-hall ; to answer such questions as may be put to him touching his having taught, through Margaret, his recorded wife, the said James, *alias*, &c., a slave, the art of writing, contrary to the laws and usages of the sovereign-state Virginia. Another summons, with the same appointments, was sent up to college for my young master ; and the se-



veral parties to the cause met accordingly. After opening which, the senior justice authorised Mr. Democrat to put through him, the justice, any questions touching the cause that the complainant thought fit; which privilege being adroitly managed by the publican, extracted this fact, among many others of no import, that my mistress had on a certain time, whilst I was learning to write, thrown down a copy-book, and said that I might take it.

On conclusion of the inquiry, Mr. Justice said, that from the fact of its having been established in court, that Mrs. Nautilus had abetted the learning of writing by a certain slave; that unless an accommodation took place immediately, he felt it his duty to bind the plaintiff over to prosecute the defendant at the next assize for the town.

My master turned quite pale at this declaration, as he was a dear lover of his money.

Mr. Justice added,—That the circumstance of the slave having acquired the art of writing appeared to be almost all his own offence, if an extraordinary talent in the art could be so denominated; for it appeared that he had received no direct assistance in it, except the gift of a copy-book, which gift could be but barely admitted: and that offence in the law, if acted on, would fall in penalty on the perfectly innocent individual to its commission—Captain Nautilus. That he was assured that Mr. Democrat's motive for agitating the inquiry was simply his sense of duty, as a good citizen, to the state, and not from any ill-will to the individual who would be punished if the cause was proceeded with. The slave, as he shew afore, was the principal moral offender, so far as offence had been committed by the slave having exercised his rare talent of learning; and, indeed, shown that he was a dangerous

character as a slave. Therefore he proposed that Mr. Democrat should commute for Captain Nautilus being prosecuted to penalty, his pledge of honour to sell the slave to the first dealer who will take him into the far West.

My master instantly exclaimed, "Most willingly I agree to the proposed compromise, and the chap shall go with Dick Marble on Sunday next; Dick intending to sail that day for the Mississippi Swamps with a cargo of them. I will, on my honour, forthwith take him out and sell him to Marble for the western trade. The urchin has been only a tax on me all his lifetime hitherto, to please his mistress, who ruins me with her indulgences to slaves and other charities. It is only now that I shall see my first good account in Jim."

Mr. Democrat said that the declaration of Captain Nautilus was quite satisfactory to him, Democrat.

Boots now stepped up to the justice's desk, laid his right hand on the Scriptures, and requested that his affidavit be taken, that he might clear himself of the charge of his master, that he, Boots, had been an accomplice with me in the wickedness of writing.

Mr. Justice informed him that no charge of having written had been instituted in that court against him, and trusted that such charge could not be established. In addition, it would not be required of him to prove his innocency if charged; the proving would lay with the plaintiff. And further, he, Boots, was not competent to give testimony in the form that he desired, from the circumstances of his not being baptized, and being a slave.

Boots replied, "Not baptized, Mr. Justice! Next fall will be ten years, I guess, since I was made an inheritor of the kingdom of heaven by Parson Lazerus; for which I gave him a solid,

round half-dollar, and promised him a capon for his Christmas dinner, as I am a wicked christian! I can swear truly.”

Mr. Justice then said, that sufficient other reasons against his swearing existed, and bowed him out of the office, whilst my master conducted me out to that of Mr. Marble, whom he met, and chattered hard with for the price of me; never intimating that he was bound to sell, but, on the contrary, pretended that he was very indifferent about it.

Being purchased, I was told a great deal about the superior luxuries of the far west, and of the superior privileges allowed to slaves there. A back door to the office opened into a court, which court, I with other purchased slaves not forwarded, had the liberty of by day, but were confined to iron-bound cells by night. This prison was known in Richmond by the name of the Cage.

The next day, at noon, my father having obtained leave, visited me in the court, and gave me four dollars with a silk handkerchief rolled round them, saying, "This is the last token of my love I shall ever be able to show you! You are going to where I shall never more hear of, much less see, my only child,"—and drawing me to his bosom, sobbed deep and bitterly, although in the presence of many spectators: I did not indulge my feelings by the like ventilation.

My mother then entered, came up to us, tapped my father on a shoulder, and said in a low voice, "For shame, Cato!" passed on to the opposite side of the court, laid down a half-worn, small portmanteau, containing my linen and a pair of shoes, with my pea-jacket on it, and then returned to us with a composed countenance, presented me the key of the package, saying, "Your linen is under this.

In the left-hand cuff of your jacket my mistress has stitched two half-eagles for you.”

My father being rebuked in his crying by the individual whom he respected the moral judgment of beyond that of any mortal on earth, was quite electrified; he stood erect, and in an instant his tears were dried, although his eyes were bloated.

On my mother's commencing to speak to me she took my right hand, and by the time of her finishing had raised it to her breast in an embrace that surely never has been exceeded in fervour. On her finishing to speak she let it down and disengaged it gradually; then turning suddenly away from me, said, “Come, Cato!” and stepped quickly out of the cage.

The second day after this, the slaves imprisoned in the cage were shipped, by being moved out in detachments of six at a time. About an equal number to those who had been

imprisoned we found on board,—being families who, from promises of the slave-traders to be taken to a country flowing with milk and honey, and from the degradation they were experiencing in Virginia being unbearable on their feelings, had volunteered for expatriation. The tide serving at six in the evening, the schooner was cast off the pier with a favouring breeze; but the wind soon failing us, we had to tide out of the Chesapeak for three days, and then, from opposing currents in the Gulf Stream and light winds, were taken up twenty-two days to double Sable Point, including one day occupied in running in for and obtaining a fresh supply of water and vegetables at St. Augustine's. Having doubled Sable, we fell in with a fair fresh breeze that run us across the Gulf of Mexico into the Mississippi in three days more; and obtaining a tower, was joined with two other sail, a brig and a ship, and taken up



by the one steamer to New Orleans ; and immediately after docking the schooner, we were landed and marched into spacious, comfortable quarters connected with an auction mart, where we remained eleven days with abundant accommodations of provisions and baths, and supply of clothes to those who were in want ; our linen-washing we were required, and compelled where necessary, to execute ourselves.

The day having arrived by advertisement for the sale of us, many cane and cotton-planters attended the mart ; and in the morning, previous to the sale commencing, walked through the long gallery where we were classed in, each individual with a number suspended on his or her breast, under which numbers we were sold, and not by name : many gentlemen too of the town walked the gallery, principally from curiosity, without any intention of bidding. I had several times been asked my age and what labour I had been

used to ; but it was not till near eleven, the hour for commencing the sale, that a gentleman of good countenance and superior mien passed me, holding his right-hand glove by one finger of it between his thumb and fore-finger of the same hand, twitching the hand-part across his thigh of the same side. He eyed me attentively in passing, and after promenading the extent of the gallery turned back, and having got opposite turned immediately up to me, and without any hesitation asked a question that had not afore been put to me, and which staggered me much for an answer—"Why were you banished? for it is all nonsense about you all being volunteers to come here and be sold like cattle, experience no release of the degradations on your colour in the east, and to be double laboured in a worse climate." I hesitated for a moment ; but being decided against untruths, replied in a low voice, "For having learned to write."

The gentleman instantly held up his left fore-finger across his mouth in token of silence ; then stepped back some distance to a vacant space, turned round, and beckoned me with his left-hand. On getting up to him he bade me relate my history ; adding, that I had nothing to fear through him from the policy and prejudices of slave-owners ; he thought my countenance indicated unusual candour, which my confession of being the heinous offender in the opinion of slave-owners—a writer—much confirmed ; and which circumstances combined, decided him to endeavour to serve me. I related my history briefly. He said on my concluding, “Go back to your stand,”—and taking out his tablets, noted my number and disappeared.

Almost immediately after the sale commenced : but I being in the third class, was not set up till about a quarter past two. Bid-

ding for me was warmly contested by two planters, who stood close one on either side of me, till one gave up the contest, and the last bid of the other for a moment appeared to be decisive ; and I had given myself up as being abandoned by my late proffered friend, when the auctioneer proclaimed another bid. It was of the lowest denomination admitted—five dollars ! The planter looked round in hope of seeing his new adversary, so did I, with some little hope renewed of seeing my lost proffered friend, but we were both disappointed. The planter then indignantly proclaimed, “ Five-times five dollars ! ” which being echoed by the auctioneer, was quickly followed by the other with “ Five dollars ! ” The planter withdrew some steps from me and paused ; but when I was near being hammered down to the invisible bidder said, “ Five dollars more ! ” which immediately after being echoed was followed,

as his previous bid had been, by one from the invisible; when the planter said, "Let the gingerbread-looking chap go! I guess that he who's got him will soon have repentance too. He'll never make a real shovel-and-bill-hook fellow to suit our sugar-cane locations, I guess."

The auctioneer lowly said, "Your name, sir,"—when I saw the gentleman advance, and I am sure that the spring that the sight gave to my frame increased my height full half an inch.

"Stuart," said my friend.

"Your proper name too," said the auctioneer.

"Oh," said Mr. Stuart, stepping to the auctioneer's desk, "I'll save you the trouble of booking;" and wrote a check for the price of me on his bankers, presented it, and turning to me, who had come down from a low stage used for placing each lot of slaves up for sale on, said,

“Have you any baggage?” I answered in affirmation; he added, “Get it, and return here,”—which having done, he walked out, followed by me, to his hotel.

Entering his sitting-room he rang, and the waiter appeared; when he said, pointing to me, “That boy is my page. He will have charge of my boots and clothes here in future. When I ring as usual it will be for you; but when I ring, and then with the pause of a few seconds repeat, it will be for you,” turning to me. “But what’s your name?” Then my name of Jim Crow was established as afore related.

The waiter was then instructed to send for my new master’s tailor, and to send up the chambermaid that she might show a bed-room for my accommodation.

The tailor in due time arrived, was admitted, I rang for,—and orders given that I should be taken to his shop and measured for a suit,—a

blue frock coat and trousers, with scarlet waistcoat; and that he should take me to a hatter, fit me with a black beaver, and put a plain gold-lace band on it; each article to be of good quality, and well fitting.

My then master was an English country gentleman of Salford, Lancashire; whose father died before he had quite attained his fifteenth year, leaving him and a daughter, ten years his junior. Their mother they had previously lost.

Squire Stuart left, badly encumbered, an estate of two thousand a year, which having been his *bond-fide* property, afforded full facility to his obtaining credit on it, which his dissipated habits induced him to in a shocking degree. Such was his neglect of pecuniary arrangements, that he died without having made any provision for the maintenance of his daughter; that is, he died without a will,—which

may have been from his having seen, or rather imagined, that his estates would not more than pay his debts; and such would have proved the fact, had his concerns been closed immediately after his death.

But Sir Benjamin, my master's maternal uncle and neighbour, on the death of Squire Stuart, proposed to the creditors his administering to the estate, and husbanding it till the heir arrived at the legal age for managing his concerns himself; he pledging his honour that their interest-money should be paid during his administration,—which pledge, from the known integrity of Sir Benjamin, was quite satisfactory.

My master had been receiving a plain education, merely sufficient to qualify him to be a county magistrate, which education was not enlarged on by his uncle. His sister in due time was sent to a respectable boarding-school



in the neighbouring town, where she received education suited to a squire's daughter.

My master having spent the winter next previous to his legal manhood at Liverpool, became acquainted with Mr. Ledger, a merchant of New Orleans, who so far pleased my master with his vivid descriptions of the grand scenery of the Western States, and bold spirit of their free inhabitants (without mentioning the slaves, whom he considered but as a portion of the agricultural stock),—and also he showed the chances of making a fortune by the investment of a few thousand dollars in lands,—that my master determined to sell off his encumbered estate as soon as he arrived at the proper age, pay his father's debts, and then travel to America with command of the money he could call his own.

Having arrived at the proper age and sold his estates, he found, on the closing up of his

accounts, that through his uncle's excellent husbanding, the estates realized six thousand two hundred and odd pounds over and above his father's debts. The two hundred and odd pounds he requested his uncle would undertake the distribution of among those living who had been his father's servants, in proportion to their several merits for honesty; three thousand pounds he funded in the Bank of England in his sister's name; the remaining three thousand he placed in the hands of a merchant in Liverpool, whence he took passage in the first New Orleans merchant-ship that he found offered tolerable accommodations, and effected his voyage across the Atlantic, with nothing more remarkable occurring than his having acquired much more dexterity in striking with a harpoon, by the time he was mid voyage, than either the captain or his mate with all their experience enjoyed; and

occasioned the captain to exclaim, on his having struck a dolphin crossing the lee bow of the ship, in full chase of a flying fish, "That's a tarnation good toucher for one of us, and much more for an Englisher."

"Or any other olden countryer," added the mate.

"I guess," said the captain, "that one of our backwood-men even with his rifle could do no better; not I nor mate can make half way to it, that's poz!"

"I've not tried them there hits yet," further added the mate, walking off.

"And need not, you heavy-fisted lout," said the captain.

Arriving at New Orleans early in the morning, and having been conducted to the Elephant hotel, my master put away his remaining clean linen in drawers, sent out the dirty to be washed, and ordering a warm bath to be got

ready with all convenient speed, walked down to the bar-room, where he had seen several gentlemen lounging about as he entered ; but then, about eight o'clock, he found their number considerably increased ; and shortly after he heard a gong, which was suspended over the bar-room front door, commenced to be roughed very loud, and in the same instant saw a double door on the opposite side of the room thrown open, when a rush was made for it by every individual in the room except himself : and to his equal surprise, looking in after them, he saw that in less than one minute the whole were seated to a sumptuous meal, the head of the table being occupied by the landlord of the house. About a dozen ladies, who had previously entered by another door, were seated, half one side, and half the other, next to him ; the greater portion of the gentlemen were helping themselves or others in the greatest haste, whilst two servants, one on either side of the

table, with a block-tin pot in either hand,—one with tea, the other with coffee,—were supplying the company's cups according to the choice of each. Boiled milk, cream, and sugar were thickly distributed over the table.

He, my master, stood looking on with wonder at the large provision made for so early a meal, and the immense haste that the company shew in despatching it; when the bar-man coming out said, "You 'll breakfast, sir?" and without waiting for a reply stepped forward, saying, "walk in, sir," drew a vacant chair, and saw my master seated; and afore he had well effected it, a servant at his left elbow said, "What dish will you have a slice from, sir?" and another servant in the same instant at his right elbow said, "Tea or coffee, sir?"

Having made his selections, he continued in wonder for some time at the immense despatch of their beefsteaks, mutton cutlets, hot rolls, muffins, &c., by the company; and particularly

at the circumstance of each individual, without exception of gentleman or lady, having poured out their tea or coffee into their saucers ; and at the new fangled appendage to a breakfast table, a small dish, about two inches over, put one to each plate, for the cups to be placed on after being emptied in the saucers. He did not avail himself of the accommodation, supposing that his tea would cool whilst he was sipping an egg ; but by the time he had finished it and tried his tea, which was yet too hot for his taste, and was pausing for a moment to decide whether he should use his saucer for a cooler or not, having seen that the cooling system had enabled the company generally to be finishing their second cups from their saucers, he saw them begin to rise and walk out ; the whole were afoot,—the landlord too, in compliment to the ladies passing by him, and all but him, the servants, and my master, walking out. My master decided to give up his tea, follow the

company, and see after the occasion of their hurry; but before he had reached the door, a servant coming up to his elbow said, "Master begs to speak to you, sir." Turning round, my master saw the landlord standing at the head of his table, and proceeded to him.

The landlord said, "I perceive, sir, that you have not yet breakfasted; pray be seated here," pointing to the chair on his left hand, "and allow your plate and cup to be brought up to you." My master said, No; that he desired to go and see what the company had hastened out to look after. The landlord said, "Some few have gone to look after their general business in the town; but the majority of the gentlemen have gone to look for settees in the saloon, that they may recline and pick their teeth or indulge in their quids.

"After the ladies, sir, strangers who honour my house are next entitled to my attentions; and I beg you will now and ever after keep

my table open till you have finished your meal in the leisurely manner of your country; and not be inconvenienced by the haste that we Americans eat in.”

Benefited a full breakfast by the landlord's accommodating attentions to strangers\*, and having taken a bath, my master inquired for, and repaired to Mr. Ledger's office, where he had to leave his name and address, Mr. Ledger not being in; he then walked the town till one, when he found a note at the Elephant, of which the following is a copy:—

“ Dear Stuart,

“ If you can put up with part of the head and shoulders of a fresh-caught black grooper,

\* The author begs leave to observe that it appears to him that the American gentleman stands peculiarly high in kind attentions to strangers and in respectful demeanour to his countrywomen,—blacks excepted.



stewed in sauterne, and a glass of Granada punch, for your dinner, with my individual company only, for this evening, meet me at my residence on the West Boulevards, seven o'clock.

“FRANK LEDGER.”

My master accepted his friend's invitation, and in the course of conversation, Mr. Ledger mentioned the circumstance of a land surveyor, whom he had assisted out of some difficulties, having called on him about five days afore, and recommended to him the purchase of a particular lot of land on the Arkansas, as he, the surveyor, thought it promised very favourably for affording the site of a town at some future period; but that he, Mr. Ledger, had declined availing himself by the information, as that sort of speculation was out of his way; which appeared to much disappoint the poor fellow, who expected that he should relieve himself of

the debt of gratitude that he thought himself under to Mr. Ledger, by occasioning him to make a sum of money through his, the surveyor's, information.

My master said, "If any advisable opportunity offers, I will, according to my small means, speculate on some of your lands."

Mr. Ledger instantly rang, and his butler appearing, ordered him to send and request Mr. Magnet, the surveyor, to come to him. Magnet not being at home that evening, did not then appear, but the next morning attended Mr. Ledger at his office, where my master was also on a call. Mr. Ledger inquired of Mr. Magnet if he had communicated his views of the improvements that were likely to take place on the lot of land on the Arkansas that he had mentioned to any other person? To which Mr. Magnet replying, No; that he was not under direct gratitude to any one else

who could benefit himself by a speculation in land, Mr. Ledger said, "Then I accept your information for a friend of mine ; and as it is for a friend, instead of myself, I value your favour fifty per cent higher ; not that I did not in the first instance fully appreciate the noble spirit that prompted you to endeavour to serve my interest."

Mr. Magnet, lowly bowing, said, " I am yet, sir, much, very much your debtor ;" he then gave the number of the lot of land he had recommended, and walked out.

Mr. Ledger instructing my master to draw bills on his merchant in Liverpool for the necessary sum, endorsed them, as my master possessed no liabilities for damages in case of failure,—which endorsement insured their being immediately cashed at the full rate of exchange.

The money obtained, they proceeded to the Land office, and effected the purchase.

Before they had quitted, Mr. Ledger having stopped in conversation with one of the officers, a rough-looking individual stepped in and inquired after the very lot ; and learning that it was bought, inquired the name of the purchaser, and then his address ; when Mr. Ledger presenting himself said, " I am Mr. Stuart's merchant in this town."

The new comer yawning, in apparent perfect indifference at the information, said that his eldest son, who followed nothing but idle amusements, had taken a fancy to go and settle down upon that particular lot. That he was sure it was only for the sake of squirrel shooting ; the location affording a great many of them there varmint, and nothing better that he could see. Yet to please the boy, and more so his mother, whose darlint he was, he should have the land if it could be bought reasonably ; indeed, he would take it at a moderate discount

off Mr. Stuart's hands ; although it was evident enough that that location would never be fully cleared, and he should not wonder at its being shortly abandoned to squatters.

Mr. Ledger said that he had no instructions from his friend to treat for the sale of the lot of land he had purchased ; and should he be so instructed in future, he was sure it would not be at the rate that the stranger seemed to expect to buy ; that his friend was, and he Mr. Ledger also, informed from good judgment and tried veracity, that the location in question was not quite unpromising of favours ;—and bowing, he and my master departed.

Being in the street, my master observed that he hoped Magnet's judgment in new lands was better than the stranger's they had then left.

Mr. Ledger said, " I am of opinion that the stranger's judgment is as good as Magnet's ; that his information of the country that your

purchase is in is as good also ; and that his expectations of the value of your lot are higher, from the circumstance of his proposing to treat for it at a *moderate* discount of the price you had just then paid.”

“ I imagine him to be a land-jockey.”

My master, finding it necessary to live at the most moderate expense, determined, after spending six days in New Orleans, on furnishing himself with necessary supplies, and engaging Mr. Magnet to accompany him as a guide to go out to his purchase ; on which they found unexpectedly several families of squatters on a fertile tract of the land, near the source of a creek, or rivulet, which was tributary to the great river ; which circumstance determined my master to take up his abode there.

He informed the squatters of his ownership, and that they should continue to enjoy the

benefit of what they had cultivated so long as each of them chose and he continued owner. He then set about to build a block-house, which, with the assistance of his neighbours, was quickly finished; and in the mean time got the supplies he had taken from New Orleans brought up to him, through the attentions of Mr. Magnet, who would not quit till he saw my master comfortable for a new settler.

Mr. Magnet being about to depart, my master commenced expressing the obligations he was under to that individual; when Mr. Magnet said, that what obligations my master was under, were due to Mr. Ledger, who had bound him, Mr. Magnet, in the most solemn promise, not to quit till my master was settled to his mind, or else decided on returning. This information only added to my master's high estimation of Mr. Magnet; and taking off his

watch-guard, the only valuable trinket in his possession, he desired Mr. Magnet to wear it for his sake.

In a short time after my master's coming among the squatters,—and they finding that he laboured freely to rear his provisions, required nothing of any of them, that he did not barter a full equivalent for, his never assuming any right of dictation to any one of them; on the contrary, always keeping aloof from meddling in any of their dissensions unless called on, and, when that was the case, giving his opinion in honest manliness,—they commenced appealing to him as arbitrator, and progressively increased their applications till his judgment was as decisive among them as ever was absolute sovereign's, backed by an army of a hundred thousand.

On one occasion an individual proved refractory; the consequences of which precluded all



future attempts at repetition ; for so satisfied was the whole community of my master's judging conscientiously, that, on its being discovered that one party to a cause duly submitted to his decision stood out for his, the party's opinion, after my master's decision was given, there was an instantaneous appeal to arms, the whole mass in the village at the time able to bear them turning out in support of him.

On the refractory individual declaring against my master's decision, a cry was commenced at my master's house, which was at the end of the village, by the offending party's sister, who happened to be present, and called out, " Mr. Stuart is opposed by Harry Nero, and I give up his being my brother !" — " Mr. Stuart is opposed by Harry Nero !" was echoed at the nearest house and repeated with the speed of wildfire through the village. The impression generally given by this cry was, that Nero was

arrayed in arms against my master ; and every man seized his rifle and set about putting it in killing condition, whilst the women, fearing that a moment's loss of time would be fatal to their hopes, snatched up such utensils as pokers, tongs, &c., and rushed out in a tumultuous manner afore the men could get their rifles ready, bending their course to my master's house. But the dormant spirit of Rosetta shone forth so brilliant in the attempted rescue that all other efforts appeared as shades. Her father was out hunting with his rifle when the cry was given ; her mother instantly armed herself with the poker, and her grandmother with the rolling-pin, whilst the girl, leaping on the table, reached down his Bowee-knife from a little shelf where she knew he kept it ; and springing down, bounded first out of the door.

