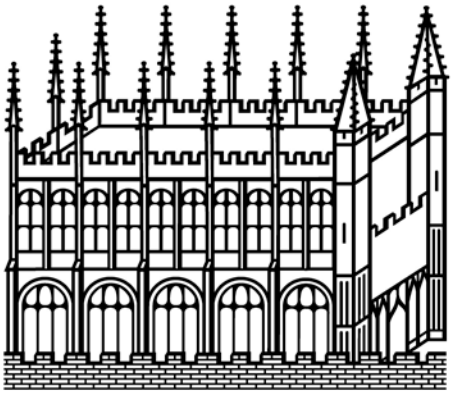

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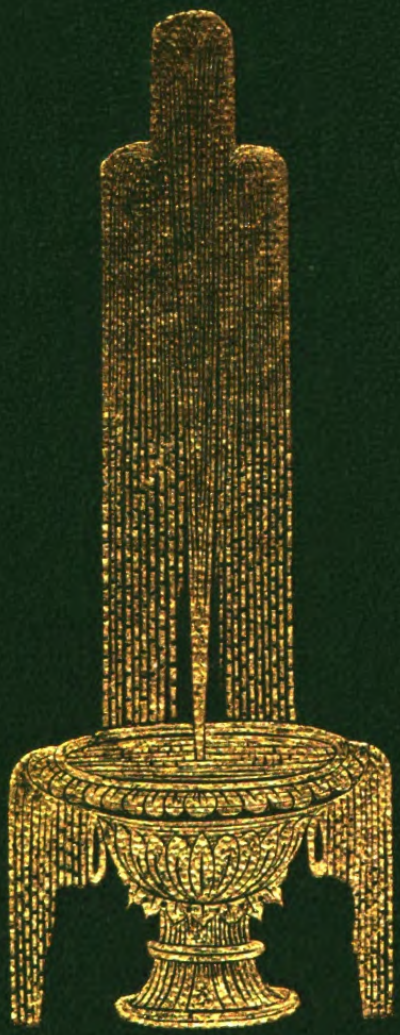

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THE BANE AND ANTIDOTE:

A Tale,

FOUNDED CHIEFLY ON FACTS,

ILLUSTRATING

THE EVILS OF INTEMPERANCE,

AND

THE ADVANTAGES OF TOTAL ABSTINENCE FROM INTOXICATING LIQUORS.

By A CORONER.

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THE BANE AND ANTIDOTE.

CHAPTER I.

MOUNT PLEASANT.

MR. AND MRS. ST. LAURENCE lived at a very nice country residence, near the town of Anyborough, in a comfortable and respectable-looking house, well suited to their means and family. The latter consisted of their eldest son, Henry, aged about fourteen; William, about thirteen; Emma, eight; Jessie, four; Miss Harper, a governess; Susan, the cook; Jane, housemaid; and Thomas, general indoor servant. There were two young outdoor farm servants, Sturdy and Martin. There were about forty acres of land in the farm. The fences were ornamented with fine old detached trees in full vigour, young plantations near the house, and in other directions manifested the attention and good taste of the proprietor: a fine river that rolled past, occasionally forming a cascade, or rapid, and sometimes presenting a smooth surface, added to the beauty of the scene. Its banks exhibited a great variety of scenery, chiefly from their natural form and clothing of vegetable matter, but

assisted in some parts by art. In the season, wild flowers grew up on every side, and the lark, thrush, blackbird, goldfinch, and linnet, charmed the ear with their melody; in fact, birds of all kinds, from the long experience of the safety and comfort they enjoyed there, seemed to regard the place, especially the garden, as a kind of sanctuary where they could be happy, and rear their dear offspring removed from apprehension of the schoolboys' wicked hands. The St. Laurences were taught from childhood that all the so-called inferior animals were created by the same Almighty Being that they were; that they had, to a great extent, similar sources of joy, and of pain; and that, except for food, or to remove a pernicious animal, they had no right to kill, annoy, or distress them in any way. They were rewarded for all their kindness and forbearance in this respect by finding the birds becoming tame and manifesting confidence in them by placing their nests where they were very slightly, if at all, concealed, and singing their little songs near to the house.

Mr. St. Laurence had an income of about £400 a-year. He was a magistrate of the county, and highly respected by all his acquaintances. His wife was a very suitable helpmate. Some people might suppose we ought to give a pen-and-ink photograph likeness of each member of the family, but aware, if we attempted it, we must fail when we came to delineate the graces, charms, and smiles of the females, prudence prevents the effort; besides, we have ever

considered the inward character of more importance than the outward appearance. We do not think, however, we are committing ourselves too far by echoing the universal opinion of the neighbourhood, "that it would not be easy to match the family in good looks or conduct." The house was rather on an eminence, commanding a view of the grounds, the river, and adjoining gentlemen's seats; so it may be considered as deserving well its name—Mount Pleasant. In the haymaking season, it was quite a picture to see the work going on; the children sometimes seeming to work, at other times chasing each other or tumbling in the hay, the father and mother encouraging the sport.