The mild, blushing, slender maiden, aided in her speed by her lightness of limbs, commenced

passing those who were afore her, never once whooping for help or looking otherwise than forward. Her way was not obstructed by those afore her, for each frequently looked back to discover to what degree they would be supported in their meditated attack on Nero, whom they all looked on as a desperate powerful man ; which back glances discovered Rosetta coming up with her father's bowee firmly grasped round the handle by her fingers, her thumb crossing the extreme hilt, the blade lying flat along her lower arm, with the point extending an inch beyond her elbow, her eyes flashing so vividly as to be mistaken for emitting real sparks ; and the leading woman, who was armed with a toasting-fork, whooping very loud for the main body to come up, looking back, saw the girl's approach in passing the second woman ; and the vehemence of her speed, the position of her instrument, and the

fire of her eyes threw the leader into such a fright as to bring her and her toasting-fork prostrate across the track, and the girl instantly bounded over her by a leap.

My master hearing a tumult looked out, and seeing the armed approach, and having heard the exclamation of Nero's sister, imagined the real cause ; and at the same instant the refractory competitor called to his adversary and said, " I submit to the arbitration !" and walked off, avoiding the storm that he saw approaching.

My master was standing before his door, his arms folded over his breast, with a smiling countenance, when Rosetta entered his little lawn, which was the first view he had caught of her in his looking-out. And she, discovering how different his position was to what she had apprehended in her advance, suddenly halted, dropped the point of her instrument,

and bowing, with a subdued eye and blushing cheek, drew back, and took another direction to her father's, to avoid meeting those she had passed.

The women getting rather alarmed at their temerity, shortened their steps a little for the men to get nearer in support of their attack on Nero, so that the two bodies poured into the lawn near together, Rosetta's mother a little in advance. She had made all haste, but could get up no sooner, being very heavy just then. —Immediately on entering, she exclaimed, "Where is she?"

My master then supposing he had been deceived in his opinion that this general rising had been for his protection, as inquiry was made after *she*, said, "Whom are you hunting?"

The matron then inquired, "Where is Rosetta?"

My master said, "She nearly now entered the lawn, suddenly halted, and retired."

Her mother said, "She saw you as I do now—well and unassailed?"

"Yes, precisely so."

"Ah, me! It appears that the true spirit of Douglas has lain dormant from Hotspur down to my darling Rosetta."

Rosetta's mother's maiden name was Douglas. The maiden, not only the most placid in countenance but also the most humble in manners of any one in the village, was looked on thenceforward with extra respect by all, and great awe by Nero and the woman who had fallen before her and been leaped over. The latter frequently declared that it was not only apparent but real fire that Rosetta's eyes emitted in her rage; for as she turned her face in awe, when she found the girl would fly over her, a real spark alighted on the back of her neck and had raised a blister.

But by my master's mild deportment, unencroaching habits, and full allowance for accidents in injuries to his garden from the stock of others, he became ruler by example, so far as to be called on very rarely for arbitration.

His friend Ledger would frequently, by special messengers, send him supplies of clothes and delicacies for the table. The arrivals of these supplies were readily discovered by the neighbours, and after the first, spread universal joy in the village.

On the first supplies arriving, (which time was just six months after he had,) the day after he went round and gave a general invitation for a luncheon next day, which he prepared for on his little lawn, and the company arrived: he himself officiated as waiter, producing the rarities of a couple of Stilton cheeses, two kegs of crackers, a case of burgundy, and one of sparkling champagne.

The delicate cheeses and excellent crackers were enjoyed in apparent but silent delight. The wine was served round in cups of tin, of horn, and of crockery, that he had made up by borrowing. The first round produced a smacking of lips and clearing of throats; the second set conversation in free circulation, especially concerning the more peaceable state they were living in with each other then,—that they had a gentleman among them who had sufficient honesty and courage to decide their differences impartially; and instead of sitting in idleness and being fed by the labour of others, as judges generally did, he was the hardest labourer in the colony, and the most ready to assist his neighbours with what his industry afforded: but the third brought forth a proposition from one of the women—each sex and age enjoyed the regale without distinction,—she proposed a toast being drank the next cup, and that she



be allowed to give it; and when the appointed round of cups was ready, she called attention and said, "Old England! the mother of America, the country of our landlord: who judgeth us manfully,—pacifying the men and delighting the women." Hurra! hurra! hurra! was resounded from the mouth of every man, matron, girl, and boy.

Each succeeding present, the viands, except the tea and sugar, were disposed of as the first; the extra tea and sugar he presented according to merit, or extra attentions paid him by the women, which was sometimes in presents of a pottage that they found out he was fond of, called choocoo, and sauce. The choocoo was prepared from the Indian corn, which their gardens produced abundantly; and the sauce was a thick soup of ocroes boiled with pickled pork cut into small pieces.

A mess of these preparations being sent to

him on the day twelve months of his arrival in the village, the girl who brought it said, "Mother begs you will receive this, her new year's gift."

He said, "My dear, I accept your mother's kind present with much pleasure, which she calls new year's, now nearly midsummer."

The girl said, that her mother knew that it was not new-year on the calendar, but new-year's day of the happiness of the village, being the day of the year that he had arrived in it.

Not till then did my master recollect the anniversary of his arrival, and his feelings glowed with the highest delight at the sentimental gift. Taking the girl by the hand, who by the by was Rosetta, who had cut so conspicuous a figure in the case of Nero's revolt, he said, "Do you too say so favourably of me, my dear, as your mother does?"

She replied, "I may not speak so freely as mother."

After emptying his neighbour's basin into one of his own, he determined to find some token of his respect for her compliment. But his tea and sugar being very low, and a blanket not being a becoming present for summer, he thought of a dressing-gown that he had received among his friend Ledger's last present.

His friend's fancy was to send clothes of the richest materials, made up in the pink of the fashions of the day. This gown was made of silver brocade, trimmed with swan's-down, and had not yet been worn. He brought it out and presented it to Rosetta, saying, "You'll accept this and wear it in winter, made up to fit; as a token of my pride at your mother's compliment."

The girl, eyeing the rich stuff with a kind of

awe, said, "Mother will be ashamed to wear so gay a dress as this will make."

"But," said he, "maidens not ashamed of being gay, deck themselves in flowers, the gayest of all dresses; and with that impression I thought you might be pleased to wear it, and begged you to accept it for yourself."—She bowed, blushing, and retired, walking slowly across the lawn, with the gown over her left arm, and the basin, tied loosely in the towel she had brought over it, suspended to her right; but as soon as she entered the straight track for home she started off at full speed.

In small communities no secrets remain. In two days time every girl in the village knew of his distinguishing present to Rosetta; and each on meeting him assumed a stately gait and dropped some of her usual familiarity of salutation, till the next luncheon that he gave, and between the second and third round of

wine brought forth a small basket of roses, being one flower for each girl present. He began on the left side of Rosetta to present his basket, and each girl selected for herself. In moving the flowers one fell to pieces; each girl stuck her rose in her belt for ornament as she received it; but Rosetta having no stem to hers, collected the delicate petals in her right hand, and first touching her lips, put them into her bosom.

Each other girl gave Rosetta credit for transcendent ardour of feelings, which were too conspicuously established in Nero's case to be at all questioned; for modesty of demeanour not to be surpassed; for superior talent in reading—the only education their school afforded; and each considered the heroic maiden to be second in personal attractions, but each conceived herself to be first,—and in this particular, therefore, entitled to the highest respect from the other sex.

So they, finding that Rosetta was not afforded a choice in the flowers, each imagined that she, Rosetta, was but of secondary consideration, and therefore properly appreciated by my master; and she being pleased with the opportunity of putting his favour in her bosom instead of her belt, all was well again.

My master had spent twenty-two months among the squatters whom he had found on his lot of land; and except the living that he got in common with them, it had not afforded him one penny or penny's-worth of interest for his outlay of capital—capital that was the bulk of his fortune.

At the expiration of this term, he received information from Mr. Ledger that the Land Company at Natchez had some months afore purchased all the unsold public lands between Little Rock and my master's lot; and since that purchase, resold many lots laid off by Mr.

Magnet to settlers; through which functionary the company had found out that my master's lot afforded an eligible site for a town, which, when opened, would raise the value of their remaining lands fifty per cent.

And they learning also from Mr. Magnet that Mr. Ledger was my master's agent in New Orleans, had sent to that gentleman proposals of purchasing the lot of land, offering the round sum of one hundred thousand dollars for it.

Mr. Ledger replied, "that he expected to be authorized to treat for the sale of the land, but that he should not advise my master to accept less than double their offer for it." And Mr. Ledger also informed my master that he had been instructed by Mr. Magnet to say, "that if my master chose to adopt the slower process of selling, by having the town laid out himself, and selling it in building lots, he may realize a

much larger sum eventually than two hundred thousand dollars."

He required my master's decision: if he desired to treat with the company, that he would forthwith return to New Orleans; and if he decided to adopt Mr. Magnet's opinion, that he would say so; that competent means be furnished him on the spot for carrying it into effect.

My master decided to sell to the company, provided he could get two hundred thousand dollars, which sum they, in the event, willingly gave; and he saw it necessary to prepare for returning to society, which he commenced next morning by going round to the squatters' houses, and informing each of his intended departure from them.

My master had called at the house of Rosetta's father in the evening a few days previous to this general call, and found the maiden's eyes badly swollen, she having been in bitter



affliction all the day, as was reported to him by her father, for a foolish little bird having died, as he, her father, said. My master asked her why she would so distress herself at an occurrence that was in the course of nature?

She said, that she did not enjoy the consolation of the death of her dear little dependent having occurred in the course of nature; that it had flown into their house on a stormy day in the beginning of winter, almost starved to death by cold and hunger. She supposed its object was to obtain shelter, but she received it as a dependent thrown on her for protection—it having alit on her shoulder; she had cherished it in the highest degree she was able, and lost no time in making a wicker cage, to protect it from her cat; and the little creature, in gratitude for her services, would show high delight whenever she approached it, having discovered, she supposed, that its joy gave her

pleasure; it appeared to know her, she said, and love her too, as well as her mother did. The detention she imposed on it for its protection against its natural enemies it seemed quite reconciled to; yet she had not intended to detain it after mild weather set in, to but open its cage and let it decide for itself. That morning having broken fine, she had moved the little creature's cage to the sun's rays, but had not carefully done her duty by observing that it was out of the cat's reach, which occasioned its death, and reduced her into an eternal debtor, as the poor creature was out of her reach of repaying it for her indolence.

My master, embracing her left hand in his right, said, "Ah! my dear girl, you are all nerve; occasions calling forth, you are fiery courage this moment, and melted humanity the next,—which two natural properties combining, show forth not only unflinching honesty,

but the most delicate benevolence. You experience, you enjoy, more of mental sensation, more of delight, in a year, than the common cowardly mock-charity creatures of our species could in a century." And as he left her he cast an involuntary contemptuous look on her father, and walked out.

From which time my master had not seen Rosetta, but during the interval between it and this call had very much reflected on her ardent feelings; and taking her father's house in turn, stepped in, when he was severely shocked at finding Rosetta seated on her mother's lap, lying senseless against her left arm; her grandmother supporting her head and moistening her forehead and temples with a wet towel, and a boy holding a basin of water at hand.

The grandmother beckoned my master to be seated, and he silently obeyed; watching the girl's countenance, he saw it undergo several

slight changes of colour, and after a time she gave a deep sigh, and suddenly starting from her mother's lap, exclaimed, "Is he gone?" her eyes rolling wildly. My master then rising from his seat, said, "What's the matter, Mrs. Vapid?" Vapid was Rosetta's family name. But before the mother could reply, the daughter had recovered her perceptions, and rushing to my master, clasped him round the neck and lowly said, "Oh, dont go!" My master, supporting her in embrace with his left arm round her waist, replied, "I remain here a squatter for life, my Rosetta, if your comforts require it."

Mrs. Vapid then said, "What's this, Rosy!" which brought the girl tottering back to her mother, in whose arms she fell, and flooded her neck with tears, which quite composed the girl's feelings.

Again my master put the question, "What's

the matter?" To which Mrs. Vapid replied, that Ned Tatler, the boy who had been holding the basin, had stepped in about ten minutes afore my master to ask for a cup of milk, Mrs. Tatler's cow having that morning put a foot in pail and spoiled theirs; and informed them that he had left my master at his father's, giving information of his intended departure on the morrow for New Orleans,—when the girl stood staring at Nat for a minute, and then fell backwards on her arm, which she providentially was near enough to put out.—Adding, "I view the loss of you to this village as irreparable; it never was before your coming, and never will again be, I believe, the peaceable, happy community that you made it, and have kept it, principally by example; but—I don't know why Rosetta should be more distressed than I am. If she was a woman grown, and a lady, I should say she was in love with you."

Rosetta said, "Mr. Stuart has said, he will remain with me, if my comforts require it; I did not know what I was about when I begged him to remain with us; my principal comfort is his being comfortable. And can a gentleman used to large houses, and servants to wait on him, be comfortable here, living in a block house by himself; cooking, washing his plates, preparing his bed, cleaning his shoes, and feeding his cow and chickens himself, without any prospect of quitting? no. If Mr. Stuart is governed by my comfort, and as he says so I am sure it is so, I say he must go. But," added the silly maiden, "may not I go with him, mother? can't I work for my living by being one of his servants? It will be a comfort to me to touch my lips with the shoes he has worn when I have them to clean."

My master approached the girl, drew her from her seat, and embracing her fervently,

said, " You shall go with me, my Rosetta, or I'll remain here for life. Not as my servant shall you go, or in any condition inferior to my own: you shall go to boarding-school, and as soon as you are sufficiently educated for moving in fashionable society, we will have our hands joined in token of the union of our hearts."

The girl stood astonished for some time at what she heard, and then said, " By this arrangement I should become a lady, I believe, and how then should I be able to work for my living? for I am told that ladies don't work, except at ornamenting themselves."

My master said, that he should shortly have more than enough to maintain them; when they would not require any assistance from their work, except amusement.

She said, " I don't like the idea of not working for my living, as I have no fortune; nor do I understand the boarding-school, fashionable

society, or joining of hands ; but I understand that I have no will in opposition to yours, if mother and father consent to it."

Mr. Vapid just then entered with a red deer over his left shoulder, and his rifle in his right hand, which he quickly relieved himself of, and as quickly after heard from his wife—

" Well, here's for you, Vapid ! Rosy is to quit us, become a lady, and then to have for a husband our judge that was, but now is preparing to go to New Orleans."

Mr. Vapid said, " If Rosetta quits this house it will be turned upside down by them there brats," pointing to his younger children, " for they stand more in awe of her word than they do of my rod ; and who's to make my tea of mornings, in time for me to have it ready as I get up ? eh ? I must think about this change you tell me of."

Mrs. Vapid said, " There's no occasion for



you to be at the trouble of thinking at all about it, my dear, for I have already decided to give my consent. I had rather see this true Douglas, who is without a particle of Vapid except her name, become the wife of Mr. Stuart, if it was to be my death the next moment, than to live as many solar years as Methuselah did lunar ones, seeing her the wife of a ——, but I wont say. Not that I much value Mr. Stuart on account of his being a gentleman, and having riches; my principal prizing is his courage and integrity,—the reverse of which virtues occasions you selfishly to prefer retaining my darling a slave to your ease, to seeing her in the greatest state of happiness on earth to a woman,—the wife of a sober, industrious man, who has courage enough to dare be honest.”

Mr. Vapid growled out a few incoherent words, and soon after was snoring in his elbow-chair.

My master then inquired of Mrs. Vapid if she could accompany Rosetta to New Orleans, where his friend could assist him in selecting a proper school for her; as he, my master, should not take the girl under his immediate protection previous to marriage: if Mrs. Vapid could not accompany her, she must remain till he could obtain a proper person at New Orleans to send for the purpose.

Mrs. Vapid said, that she preferred accompanying Rosetta herself, and would be ready to take her departure in three days time; when my master put twenty ten-dollar United States' bank notes into her hand, for the purpose of buying suitable travelling-clothes, when she met with them, and to defray her other expenses on the journey. He instructed her to call at the Elephant Hotel, when she arrived at New Orleans, where she could get good ac-

commodations, and meet with him on inquiring for him.

He then finished his round of leave-taking, took the two men whom he had most confidence in to his house, where he made them his executors, to distribute on the morrow all that he should leave.

At sun-rise he turned out to depart, with a suit on back, and small portmanteau and umbrella in hand, when, looking up the village, he saw every house with crape or something black floating from the windows; and except the moving of those emblems of mourning, all was still as the tomb. He stealthily stepped in the opposite direction, followed by his friend's special messenger.

My master, on arriving in New Orleans, took a bed-room and parlour at the Elephant, and took care to see that his name and numbers

were entered at the bar. He then went in search of his friend; and from the overflowing of his feelings of gratitude, after approaching him with a smile, and taking his hand, he could not speak, but first raising the hand he had taken up to his lips, disengaged his from it, turned away, and gave vent to a flood of tears. Sufficiently recovering his composure of mind, he turned back and said, "To use one of your phrases, I am 'bankrupt complete,' and you my principal creditor, without any chance that I know of for a shilling in the pound dividend."

Mr. Ledger replied, "Oh! the debt, whatever your fervid imagination may have swollen it up to, has been sponged out by that Niagara cataract you just now threw over it. I know how to appreciate the man whose heart exposes itself in a flood, through smiles labouring to conceal it. My life, or even the honour of

my wife, I would trust to his word for keeping unstained, sooner than I would a dollar-note of a stopping bank to one of the common herd of mankind, without legal security."

"Speaking of your wife," my master said, "will you believe that I have one following me from the woods? Well, to be candid, I expect a girl, the daughter of one of the squatters, to arrive here three days hence, and I require your assistance in selecting a boarding-school for her. And when she is prepared for being introduced to society, I shall marry her, unless she then should prefer another; but I no more doubt her attachment to me, than I do my honourable feelings towards her."

Mr. Ledger said, "One half the world will say you are romantic, the other half something worse, I suppose."

My master said, "Yes; so be it. I would not wantonly excite the world's opprobrium,

but I most unequivocally despise it whenever it stands in opposition to my conscience."

The third day after my master's arrival he boarded every boat that arrived from and by the way of Natchez, in order to meet and conduct Mrs. Vapid to the Elephant, but she had not arrived. The next day, on stepping on board the Jackson, he was immediately perceived by Rosetta, whose emotion would have exposed her rusticity had not her mother seized her shawl behind and drawn her back. He did not recognise them, from their metamorphose in fashionable bonnets and other dress, till they came quite up to him; when he inquired after their luggage, gave it in charge to a porter, and taking an arm of each lady,—a ceremony that Rosetta had never experienced afore,—conducted them to the hotel.

That evening he took Rosetta to her school; and the second day after sent back her mother,

with a present to the squatters of a full supply of winter-clothing for each individual of them, and fine merino of various colours, in gown-pieces,—one for each girl who had graced Rosetta's departure by attending at her front door with olive branches in their hands, and one with a garland of flowers, which as soon as the honoured maiden appeared was put round her neck; and the preparer of this ornament, taking Mrs. Vapid's hand, fell in rear of the triumphing girl, who was preceded by all of the others with branches of olive, when they commenced marching, and sang their time of step, "See the conquering hero comes." The two leaders arriving at an arch that they had prepared by drawing together the boughs of two young hickories that were one on either side of the way, and binding them in each other, and which they had decorated with a profusion of gay flowers,—the leaders having ar-

rived at this preparation, the company in front opened files,—faced inwards,—laid down their emblems of peace and love so as to form a carpet between them to the triumphal arch,—and commenced singing “The Triumph of Virtue,”—which they continued during the time the object of their respect was passing between their ranks under the triumphal arch, and continued in their hearing.

My master, visiting his friend, was treated with the most familiar kindness by Mrs. Ledger, who, on the second day of his calling after having returned to New Orleans, took an opportunity of saying to him, that she had learned from Ledger that he, my master, had had a girl brought down from the country by her mother and placed at school the day of her arrival;—that he felt the highest interest in the girl’s welfare, and was so delicate of her reputation, that he had decided, as she was



entirely dependent on him, not to enjoy her society out in company till she was prepared by education to enter into general society; that the restrictions his delicate principles had laid on him were likely to have injurious effects on a constitution trained in the country, (owing to the pupils at girls' boarding-schools getting, by the school-regulations, barely exercise enough for girls who had been reared in town,) unless he would allow some friend of his occasionally to call for the young lady and afford her extra exercise;—and that as his acquaintance was not yet extensive in New Orleans, he might not be prepared with a friend better calculated for the purpose that she had mentioned,—and to a certainty, no one more willing to serve Ledger's most esteemed friend, —than she was.

My master said, it was out of the power of mortal to show **him** a kindness that could be

more dear to his feelings than that which Mrs. Ledger had proposed; for he doubly preferred his charge enjoying the patronage of Mrs. Ledger to that of any other lady in the world: and her proffering to afford it had relieved him from the dread he had been under of giving offence by applying to her, as he had intended, to take a rustic into her society.

Mrs. Ledger said, her plan was, as Sundays were unprofitable days to students at boarding-schools, to call for Rosetta in her carriage each morning of those days, and take her an airing when the weather would admit, if not, take her directly to her house,—afford her the liberty of her garden for exercise,—detain her to dinner,—and on fine evenings send her home a-foot by her butler, or, if wet, in the coach. Adding, “If you have no objection to dining out on Sundays, I beg leave to engage you for each Sunday in the ensuing year,—four

o'clock,—to meet a young lady whose friendship I hope to acquire; which friendship I look forward to with high interest, from the distinction she has obtained from the gentleman whose discernment of character I more highly respect than any other's in the world—Ledger's excepted."

My master simply bowed and withdrew, being incapable of articulation.

From the immense change of living free as the mountain breeze to being reduced to boarding-school discipline, except on Sundays, when she enjoyed what to her former habits was half-freedom,—although she continued in the highest spirits, three months after coming to town, Rosetta had become over-delicate in her appetite, yet retaining her excellent complexion; but sultry weather now setting in, and raising miasmas, of which the swamps of the Mississippi are so fertile, and impregnating the entire

atmosphere of New Orleans, added a change of colour to her reduced frame ; which determined my master to change her climate for that of England, if she did not object to going.

On his proposing the change to her she said, "I shall not see you in England as I do here, and I do not expect to meet another Mrs. Ledger anywhere,—which are two sore points ; but is not your Rosetta your first consideration ? and does she not respect your judgment and your honour beyond compare ?"—which reply occasioned Mrs. Ledger to snatch her to her breast in a warm embrace, and say to my master, "Can you restrain yourself against a kiss from your intended wife on the expression of such sentiments ?"

But before he had time to consider, Rosetta said, "He shall not!"—and springing up to him, one arm placed round his neck, the other round his waist, compelled a reciprocal action

from my master ; and they stood locked in an embrace that beggars all attempt at further description.

A merchant of this town requiring, as hundreds more did, to leave the swamps, he had determined on Liverpool, and his wife to accompany him, in one of his own ships. This lady readily, at Mrs. Ledger's instance, consented to take Rosetta under her charge as a fellow-passenger.

Arriving in Liverpool, she was promptly called for by Sir Benjamin, through application from my master to that gentleman ; and after a week's recruiting of strength at his residence with his family, was sent to school with my master's sister.

My master, although the young lady he had been invited to meet at Mrs. Ledger's Sundays' dinners was not to be found there at her table, continued to avail himself of the engage-

ment she had put him under, and otherwise live on the closest intimacy with Mr. Ledger.

The day four months and seven days after my being sold in the mart, my master and Mr. Ledger walking arm in arm on the Esplanade, Mr. Ledger, having had a quarrel with one of his townsmen a few days afore, carried a duelling pistol in a belt under his coat and a bowee knife in his right-hand pocket, in readiness to decide their quarrel according to the custom of the western states, at their next meeting, should either have retained his anger down to that time.

I, about a month after my master's purchase of me, having occasion for a pocket-knife, went into a cutler's shop and inquired accordingly, when I was shown a case of bowees; and one of them, highly finished in handle and blade, of the third class in length,—being only a four-inch blade,—but of first substance, and war-

ranted to be of the best Swedish steel and truest temper by the seller, engaged my attention; and, although the price was startlingly high, and I required it only for ordinary purposes, I decided to take it, being flush of money through my father's present and my mistress's munificence. I had then, as usual, my knife in my pocket, and had attended my master with his umbrella.

Circumstances stood thus: when my master and Mr. Ledger were walking down the Esplanade, as I afore said, I about ten paces behind them,—Mr. O'Trigger, the gentleman who had quarrelled with Mr. Ledger, was coming up on the opposite pavement; but from that side of the street being rather full of passengers, my master not at all knowing his purpose, and Mr. Ledger not looking towards him, he was not noticed by the latter till he had got opposite to him, prepared a pistol he had under

his coat, and commenced crossing the street ; when Mr. Ledger suddenly disengaged himself from my master, seized his pistol, and had drawn it out, but not cocked it, when he received his adversary's fire, and fell heavily on the pavement.

My master instantly raised his head, and in a couple of minutes time many other persons had come up, when my master said to a gentleman who was near him, " Do, sir, take my friend's head !" which request was promptly complied with ; and my master, thus relieved, snatched the pistol from the side of his friend, and sprang forward after Mr. O'Trigger, who had reloaded his pistol whilst retreating, and was just in time to see him turn down Louis Street, which when my master reached, he saw the other gentleman in hearing, and instantly exclaimed, " Defend yourself, murderer !" which brought the other instantly to



face about, and my master to slow march, which he required, to compose his nerves from the disorder they were in from his running.

Each brought his pistol to the port, and, their eyes glaring like furious lions', slowly approached each other. They were about forty yards apart when they commenced this deadly movement: many passengers were in the street; all on the duellists' side except myself, on discovering their purpose, ran off to the opposite pavement; and then a deathlike silence was observed, all looking on with intense feeling for the issue.

I, the instant I saw Mr. O'Trigger face about, and his pistol leveled against my master, instinctively drew my only weapon and opened it; determined, if he should fall as his friend had done, to rush upon their enemy; and, to be most ready for my purpose, got up to my master's right elbow.

The approach had been continued about ten yards each side, when a lady, who was looking on from the opposite pavement, cried out, "Come away, negro! come away, negro!" which occasioned my master to be sensible of my being near him; and casting a glance of his eyes to me, by which he saw me and my knife prepared for battle, he instantly exclaimed, "Get away, Jim Crow! get away, my boy!" But the light of his countenance, showing at the mart that he had rescued me from the fangs of the planter who wanted me for his cane-plantation, dazzled too strongly on my imagination to admit of my seeing any danger to myself whilst his safety or being revenged, should he fall, required my action; but lest he should be diverted again by consideration for my safety, I got so much in his rear as would simply admit of my retaining a view of his adversary;—in

which order we advanced,—I within arm's length of my master.

Having arrived to about ten yards' distance apart, each having narrowly watched the movements of the other, they halted, without any perceptible difference of time, instantly brought down their weapons and fired. The cap on the cone of my master's exploded, but the powder in the breech remained dormant; his adversary firing, sent his bullet through the left-breast of my master's top-coat, which was open, and through the lower part of my left-arm, snapping the smaller bone. I instantly perceived that my master was thus far safe, by the way I was hit; and in the same instant perceived his adversary feeling for his bowee, when I made a step forward, crying out, "Here, master!" holding out my knife, which he, after throwing down his pistol, in-

stantly seized, sprang forward like a tiger, and planted its deadly blade in the left side of his adversary's neck: the point sinking down, entered and divided the great artery half through, and the edge coming square against the collar-bone, severed that defence right across;—so earnest was the stroke impelled by the spirit of gratitude for his friend.

Mr. O'Trigger had got his knife out, but had not been able to raise it when he received his wound; yet earnest to his purpose, lifted it as he was staggering back, and made a blow, which was spent in open air; but not before my master had recovered his instrument, bringing the handle up to his right ear, ready to repeat his stroke, which, however, the dying effort of his adversary shewed was unnecessary.

Assistance was quickly afforded Mr. O'Trigger by the spectators. My master looked on

him, after he had fallen, for a few seconds, and then turned off, saying, "Poor fellow!"

Such duels being of common occurrence in the west, no attempt was made to interfere with its progress, or with the departure of the slayer. On the contrary, on O'Trigger's falling, several spectators exclaimed, "Well fought!" "Well fought, by God!" and the like. And had any peace-officer attempted to detain my master, the mob would instantly have set him free, and guarded him out of the officer's reach. But my master used the precaution of stepping off at a quick pace, after beckoning me to throw down his friend's pistol, which I had taken up, and follow him.

He made for the nearest coach-stand, took a coach, and when we were in first found out that I was wounded, as I had used the precaution of holding between my left thumb and middle finger the two orifices that the ball had

made, from the moment of my surrendering my knife to him, and placing his cast-away pistol under my right arm. He then bound up the wound with our handkerchiefs.

Having decided to trust in Mr. Magnet,—whose gratitude to their joint friend Mr. Ledger gave him a high opinion of him, and whose services to himself he had rewarded by a present of ten thousand dollars of State stock,—he ordered the coach to Quadrant-street.

Arrived at Mr. Magnet's, he procured a surgeon, who put my broken arm in splints, and I held it when splinted in a padded sling to my neck; then putting on a Spanish wrapper, provided by Mr. Magnet from a neighbouring tailor, the state of my arm was not perceptible to passengers, and I was ready for travelling. My master changed his top coat for one of another colour, his hat for a cap, and removed his whiskers. He then carefully washed my

knife himself, which he had hastily folded and put away in his pocket, as soon as he found that his late adversary was incapable of further resistance. He well dried it, then touched the metal with neat's-foot oil, rolled it up in a sheet of gauze paper, and returned it to me, saying, "That's honest stuff, Jim;" and I returned it to my pocket, mentally vowing never more to apply it to base uses.

A steamer being appointed to leave Jefferson dock at nine o'clock that night for Pittsburg, in due time my master and myself went on board, but arriving not exactly together. Mr. Magnet was there before us with our necessary baggage, and on the look out for constables, so as to give us notice before we fell into their power, should any be visible; but no suspected person appeared. The second bell was rung, my master shook Mr. Magnet heartily by the hand, he stepped on the quay, and we were

moved off on a three weeks' steaming up the river.

Having eventually arrived in New York, my master's original destination, he took apartments at the Castle Hotel; and the time passed very quietly, till on the fifth day he called me, and said that he had executed my manumission,—a measure that he had adopted to free himself from the disgrace of holding so gallant a spirit as I was in personal bondage; and he wished me to fully understand that I might dispose of my person as was most congenial to my feelings.

In the next place I had enabled him to honour the manes of the best friend he had yet known, and thereby relieved his second best friend of the pain of seeing the murderer of her dear husband triumphantly walking the streets of New Orleans, with the addition also of saving his own life;—each of which my devotional cou-



rage had afforded him the means of effecting, and thus laid him under considerable gratitude.

On his pausing, I tried to set him right by saying, that for the preservation of his life self-interest was quite enough to actuate me; but that independently of this, as he had found the dictates of gratitude were sufficient to remove all consideration for his own safety,—occasioning him to value the ultimate success of his late bold daring more for its grateful effects on the memory of one friend, and on the feelings of another, than for the saving of his own life,—why should not the weight of gratitude that I was under, and which had been more generously imposed than any which had been laid on by his friends, be sufficient to balance the small services I had been enabled to render him? For what was my present situation, not only with respect to extra personal comforts, but high intellectual treats,—

not only being allowed to read and write at will and have the full use of his library, but have my attention directed to such authors as did not write for deception or simply to make books that they thought would sell,—compared to being taken up by the planter who wanted to buy me for his cane location, as he called it, in the swamps of Louisiana?

He said that the benefits of comfortable personal accommodation, with the use of books and advice on authors, he might not long be able to afford me, and he therefore wished to make such provision for me as would put the first two within my reach when he was removed too far to offer either as he then did. He wished to know where I preferred to have such a sum funded as would afford me an easy maintenance when he quitted.

I said as it appeared he was about to make his will, I desired that he should no further

honour my name in it than to leave me a small annuity for such time as I might live beyond him, to be paid on the honour of whoever he might leave the bulk of his fortune to.

He said, "You mistake me about making my will; I conceive it profane in any one who has claims on him or her, for disposing his or her property contrary to what the law would, to be one day without a will.

"I made no will till a tie of gratitude was put on me by an individual to whom my then little would be an object, because I wished it to devolve on my sister, who was my heir-at-law; but when Rosetta had thrown herself forward, into what appeared imminent danger, for my protection, I made a will entirely in her favour, preferring ties of gratitude to consanguinity.

"But my speculation, made through the assistance of my late friend, turning out a great

prize, the day after the sale of it I made another will, making my sister coheiress with my intended wife; and immediately after I was enabled to file your manumission I made a third will, continuing Rosetta legatee to one half of my property, and dividing the other half equally between yourself and my sister. Therefore my consideration about leaving you was not by death, as that is already provided for, but by returning to England."

I replied, "My dear master, if you have manumitted me preparatory to putting me out of your service, but that my becoming again a slave will give me claim on serving you so long as I live, whatever part of the world you may be in, I humbly pray that you will again reduce me to slavery; only willing me to be manumitted in the event of your dying before me. Allow me to be near you, sir, that I may

have better chance of acquitting myself of the load of gratitude that I am under to you."

"Well, Jim," said my master, "if you have no objection to going to England with me, why all is well, except that I shall increase your pocket-money henceforward to fifty dollars a month, that you may have more scope for indulging in your little charities; and as you are a legatee in my will, I may crave the favour of being thought of when you make one."

"Sir," I said, "except my parents, who, being slaves, are disqualified from owning property, I know of no one at this time of life that I should desire to will to except yourself and my late mistress."

My master said, "All that I have any consideration about your remembering me for is your excellent bowee."

I drew it from my pocket, and presenting it to him, said, "Sir, from the high respect I entertain for the instrument, I beg you will immediately honour it by taking it into your possession, and not leave it in a state of humility till I die."

He said, "Come, Jim, don't puzzle me for answers to your fine speeches. But let me see; you have yet got the paper I put round it; what, do you wrap it up every time you use it?"

"Sir," said I, "I made a mental vow, on your returning it to me, never to defile the saviour of the life of my dearest friend with ordinary service to his servant; do, sir, accept it now."

"No," said he, "you'll do more credit to it some future day than I have done; perhaps you'll slay a lion with it, that otherwise would have destroyed your wife to be."

Three days after my freedom was pronounced

by my master, he received a letter from his sister, which was the first he had got from that young lady; the following is a transcript:

“ Dear Brother,

“ This is the first opportunity I have had of expressing my genuine sentiments to you since I have been able to put them in decent form on paper.

“ I have been compelled to address several letters to you at school, but as I was compelled to interlard them with sentiments that I did not feel, I took care to destroy, and not send them to you; for instance, I was compelled to insert thanks, and other expressions of gratitude, for your having divided your fortune as my mistress, uncle, and others tell me; as if the money you saved out of our father’s estate was not morally as much mine as yours: and because the law would not have punished

you if you had stolen mine, these very civil people compliment you by expressions of surprise that the theft was not committed! I have hitherto put up with these insults on your honesty, feeling my infirmity in being a girl. But now I am close approaching to womanhood, being within three months of fifteen years of age, and will soon decide to retort such insults on your honesty, and my judgment, with the strongest language that fashionable lady decorum will admit of. Indeed, yesterday, on my saying in the presence of our most kind uncle that I intended then having my free will, (it being vacation time,) and not only to write you a letter, but send it too, he said, 'Ay, he's been a most liberal brother to you surely.' When I said, if you allude to his having placed my three thousand pounds in the bank instead of running away with it to America, we most decidedly differ in opinion; but if you allude



to his having sent that dear little Yankee there to be my sister, we perfectly agree; for so far from considering myself under any obligation to him for not having stolen three thousand pounds of my money, I have been considering, since I have become nearly a woman, to call him to account for having turned over two hundred and odd pounds of our father's estate to his servants without consulting me. Not that I have for one moment thought the good creatures not entitled to so much, at least, of our father's estate; but I, who had as much right to it as he had, should have been consulted; or if I was considered as but a mere child then, and incapable of judging the case, I have got three years' more growth in me now, and shall be fifteen two months and twenty-nine days hence, which entitles me now to an apology for the slight.

“To which reply of mine our uncle was

graciously pleased to say, ' You 're an impudent puss ! I don't think that your brother when he returns will find so much temper in bearing with you as I do.'

" Uncle used to call me little puss when I was a mere child, but latterly, since I have become nearly a woman, he has dropped ' little.'

" Now for the dear creature you have sent to uncle's charge ;—she says that she's not a Yankee, that none are Yankees except New Englanders : but the other young ladies at school contend that all the Americans are Yankees ; and she humours us by answering to the call of Yankee as readily as Miss Vapid ; also to that of Gipsy, which she is sometimes called, in consideration of her having told us how she lived in a forest ; but she says that that style of living is called squatting, by which she is no gipsy : yet she as readily humours us in calling her Gipsy as Yankee, for

she is the best-natured girl in the world, and the most fiery spirit too, which I will give you an instance of presently.

“ But I suppose you know her already. If loving is knowing, she knows you as well, I believe, as ever one individual did another. I am sure I would not love you as she does for all the great estate that I am told you have made in America, out of your paternal three thousand pounds; for I have no notion of going directly insane, or else into pining, as I am told the unfortunate turtle does; and I really believe one or the other would be her case were you to take it into your head to die before she finds out your defects.

“ As to high merit, I am sure she has found out enough in you to serve a dozen ordinary persons. Among other praise, she gives you that of being very beautiful; which shows you are immensely altered in person as well as for-

tune since you left this country, for I never discovered that you were half so handsome as my little Shock.

“ Oh, how much I am indebted to you, how much I love you for having sent the dear little Yankee here to be my sister !

“ On her being taken to school by our very kind uncle,—who no doubt had told her a great deal of me, and must have drawn my picture to her some how,—on my approach in succession of pupils to be introduced to her by the mistress, before I was up for my name to be given, she stepped forward, saying, ‘ Oh ! I see this is my sister,’ and embraced me most cordially, which astonished our uncle and the mistress, and delighted me beyond expression.

“ I had been told that morning by the chambermaid, who had orders to prepare another bed, that my brother had sent a Yankee girl to my uncle for education, and that she

was to be brought to school that day. Never having seen a Yankee, I expected some sort of monster, with three feet, or some such deformity, would be introduced and thrown on me for countenance, in consideration of her being the dependent of my brother and charge of my uncle; therefore you may conceive my delight at receiving the recognition, simply from a sight of my person, of the most interesting creature I have ever seen, whose heart shone directly through her eyes in love to me, and, beyond all doubt, in that first embrace she extracted full half of mine.

“Our uncle, addressing me, said, ‘Well, this is strange; I never thought you so much like your brother as to be known through his likeness; you are not half so good-looking.’ You know our uncle’s ways: of course he meant the reverse of the latter part of his pretty speech, as he thought it.

“ The mistress said the image of Mr. Stuart must be very strongly impressed on the mind of my new friend, for Miss Stuart, ten years his junior, and the other sex, to be recognised by it.

“ I told you in an early paragraph of my letter that I would give you an instance of my sister’s spirit ; but first I must tell you how I came to call her sister.

“ As soon as she had an opportunity of speaking to me after we had retired from the mistress, she said she had to beg of me to allow her always to call me sister, as it would be a great comfort to her to call me by the same kindred name that her husband did.

“ I asked her if she was married to you. She said, so far as honourable understanding went, you were as closely married as ever couple was ; yet so delicate of her reputation had you been that you had never kissed her

but once, and she obtained that at the suggestion of her kind patroness Mrs. Ledger: that it was balm to the sore feelings she experienced at being so far separated from you, to call you by the most endearing name that she knew.

“ I told her that I felt very happy in the proposal, and would take the liberty of making the title reciprocal. She took my hand, gave it a slight squeeze, and turned away to her desk without further speech.

“ Well now, with regard to giving you an instance of her native spirit ;—but on reflection it would be superfluous, after what you know she did in the case of Nero, when she was a gipsy, which she has told me of.

“ Our uncle looking in upon me just now, and seeing me cross writing with red ink, said, that as I seemed at a loss for matter to supply my sheet with, he would give me something to inform you of, which was, that Captain Sponge,

residing at 27, Wine-street, New York, intended to move to New Orleans; and that from the information the captain had given him, he would arrive in the latter town about the time that this letter did.

“ He (our uncle) begs if you can find out his (the captain’s) arrival at any one of your hotels, you will assist him in procuring a house to his mind and settling himself in it.

“ This Captain Sponge, he has reason to believe, has for some time contracted the disease of daily drunkenness, which must consequently weaken his intellect, and bring on cowardice, which is equally consequentially the parent of lying; therefore if Captain Sponge is not abused by his conjectures, he (the captain) is entitled only to charitable consideration, being no fit companion for a well-regulated mind.

“ Your sister,

“ ANN ROSE STUART.”



The above letter being taken up immediately after arrival by Mr. Magnet, and forwarded to New York, my master, the day of his obtaining it by application at the post-office, went into Wine-street to learn what time Captain Sponge had left for New Orleans, but on calling at 27, found that that gentleman had not yet quitted.

My master informed him of the assistance he had been instructed by Sir Benjamin to afford him in New Orleans ; he, Sir Benjamin, supposing my master to be there, and Captain Sponge about to arrive there too.

My master having thus introduced himself to Captain Sponge, was accordingly introduced by the latter to his family, the ladies only being at home,—Mrs. Sponge and two daughters. Captain Sponge had two sons also, both of whom were abroad.

The Captain's tremulous hand, and, in the

course of conversation, perceptibly offensive breath, raised my master's suspicions of his uncle's information being correct; but the Captain's manners were highly gentlemanly, evincing his full familiarity with excellent society.

Mrs. Sponge and her daughters were each very interesting. Mrs. Sponge, except a cast of melancholy over her countenance, was yet a fine woman, both her daughters were handsome, and all three affable and well-informed.

The Captain did not intend moving to New Orleans immediately, and my master being invited, repeated his call.

The second call he made later in the day, and found the Captain's nerves braced into steadiness, and he was facetious, praising himself by implication.

A third call he made in the evening, and found the gentleman incapable of walking

across his sitting-room without catching at whatever was in his way for support. Disgustingly talkative, he was most insultingly lying, to the evidently shocking pain of mind of Mrs. Sponge, who would frequently hint to him that he was contradicting an earlier part of a narrative, or that his statement overstepped nature; and at times try to prevent the exposure he was making of his weakness by taking advantage of the next pause that he made to introduce another subject of conversation: but his impatience at being diverted from establishing, as he thought, a character for great personal courage and unflinching veracity, quickly brought him to break in upon the new subject of conversation with something that he thought would burnish his character.

It was really painful to see the fatigue of mind that Mrs. Sponge was put to in contri-

ving means to keep him as much as possible from the wine- and brandy-bottles. From her extraordinary suavity of manners, indulgence of his fancies in everything but drunkenness and its consequences, with excellent housewifery, she had considerable influence over him beyond what an ordinary wife could ever have over a cowardly husband; who naturally tyrannizes over his wife simply because the laws and his superior physical strength afford him the power. But as the Captain was not an idiot except in his worst drunkenness, he at all other times must have been aware that what little respectability he retained was reflective, and principally from Mrs. Sponge.

His daughters,—interesting, amiable young ladies,—were never easy, never familiar in their conversation in his presence; for knowing, as he must, the contempt that he was entitled to

from them for his drunkenness and lying, he was jealous of every syllable that either of them uttered, appearing to construe each word that he did not understand into a just reproach on his conduct.

And what was their situation otherwise? They appeared regularly at church, and their mother occasionally took them to balls and other public entertainments; they were highly attractive, of elegant persons and well-cultivated minds, which occasioned them to be visited to some extent, which visits they duly returned; and when they saw any chance of making a respectable acquaintance, and it was decent for them to make the first advances, they would call: but calls on them were rarely repeated, they appeared to such shocking disadvantage under the scowling, suspicious looks of their tottering, sour-breathed father; and they had to drag through exist-

ence without society, except that of each other and their mother's.

I now come to a pleasing picture in Captain Sponge's family group, in some measure a benefit resulting from his drunkenness.

Not like his daughters and wife, who were chained for pecuniary support and by the laws of society to this loathsome gentleman's house, were his sons. They, knowing how highly respectable their father would have been if he had not been a drunkard, contracted a hatred for all inebriating liquors, as indeed their sisters and mother had; and not being bound by the laws of society to submit to his disgusting behaviour, as I said before, they fled his house in pursuit of maintenance abroad; and their endeavours are, I understand, progressing favourably to an easy independence.

I have shown up Captain Sponge, preparatory to proposing that asylums be established

for the reception of drunken gentlemen. They would not be necessary for the lower walks of life, who readily take that disease, where it occurs among them, to the streets, and do not hang it as an incubus on the female portion of their families.

My opinion is that asylums might be established so as to be maintained out of the patients' income, with a saving of money to the remainder of each family, independently of the invaluable additional comfort they would derive from being relieved of disgraceful tyrants, and of the patients enjoying more pleasure in these establishments than they do at home. For in such cases as that of Captain Sponge,—this gentleman being confined almost exclusively to wine by Mrs. Sponge's influence over him, the better to keep the consummation of his disease to as late a time in the day as can be effected, and wine being treble the expense of gin, whis-

key, or rum for the purpose of meeting such patients' enjoyment,—in this gentleman's case, whose income is very little besides his half-pay, the using of wine instead of ardent liquors is an immense additional tax on the general supplies of his family. The patients too, thus getting drunk early in the day by being allowed effective means for the purpose, would be afforded proportionate additional pleasure; and from their being in an asylum, their families would be relieved from the sickening sensation of witnessing each filthy debauch.