This, perhaps, is the happiest position and stage of life that a family can be in. Often Mr. and Mrs. St. Laurence expressed their sense of this, and thankfulness to the Disposer of all Events for the great measure of happiness allotted to them. Latterly, a degree of thoughtful anxiety was mixed up in their minds. Miss Harper had been successful in giving the children a fair knowledge, for their age, of English, French, and music; but the boys were beginning to think it was not sufficiently manly for them to be under female guidance; besides, their great friend, Alfred Howard, had charmed them with his account of the games, play-ground, and about fifty companions to be met with at "Progress Hall," the good Doctor Teachem's academy, where he had been for some time. He had in his report passed rather

slightly over the early rising and hard work to be encountered. Being a good lad, and very kindly treated there, no doubt he did not find the matters referred to so irksome as he would otherwise have done. It was intended they should go to Progress Hall after the Christmas vacation. This was to be the first breach in the family circle, and first time they would be from under a mother's watchful eye; all she could do was to pray to that great Being who had watched over her and her family hitherto to take them now under His special care and guidance, and keep them from all the evil to which, no doubt, they must, to a certain extent, be unavoidably exposed. Both Mr. and Mrs. St. Laurence had endeavoured to instil sound religious and moral principles into the minds of all the children. One of these subjects was taken up at a time, written down as the heading of a page, to be filled up underneath with scriptural proofs to impress it indelibly on their minds, so as to become a fixed principle for the guidance of their judgments and actions in future. The headings were such as—The state of Man by Nature—His tendency to Evil—The way of Escape—Christian Morals: Honesty, Truthfulness, Benevolence, Diligence, Self-denial, Temperance, &c.

There was not much society in the neighbourhood with whom the family were on very intimate visiting terms: Mr. Trueman, who lived at a neat little place near them called Violet Hill, was an exception. He came frequently over in the evening, and seemed

to take the place of grandfather in the family. All valued him very highly, and the feeling was mutual on his part. About the time our narrative commences, he called in as usual one evening; the children were grouped round the table, some making good attempts at copying the admirable illustrations in the Band of Hope or British Workman: Henry was copying for Jessie the book he had made for himself with the various headings before referred to; Emma was trying to assist her mother in preparing the necessary outfit for the boys. After the usual friendly welcome he was constrained to take a comfortable seat near the fire, and said :—

"Children I am happy to find you enjoying yourselves so rationally; you can have little idea how highly you are favoured beyond millions of the human family in having such a home, such parents, and advantages calculated to guide you safely and happily through your earthly pilgrimage to a joyous eternity ; but remember that from those to whom much is given much will be required. There have been wonderful discoveries in science, and advantages to promote human comfort and convenience, now in full work, which would have been looked on as idle tales, could they have been prophesied in the beginning of the present century. I have jogged on horseback in three days to Dublin. Travelling to London by the quickest method of that time might have taken a week or more. I have lately reached home from London in twenty-two hours. But the

moral change is of more importance. Drinking, swearing, and fighting, pervaded society. The laws of God were disregarded: the laws of so-called honour were paramount, and must be scrupulously complied with. For instance, nothing can be plainer than the law of God—'Thou shalt do no murder,' his denunciations against taking his name in vain and drunkenness, yet the general practice of the day was to get drunk, to use profane language, make your friends intoxicated, and when all parties were to a certain extent deprived of reason, if a rough contradiction took place, or any grounds of offence occurred, a hostile message must be sent; it would be cowardly in the person supposing himself offended not to send it, and in the person receiving it to hesitate to go out; the deadly weapons were loaded, the parties placed at about ten paces distant, regardless of wives, children, or parents; each aimed perhaps at the heart or head of his opponent, and fired; instances of both having been shot dead have occurred, but generally one of them suffered. I have seen two brother officers return in the same carriage, one of them wounded by the other. Such duels were quite common, originating of course after dinner, when both parties were somewhat intoxicated. You may see in Anyborough churchyard the tombstone of an officer, twenty-three years of age, the only son of a widow, who fell in a duel, as thereon recorded. I was witness to a duel, when the folds of a silk handkerchief saved one of the parties; the quarrel, as usual, having originated