It may be contended by some that drunken debauchees may be reclaimed. I say to such, point out a single case of an established drunkard being reclaimed by any means that have been practised on him or her, short of actual compulsion,—which lasts no longer than it is in full force. No threats of any degree of punishment,—no arguments, which even throw



the most decided conviction on the mind of the patient, and draw the fullest acknowledgements of their correctness from his or her lips, succeed. No pledges of oath or honour serve. The weak creatures understand, as well as other persons do, the destructiveness of their disease to pecuniary circumstances, to bodily health, to life, and to every particle of respectability; therefore no doubt exists on my mind that, in their lucid intervals, they struggle against it as strongly as their weak humanity will admit; but they find the destroyer, after being once in full possession of their faculties, too powerful for them,—and they yield. Therefore being reduced to this state, they are really objects of commiseration,—of charity, and should be treated as such by being sent into asylums.

My master returning from a morning's call at Captain Sponge's, and finding that his purse required replenishing, furnished me with a

check on his banker to obtain a supply. Going down Stone-street I saw a procession of fire companies parading up; and not having understood that it was objectionable in a free state for a black man to look on the parading of white men, I stopped, as I saw many other persons do, to look on them as they passed. But at the time of stopping it did not occur to me, as it did afterwards, that none of those who had stopped were black people; and I, the better to be out of the way, stopped at a corner of Puddle-lane, so as to be sure of not incommoding any passenger on the pavement, for being a stranger in the town I was more particularly cautious against giving offence.

The leading engine passed me, and I had perceived several of the company attached to it in passing look in the direction I was standing with apparent surprise, and one I heard laughingly say, "He must be a new one."

Just as the leading dragmen of the second engine were opposite to me, I heard a stone whiz near my head down the lane; I looked about in some surprise, but did not perceive from what hand it came, nor could I imagine for what purpose it had been thrown, when an Irishwoman, as appeared by her accent, who was standing some little distance from me in a dirty dress and tattered stockings, said, "You better get away 'bout your business, you black devil you, if you don't want your brains lickt out." I clearly heard but did not understand that she was addressing me till she added, "What right has niggers to be stopint to look at gentles marchint, I say, my darlint?" when I found out my error: but before I had time to step off the place where I was standing two more stones passed me, one on either side, almost in the same instant; and one of them, which came low, struck into some soft mud in

the middle of the entrance of the lane, and spattered some of it into the face of a little boy who was stopping at the opposite corner.

I quickly renewed my walk, going down the street; but the child being alarmed by the mud, squalled out, and continued crying till his mother, who lived in the lane, came out and said, "Who 's 'most kilt my child?" when a man who was on the opposite side of the street exclaimed, in Lancashire dialect, "That negro now going down the street is the cause of the child being spattered with mud, and he deserves to be hustled for it; but if your child had been struck by the stone I would have been one of the first to hoist him up that liberty pole, (pointing to one that was hard by,) with a greased cord round his neck, a black varmint as he is!"

Before this speech was well finished I found myself surrounded by six or eight, who were

quickly swelled up to dozens. One of them snatched off my hat, and saying, "Larn to be humble when afore your betters!" threw it on the pavement and stamped upon it. Another pulled my watch out of my fob, and gave the guard a jerk that snapped it asunder behind my neck, saying, "What use have niggers for watches?" He then gave it a whirl round his head by the broken guard, and brought it smash against the wall of the building we were opposite, which produced a scramble by the boys and some men for the broken pieces, and a roar of laughter from the rest of the mob. At this time the mother of the child who had been spattered with mud made her way through the crowd to those who had me in custody, and said, "I guess Jonathan isn't hurt not at all; he's wipt his face on my apern and gone after the ingins. Let the nigger go now with what you've done to him! But if these dog-fel-

lows ar'n't kept down they'll take all 'Merica for themselves. To think of the impudence of that black spawn stoppin to look at marchint, just as if he was a humin people with us!"

This kind intercession from the Yankee ma-tron relieved me from all further abuse of my attire, and occasioned the mob to quit me and my trampled hat; which I repossessed myself of, put in the best condition I then could, and proceeded to execute my master's mission; followed for some distance by the boys, hooting after me, "What o'clock is it, negro?"—"You seem to have been in battle, blackey, by the appearance of your headpiece!" and the like.

Returned to my master, I informed him of the usage I had experienced in Stone-street, and inquired of him if he understood that legal redress was obtainable for the injuries I had received.

He said, "You must expect no more redress for grievances from a white man, you being a black one, through the juries in the free state of New York, and where the laws literally know no distinction of men as to bond and free and no distinction of colour, than you could have obtained in Virginia or Louisiana, where you were not allowed even to prefer a complaint in their courts of law, you being a slave when in those states. An instance I can give will convince you of the truth of my opinion. Some mornings back, going into the coffee-room here to look at the news of the day, I fell on an article reporting the cause of an action instituted at the complaint of a black man against the sheriff of his county, for refusing to admit his, the black man's, vote in an election of representatives, although the black man was a native, and enjoyed every other qualification that the written law re-

quired. The sheriff's plea for refusing this man's vote was, that for a black man to so come forward was contrary to the usages of the state. And this was the fact, as all black men knew that their lives would be jeopardised by white mobs if they approached a balloting-box. But the sheriff being no idiot, knew that this terror maintained by the mobs,—composed to a great extent of newly-emigrated Irish and other white foreigners,—over native-born, fully qualified citizens did not alter the law or the cause, although it had subdued justice; he was therefore a traitor to all principle for the sake of pleasing the majority of electors, so as to secure being continued in office at the next election. The black man, enjoying unquestionable legal right to vote, being supported by a certain number of spirited impartial gentlemen, took a safe opportunity and tendered his vote. It being refused, and his supporters



continuing to back him, he sued the sheriff for damages in being disfranchised in his native place, after possessing every qualification that the law required.

“The next court-term coming round, and the turn of this black man’s action arriving, it was given to the jury. And here comes an indelible stain on our species,—the greatest humiliation of my pride in being a human being that I ever experienced. The laws of the state do not admit of juries being packed; the conduct of the judge in the court proves that this was not packed. These jurymen, (not like the sheriff, who was tempted to a violation of oath, honour, and every other feeling of manly principle for the sake of being selected to place,) whose only motive for acting as they did must have been that they might be able to continue looking down on black men as their inferiors in the enjoyment of legal rights,—knowing

them, and all other men, as well as the beasts of their forests, not to be their inferiors in principle,—heard the action, retired, and after a time returned into court and declared through their foreman that they could not come to a decision on it!! This declaration to an ordinary judge would have been a quasher; but in this case re-election to place,—which this jury and their partisans would have to decide,—was thrown out of view, and honourable principle dictated the reply: that the law on the cause was too explicit to admit of a doubt; that no doubt on the law had been attempted to be shown; and therefore he would never admit their inability to come to a decision on the action they had in hand\*.

“The jury retired again and remained shut

\* The author begs leave to observe, that the black man's cause, the conduct of the judge who presided over the trial, and of the jury who tried it, are facts, which came to his

up that night, but made an attempt on the constancy of the judge next morning, by repeating through their foreman what they had previously declared and the judge rejected. But this second Sir Matthew Hale was not to be shaken from his integrity, and they were again returned to their confinement; which quickly brought them to an adoption of the law on the cause by admitting the bill to be true. And the jury having to assess the damages sued for, as well as to decide on the validity of the ac-

knowledge early in the year 1837 through the public journals of the day.

It is particularly painful to him that he cannot now recollect, nor on this side of the Atlantic obtain information of, the name of the magnanimous judge who presided on the occasion, as he should feel great pride in honouring this work with recording his name. Nor does he recollect the name of the county in the State of New York that the action was tried in, otherwise he would give it, that its infamy in harbouring such shockingly vile traitors to justice and their laws as the sheriff and jury were, also might be published so far as he is capable of effecting.

tion, awarded,—what?—*one cent*, or one half-penny sterling!—the lowest denomination in American accounts, to a man for being venally prohibited from giving his vote, that might have decided the election of a representative for the county!

“Having read the article to myself, I then read it to an individual in the room, whom I was acquainted with, in order to hear his sentiments on it. He was an Irishman by birth, but then a naturalized citizen of the state, and an adopter of low Yankeeisms generally. On concluding and looking to him inquiringly, he said in a snuffling tone, ‘I guess as how the judge need not trouble himself about the next election for his place. He’ll send no more juries back after that for to give damages out of us to negroes.’”

This information of my master’s decided me

to submit to circumstances, however galling to my feelings; that is, I did not attempt to retaliate, simply because I saw no chance of succeeding. But the injuries are treasured up in my mind, and if ever I recognise any one or other number of the individuals who were prominent in insulting me in Stone-street on any ground that virtually affords equal rights to all colours, that is, in England, France, or any other country where the black man is not a slave to the white, I'll devote all in me that is necessary to full retaliation. And if I should meet them in Tunis, Algiers, or any other country where the white man has been a slave to the black, which would give me the same advantages over them that they enjoyed over me in America, I will go no further than fully fair retaliation, and not act against even my most insulting enemies in the

unprincipled manner that the mobbing whites in the latter country do towards the blacks in even the free states. This conduct I can account for no otherwise than in dissatisfaction in the whites at not being able to enforce labour from the blacks now, as they lately could do before slavery was abolished; and knowing no other means of venting their spleen, they attack, insult, maim, and even sometimes kill black men, simply because they are black, and too weak to defend themselves physically, and the mobs too vicious to allow them justice legally.

It is not because the black man is idle and a burthen on them for maintenance: the contrary is the fact; the blacks are the most laborious portion of their communities, through which they have less temptations, and are less addicted to villainy than the whites; and this

the police reports of New York, Philadelphia, &c. most fully prove.

It cannot be that because the black man is of African origin they conceive him entitled to be trampled on as an inferior being, for they, the whites, worship Moses as a legislator, who was an African. They venerate Hannibal as the greatest of ancient warriors, who was an African. They look with profound admiration to the mouldering remains of Memphis, which remains were sufficient to bring General Bonaparte's army, in the invasion of Egypt, on their coming up to them unawares, to a halt of wrapt surprise at the magnificence they beheld, not only unequalled in Europe, but compared with which the pride of Europe, Athenian and Roman remains, sunk into littleness. This Memphis is African; and a yet greater than Memphis,—Thebes,—is African.

And what are the Great Pyramids, the greatest wonders of human execution in the known world? African.

And whence were derived the Grecian arts and sciences, that haughty Rome, in the zenith of her power, did not disdain to borrow? From Egypt, an African country.

Can any man therefore of sense one degree advanced beyond the brute, and of principle a shade superior to the sheriff and jury described in this work, go to set up claims of superiority in America for those of European over those of African descent, on account of the quarter of the globe that their fathers were born in?

Some time after the Stone-street occurrence, my master received a second letter from his sister, running thus :

“ Dear Brother,

“ What an affair you have been engaged in,



or rather a pitched battle! We are acquainted with all about it, by a letter from your Rosetta and my sister's friend in New Orleans, whom she, my sister, holds in high estimation; that is, she ever held Mrs. Ledger in high estimation, but now that that lady has spoken of you as a great hero, a gentleman of the most polished politeness, and a man of the highest honourable principles, she, my sister, has discovered new virtues in her; but clear discernment and strict candour are what my sister most praises her for.

“ Receiving Mrs. Ledger's letter in my presence only, she immediately opened it and commenced reading out, so that I might come to a knowledge of its contents as fast as she did.

“ The letter first described the quarrel, fall, and death of Mr. Ledger, which brought many a tear rolling down the kind-hearted girl's

cheeks, whilst she slowly read the letter in a low voice.

“ It then went on to describe your conduct on the occasion, saying that you, having procured a supporter for Mr. Ledger’s head, caught up his pistol, and darted after the murderous O’Trigger: when the girl sprang out of her chair, and appeared as if ready to rush out of the window; but she became calm as it proceeded with your pursuit of O’Trigger, and your overtaking and hailing him. On his being represented to face about, and you preparing for action, she brought her arm that was not engaged with the letter across her breast, and seizing a fold of her gown nearly under the other arm, proceeded in a firm-toned and audible voice till it described the failing of the powder in your pistol; when dash went the letter on the carpet, and rent went the fold of her gown that she had seized. I then stepped

up to her and said, 'Be composed, my dear girl, and do not suffer your feelings to overcome your reason; your friend's letter as it proceeds may improve my brother's circumstances; do compose your feelings and read on.'

"She replied, 'I beg your pardon, sister, I have given in too much to Mrs. Ledger's graphic description of my husband's rencounter with the murderer of her husband; I will be composed and read.'

"At the same moment she stooped and regained her friend's letter, took a seat, and finding out where she had read to, proceeded in reading out as before.

"Coming to the description of your servant presenting you his bowee, she exclaimed, 'Oh, enviable Jim Crow! one moment of life like that moment of yours is compensation enough for an age of woe.' Then proceeding to your striking your adversary down with Jim Crow's

weapon, she rushed on and seized me in an embrace that really alarmed me for an instant with its violence, exclaiming, 'Ah! my dear sister, you have not love enough for such a brother as yours: his devotional friendship,—his manly daring,—his gallant courage,—his personal dexterity,—have placed him in the highest order of heroes.

“ ‘ For compare his motive of action in the combat with that of the hero or general: base lucre, wealth, and gaudy tinsel honours,—of which when the prospects of obtaining fail, he immediately sheaths his sword,—are the latter's motives to action; he goes to the battle a cold-blooded, systematical slayer for hire.

“ ‘ The contrary of your brother; he entered this engagement with the lively spirit of immediate injury, received in his most sensitive feelings, those of friendship, and with ten times the personal risk that the general encounters:

your brother went in respect to friendship ; not to living friendship that might be increased by the act, but to honour the manes of a departed friend, and protect the feelings of his otherwise defenceless wife being exposed to the triumphing of her most grievous enemy.’

“ Having placed you in the first order of heroes, and then finished reading her friend’s letter, which conducts you in continued health, and your servant restored to health by the setting of his broken bone and healing of his compound wound, to New York, your Rosetta composed her mind into perfect quiet, so much so, that having seated herself in the easy chair of the room, she leaned back and fell asleep. In which state it was pleasing, it was delightful to see the placidity of her countenance, except at times being dimpled by a smile playing over it.

“ For my part, I do not like the issue of your duel with O’Trigger ; if your pistol had

not failed, but shot him, his being killed would have been all well. But for you to cut his throat with one of those West American instruments they call bowees,—which I can understand to be no better than knives,—and as a butcher would that of a pig, I don't like.

“ Might you not have knocked him down with your vile pistol that would not fire, then have disarmed him, received his submission, and granted him pardon on condition of his quitting Louisiana, so as never more to be seen by Mrs. Ledger, as it appears that the laws in those Western States do not protect the people from the insults and outrage of such rascals as O'Trigger ?

“ But perhaps your pistol would have no more succeeded in knocking him down than it did in shooting him ; and in that case, instead of his receiving your bowee, or rather your squire's, you would have received his.

“The negro youth who acted the part of your squire in this combat enjoys hardly less of Mrs. Ledger’s admiration for his devoted attachment to you, than you do for your friendship to her and to her late husband’s name. He must be a brave one; he bore himself very gallantly in supporting you. I should like to see him; perhaps I should fall in love with him. Will he come to England with you?”

“Your Rosetta begins to think she has had enough of boarding-school. Do come shortly, and relieve her from her prison. I am to be relieved next vacation.

“Your sister,

“ANN ROSE STUART.”

My master was a great admirer of the drama, and very generally attended at the Adelphi. Being fond of conversing with actors, and having an easy address, as well as an elegant

figure—which he was always careful to have as well fitted as the fashions of the day would admit,—he obtained ready admission into the society of the company attached to this theatre; and in a short time, after being introduced to several of the most respectable members of the company, one of its rules,—that none but the members of the company should be admitted into the green-room,—was waved in his favour, a privilege of which he took much pleasure in availing himself; and from his free intercourse with the company, he became very familiar with theatricals.

The season approaching to a close, and Mrs. Duncan's benefit-evening being fixed, that actress, who was intimate with him, observed that the best pieces of which she could avail herself for her benefit were so very devoid of novelty, that she really had some fear whether the evening would at all prove a benefit.



My master looked grave at the representation Mrs. Duncan had made of her gloomy prospects with regard to her benefit-evening, as he very much respected her for her chaste acting and for her ladylike behaviour in the green-room; when she, as if moved by a sudden thought, which perhaps was the case, said, "Mr. Stuart, if you will consent to my announcing you as an amateur for the principal character of my first piece, the face of my prospects would be entirely changed. Your action, when you have occasionally amused yourself here by reciting different passages, has really surprised me, when I have reflected on the circumstance of your not being practised in stage art. And your figure alone would command the admiration of all the tasteful portion of the audience, if you would but condescend to authorise my naming 'an amateur' for my Romeo. The character, I have ob-

served, is a favourite one with you, so that you would have but little trouble in perfecting yourself in it; and I should be much benefited by your condescension. In addition, I cannot help saying, as it is a circumstance much on my mind, that by your favouring me I shall experience a great relief in being rid of that gross clown Henderson, whom the manager has cast for my Romeo, and shall feel more pleasure in playing Juliet to you than to any actor or gentleman in New York."

Although my master had never conceived the idea of making a public exhibition of his theatrical abilities, this appeal to his charity and gallantry immediately decided him to become an actor for that particular evening, and he gave his consent to the announcement of an amateur Romeo, being his first appearance on this or any other stage; but whose kindness thus shown to Mrs. Duncan those skilled in

the profession of the drama looked forward to as being crowned with high *éclat*.

My master without loss of time commenced perfecting himself in his character; and I, immediately on being informed of his intention to assist Mrs. Duncan, conceived the idea of proposing to sing an original comic song, named after myself, to follow the first piece. I knew that I had a quick ear for music, and a clear sonorous voice, which occasioned me to think of thus furthering my master's patronage of his favourite actress, and I informed him of my intentions accordingly; on doing which he said, "Jim, I have no idea that you will give satisfaction, because, from your being a black man, the more elegant your appearance and the better your performance, the more displeasing will you be to the generality of an American audience,—as much so in these free States as in the slave ones you have left."

I replied that I was fully aware of the feelings of the white portion of my countrymen towards the black, and should be guided in my personal appearance, my action, and the sentiments of my verses, by what the audience before whom I was to appear would wish the character I intended representing—a black man—to be considered.

My master smiling said, “I now perceive your drift, and have no doubt you have sufficient address for effectually getting up what it appears to me you have admirably conceived. The piece that I am about to appear in is to be rehearsed tomorrow; get yourself ready and attend to rehearse your song too, that those concerned may judge of its probable effect.”

I attended the rehearsal according to my master's desire; and in order to show the full tendency of my designs, I took with me my stage dress which I had previously prepared to

appear in. It consisted of an iron roan-coloured Monmouth cap, with a hole on one side that showed some of my hair through it;— a light grey serge frock-coat, out at the elbows, and without buttons, except on the flaps of the pockets; the cape, cuffs, and mouths of the pockets being soiled with grease and soot;—a brick-coloured cloth waistcoat, with only one button, about midbreast, so as to show a coarse narrow-eyed chequered shirt, and equally coarse broad-eyed chequered handkerchief, loosely tied round the collar as a cravat;—a pair of deep blue shorts, without button or any other fastening at the knees, the fronts of the thighs greasy, as if they had been used for towels, and a hole rubbed through the middle of the greasy part of the right thigh with a bit of the shirt sticking out;—a pair of yellow stockings, secured under the shorts so that they might not fall, but hang in folds about my legs;—

a pair of thick leather shoes the colour of the waistcoat, with a hole in the left one, so situated as to allow of my great toe being protruded entirely through, showing the stocking on it, except at the end of the toe and nail, which were bare; the soles of both heels much twisted inwards; and for a tie, what is known in the Southern States as plantain-string, being the fibre of the leaf-stalk of the plantain-plant.

My master having informed Mrs. Duncan of my voluntary proposal to sing an original comic song in the character of a black man, or, as it would be termed in America, a "nigger song," she observed that the idea was novel, and might, if acted up to, possess much interest; but she was afraid I was too good-looking, and had too much the appearance of a gentleman to please the generality of her country-folk in that character.

Those, she said, who might properly be

called the aristocracy, generally entertained no jealousy against the black man's advancement in the scale of society ; but their numbers were very small, and she was afraid that his servant's supporters would be confined to them.

My master then informed her of my being in attendance for a rehearsal, so that she might be able to judge of the likelihood of my giving satisfaction ; and that I should then be governed entirely by her decision, having no other object in coming forward than the promotion of her interests.

She bowed, saying that my offer was very kind, and most liberally made.

Mrs. Duncan then informed the manager of my proffer, and the opportunity I was about to afford her of deciding whether it would be advisable to accept it or not.

The manager was of rather a morose character, and tartly replied, " If you wanted a

black man to be in your evening's entertainments, why not have selected Othello for your principal piece?"

Mrs. Duncan said, "I do not want a black man to appear in my playbill because he is black, but I wish to offer the most attractive entertainments I can procure; and I will, if I am not absolutely prevented, see and hear a rehearsal of what I am sure has been proposed to me in the kindest feeling. With regard to the 'Moor of Venice,' it having invariably failed when brought forward on any stage in the United States, I cannot imagine it to be friendly of you to blame me for not having chosen it for my benefit."

The manager replied, "I do not blame you for not having chosen the 'Moor of Venice'; I only wished to call your attention to the fate of one black man whenever produced on our stage, so as to enable you the better to judge



of what is to be expected from the introduction of another."

My master said, "I consider the cases of Othello and the proposed character, Jim Crow, as likely to be diametrically opposite in their effects on the feelings of the people of these States. Othello is a gentleman and an able warrior, possessing qualities hateful to the common people here when in a black man; but Jim Crow proposes to be a 'nigger,' a semi-savage man."

The manager replied, "Well, after Jim Crow has rehearsed his song, I will advise according to the best of my judgment, and leave you" (addressing Mrs. Duncan) "to decide."

My master had no conception of my having provided a dress, much less that I had taken it to the theatre to rehearse in; and the piece of 'Romeo and Juliet' being nearly finished, I went into the robing-room, where I had deposited my dress, and attired myself in it. Just

before I was ready,—all the company and my master having seated themselves in the boxes to judge of my novel production,—Comus, an attendant at the theatre, came to summon me to the stage; who, when he saw my changed dress, being under no restraint from the presence of any of his superiors, immediately broke out into a horselaugh, which when he could sufficiently restrain, he said, “Oh, my! you are the truest-looking nigger now I ’ve everseen.”

Following him to the stage I made my *début*. The whole company sat in silent admiration at my metamorphosis. My master’s face was hidden by his handkerchief, lest, I suppose, his laughter should in any wise derange my plans: the others’ silence proceeded from fixed pleasurable wonder at my so well portraying what they considered was my proper appearance, I being a black man.

When I stuck my left-hand thumb into the arm-hole of my waistcoat on the same side,—moved forward in a sneaking gait, with my right hand held up and fingers spread out,—my knees bent to an angle of fifteen degrees,—and began, “From old Virginny I come,” there was a general slight moving of bodies on their seats; but when I finished the first verse with a jump, and brought myself into an attitude somewhat like a frog on one foot, by giving the knee that I rested on an angle of about forty degrees, the transport of pleasure was uncontrollable, and the whole audience of judges gave a hearty clap, my master joining in it most loudly,—he in admiration of my talent in suiting the vulgar taste, the others at the rich justice I had done to what they thought a black man ought to be.

The following announcement was therefore

added to the bill of entertainments for Mrs. Duncan's benefit:

**“ A PERFECT NOVELTY !**

“ Immediately following the principal piece a *real* black man will be brought forward, who will sing a true nigger song, of his own composition, entitled, after his own name, JIM CROW. Whatever opinion may be conceived of this song as a lively representation of the true nigger, and of the masterly manner in which it will be delivered, it must fall far short of what will be found to be realized by those who may honour the theatre with their presence at its performance.”

The appointed evening of representation arrived, when my master, not being actuated by the policy that induced me to disfigure myself, appeared very differently habited. He wore a pair of white silk-web tights, fitting so closely

as to show his rounded thighs, small knee-joints, muscular calves, well-turned ancles, and arched insteps to high advantage; a pair of low black satin pumps, which being spangled reduced his naturally narrow feet and lark-heels to apparently extraordinary smallness; a sea-green satin tight-fitting waistcoat, with sleeves, simply edged with gold embroidery, and buttoned with small flat buttons of the same metal; white kid gloves; a cambric shirt, with deep collar, open and thrown back, exposing a neck of extreme whiteness and perfect contour; a black sarsenet short robe, embroidered round with gold and lined with pink gauze, thrown back so as fully to show the shape of his body,—and the colours all contrasted to advantage.

On presenting himself to the house, which proved to be a very full one,—a report having gone abroad that the amateur announced for

the character of Romeo was the foreign gentleman that had been engaged in a duel with bowee knives with the notorious O'Trigger, who had killed his seventh man, and that he, the amateur, had dispatched that monster of blood after his own fashion of shedding it,—a large proportion of the audience expected to see some bearish, woodman-looking, Gorgon-eyed giant appear; conceive therefore their astonishment, their agreeable surprise at perceiving, instead of what they had conjured up in their imaginations, a youthful individual of mild and pleasing aspect, and of the most gentlemanly bearing! The greeting which followed was most cheering, and particularly in the boxes.

One gentleman observed to a lady seated by him, "Oh! it's all fudge about that gingerbread chap there having faced in battle, much less slain, the formidable O'Trigger: I know

something myself of those West-country duellists.”

*Lady.*—“ It is really shocking to reflect on the circumstance of so elegant a creature having been exposed to the weapons of that monster O’Trigger; but if I may judge from the beautiful proportions of his limbs, he has strength enough,—and from the manly, although mild cast of his countenance, bravery enough,—to both meet and slay any bully of the Eastern or Western States either that should dare him to the undertaking. And so far from his deserving to be called a gingerbread stripling, I should rather say he is a Hercules cast in the mould of an Adonis.”

*Gentleman.*—“ He’s a pretty pigmy of a Hercules to be sure !”

*Lady.*—“ Detraction is never becoming, and it is particularly improper from you, being a Yankee, towards the amateur, who is reported

to be a foreigner. It really was an overstrained comparison I made on the gentleman (I wish I knew his name), as he is no giant; but it now strikes me he bears a much greater resemblance to the Admirable Crichton."

My master supported his character with great ease to himself, never once requiring assistance from the prompter; and by his superior personal appearance, graceful gait, good action, and distinct articulation, though he had not a very sonorous voice, brought forth abundant applause, principally from the boxes.

At length came forth your humble servant. My personal appearance at first made no sensible impression. I advanced as in the rehearsal, raising my right hand up to the level of my ear, turning the palm forward, and spreading the fingers of it out as if to be counted, and then gave my



*First Verse.*

From Old Virginny I come  
Some time ago,  
Where I first larn to wheel about,  
And jump Jim Crow.  
Wheel a-bout, and turn a-bout,  
And do jis so ;  
Ebery time I wheel about  
I jumps Jim Crow.

And suiting the action to the words of the verse, my ample frock-coat opened and spread out in the wheelings that I made; and after my jumps I assumed the proper frog or one-foot attitude, and when in this posture threw into my countenance as much of an appearance of natural imbecility of mind as I could. The effect was thundering applause, except from a few in the boxes, particularly a knot of gentlemen in the south stage-box, whom my master had joined, and who were almost as noisy in their laughter at my absurdities, or

rather mockeries of them, as the audience generally, who were seriously pleased, were in their plaudits.

The conduct of these gentlemen in the stage-box, (who were well acquainted with me,) and particularly of my master,—whose eye I happened to catch whilst in his highest glee at my twitching up my lip on one side like a monkey whilst in my frog or one-foot attitude,—nearly ruined my reputation with the general audience; for my friends' laughter at my metamorphosis from my real character, almost compelled me to laugh at myself, and to correct this danger in there mainder of my song I avoided looking directly at them.

*Second Verse.*

Used to take mine fiddle,  
Some morns, some ar-ter-noons;  
And tune de old buzzer,  
And den dance de raccoon.

Wheel a-bout, and turn a-bout,  
And do jis so ;  
Ebery time I wheel about  
I jumps Jim Crow.

*Third Verse.*

I whip my weight in wild cat,  
I kill ten alligators,  
Can ride 'pon de rattle-snake,  
Or eat a pound of taters.  
Wheel a-bout, and turn a-bout,  
And do jis so ;  
Ebery time I wheel about  
I jumps Jim Crow.

*Fourth Verse.*

I 'm tired of being a single man,  
I 'm 'termin'd a wife to get ;  
For wat I tinks de happiness,  
Is wid a wife to fret.  
Wheel a-bout, and turn a-bout,  
And do jis so ;  
Ebery time I wheel about  
I jumps Jim Crow.

*Fifth Verse.*

I 'm for union to a lassy,  
And 't is a stubborn fact,

But if I 'm married and don't like it  
 I 'll nullify de act.  
 Wheel a-bout, and turn a-bout,  
 And do jis so ;  
 Ebery time I wheel about  
 I jumps Jim Crow.

*Sixth Verse.*

I 'm so glad dat I 'm a nigger,  
 And don't you wish so too ?  
 For den you 'd gain de plaudits  
 In jumping like Jim Crow.  
 Wheel a-bout, and turn a-bout,  
 And do jis so ;  
 Ebery time I wheel about  
 I jumps Jim Crow.

Having finished my song I made my bow, when an uproarious clapping and encoring immediately commenced ; I repeated it, and the clapping was again equally great, with some attempts in the gallery for another repetition ; but they were put down by a loud cry of " Shame ! " chiefly in the pit.

The next day my master informed me that he had been applied to by the manager to know if he would allow me to give my song on his benefit-evening; and that he had informed him he would no more attempt to control my wishes in a case of that kind, than he would attempt to control the wishes of the President of the States about his going to a dinner party.

Shortly after, the manager made application direct to me, which I declined with as much civility as I could.

Since my original song a great many spurious verses have been palmed upon the public by various writers; and as many of these additional verses contain indecent allusions, and others personal abuse of private character, I beg leave to disclaim the authorship of any verses except the six that I sang originally, and which I have never since repeated in public.

Some time after this theatrical freak, my master received a third letter from his sister, the contents of which were as follow :

“ Dear Brother,

“ In my last to you I congratulated myself on the pleasing prospect I enjoyed of being relieved from the trammels of boarding-school the next vacation. The happy time arrived, and I was free,—I say *was*, for really I cannot say that I now *am* free, although I have no opinion that any mortal on earth conceives that he or she has the right to enslave me, or even the wish to exercise such right. Yet here I am, amid friends who make my happiness their only consideration, rendered, I’ll not say miserable, but certainly not happy, by their endeavours to please me.

“ I recently attended the Old-town races with uncle’s family ; and uncle having entered his

three-year colt Cimon for the two hundred pounds purse, it occasioned me to feel great interest about seeing that race, as Cimon was quite a favourite of mine, and I was sure that he entertained a grateful love for me. This he verified on the course, to the admiration of all who beheld our meeting there, although he had not seen me for eight weeks that he had been away from the Hall under charge of his trainer.

“All that I had done for him, poor fellow, was, every time that I walked out when at home, to go furnished with a crust of bread, take his paddock in my way, and give it to him through the gate. I commenced doing this on account of his having been weaned from his dam when very young. But after a short time, the joy he showed at my approach gave me so much pleasure, that I used to long for vacation to come, as much for the sake of seeing Cimon and giving him his occasional

crust as for anything else. I had only to call him by his name, the first time that I went to his paddock after returning from school, and he would come cantering and neighing up to me at the gate, and there stop, pressing his head against one of my shoulders, or slightly rubbing it against me, so long as I chose to remain patting him or smoothing down his coat.

“ He performed his race to high admiration ; yet his master lost the purse, from his jockey having to carry three pounds weight, which was in a belt of shot buckled round his waist, and which, from the tongue of the buckle being too short and slipping inside, got loose when within twenty yards of the distance-pole and fell to the ground, Cimon at the time leading the field full three lengths ahead of the second horse. And although his rider, from the moment of the accident, exerted all his strength to stop him, he, excited by the near



approach of the second horse, would not give in, and retained his place home. But he was declared distanced, and not allowed to start again.

“ Cimon was unsaddled and was being clothed when uncle drew up opposite to him. Immediately after stopping, a gentleman rode up to our chariot and gave uncle joy of so excellent a colt as he had produced ; to which, after thanking him, uncle ludicrously added, ‘ But he can ’t win the purse.’

“ This reproach on my favourite I could not allow to pass uncorrected, and therefore I said, ‘ It is not his fault, poor fellow, that he did not win it.’

“ Uncle being on the driving-box, I had to make the exculpatory remark rather loud that he might hear it, and the exclamation ‘ Poor fellow !’ having been frequently made use of by me in fondling Cimon in his paddock,

the well-known sounds occasioned my being immediately recognised by him. He raised his head from the slouched position in which he was holding it, for greater ease in breathing after his gallop, and directing his looks to where he had heard my voice, began pawing the earth, to show his impatience at being restrained by his groom from approaching me.

“At sight of this I instinctively exclaimed, ‘Let me out!’ The footman in waiting instantly opened the carriage door, dropped the steps, and I walked out, which when Cimon observed he made a low neighing; and I ran up in front of his head, put up a hand on either side, and stroked it down. He, as if in return for this, put out his nose, and touched my chin with his upper lip. I then went to his off shoulder and patted his neck; he turned his head and rubbed my right shoulder.

“These strong feelings of instinct being seen

by many, a crowd began to gather round us, which occasioned uncle to call me by name, and beckon me back to the chariot; and after that he motioned to the groom who was in charge of Cimon to move off with him.

“The evening arrived, and consequent ball. A few minutes after I entered, Mr. Wallace, the member, our steward, introduced Mr. Chicken, who engaged me for the first dance. This gentleman was the same who rode up to our carriage and congratulated uncle on the goodness of the colt he had produced. He is one of our country gentlemen, and two years ago came into possession of a landed estate of six hundred a year by the will of his father, who died possessed also of fifteen hundred a year in the funds. The latter sum however he distributed among the other members of his family.

“This gentleman is of good personal appear-

ance and entertaining conversation, being quite a wit, and of manners evidently formed by good society. He is represented to be of very domesticated habits, farms his estate himself, does not follow the hounds in the chase, nor the pointer with a gun, but is fond of coursing. He is strictly sober, justly despises tobacco, and lives so temperately as to appropriate, with perfect convenience to his own accommodation, one hundred and fifty pounds a year in the maintenance of his poorer relatives.

“ He called at the Hall the second day after the races, was graciously received by uncle, and according to our country hospitality invited to remain to dinner, which invitation he made no hesitation in accepting. And after his horse was ordered out in the evening,—for he came on horseback, attended by a mounted groom,—he took my uncle into the drawing-

room, and asked his leave to propose himself in marriage to me.

“To which proposal uncle gave his entire consent.

“The gentleman has since then addressed me in form; and although I am not at all in love with him, or any one else, so much had previously been said to me in commendation of entering into marriage with him,—there being not one dissentient voice, nor one point of objection to be found in his composition by any of my friends here, who think that so eligible an offer is quite beyond what I could reasonably expect at any future time,—that I did not feel myself justified in directly refusing him.

“I required a few weeks, to better consider his proposal; not, as I told him, that any probability existed of my deciding in preference for any one else, but that my decision would

be between accepting his proposal or living in celibacy.

“ He seemed well pleased with my reply, which being known in our family, I have been beset with reasons for, and entreaties to, accepting of the gentleman the next time that he calls on me, as earnestly as if my existence depended on the measure, which has decided me to put it on the issue of my sister’s opinion of what I ought to do, after I have explained all that I know in the case, both of the gentleman and of my own feelings.

“ Not that I know, or have even the slightest cause for suspicion of the rectitude of uncle’s conduct in this or any other case, or indeed of any member of his family, but this Yankee girl has so far captivated my respect, by her firm decisiveness of character, that I feel a vacuum in my judgment without having her opinion.

“ This day week I intend to go in the coach for her, it being the Michaelmas-term breaking-up day of her school.

“ I spoke of giving some particulars of Mr. Chicken. Of all that I have said of him, nothing has been out of his favour, and I know of nothing that is directly so; yet my suspicions have been unfavourably raised by an incident quite trivial in itself.

“ The first day of his calling here, immediately after his having engaged to stay dinner, he proposed a walk to Cimon’s paddock to see him. Issuing from the house, he offered me his arm, which I accepted; and we led the way slowly, as uncle on coming out said he would go and drop Bounder’s collar that the poor fellow might indulge in a run whilst we walked.

“ We had cleared the gate, and got a little way into the avenue, when the fine old dog came bounding by, on Mr. Chicken’s side of

the walk, but not observed by either of us till he got opposite, when he made one of his deep-toned hoarse barks in compliment to me, of whom he is very fond, and proceeded onward in his exercise.

“ Mr. Chicken was so much alarmed by this supposed threat of danger to his person, that he quitted my left side and sprang to the other, appearing impelled by his feelings to take shelter behind me: but quickly finding out his error, by Bounder having passed on, he resumed his place, yet I could perceive the muscles of his arm continue to shake for some time after. This occurrence proves, I imagine, that he labours under an unfortunate deficiency of nerve, which may not be of much consequence as regards attacks from dogs or the like, because these rarely happen; but I conceive it to be of the most serious consequence in the every-day, indeed every-hour occurrences of domestic life.



“ For is it to be expected that the nerveless man will firmly maintain truth? No; if he perceive danger to his person, to his pecuniary circumstances, or to anything else that he values as an upholder of his life or promoter of his respectability, although he knows that lying is the highest degree of infamy, yet in the vain hope of its passing undetected, danger will tempt him to prevaricate. And if this symptom in Mr. Chicken should be verified by facts, what distress of feeling must he impose on a sensitive wife in company by necessitating her to hear him shrink from what she through her close acquaintance with him would feel that he knew to be truth!

“ If he is a coward, I would rather become a Romish Christian and take the veil than be married to him.

“ O happy Rosetta! your husband, as you warm-heartedly call him, your husband that is to be, you know that in the forest he dared to

attempt taming the semi-savages by his firmness, you know that in the city he has been too brave not to despise sheltering his life behind a lie, much less not to despise acquiring momentary fame by one!

“Your sister,

“ANN ROSE STUART.”

My master, intending shortly to return to England, determined on taking advantage of his situation to visit the great Cataract, and took passage in the Fulton for Albany.

Were I to dilate on the picturesque scenery of the country bordering the noble Hudson, of which I took notes in travelling up that river, it would fill a volume; but as my object is to keep my history as much contracted as the circumstances connected with my life will admit, I must omit them altogether.

We travelled by stage-coach to Rome, the

rough state of the roads admitting the average pace of no more than four miles an hour, and occasioning most dreadful jolting. At Rome my master as a relief took to the Erie Canal, but the musquitos on the water were more objectionable than the rough roads had been; nevertheless, as the water afforded more despatch, my master kept to it. Coming to the Fork, we went into Riga, and remained there for a day to look about the country a little, and then took the north line.

Arriving at the Niagara rather late in the evening, my master suspended all inspection of the falls and rapids till the next morning, when we visited the Table Rock, and had a view of both the indescribable cataracts at once. We then descended the spiral stairs and took a view from below, which produced the most overwhelming sensations; after which we passed behind the greatest of the great, the Horse-

shoe Fall, getting a thorough wetting by the spray of its waters.

Having returned to the American side of the river, we saw some company cross it, about three hundred yards below the falls, and ascend a steep staircase towards us, for the purpose of going over to Goat Island. We fell in with them, and crossed over on a rough bridge to the island, where we had a full view of the tremendous rapids. But my thoughts whilst there were most engaged about the intrepid Sam Patch's leap from the island,—ideas brought about by the sacrifice he made of his life in the Genesee fall near Rochester, after being convinced of his inability to extricate himself from the river, rather than shrink from his undertaking; and also his humanity, the natural consequence of his bravery, shown towards his tame bear, which, after finding that the difficulties of this leap were insurmountably great, he would

not allow to accompany him, as the attached animal had done in his master's leap from Goat Island and several other places.

My mind figured out the stage that had been erected on the spot where I stood for Sam to leap from, so as to enable him to clear the projecting rocks in the cliff he was to pass over. Then a ferryman ascending to the stage, after the company who were to witness the feat had assembled; and seeing this hardy waterman shrink from standing erect on it, although he had taken hold of the flag-staff attached to one of its corners, owing to the morning being very windy, and quickly seat himself, and then crawl down the ladder by which he had ascended.

Then Sam making his appearance on the island, mounting to the stage, disdainingly to touch the flag-staff, whilst he stood to receive the greetings of the company below; and that

being over, take off his cap, give it a twirl over his head, toss it into the flood before him, and leap after it into the mighty cataract of waters.

Then his faithful bear, not being able to ascend the ladder after his master, standing on the edge of the cliff; but seeing his master's leap, to the surprise of all who beheld him, instantly leaping too.

Then looking below, I pictured to my mind the bear, after about twenty seconds, rising to the surface, not however approaching the shore to escape, but looking for about ten seconds in all directions around him for his friend;—then hearing among the spectators the exclamations, “Poor fellow!” “He'll never rise!” and similar expressions;—and at the expiration of ten seconds more, seeing the head of the supposed lost man emerge triumphantly above the waters, his faithful companion approach him, and the two swimming side by side to the cheering spectators. But certainly they were

hard-hearted creatures who could encourage such an unprofitable risk of life, simply that they might enjoy the sight of its dangers, and not prefer to pay the man to omit the risk he had proposed to incur, rather than pay him to endanger a life that was evidently capable of great and valuable undertakings should opportunities offer.

Returned to New York, my master found the following letter in the post-office :

“ Dear Brother,

“ The die is cast. I have accepted Mr. Chicken’s proposals of marriage. I hope and trust he will look with a lenient eye on my defects. If I discover any in him, I will throw them into shade by the best powers of which I am capable.

“ My sister’s reply to the full statement of my case was that she must give her opinion second-handed. She must, she said, borrow

from others who better understood the world and its numerous attractions than she did; and those whose opinion she most respected, except yours and that of her countrywoman Mrs. Ledger, had already decided for my acceptance of Mr. Chicken's proposals.

“ The circumstance of the fright from Bounder she did not conceive to be conclusive of constitutional cowardice. She had discovered that it was quite a fashion for ladies to be cowards, but she did not understand that gentlemen prided themselves in this fashion too, yet having associated with so very few, she could not but from report say that it was not a fashion among them generally; for if it were commendable among ladies, who had much more that required guarding than the other sex, it certainly might be commendable in gentlemen.

“ She could not conceive why ladies affected



cowardice; unless it was to render themselves attractive to cowardly men for wives, supposing such men to be afraid of spirited women. And these affected cowards among ladies conceive that they stand a much better chance for husbands among cowards than among the opposite characters, knowing as they do from history,—and no doubt from personal observation too by those who have had better opportunities of seeing the world than herself, and are capable of discernment,—that the latter are the exceptions. But from analogy she should say, that those gentlemen who wished to exercise the *unjust* legal authority that the laws of this country, and her own too, give them over their wives, would do well to avoid taking cowardly ladies to wife, as it is a well-established fact that the bravest soldiers are the most easily disciplined.

“And as a caution to brave men against

cowardly women, and brave women against cowardly men, she should say it was not bravery to be regardless of the danger of close communion with cowards, but downright desperadoism. For of whom consists the entire mass of assassins? Cowards, as all the world knows. And who is the more dangerous character of secret traducer? The coward.

“It appeared to her a chief objection to an actually cowardly wife, that she required to be kept under continual guard, if her husband respected her personal chastity. For are not the greater portion of the world ready to take advantage of cowardice in the abuse of its victims? We see, she observed, that fact occurring in every branch of the animal creation that falls under our observation: and the human coward, as well as the cowards among other animals, submits to any indignity that may be offered, to any abuse from the brutal sensualist,

rather than run the risk of sustaining bodily pain by resistance.

“She looked on her husband to be as pure in principle as human nature was capable of, and regarded his bravery as the foundation of all his other virtues; and she hoped it was in conformity with fashion that my future husband had so suddenly started when he thought danger approaching, and that it was not the consequence of constitutional or contracted cowardice.

“Do return soon, for my longings to see you are great. What then must be those of the very dear Rosetta! to which mine can admit of no comparison if she is candid; and if she is not candid, then I say—All the world’s a cheat.

“Your sister,

“ANN ROSE STUART.”

My master now commenced preparing with

all convenient expedition so as to be ready for the next packet to Liverpool, which we accordingly embarked in on the day appointed for sailing, after taking leave of the few associates that either of us had.

The good ship performed her voyage in nineteen days, and I arrived in a country where no debasement exists on account of the complexion of the skin.

My master immediately after reaching Liverpool wrote to Sir Benjamin, informing the baronet of his arrival, and requesting him to take home Rosetta from school, consult with her, and fix a day for their nuptials; desiring that it might be at such time as would admit of his being able to reach the Hall by the day appointed, after being informed of it where he was, as it was his intention to remain there till the arrangements for his marriage were completed.

The feeling, kind-hearted Sir Benjamin lost no time in taking home his charge, for whom he had contracted a fatherly affection, and a degree of respect that he had never before entertained for a girl of her age. He therefore only reckoned up the time that was requisite for his answer to reach Liverpool, and the time necessary for ensuring my master's reaching the Hall after receiving the answer, and fixed the day after that for the wedding, having no difficulty in prevailing on Rosetta to give her consent to the haste. He then invited Mr. and Mrs. Chicken to meet their brother and attend the ceremony.

My master, after receiving Sir Benjamin's notice of the arrangements he had made for his wedding, called and informed me that he had determined to make my situation in life different to what it then was, and that I should thenceforward stand on a similar footing to

what he had intended in America, on our arrival in New York, if I had not preferred coming to England. He said he should in future employ me as his secretary, with a salary of two hundred pounds a year, which salary or annuity he purposed to secure to me for my life on the first real estate he should purchase, and that it was his intention to make such purchase as early as he conveniently could. This measure he had decided on in consideration of his intending to alter his will out of my favour; but should not take that step before my annuity was secured to me.

He said that he should make Sir Benjamin's his home till he had procured a mansion of his own, and could get it ready for the reception of his family, when apartments would be prepared in it also for my accommodation. In the mean time he thought it advisable that I should remain in Liverpool and study the art

of book-keeping. In addition, he forbid me thenceforward to call him master, but desired that I should adopt his common name.

Just three weeks after Mr. Stuart, as I now very awkwardly find myself compelled to call him, had left Liverpool, I received a summons from him to repair to Sir Benjamin's, as he was negotiating for the purchase of an estate in the neighbourhood and required my assistance. I arrived accordingly, and found two rooms provided for me, one as a temporary office, the other as a bed-room, and received an invitation from Sir Benjamin's butler to board with him.

Mr. and Mrs. Chicken had reached the Hall the day before on a second visit to the Stuarts, and intended to return home the morning after my arrival.

I was in some degree acquainted with Mrs. Chicken through her letters to her brother,

and during the day he introduced me to her on her coming into my temporary office to look for him. After his introduction, she put out her hand to me and said, "I among others am under great obligations to you, Mr. Crow, for the preservation of my brother's life; and we are all great admirers of the gallant bearing of so youthful a squire as you were at that time, especially my sister, who says she feels no higher pride in being an American than that of your being her countryman."

Mr. Stuart then said, "I have not yet introduced Rosetta to my Yankee friend as you call him; and perhaps I had better not, for if he has the least spark of vanity in him, she'll be sure to fan it into a flame that will burn up all his good prospects in life. Your fine speech is quite enough to addle the brain of my friend, were it of an ordinary cast."

I attempted a reply to Mrs. Chicken for her



condescension in taking my hand, and her over-appreciation of my services to her brother; but when I had finished I found that all I had said amounted to perfect nonsense; and I am sure that whilst I was uttering my acknowledgements, I looked more foolish than I spoke.

On the following morning Mrs. Chicken had risen earlier than usual, in order to take a walk before breakfast and pay another visit to Cimon in his paddock before her departure, and Mr. Chicken accompanied her. After the intended visit, the morning being very fine, they extended their walk a couple of fields further.

I having no business for the morning to detain me at home also went out for exercise, and taking the same direction that the Chickens had, likewise stopped at Cimon's paddock, whose history I had heard. I had also furnished myself with a bit of bread to give him,

and calling him by name held it up in his view; but he afforded me no further notice than a single look, and then continued picking over the turf. I, impelled by the same feeling that had sent the Chickens onward, followed in their track, without knowing that they were before me; but immediately after clearing the paddock and coming against the first field, I saw them near the end of the second field returning.

The parson of the parish kept on his glebe a bull for breeding from, of which he made much profit, the animal being of the rare Durham short-horned kind; and in order to render him more attractive to the neighbouring farmers and cottagers who kept cows, he was highly pampered, and had latterly become so vicious as to be barely governable.

The preceding night he had broken his fence and was then astray. Whilst the Chickens

were against the second field, the bull had entered a lane that runs between that and the first field, to the west side of their walk, and was coming on to the road about a hundred yards from it, unseen by the Chickens, owing to the hedges that intervened. But soon coming directly opposite the lane the bull was in, which occurred after they were within my view, he caught a sight of them as they crossed before him; and attracted by the colours of Mrs. Chicken's cloak, which was a plaid, principally of yellow,—or most probably excited to rage by the sight of the yellow, which those animals frequently are by that or any other glaring colour,—he uttered a loud bellow, and instantly set off full chase for the Chickens, or rather for Mrs. Chicken's cloak; which, had she been aware of the propensity of the bovine race for attacking such colours as it displayed she would have done well to have thrown off

but instead of this she and her husband, in the hope of evading the bull by flight, instantly set off running.

From the resistance of the atmosphere to Mrs. Chicken's ample cloak and loose clothing, and Mr. Chicken having only a short close body-coat, he was enabled to outstrip her considerably in speed, an advantage of which the loud and frequently repeated bellowings of the bull impelled him, apparently unconscious of the situation of his wife, fully to avail himself.

My natural feelings would have dictated assistance to any creature in the circumstances in which I saw Mrs. Chicken if it were in my power; and although I was not now even furnished with a walking-cane to battle the brute with, yet when I reflected that the object in distress was a female, thus having a double claim on me for assistance, and still more

that she was the sister of him to whom I owed my salvation from being a slave in the Mississippi swamps, and my then highly advanced circumstances in life, I hesitated not to render my utmost aid for her deliverance, however remote the chance of success, and with whatever personal risk to myself it might be attended.

Seeing no other means of assistance, from want of a weapon, I determined to try and throw myself between Mrs. Chicken and her pursuer, so that whilst the animal would perhaps be engaged in goring and tossing me she might effect her escape, and with this object I commenced running as earnestly towards the bull as her husband was running from him.

When I first set off I thought of inviting Mr. Chicken to turn back ; but then recollecting the incident of Bounder passing him, as described by the lady now his wife to her brother, I knew that the invitation would be in

vain, so I determined to apply to him on passing for a stout cane that he carried in his hand. Accordingly, when we were about twenty yards apart, I called out, "Give me your cane!" But his senses were so much distracted by terror that he did not comprehend my application; and understood me to inquire where he was going, so he replied, "I'm going for Bounder to set upon the bull!"

Perceiving the lady's case becoming every instant more and more desperate by her enemy gaining ground on her, I did not stop to renew my application for the instrument her husband was running away with, although a well-directed stroke with it across the nose of the bull would have cowed him. I then cast my eyes over the road to see if a loose stone was obtainable, but not one appeared. On either side we were bounded by neatly trimmed

quickset hedges, and the road was swept clean.

I then, as if by inspiration, remembered my little bowee, which through respect to the service it had afforded my best friend I ever carried in my pocket rolled up in paper. I instantly drew it forth, and separating the paper, opened it, and grasped the handle in my right hand, turning the point towards my elbow. Yet at the first instant of being so furnished I began to think my weapon would be of no use in the defence of my best friend's sister; for the bull had got up to her, although she had continued running as fast as she could, and I saw him stoop down his head, bend his nose, and turn it a little from her, so as to bring his horns into a more convenient position for a violent gore and toss.

These preparations he most earnestly executed; but from the lady's cloak being thrown

open and spread out on either side by her running, his aim was not accurately directed to her person, which occasioned him to catch this outer garment in the vacuity between her right arm and body; and the cloak fortunately getting torn by the violence of his thrust, she was not tossed over his head when he lifted it up for the purpose, but only thrown to the earth on her left side, and that without being raised from the ground.

The speed of the bull in coming up had carried him full three times his length beyond her before he could stop himself to turn round and renew his assault. At this time he was within five yards of me; and when I found he was about to turn I shouted out as loud as I could, and at the same time held up my arms, so as to draw his attack on me, instead of its being renewed on the object of my solicitude. So intent however was the beast on the colour of



the lady's cloak, that he regarded me no more than if I had not been in existence, and turned round with all the expedition he was capable of. But the clumsy frame of his species not allowing his movement to be very quick, I had time to get up to him before he had entirely moved round, and thus had his tail lashed against my side, which I was enabled to seize.

Of the benefit of this advantage I most readily availed myself, and grasped it with my left hand as firmly as I could. At the same instant, bringing my right hand back to my ear, as soon as I found that my body was sufficiently steadied by my hold to make an observation, I let my right arm play on its pivot at the elbow with all the spring that heart and sinew could give it; and directing my hand with its deadly little instrument at the spine of the beast, struck it nearly on the second joint. My weapon clearing the socket came against

the head of the opposite ball, and struck a scale of the bone off, and from its extreme sharpness, separated the ligaments that secured that joint of the spine in its place, which caused the opposing bones to collapse, and brought the animal prostrate on his hind quarters. This instantly deprived him of his fury, and changed his terrific bellowings into low moans.

Immediately after the fall of the brute, with my bloody weapon in my hand, I sprang to the lady, who was lying motionless, and found that she had fainted; when applying a finger to her belt and finding it tight, I made no hesitation in severing it with my gory knife. I then looked around for water, but could see none; and therefore kneeling behind her, I supported her against my left shoulder, steadying her head with my hand on that side, and with my right commenced fanning her with

my hat, when I heard the tumult of persons in the direction of the Hall.

Mr. Chicken having continued his flight had reached the Hall, and entering the gate began calling out, "Help! Loose Bounder! Help against the Parson's bull!—he's chasing us!"

Sir Benjamin, who was in his library, was the first to hear these ejaculations, and stepping out inquired, "What's the matter?"

"The bull's chasing us! Loose Bounder! and help!" cried Mr. Chicken.

"Where is Ann Rose?" asked Sir Benjamin.

"The bull's chasing her on the parsonage road," replied Mr. Chicken, "and I have run on a little before to get the dog and other help."

"Confound the man!" exclaimed Sir Benjamin. Then turning to a stable-boy, who with several other servants had made their appear-

ance, he cried, "Nat! loose Bounder!" and addressing the others, said, "You all! fly with any weapons you can get hold of to the relief of my unfortunate, dear niece!" He then went back into the library for his hat, having come out at the calls of Mr. Chicken bare-headed. A boar-spear used by Sir Alfred of the Grange, his great progenitor, which was kept in this room resting on two wooden pins, caught his sight; this he instantly snatched down from its supporters and set off at the best speed he was capable of, which was, a hop on one foot and a tip on the ground with the other, in which he was very lame from gout.

He was some distance down the avenue before any one came up with him, when his whole establishment of servants, except one chambermaid who had been sent back by the housekeeper, overtook him. Yet such was the terror infused into them by the trepidation they had

witnessed in Mr. Chicken, that not one of them would pass their master except the old butler, who was game to the core, armed as he was with only a carving-knife. But from his being corpulent, and the Baronet's gout becoming less painful from exercise, the butler was shortly after again thrown into the rear, panting like a tortoise. The whole of the others purposely kept behind the boar-spear, which they conceived to be the only weapon among the party fit to confront a mad bull with, and felt great confidence in its being delivered on the enemy with good effect from the well-known bravery of the baronet.

The housekeeper, who was as corpulent as the butler, and much, very much less energetic in feeling, was soon thrown some distance in the rear of him, who was in rear of all the rest, when Mrs. Stuart approached.

Mr. Stuart had gone out on horseback that

morning on business which would detain him till noon ; and Mrs. Stuart being in the back-parlour at needle-work, heard nothing of Mr. Chicken's return and alarm, till Patty, the chambermaid who had been sent back to take care of the house, went in and informed her. She immediately bid Patty furnish her with any weapon she could get.

The maid replied, "Lah, mistress, can you fight a mad bull?"

"No parleying, Patty," said Mrs. Stuart, "get me a weapon, or get out of my way!" and not waiting for Patty's assistance she ran into the buttery, and perceiving nothing more formidable, caught up a common knife rounded at the end, and started off to the aid of her dear sister.

Being light of limb and very active from practice in the far-west forest of her birth and early life, she quickly had the housekeeper,

whose burthen of fat had then brought her to a kind of hobbling trot, in full view, and observed that this functionary was armed with a light cleaver, which she was holding in her left hand, having shifted it to rest her right; but she appeared as if she had lost all hope of getting up to the bull in time to see him slain, much more in time to assist in the act of subduing him.

Mrs. Stuart quite unperceived, owing to her lightness of action, and the noise kept up by all before the housekeeper except Sir Benjamin and the butler, came up to Mrs. Tripe's left side, and as unceremoniously, owing to no time being spareable, caught the instrument from the latter's hand, and immediately threw up the knife she had brought from home in exchange.

She shortly after reached the butler, and her earnestness, from a fellow feeling on his part, brought forth the remarks, "Ay! that's the

true sort of blood, or I'm a craven. I thought the goodly weapon she'd got was lost to service when that fat fool refused it to me; but it's now in better hands than mine, although they're not so strong, for the weight that cumbers my feet will keep my hands out of action till there's nothing to do; whereas at the pace her feet are going, and the goodly heart I can see there is to keep them to it, I should not be surprised if the last started gets first in on the enemy, as Sir Benjamin is lame, and I'm not so light as I ought to be."

She passed the crowd, who looked on in silence and some shame, and then Sir Benjamin, who on perceiving her bearing and determination exclaimed, "Ha, my bit of true steel! that's like yourself."

Straps the groom, who was a man of great physical strength and activity, seeing Mrs. Stuart pass Sir Benjamin, concluded that there



would be no great danger in passing him too, as the leader would take up the bull's attention sufficiently long to secure the second getting assistance from behind, or to save himself by flight if he saw occasion. So he, armed with the stable broom, not being able to obtain a better weapon, had got up abreast with his master for the purpose of passing him, to which he had an additional inducement by perceiving that the celerity of Mrs. Stuart afforded him such high pleasure. Sir Benjamin observing him, and knowing his great bodily capabilities, snarlingly said, "You dastardly cur you! look at that girl! What! is she to engage the bull single-handed because I'm lame? Get forward and support her attack; for by all that's noble, if she falls before the bull, and you have not fallen too, I'll drive this spear through your body the moment that I come up with you."

Straps finding that he should be between

two fires if he went before his master, by having the bull before him and the boar-spear behind, began again to slink back; which the other servants perceiving, and considering their master's threats well deserved, although none of them was less culpable, except in not being equally strong in person as Straps, they called out, "Shame! shame, Straps! go forward!" So finding that danger threatened him among his comrades too, he made another attempt, and in good earnest, to pass his master; which the Baronet perceiving, and noticing then for the first time that Straps had attempted to get behind him a second time, his indignation was so raised, that he suddenly brought his spear to the charge and thrust it directly at him.

Straps perceiving the movement, immediately gave a spring, so that the instrument did not reach him; and as better security, besides springing away from his master's weapon, he

brought his own behind over his left shoulder to act as a shield. The brush came down as low as his hips, and in this position some of the twigs had caught in the button of his coat, which prevented his succeeding in his attempt to bring it again to his front as soon as he thought he was sufficiently clear of the spear.

This occasioned him to imagine that that weapon had not fallen short, but had actually reached him, and pinned his defence to his back, and he was hence induced to throw back the handle behind him, supposing that by this means he should detach the weapon from his loins, which he thought too deadly and too dangerous to be touched with his hands. The handle of the broom however trailed behind him on the road for some little distance before the twigs separated from the button, when he became destitute of arms and defence.

Strap's ludicrous appearance, with the broom

dangling behind him, which seemed to add to his terrors by the patting of the handle on the road, occasioned his fellow-servants, notwithstanding the seriousness of the undertaking they were engaged in, to roar with laughter, and even Sir Benjamin to smile.

Now perfectly disencumbered of offensive and defensive armour, and being brought to dread the boar-spear behind more than he did the bull before him, Straps quickly came up to Mrs. Stuart, and understanding his life to depend on her safety, betook himself to diverting her from being the first to engage the beast, by saying, "Madam, my arm is stronger than yours; give me that goodly weapon you have got, and I'll convert the bull into beef with it in five seconds after I'm within reach of his head. And for your better safety, you drop back, I pray you, behind the Baronet and his dreadful boar-spear; for it would be a pity for

so fine a lady as you are to get soiled by the blood of a bull."

Mrs. Stuart considering that that part of his proposition recommending her to give up the cleaver to his stronger arm was good reasoning, thought of acceding to it, and said to him, "Give me your weapon in exchange, if mine's the best, and you have the most strength."

Straps said, "My weapon, which was my broom, I just now had to use as a shield against the Baronet and his boar-spear, and had it dragged out of my possession."

"For what?" inquired Mrs. Stuart.

"Because I was not up with you," replied Straps.

This explanation raised the lady's suspicions, and looking in his face, she saw there enough to satisfy her that a Samson's arms would be of no use backed by Straps' heart, if danger attended the using them, and ordered him away

from her. But the threats of his master being more dreaded by him than the lady's displeasure he disregarded the command, and at this instant he discovered the bull before him in what he imagined a kneeling position. Mrs. Chicken, however, not being visible, from the bull obstructing his view, he was induced to believe that the beast had killed her, and was then engaged in devouring his victim,—not being aware that the devil alone is carnivorous among all beasts with horns, tails, and cloven feet.

He immediately got close up to Mrs. Stuart, and pointing to the bull, said, "For prudence' sake, Madam, stay! for the beast appears to be at his meal; it will be best to let him finish it before we attack him, as he will then be less fierce and less active, and consequently less likely to kill us too."

Mrs. Stuart not at all respecting his advice,

as her object was to rescue her sister and not to defeat a bull, proceeded, and in a short time after perceived Mrs. Chicken and myself; and at the same instant I called out, "Get some water! the lady has fainted!"

This disclosure of our circumstances, for Straps also then discovered that the bull was prostrate and bleeding, threw him into ecstasies of joy. He bounded over a hedge, filled his hat with water out of a ditch, and placing it on the hedge, vaulted over back into the road, and brought it almost as soon as Mrs. Stuart could get up to us by coming directly forward.

Mr. Chicken, conceiving that all chance of engaging the bull with success, as no firearms were available, depended on the assistance of Bounder, had run to the stable with Nat; but he so interfered with the boy in removing the dog's collar, which happened to be a new one

and the tongue of the buckle tight-fitting, that that gentleman and Nat did not get up to the bull till even after the butler had.

The dog ran up a little before them unperceived by his master, and I saw him stealthily approaching the face of the bull, with his eyes fixed on those of the half-prostrate animal, for the purpose of pinning him, when I called out to the Baronet, "Sir Benjamin, spare the fallen bull from being worried by your dog!"

Sir Benjamin instantly exclaimed, "Bounder, I'm ashamed of you! don't you see him down?"

The dog, as if sensible of his master's displeasure at what he had contemplated, sneaked off to the hedge close by and crouched down under it.

Mr. Chicken coming up found his wife on her feet, and embraced her most fondly, which she to all appearance cordially returned. After



remaining with her for a few minutes, that gentleman turned towards the bull, and gave him a violent blow across the nose with his heavy cane, which drew a dismal moan from the poor animal. He had his arm up again to repeat the blow, when Mrs. Stuart threw herself under it, unperceived by him,—having run forward to beg mercy for the defenceless beast, —and received Mr. Chicken's falling wrist on her head, which crushed in her bonnet and forced her down on her knees.

He instantly assisted her up, making the most polite apologies for the misfortune. She as immediately acquitted him of all blame for striking her, as it was, she said, entirely her own fault; and she then by her intercession effected her intention of rescuing the bull from the gentleman's cane.

The reverend gentleman owning the bull had just previously arrived at the spot, and

coming forward addressed Mr. Chicken, saying, "I am sorry the lady should have given herself the trouble to utter a word against the bull being beaten about his head, much more that she should have exposed herself to severe injury in protecting him from the blows, for he's of no use now except for the butcher;—but of course I should not like him to be beaten about the body so as to redden his flesh and spoil the sale of my beef."

The coachman having been sent off with an assistant immediately after Sir Benjamin had come up and seen his niece, the carriage now arrived, and the family returned home in it, followed by the servants, including Patty, who having been relieved by the housekeeper had now joined them; for the housekeeper, as soon as she found that the weapon left with her was round-pointed, had turned back, and on her

reaching home, Patty had begged to go and see the sight, as she said.

I finding that most of the talk was of me, and every eye directed towards me whilst I was in the way to be seen, dropped behind the servants a short distance in returning home. But as they generally raised their voices very high in speaking, the better to drown opposition, I was enabled to note a conversation, or rather dispute, between Patty and Abigail, Mrs. Chicken's maid, who had attended her mistress to the Hall.

My conduct in rescuing Mrs. Chicken was spoken of over and over with different degrees of commendation, and by none more highly than Abigail. Great liberties however were taken in canvassing Mr. Chicken's behaviour, for whom no one threw in one extenuating word. Afterwards various degrees of praise

and animadversion were passed on those who had taken any part in the drama, and Straps was handled most freely, and with repeated roars of laughter, about his additional terror at the trailing broom, in which he took as hearty a part as any one.

Abigail then said, "Really the Americans must be a gallant nation, for among so many who have taken a part in what has happened this morning, each of the two Americans has shown more active friendship than any one of all our number of English, and the object of that friendship too an English lady, and not an American."

Patty, who had already learned what had been the conduct of each individual of the company, took up the defence of England by saying, "Then you say there's no Englishman who, had he been near enough, would have risked his life against the bull to save Mrs.

Chicken so boldly as the black Yankee whom you fell in love with yesterday did? But it's only your desire to praise him up to the skies for bravery today, as you did yesterday for beauty and politeness, that makes you attempt to run down your own country. Do you say, that if Mr. Stuart had been at hand he would not have attacked the bull, and slain him too? Have you never heard what he did with a devil of a Yankee man, who was fiercer than fifty mad bulls, and in the Yankees' own country too?"

"You are speaking of Mr. Stuart, who was not present," replied Abigail, "I have spoken only of those who were. And if Mr. Stuart had fought for Mrs. Chicken, whom he knew and loved, and was in gratitude bound to for her love for him, it would have been to his credit; but would it have borne any comparison with the gallant conduct of the American whom you

wish to ridicule by calling Yankee, and who had never seen my mistress till yesterday? Consequently he fought for her simply because she was one of God's creatures in distress, unless he had understood that she was his friend's sister, and much beloved by him. But, as I said before, I was not drawing a comparison with Mr. Stuart, whom I believe to be most noble-minded, or any others of our countrymen who were *not* present; I only wish to show up those of them who *were* present, of the kidney of your sweetheart Straps, to whom, for all his brawny limbs and quick actions, you are perfectly welcome;—I shall never pull a cap for a craven.”

“ Well,” said Patty, “ I don't intend to bandy words with you about Straps: I must admit that I am quite ashamed of his having mistaken the broom hanging to one of his buttons for a spear sticking in his back. But

what say you to master if he had not been lame? Do you suppose he would have let the Yankee lady get up to his niece before him? or that, if he had been in the way so as to have engaged the bull, he would have scurvily seized it by the tail, as, I won't say your *lover*, but the Yankee *you are in love with*, did, and not more manfully have taken him by the horns?"

"I am sure," replied Abigail, "that master is as brave as a lion, and certainly as kind-hearted as any American can be; but he was lame, and could do nothing except drive Straps before him by the point of his spear, and was hardly able to get your sweetheart forward even with that. And if he had been in the way, and so foolish as you would make him out, as to go and seize the bull by the horns, he might have received the horns of the bull, and have effected nothing but additional sport for the mad animal, instead of slaying him as

Mr. Crow did with his new-fashioned pocket sword, and thereby saving the object that he fought for, and his own life into the bargain."

"Well," said Patty, "you know a great deal about all these things; but you don't know that I should have continued shuffling behind master whilst Mrs. Stuart was passing by to the relief of the other lady, especially if the lady in distress had been *my* mistress, and I had been there."

"Mrs. Stuart being married," replied Abigail, "may get before a gentleman armed with a boar-spear and be in no danger to her character, but a maiden girl like myself had better not trust herself to get before Sir Benjamin or any other man so armed, lest she gets the character of being too bold."

Having now entered the gate their wrangling ceased.

At noon Mr. Stuart returned home, and was



surprised on finding that his sister and her husband had not quitted as they had arranged, and still more so when he heard the cause. The events were narrated to him by his wife, who minutely described all that had occurred except Mr. Chicken's conduct, which she kept as much out of view as an account of the behaviour of the other individuals would admit of. The part that related to herself, of her having received a blow from Mr. Chicken, she entirely omitted, but gave a most lively description, first of mine and then of Sir Benjamin's intercession to save the bull from being worried by Bounder.

When she had concluded this portion of her narrative, Mr. Stuart, turning to Sir Benjamin, said, "Kindred spirits, uncle, are you and Mr. Crow, although a great difference exists in your walks of life. Nevertheless there shall be no difference between

his walk of life and mine in future, so far as I, being a wedded man, have a right to act. Contempt, I say, be upon those laws of society which would keep me aloof from the man that I know to be my equal in every virtue, and my superior in bravery! For what chance do I stand, or does any individual stand, of equalling the heroism that Mr. Crow has shown today, and that too actuated by the instinctive duty that every brave spirit feels to succour the distressed, although probably in some measure stimulated by the indirect gratitude he would thus show me for the small services I have rendered him, by his exertions for the preservation of my sister?

“I say, accursed be the name of Stuart for cowardice if I hold such a man as Mr. Crow has unequivocally proved himself today for bravery, which is the parent of humanity, truth and sobriety, my inferior in society, because

the chances of life, which his merits could not influence, made him a slave and a menial servant, or keep him from my board to make room for high-born, selfish, drunken liars! And of this my resolution he shall be fully sensible without loss of time, in every particular that is not objectionable to my wife.

“I make a reservation on your account, my Rosetta,” continued he turning to Mrs. Stuart, “because I do not feel that I have any right to introduce company into our house that is not agreeable to your wishes, as no doubt exists in my mind of your having the best right to regulate our domestic society, as that is all the society you enjoy; whereas my amusements and my business into which you cannot enter, give me other company abroad.”

“But for the diffidence I felt in my judgment of society,” said Mrs. Stuart, “I should, immediately an opportunity offered, have craved

an introduction to Mr. Crow, and have as immediately treated him with all the respect that I conceive the most dignifying of human principles can entitle a gentleman (as I trust I shall be allowed henceforward to call him), and have felt for him all the gratitude that is due from me to the saviour of the life of my husband."

"Mr. Crow's heart," said Sir Benjamin, "from the peculiar circumstances in which he has been placed today, has been shown to me not less by his bravery than his humanity; and also by the modesty which led him to conceive that what he had done was nothing more than his duty,—thereby establishing the fact that he would repeat tomorrow what he has done today, or even act more disinterestedly, if it were possible, should occasion offer. These considerations combined had determined me to court his society, and introduce him to

my table, as soon as there should be no room for my giving offence, whilst favoured with my present company. For with regard to the world in general, I hold it too much in contempt to be guilty of its exclusiveness, on account of the casualties of birth and pecuniary circumstances, where noble principles are supported by simply genteel behaviour.

“I noticed,” he added, “that Ann Rose took away her husband as soon as the petticoated Hotspur began to relate the particulars of the battle-field of today. Good girl! Not you, Rosetta. She spares her Chicken’s feelings all that she can. She does not seem to blame him for running away from her: she believes, I’m sure, that he could not help it. Poor fellow! Go and consult them, my game little one, on Mr. Crow’s being invited to partake of our mutton and claret today.”

Sir Benjamin knocked at my office-door

shortly after the above conversation, and on being admitted, told me that I should not only confer a favour on him, but on every individual of his family, by taking dinner with them at four o'clock.

On attending, and being ushered into his front parlour by a footman, Sir Benjamin introduced me to his family.

Mrs. Chicken said, "I have already enjoyed the pleasure of an introduction to Mr. Crow by my brother."

"Being an old admirer of the character of Mr. Crow," observed Mrs. Stuart, "I shall do myself the pleasure of giving him a hearty shake of the hand in this his first introduction to me."

Mr. Chicken was simply plain in his reception of me, and at table spoke very little, and never addressed his conversation to me. Mrs. Chicken was rather facetious, but made not

the slightest allusion to the occurrences of the morning, and her example in that respect was followed by each individual of the company.

The Chickens were detained at the Hall a few days longer, from Mrs. Chicken having been bled and the palms of her hands being badly bruised in her fall; and I soon found that my presence was painful to them, although operating very differently on the two individuals. The gentleman felt anger at my possessing a spirit that had towered over his; the lady was pained at the angry feelings that she saw agitate her husband's mind on the mention of my name or the sight of me, which she was aware reflected disgrace, as well as being in the highest degree discreditable to him, whom it was her duty to comfort so far as she was capable and shield from shame.

I therefore consulted with Mr. Stuart about my leaving the Hall early the next morning

for Liverpool, acquainting him with my motives. He agreed with me in opinion, and I that evening took leave of Sir Benjamin and Mrs. Stuart.

At Liverpool I put up at the Waterloo Hotel, taking a bed-room, and having my meals in the coffee-room. One evening after having taken my tea, stopping in the coffee-room to read a London paper that had been just brought in, the landlord, whilst I was attentively perusing it, conducted an individual into the room who had newly arrived by a Charleston packet. He was a trader from that town, and assuming great consequence, kept the landlord in conversation about what he had seen in Liverpool whilst being conducted up to the Waterloo, till he got nearly to the top of the room, where I was reading, but with my back towards him. His accent being precisely that of mine in early life,



I was induced to raise my eyes from my paper and look round, when we stared in each other's face for a few seconds, he in evident surprise.

I resumed my reading, and he, after pausing a few seconds, said to the landlord, "I was told that this was the most respectable hotel in Liverpool."

"None in the town is more respectable," replied the landlord.

"Bah!" said the Charlestonian contemptuously, "and you have a negro seated here in the coffee-room reading!"

The landlord was as much surprised at this remark as the Charlestonian had been at the sight of my skin, situated as I was, and stood staring at him; till pushing back my chair and laying my paper on the table before me, I stepped up to my countryman and said, "No other black gentleman being in the room be-

sides myself, and knowing that 'negro' is the cant term for a black man, no matter where born, in the country from which I am sure by your accent that you have come, America, I conclude that you allude to me in your remark on the degradation of this house?"

The Charlestonian, who had faced me when he perceived that I was approaching him, not deigning to reply to me, turned again to the landlord, and said, "What does he mean about black gentleman, and negro being a cant term?" The landlord not replying immediately, the Charlestonian added, "Who's he?"

I said, "Allow me to answer your last question by presenting you with my card;" and drawing out my case, I separated one from the rest and presented it to him.

The landlord now made his exit. The Charlestonian took my card; but, as if he repented of having condescended to do so, he

immediately after twitched it back in my face, saying, "I don't understand why you should give me that."

I then slowly moved a step nearer to him, and saying, "But perhaps, sir, you will understand why I give you that," drew my right hand as far back as the crown of my head, and losing all consideration about the consequences in the excitement of the moment, gave him a violent slap on the face.

He was not at all prepared for the reception of such a salutation, for having his country's prejudices full within him, he had not supposed that I should dare to strike a white man, and went reeling some distance before he could recover himself. Having regained his equilibrium, however, he started to the east fireplace of the room, and after rummaging a full minute among the fire-irons detached the poker.

He then turned round, and had traversed half the distance back to me, when a gentleman sitting at the upper end of the room, near my seat, rose and met him, saying, "What do you mean by taking away that poker?"

"Why I'll knock that negro's brains out with it," exclaimed the Charlestonian, "for having dared to strike me, a white man."

"I suppose from what has occurred," said the gentleman, "that you apply the term negro to the gentleman who has so moderately chastised the gross insolence that you have just been guilty of towards him, and who, I am decidedly of opinion, from his bearing, will kick you through the room into the street if you much further aggravate his feelings. Therefore in charity to you, you appearing to be a stranger, I would recommend you to lay down your weapon, and apologize to the gentleman

you have provoked to soil his hand on your tobacco-mouth."

I was then washing my right hand in a basin of water I had called for, on account of a slight wound that had been inflicted on it against an eye-tooth of my antagonist.

The Charlestonian, addressing the gentleman who had thus advised him, exclaimed, "What! do you join with a negro against your own colour? You are a disgrace to white men."

The tooth that I had wounded my finger against having been displaced by the blow, the Charlestonian, before he started for the poker, had spit it out on the floor with a quid of tobacco he had in his mouth at the time; and owing to a considerable effusion of blood from the socket of the tooth, he was every minute repeating his spitting of blood stained with

tobacco on the floor, in the true style of the tobacco-chewers of his country.

I, conceiving myself to be in some measure accountable to the company present for this nuisance, rang; and a waiter appearing, I said, "Turn out that filthy blackguard," and pointed to the Charlestonian.

The waiter hesitated, which occasioned a gentleman who was sitting with another drinking a bottle of sherry near where the offender was standing, to exclaim, "Turn him out, or I'll quit the room instantly; and every other gentleman in it, no doubt;" which was immediately followed by an universal cry of "Turn him out!"

At this cry the Charlestonian began to move off without further hesitation; and the waiter following him to the front passage, called out, "Boots! fetch down forty-seven's luggage." A couple of moppers were then sent into the

coffee-room with their proper implements, and quickly removed the soiling the floor had sustained.

I had now been nearly two months in Liverpool at the study of book-keeping, having once during that time spent three days at the Hall, and was under engagement to move to the Retreat, Mr. Stuart's purchase, as soon as the house should be completely repaired and fitted up, which was expected to require three weeks longer. At this time I received a letter from Mr. Stuart, which after the expression of his feelings on the melancholy occurrence it narrated, the death of Mr. Chicken, ran thus :

“And he is no more [alluding to Mr. Chicken]. He had been in one of his fields, where he was working a marl-pit, the material of which he had found to be good manure in his tillage. Passing over this field, he was a short distance from the pit, when a brace of

terriers, which one of his neighbours was taking out to his warren for the purpose of rabbit-shooting, broke into the field.

“These dogs not being under the best training, were amusing themselves by chasing larks and sparrows, field after field, as they went along, but minding to keep their master in view, so as not to lose him; yet they ranged in their own sport as wide as that safety to themselves would permit. They came beating over poor Chicken’s marl-field in search of sport, and one of them approached him to within about ten yards’ distance, and was passing on. But Chicken, in exercising his usual over-caution to save his person from injury, deviated from the direction he was taking and inclined away from the dog, which that animal perceiving, acted according to a standing instinct of his race,—which is, to attack a coward wherever they find one, eithe



of their own or any other species,—and commenced barking at the distance that he was, the better to ascertain if his suspicions were correct; and Chicken's immediate change of countenance, which the terrier was attentively watching and quickly discovered, gave the animal confidence to closer approach. This increased the apprehensions of the subject of his attack, and induced him to commence a rapid flourishing of his cane before him, so as to leave no space for the dog to get to his legs. But the other dog, that had been beating in a different part of the field, finding by his companion's bark that he had game in view, came running up to his support, which increased the confidence of the first assailant, and proportionately added to the terrors of the assailed.

“Continuing the rapid motion of his cane he then began to step backwards, the better to prevent his left flank from being doubled by

Snip, one of the terriers, to effect which he saw that dog had a disposition, in order to be clear of the cane in closing on him.

“The master of the dogs, who was in the road, having come opposite, and seeing his curs hard pressing his neighbour, stopped and halloed to them at the highest pitch of his voice. But his continued cries of ‘Pincher!’ ‘Snip!’ were of no effect, for they were barking so very loud in trying to entirely overwhelm their game with terror, that they could not hear their master; and in all probability if they had heard him, untrained as they were, they would have disregarded his calls, as they discovered that every instant increased the ghastliness of countenance of the object of their sport, which they apparently narrowly watched to judge of the effect of their operations; and they seemed resolved to follow up the promising opportunity they had before

them of finally securing a piece of game of such magnitude.

“Chicken continued moving backwards by short steps, so as to prevent Snip’s redoubled efforts to get to that part of his legs not protected by the flourishing of his cane from being effectual, and had unconsciously approached near the edge of the marl-pit, in which were labourers at work. One of the men looking up and seeing him, endeavoured to bring him to a sense of his danger by calling out, ‘Take care behind, sir!’

“But this announcement of danger in his rear also, to which he could not extend the flourishing of his cane,—for he supposed that he was cautioned against another approach of dogs from behind, that animal being the sole object of his thoughts at the time,—quite unhinged his mind: his eyes rolled wildly in their sockets, and he flourished the cane breast

high instead of on a level with the dogs. Pincher saw his opportunity and closed with his prey, seizing him by the bottom of his trowsers, which he gave as hard a pull and shake as he could.

“ This proved the consummation of my poor brother’s terror. He reeled,—he lost his balance, and fell, alas ! into the pit. It was only twelve feet deep ; but he fell backwards, and in such a position that his spine was dislocated.

“ He had the most tender nursing and best of medical attendance, and would in all probability have recovered from the injury, with the exception of a deformity in the back and reduced strength, had he not kept himself in a constant state of feverish anxiety about the preservation of his life : this caused a corresponding irritated state of the body, which eventually brought on mortification, and subsequently death.

“But how unaccountable! When Dr. Æsculapius found that the inflammation superinduced had been succeeded by mortification, and cautioned the now departed Chicken that if his affairs were not in the state that he would wish they should be left, he had better immediately arrange them, as death was approaching, he exhibited no alarm, but on the contrary became perfectly composed in mind.

“He instantly dispensed with the services of the clergyman, whom he had engaged to attend him daily, and pray at his bedside for his recovery, and sent for an attorney to make his will; for he had never before been able to overcome his apprehension of the ill consequences that might attend his making one. He now showed a composure of mind and a relief from fear to which he had previously been an utter stranger, and which prolonged his existence two days beyond the period Dr. Æsculapius

had predicted just before the feelings of cowardice which had so constantly haunted him through life were dispelled.

“ The attorney having arrived, my brother said, ‘ I will make the best reparation I can to an individual to whom I have been most ungrateful, through a feeling that I have not until now had sufficient courage to subdue ; and to my dear wife, whose sensitive mind I have greatly grieved by the occasional deviations from truth in general conversation which my cowardice has prompted.

“ ‘ It is my will that my household furniture and personal property be my wife’s solely ; and that all other of my estates, real and personal, be equally divided, either by a just partition if the parties prefer that arrangement, or if otherwise by a sale of my said estates, the money accruing from such sale then to be equally divided between my wife and my most disin-

terested friend James Crow, who saved the life of the object I most valued on earth from a dreadful death, and at a risk that, from feelings of self-love and fear, I did not dare myself to encounter.'

“ He further added, ‘ The allowances that I have long granted certain of my relatives I feel assured my Ann Rose will continue to them during their lives, and therefore I shall not lay her under any legal obligation for that purpose.’ ”

Eighteen days after receiving the above information arrived an invitation to the Retreat from Mr. and Mrs. Stuart, with instructions to take all my luggage with me. This summons afforded me the greatest pleasure, as I really longed for the society of those to whom I could lay open my heart without reserve, and whose subjects of conversation and amusements would be congenial with my own,—luxuries that this

invitation afforded me a prospect of obtaining, and which would be doubly prized after having so long lived among strangers in Liverpool.

I soon found myself at the Retreat, and in the full enjoyment of the company of my friends.

Mrs. Stuart was very fond of riding, and after a few lessons at a riding-school, through her decisiveness of character, became quite expert in the management of the horse, and rode out with Mr. Stuart and myself most days that the weather was favourable, sometimes extending our excursions to more than twenty miles.

The first of September arriving, Mr. Stuart, who was partial to shooting, and had furnished himself with a brace of staunch pointers and a good Manton for the sport, required a new appropriation of our time, and we appointed Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays for shooting.



On the fifth of the month Mrs. Chicken very opportunely came down on a visit from the Hall, whither she had removed on the death of her late husband, and Sir Benjamin at her request had appointed a steward over the deceased's estate, she being left his sole executrix. This visit relieved Mrs. Stuart from her want of company in her favourite exercise when Mr. Stuart and myself were occupied in our field-sports.

I had no licence for shooting, not being qualified by law; but Mr. Stuart being qualified by his land property was furnished with one, and as he sported over no other grounds than his own or where he had special leave elsewhere, and I only with his dogs, no objection was made to me for the season, which proved a very abundant one in our county.

I profited much by my friend's training, who directed me to walk abreast of him on his

left side, and on flushing a covey, to fire at the bird furthest to the left; observing not to raise my piece before the birds were on the wing, nor to fire before they had got to their full elevation, and then direct at my bird if it took a line straight from me, and before it if it took an angular course, and to let the distance I fired before it be regulated by the degree of the angle. On my commencing to go out with him I was a perfect novice in the art, but after some time, when I became prompt in following his instructions, and had accustomed myself to take aim with both eyes open, I became as good a shot as he was. I persisted in shooting with both eyes open, although with but little success at first, as my instructor had assured me that I should find benefit in the practice.

From want of sufficient presence of mind in my early shooting, I more frequently failed than brought down my bird; and whilst ex-

periencing this partial success, I one day took Mr. Stuart's dogs out by myself, my friend having gone to Prescot on some business. My first shot was at a rabbit, which crossed at about twenty yards' distance; but as it went at a right angle with my situation, and I fired at only six inches before it, I missed: I then discharged my second barrel, but with no better effect. Going forward, a hare sprung out, about fifty yards before me, but from my chagrin at my previous failures, although the animal was moving in the surest direction for my shot, I fired in vain, and again when it had proceeded about ten yards further.

Having thus missed my first four shots my temper was ruffled for the day; but the dogs afterwards found two coveys in succession, and subsequently a half-brace that was wounded, and in each case I fired one barrel after the other, but with no better effect than at the

rabbit. The dogs had shown some reluctance in beating after my failure with the second covey, and on the escape of the half-brace I could not get them forward more than twenty yards before me ; but having come on another covey, and shooting more wide of my bird, in all probability, than I had done in the preceding cases, the dogs dropped behind me and would not advance any further, notwithstanding my encouraging them with my voice, and crying, "On boys ! Hold up !" and the like ; for apparently they were quite disgusted at my want of skill, and seemed resolved not to serve me.

However, from the shame I thought it would be to me to go home with an empty bag I persisted in my sport, by beating for myself, and casually came on a hare in form, which sprang before me ; but I proved as little successful in firing at her as in my other shots. Being near the gate of this field I went through, and when

crossing the hedge of the next, I smiled to myself on thinking of the bad grace in which I stood with the dogs, and looked round to see in what sort of humour they then were. But behold! they were invisible. I ran back to the gate to observe if they had crouched where I last charged; but instead of seeing them there, the most likely place for finding them as I thought, on casting my eyes over the field I discovered that they had nearly crossed it, and were at a moderate gallop, pursuing the direction for home. I called out after them by name, and Carlo, who was leading and had been the first to sulk, turned his head to one side without stopping, and gave tongue in a single yelp, which his follower backed him in by doing the same, as if to satisfy me that I was heard but would be no further respected.

The second day from this Mr. Stuart accompanied me: he, as usual, shot with good effect,

bagging seven in eight shots; I did well for my experience, bagging four in eight; and the dogs showed an alacrity and delight in their work that I had never seen surpassed.

Some time after Mrs. Chicken's arrival at the Retreat, whilst we were sitting after breakfast, each of our party in readiness for riding out on horseback, that lady said to me, "Well, Mr. Crow, we must decide how to divide the estates that my late husband left us; or rather you have to decide whether the division shall be of the property as it stands, or of the proceeds of it after being sold."

"That option, Madam," said I, "rests entirely with you, or as your friends may advise, if you think fit to leave it to them."

"I do not intend," replied Mrs. Chicken, "to take any advice on that point, as my mind is made up to leave the option to you, whom I conceive to be better entitled to your share of

the estates than I am to mine, owing to the tardy gratitude of Mr. Chicken for the greatest blessing that could be conferred on a man of his affectionate disposition—the saving of his wife from a violent death.”

“It was quite an error,” I said, “on Mr. Chicken’s part to conceive that he was under any debt to me for having slain the parson’s bull,—although he might have inflicted injury had he not been dispatched at the time he was,—as I had sufficient call on me for the undertaking by the social compact of our species, so necessary for our protection against the superior natural strength and power of numerous other creatures on the earth. And if I did on that occasion expose myself more freely to danger than mankind generally might have done, I had a sufficient claim on me for so doing in the consideration that the object of my solicitude was the sister of the friend to

whom I owed everything except existence, which itself would have been hateful but for his friendship. Therefore even if payment were proper for the performance of a direct duty, I had received my reward previously to the execution of my work, and could have no claim on Mr. Chicken's estate but through the accident of his fancy to make his will partly in my favour. Consequently I can have no title morally to a choice as to how the estates shall be divided, even admitting that that choice should not clash with the interests of a lady whom I am bound by the strongest of ties to gratify in every wish of her mind."

"I had resolved," said Mrs. Chicken, "in my capacity of executrix, before I spoke to you on the subject, to divide the property that has been left between us according to your choice, and I did not expect to be opposed by any of the keen casuistry that you have offered, and



to which I shall reply by simply saying that it has uninfluenced my decision,—my resolution is unalterable.”

“I bow in submission,” said I, “and will obtain my friend’s advice in making a choice, in the hope that he is in possession of your wishes on the subject, and will consult them in his recommendation, and not my pecuniary interests.”

“If I am to decide,” observed Mr. Stuart, “respecting the property that poor Chicken left between you two, and which has brought about so sharp a contention between you as to the division of it, I say, don’t divide it at all,—for that is what I believe each is aiming at, but which neither has the courage to propose.”

“Then you suppose,” replied Mrs. Chicken, “that I wish to relinquish my share, and that Mr. Crow desires to have the whole? Cer-

tainly, if I had been my own mistress when Mr. Crow saved my life, as I am now, I should be under a debt of gratitude to him that one half of my estates would be but a poor requital for, but being at the time the property of a lord and master, all the debt fell on him. Would you then have me give up my share of my late husband's estate to his creditor, who is otherwise fairly paid?"

"Yes, throw it up," responded Mr. Stuart, "and yourself to boot, if my friend Crow can reconcile himself to be matched with a saucy widow."

"Mr. Crow," said Mrs. Chicken, "did not ask you to match him off with a widow or maiden; his application to you was about our joint estates only."

"Your proposition, Sir," said I addressing Mr. Stuart, "my most sanguine hopes would not authorize me to look forward to the bliss of

being realized. My low birth, the servility of my early life would prove a barrier to my happiness, even admitting that in other respects I should not be objectionable."

"Brother," said Mrs. Chicken, "I will reply to this pathetic lamentation of your friend. He speaks of his low birth and what not. I assure Mr. Crow, that if I had a daughter who was marriageable, and he were to make proposals to me for her, I should feel myself bound, by the gratitude that her father owed him beyond what he has discharged, to give his child to his creditor. And if my late husband had never incurred his great debt of gratitude to Mr. Crow, if the attack from the mad bull had never occurred, and Mr. Crow should propose for any young lady under my charge in marriage, I should receive his proposition with the most unfeigned pleasure, and rejoice in being able to match her—whether my daughter or

any other girl that I loved—to the husband whom above all others of my acquaintance I should most prefer for her. But as to his making a proposition for myself, that is quite a different thing: I'm in weeds, which must keep all love-making for myself at a distance."

The morning after being thus put in abeyance by Mrs. Chicken, I informed the family at the Retreat, that finding my circumstances to admit of it, I intended to return to America for the purpose of purchasing my parents and manumitting them. My information was received with commendations of my resolution by all, Mr. Stuart adding, "The pious duty that you are going on is doubly creditable, on account of the self-denial that you inflict upon yourself in effecting it, by leaving society which you respect and by which you are so highly respected, to go and meet the contumely at least, if not the barbarous insults,

of your countrymen, because the class that you were born in among them is weaker at present than that which triumphs over it.”

I wrote off immediately to Liverpool, to ascertain when any *British* vessel would depart for Richmond in Virginia, where my business would be transacted ; as I knew that, although I was a gentleman and should pay for the best accommodations on board, if I went by an American, from my skin being black, I should be treated by every Jack on board whose skin was white as his inferior.

Again, if I arrived at a port in an anti-slavery State, I should be allowed to land, and might travel across the country ; but only under the degrading circumstances, whatever public conveyance I might use, of being regarded as inferior to the most debased white man whom I might encounter ; or if I arrived at a port of a slavery State, I should not be allowed to land

at all at large. It was therefore necessary, to avoid contempt on board, that I should not voyage in an American bottom ; to avoid contempt in travelling, in any part of the United States of America, that I should not arrive in a port of the anti-slavery States ; and to avoid being precluded from travelling at all on shore, that I should not arrive in a slavery State port. So that in my transit from Liverpool to America, the only tolerable course for me to pursue, being a black man of gentlemanly feelings, was to find a British or other European vessel for my conveyance, and to go to the very port where I had business to transact.

Seventeen days after writing, I obtained information from Liverpool, that the British brig Unicorn would be ready to sail for Richmond within five days after.

Duty called, and no selfish considerations were to be attended to in opposition to it, or

could I have quitted for four or five months the family I was then living with and the social enjoyment I was experiencing? Duty called, or could I with my then improved tastes and the refined society of my adopted home, have returned to the land where the colour of the skin degrades? No.

The morning for my departure from the Retreat arrived. I was to quit immediately after breakfast, and Mr. Stuart's stanhope was ordered to be ready, to take me to meet the Bang-up stage-coach. Breakfast was announced. Mrs. Chicken being missing on the family having assembled, a summons was sent to her; but she replied that she should not be in time for breakfast, and requested that it might be sent to her. Mrs. Stuart just sipped a little of her tea, then pushed back her chair and left the room. Mr. Stuart swallowed the whole of his first cup in rapid draughts. No toast or

egg was touched—none offered by either of us to the other; and I had taken about half my cup of tea, when I found it necessary to withdraw, and I did so as if intending to return, by saying, “I’ll see if my portmanteau is right.”

Finding the gig ready in the stable-yard, and John, who was to accompany me for the purpose of driving it back, ready in the stable, I beckoned to him and took my seat. He having coated and seated himself, I faintly cheruped the horse, which started at a walk, a pace he continued through the remainder of the court, and then commenced a slow trot. I was passing the mansion, but being instinctively impelled to take another glance, I turned my head, and beheld at the windows of three different rooms the to me three most interesting faces in the world; when, afraid to trust myself with looking, I lowly bowed



my head in recognition, and at the same instant cracked my whip in the air,—a signal for quicker motion which my horse instantly obeyed, and we pursued our way at a rapid trot.

Our vessel left Liverpool under the conduct of a steam-tower, which took us round Black-rock into a breeze that was favourable for us after passing that angle. We glided very smoothly down channel with the wind on our larboard quarter, sometimes drawing a point or two more forward, till we had the Tuska Lighthouse in view, where the wind had worn abeam of us. Passing this rock, and having to luff up five points, the wind became unfavourable, and we were compelled to beat out to Cape Clear; then taking a new course we got the wind on our starboard bow; and it continued fair on various bearings till we got into the Horse latitudes, when it failed us for thirty hours, the brig during most of this time not

answering to the wheel at all. This gave us an opportunity of making several experiments with bottles sent down sixty fathoms by means of the sounding-lead and line.

An extra-sized cork, which required the heaviest driving that the strength of a porter-bottle would authorize to get half of its length down the mouth of the bottle, was forced quite into the bottle, so that it came up full of water, although when sent down it contained nothing except atmospheric air; and this forcing of the cork further experiments showed required but a moderate portion of the pressure of seawater at sixty fathoms' depth to effect.

The better to resist the pressure of the water on another cork, two pieces of strong small twine were laid across the mouth of the bottle; then a cork, equally tight-fitting as the first, was dipped into warm pitch, and driven as far down as it could be forced, carrying the crossed

pieces of twine before it; after which the ends of the twine were turned back, brought across the bottom of the bottle, and tied quite tight, each to its fellow; then the top of the bottle was dipped into warm pitch, making the head of the bottle and that part of the cork outside into a large knob, and consequently the hollow between the projecting end of the cork and the lip of the bottle was filled up: in this state it was allowed to cool and harden. A piece of canvas being then dipped into pitch was put over the knob, and lashed down with twine round the neck of the bottle as tight as it could be drawn by a strong hand. In this condition it was let down as the former had been, and when drawn up was about half full of water.

Yet the stopping of the mouth of the bottle appeared perfect, except that the canvas over the cork had become a little slack; but the

lashing round the neck of the bottle was unaltered, and the canvas when taken off with the pitch upon it appeared perfectly imperforate. The cork however had been forced deeper into the mouth of the bottle than before it was sent down, so as to make a tighter fit, although it was previously as tight as driving could effect. The hardened pitch round the cork was cracked, apparently from the cork having been forced deeper into the bottle than it was when the pitch was put on; and the cork on being extracted exhibited the lower end cut up about half an inch in depth by the crossed twine it had been pressed against. In all probability, the circumstance of the bottle being only half full of water was owing to its having been drawn up immediately after it was found to have descended the full length of the line. The water in the bottle had no stain or taste of pitch; it was salt.

Then arises the question, Did the water pressed into the bottle pass through the pores of the glass, or through the pores of the pitch and cork?

To decide this if I could, I made an experiment with a glass-stoppered bottle, which was the only one the captain had on board: this was a wine-decanter. The stopper was greased before it was put in, and then a piece of linen was put over it and lashed down round the neck of the decanter as in the case of the corked bottle, except that no pitch was used.

The decanter after being let down as the other bottle had been, was drawn up, or rather the head and neck of it without the bulb, which had been broken off; but whether it was broken against the side of the brig in being let down or drawn up,—an accident I cannot positively deny having occurred,—or whether the pressure of the water had crushed

it in, is doubtful. The mate who let it down into the water and handed it up the side of the brig, said it had not touched in either case; but the captain having informed me that he was a cowardly fellow, I do not imagine that he is entitled to respect for veracity. This bottle was of very thin glass.

I endeavoured to carry my experiments further with bottles let down sixty fathoms deep into the ocean; and whilst I was in Richmond, procured two quart-bottles to be prepared for me at the glass manufactory of that town, by having them twisted at top after being blown in the form of an egg, and yet in a state of fusion, so as to hermetically seal them. But no calm occurring in our return voyage I was disappointed of ascertaining whether water would be pressed through the pores of glass at sixty fathoms' depth in that element or not.

The remainder of our voyage was uninteresting, and having doubled Cape Henry and crossed the Chesapeak bay, we entered the James (after which river my father had named me) on the twenty-seventh day after quitting Liverpool.

I informed the captain of the caution it was necessary for him to pursue regarding me, and that in naming me as a passenger in his manifest he should not call me mister, gentleman, or even man, but to designate me "Negro-man," and to be prepared to give bonds for taking me away on his departure.

For the greater certainty of the captain in his bonds, I intended to avoid touching the soil of my native country with the soles of my shoes, and through the captain, whom I instructed how to effect it, sent for my mother.

She quickly arrived to meet her only son,

whom she had long ago given up as lost, and, contrary to my expectation, gave a perfect loose to her feelings on meeting me. She fell upon my neck—she trembled like an aspen-leaf, and but for her being relieved by a flood of tears I am sure she would have fainted. Having recovered, and becoming composed, I informed her of my object in coming to Richmond and my intention of not landing, and instructed her to consult with her mistress, our friend, about getting an attorney to attend me on board, that I might transact my business through him, and to send my father to see me.

She went to my father's residence on her way home, and in the fullness of her heart informed him that their lost child, as she called me, had arrived in the river, not only a man, but as much a gentleman to all appearance as the mayor of the city.

My father very incautiously made a bustle



in preparing himself handsomely, as he thought, in his new serge frock, for which he had to run over to a neighbouring tailoress, and his best shoes, which took him some time to polish. It being Sunday too several of his acquaintances were loitering about, and through this preparation they came to a knowledge of his contemplated visit to his newly arrived son, whom he had long supposed dead. When he set out therefore for the purpose his friends joined him, and they came in noisy shouts of pleasure down to the Unicorn.

A great deal of my father's joy having evaporated in words before he reached the vessel, he displayed nothing like the warmth of feeling that agitated my mother's frame on meeting me. After embracing him, I saluted each of his companions most cheerfully; and they being highly pleased at my apparent prosperity, and with the reception I had given them,

were elated with joy, and thought they could not enough congratulate my father on his good fortune in being able to boast of such a son as myself.

The boisterous exultation of my father and his companions having given offence to a constable who was on the quay, he stepped on board and caned them off the brig. Not satisfied with this, he went immediately to the police-office, and reported that a British brig had arrived in the river with a negro on board, who had occasioned a tumultuous assemblage of other negroes, to the danger of the public peace.

Mr. Justice Conservative immediately granted a warrant to the informing constable, empowering and requiring him to apprehend and deliver into safe custody the negro man, who was obnoxious to the complaint preferred; and the constable, armed with this additional au-

thority, returned to the Unicorn, exhibited his warrant, and ordered me to proceed with him to prison.

The captain, who was present at the serving of this warrant, was highly indignant at the circumstance; but I requested him not to pay any regard to it, as it was quite in conformity with the principles of the country we were in; that I knew before I quitted my home such usage was likely to be inflicted on me there; and that should I get away from America without incurring worse it would be beyond my expectations. I told him further that I had no right to complain, nor to allow my friends, so far as I could prevent them, to complain for me. I knew the country and its usages of black men, and I had come to it voluntarily, therefore it was my duty to submit with resignation.

I stepped on the landing-stage, and preceded

the constable, who conducted me to the felons' prison. The cells of this place were constructed for two prisoners each. The one to which I was marshalled already contained one person, a labouring scavenger, but a white man. He was dressed in a blue waistcoat and trowsers, the former of which had become stiff with the oily exhalations from his body; over these he wore a threadbare brown serge frock, and he had a pair of wooden-soled shoes on his feet.

He had been convicted of having picked the pocket of a fellow-scavenger of his tobacco-pouch, whilst the two were engaged in removing on a handbarrow a dead dog, that had lain in an unfrequented lane, till decomposition having commenced it had become offensive to the neighbourhood.

The prisoner had been induced to attempt the theft from his hope of success by his being

hindmost carrier. Having a strap to the shafts of the barrow, he was enabled to let his portion of the weight rest on it; and whilst he steadied his end of the barrow with his left hand, with his right he endeavoured to extract his fellow-labourer's pouch from his jacket right-hand pocket, and would have succeeded had not the other unexpectedly required a fresh quid to relieve his nausea whilst bearing his very loathsome burden to the James.

The above-described occupant of this cell, on the door being opened, perceiving me, and judging from the circumstances under which I made my appearance, being in custody of the turnkey, that I was intended for his fellow-lodger, said to the officer in a surly tone, "What do you mean by bringing that creature here?"

I at first imagined from his question that his reason for complaint against my being a proper

companion for him was what I supposed he thought my smart appearance and bearing, —having raised my perfumed cambric handkerchief to my nose on the cell door being opened upon the confined effluvia of its occupant issuing towards me, and from the hand holding up my handkerchief being gloved with kid skin,—not recollecting at the instant that I was in America. But I was quickly put to rights by the following remarks.

“ It’s a downright insult on a man to bring a nigger to him to keep his company. I have often begged to have a companion here with me; but instead of your giving me one, you have now brought in a nigger, as if you could suppose that I would let myself down to become a companion to him!”

Just as this speech was finished, the chief jailer made his appearance, accompanied by a gentleman. The jailer said to the turnkey,

“Lock that door. It’s a mistake in this new comer being committed to your charge. He will go to the debtors’ prison.”

The gentleman then approaching me said, “I attend you, sir, in my professional capacity ; —Mr. Crow, I presume?”

I bowed in confirmation.

“I beg leave to introduce myself to you,” he then continued, presenting to me his card, “and now attend you in my professional capacity on the application of my sister. I am one of that rank in the law here, who in the country which I understand from your mother you have recently adopted for your residence, are called Barristers. If you will favour me with your instructions for executing the business that has brought you to this town, you may depend on the greatest despatch that circumstances will admit, as well as honest agency ; and the best guarantee I can give you for the

truth of my professions, is to make known to you that I am a brother of Mrs. Nautilus."

He then informed me that having gone to the Unicorn according to the instructions of Mrs. Nautilus, and learning from the Captain that I had been seized and taken to jail, he had followed me, and in the first instance had made arrangements for my being accommodated in the most comfortable manner that the debtors' prison admitted of. He then said that if I pleased he would on the morrow,—the present day being Sunday, and not admitting of recognisances being entered into,—enter into bonds for my not disturbing the peace, so as to effect my release from confinement. I, after expressing my thanks for his proffered favour and great kindness, declined quitting my present prison, as it would only be to return to my imprisonment in the Unicorn. He applauded my resolve, as he said it would



free me from the chance of being kidnapped into some slave-dealer's cage, and then transported to the far-west, and again sold into slavery.

He then inquired after my manumission, saying that it was quite possible for a slave-dealer to set up a claim to me, where I was, as being his property and a runaway ; and such claim being made, would require nothing more than the concurrence of a single magistrate to establish its validity : it would be well for me therefore to be prepared with the clearest proof of having been duly manumitted. I informed him of the office in New York where my manumission was deposited, and of the date of the document.

The next day Mr. Advocate Walrond negotiated for me the purchase of my parents.

The owner of my father, a Mr. Partridge, he had no trouble with : that gentleman was not

in any way a trader. After being informed under what circumstances my father would be purchased, he immediately consented to Mr. Walrond's offer of my father's appraised value, which should be fixed by two gentlemen, one chosen by either party, and the two so chosen to select an arbitrator, approved by each, in case they should not be able to agree otherwise.

Mr. Partridge remarked that he would not take ten thousand dollars for Cato to be sent into brutalization in the West. On which Mr. Walrond said that he much admired his friend's feelings; and to save him from all apprehension of any trick being intended against honest Cato, he would not require Mr. Partridge to resign his right to protect Cato to any one but himself, by signing no other conveyance than his manumission.

Mr. Walrond did not experience equal fa-

cility in dealing with his brother-in-law Captain Nautilus, who had not been abroad for the last eighteen months, on account of having lost two ships in succession, each with a full cargo of slaves on board, to British cruisers. But that goodly slave trafficker retained all his trading propensities; and on Mr. Walrond proposing the purchase of Ceres on my behalf, for the purpose of manumitting her, Captain Nautilus made an objection to parting with her at all, saying that he had no notion of selling an old servant. The Advocate however brought this plea into so unfavourable a light, by showing that it was merely to counteract the manumission of a respectable old slave, that the Captain was compelled to forgo this ground, not being able to gainsay the risk that Ceres would run of tyrannical usage should she be transferred to other hands, to which occurrence she was constantly liable by

death. But the Captain immediately after fell on an extravagantly high price for the proposed purchase, the better to effect which indeed had been the object of his first quibbling.

The Advocate not being easily rebuffed, stood on his first proposals, which were the same as those Mr. Partridge had immediately acceded to, stating that possibly the money I had brought with me might not be sufficient for even the appraised value of Ceres, as I should have jail-fees and extravagant charges for extra jail indulgences to pay, which I most likely had not calculated on in coming to America. But he added, that if he chose to take the fair offer that had been made him, he, Mr. Walrond, would guarantee its being paid immediately, as he felt much interest in seeing me effect my affectionate duty to my parents to my entire satisfaction, although he

was determined not to contract any bargain for Ceres above the fair price he had proposed.

Intending to come and consult me about the Captain's price, he had retired to the door, and was about to open it, when the other, dreading to lose the sale altogether, as whatever price he might receive he considered as so much money gained, called Mr. Walrond back and acceded to his offer. For he knew that he dared not sell Ceres from her mistress otherwise than in the way now proposed, and that no one would, besides myself, offer to buy her out of slavery; and above all, he dreaded the consequences with Mrs. Nautilus should he prevent the boon that was intended her favourite by me, recollecting what he had experienced on account of his ready acquiescence in the sale of myself for transportation.

Having effected the purchases and manu-

missions of my parents, Mr. Walrond brought me the reports of the several appraisers, and also the receipts of the drawer of the documents and of office-fees, which he had already paid. Being about to give him my order on Messrs. Richard Cash and Co., on whose house I had brought a letter of unlimited credit, and which I had already presented through my agent, and the better to satisfy him of my pecuniary capabilities, I requested him to give me the bill of his fees also, that I might include my whole expenditure in the purchases and manumissions in one draft.

But he told me that he had performed no services for me in his regular professional capacity; that the time he had applied to my affairs had been as pleasant as any he had spent for a long time, from its being business of manumission, and therefore he had already

been more than remunerated by the pleasure he had enjoyed. He added laughing, that he would balance the account if ever he should come to England and require assistance, where it was convenient for me to afford it, by calling on me to aid a friendless stranger.

My mother had been allowed to attend me in prison in the capacity of my laundress, and through her I required my father not to apply for admission to me. But the day for the departure of the Unicorn having arrived, I applied for leave to receive a visit from my father, which being granted he came to me; and shortly after his departure from my prison sitting-room appeared my kindhearted old mistress Mrs. Nautilus, attended by my mother, by whom she had been informed of my intended departure, and of what I had effected through her brother's agency. She was also

accompanied by her brother, whose support she preferred on such an occasion to that of her husband.

Mrs. Nautilus, after shaking my hand very cordially, said, "I would not allow one who is so great an honour to his and my place of nativity to take his final leave of it without paying my humble respects to him, although my country has disgracefully confined him to a prison during his visit to his parents."

I had on my finger a ring, containing a beautiful brilliant, that had been given to me the day before my departure from the Retreat by Mrs. Stuart, who at the same time said, "This bauble, if you will favour me by its acceptance, may be of some use to you abroad, Mr. Crow, should other resources fail you." On Mrs. Nautilus being about to depart, I drew it from my finger, and presenting it to her said, "My dear mistress, and the best of



friends to my mother that ever a poor slave was blessed with, allow me to transfer this gift of a fair lady, the partner of my most valued friend, to your beneficent hand, in token of the respect in which I hold you for your philanthropy, and of my high regard for you as the sister of the liberal-minded Mr. Walrond."

She immediately put the ring on her finger, and turning to her brother said, "You bear witness that I bequeath this valuable gift to my friend Ceres immediately after my death, in gratitude for her having preferred remaining in my service, now that she is free, to the following of her son to participate in his wealth and respectability."

Mrs. Nautilus and her brother departed; but my mother lingered behind, and on giving me her last embrace said, "My boy, you know the tragical end of my father; you know that

I have not been able to render full gratitude to his manes for the surrender he made of his life to do me honour. If you should ever travel into Africa, remember that the murderer of Hermes may yet exist; inquire for and find him out if possible. He may be worn down with his debaucheries and in decrepitude,—he may be in the daily expectation of death; yet remember that his heart is corrupt,—that he is the prophet Samuel, that monster of falsehood and of iniquity. Give him battle in my name; not however, I need scarcely say to my noble-minded son, as Samuel gave battle,—no, you will engage him in your own upright and honourable way,—but neither give nor receive quarter from the enemy that slew your defenceless grandfather. And in this case, my son, as in every other of your life that calls forth the hero, remember that you are a descendant of the race of Aldebaran.”

My mother had finished her last injunctions to me, and thrown her face on my bosom, when a constable thrust his head into my room and said, "Come out! I'm come to take you back whence you came."

He saw my tears falling on the head of my mother, who instantly drew herself up, and endeavoured to compose herself before she appeared in the streets, and I did the same. She was soon ready, and stepped forth hastily to avoid seeing me depart.

Not immediately leaving, the constable again put his head in, and said, "Come out! I've other fish to fry without waiting here for a snivelling nigger to dry his eyes." I detained him but a few seconds more, and then walked out. The constable shouldered his staff and followed me down to the brig, which weighed anchor a few minutes after I was on board.

We had an expeditious, but rather rough passage. In the same latitude that we had been becalmed on going out, we experienced a violent hurricane, but which the desire I feel to render my history as brief as circumstances will admit prevents my describing.

Having reached Liverpool I immediately sent to inform my friends of my return; but instead of Mr. Stuart sending me an invitation to the Retreat as I expected, in his anxiety to receive me he came himself.

On our way home he informed me that the letter intimating my arrival in Liverpool was brought in whilst his family were at tea, and the writing of the direction being well known it was eagerly broken open, and caused general rejoicing the remainder of the evening; and the announcement of his intention to depart for Liverpool the next morning by

the Mail coach was well received by the ladies.

On the following morning Mr. Stuart had taken his seat at the breakfast-table before his sister made her appearance, as he had no time to spare; but shortly after being seated she entered the room in a plaid silk morning dress.

“I am glad,” said Mr. Stuart, “to see that you have cast away your mournful weeds, and rejoice that my friend Crow will now be relieved from his abeyance. And if he is half as bold in engaging with a proud damsel as he was in delivering a deserted wife from a destroying monster, I shall shortly, very shortly have to congratulate him on a new victory.”

Mrs. Chicken looked rather confused at these remarks of her brother on her change of dress,

which were indeed cruel beyond endurance ; and being followed by Mrs. Stuart saying, that as the fort was unmasked she hoped it would not put her friend to the delay of a regular siege, the countenance of the assenting widow became suffused with a blush, which sufficiently indicated the feelings of her heart.

THE END.

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