in a thoughtless word uttered after dinner on the previous day. We may all thank God that this barbarous custom has been to a great extent expelled from society in this country, and that its great source, drunkenness, is also greatly discouraged; but much remains to be done, and I would strongly urge upon every friend of the human family to do whatever lies in his power, by precept and example, to extirpate it. Some people think it is foolish to urge such a topic in such company, but strong drink is still in the hands of the evil one, slaying its thousands. It is very insidious, promising gratification and pleasure, until by degrees it gets its victims enchained by habit; then it is difficult indeed, if not impossible, for them to be extricated. Prevention is far better than cure; so I would anxiously urge upon all, but upon the young particularly, to avoid all opportunities of acquiring such a habit; and, let me tell you, persons of all ranks and both sexes have fallen victims to the propensity—some at one time as little likely to have done so as any of the present company. I am glad to have had such an opportunity of bringing the subject before you, Henry and William. With all Doctor Teachem's watchful care, it is hardly to be expected but there will be several dangerous boys in his school; all that can be done is to apprize you of the fact, and to beg of you to be watchful, and to try to carry out in a consistent persevering manner the excellent principles which your parents have endea-

voured to instil into your minds. I observe the very essential ones, self-denial and temperance, are prominently amongst them. I trust you will never attempt that pernicious and filthy practice, smoking; it gives a great tendency to intemperance. Old people sometimes affect to regret the degeneracy of the times, but may easily be shown they have no cause to do so, if you inquire upon what they found their complaints. About thirty-seven years ago I heard an old man lamenting it; the proof he brought forward was, that in the old volunteer times there was always a tub of good punch, with a ladle in it, placed within the hall door of the house we were in when he spoke on the subject, so that persons passing in or out gave no trouble; they took as much as they chose. I knew the sequel. A near relative of mine happened to be stopping in the house at the time. The owner, who was in the rank of life to have a carriage, was travelling in it with a friend, both no doubt with habits acquired from the punch tub, and supposing a portable substitute was indispensable on the road. When the carriage door was opened at the end of the stage, they were found smothered on the floor of it. I did not of course bring this forward at the time. Instead of the tub, the degenerate successor kept a bottle at hand in a sly way, but it did its business with equal certainty before long. In literature is it to be regretted that 'The House that Jack Built,' 'The gaping wide-mouthed waddling

Frog,' and such nonsensical stuff, without any good moral influence for young people, are superseded by the books lying before you? I would wish to give you many proofs that have occurred, chiefly within my own experience, of the evils of intemperance, and the wisdom of guarding against its first approaches; but it is too late to attempt the subject this evening."

Mr. and Mrs. St. Laurence requested him to come earlier the following evening and take tea. Mrs. Howard and Mary her daughter were to be with them, and would, they were sure, like to hear what he had to say on the matter. To this he agreed.

CHAPTER II.

TRUEMAN'S STORIES CONTINUED.

On the next evening he found his much-valued friend Mrs. Howard had arrived. Tea was hardly over when he perceived the servants slipping in quietly and seating themselves, no doubt according to previous arrangement, in a corner of the room. So he commenced:—

"I promised to mention some of the evils that within my own knowledge have occurred from intemperance. The difficulty I have is unwillingness to adduce recent instances or to give dates, names, and places, lest I should pain surviving friends; but for this you would have sufficient proof that my

narratives are strictly true. When my attention was first brought to the evils of intemperance, at least so as to influence my own system much—say about thirty-five years ago, I was in a coffee room in B——. The waiter asked had I any objection to a gentleman-like young man joining me at dinner. I replied in the negative. After dinner, my first love for temperance having been warm, I began to speak strongly on the evils of the opposite system. I had not spoken long, when he said to the following effect: 'It is quite unnecessary to say a word to me on the subject; I suppose there is not another man living this day that knows the full extent of the horrors of intemperance as I do.' Either in the excitement of the moment or intentionally he had raised his chin a little higher than usual: I observed a great cicatrix across his throat. My sensation at the moment was, I suppose, somewhat similar to what it might have been, had I just seen him inflict the wound that occasioned it (indeed I afterwards saw with more composure a fatal cut across the throat of a female, which she had effected some hours before). As soon as my presence of mind permitted I tried to change the subject. Volumes could be written giving the particulars of scenes that I have witnessed where intemperance has wrought its destructive work. At present I intend but to give a sketch of a case where the intemperate was not himself the victim, for 'not always on the guilty head descends the fatal flash.'

"Mary M—— was the wife of a farmer in comfortable circumstances; he was considered an industrious, well-conducted man, except when he gave way to intemperance: they had several children, the eldest a boy about twelve years of age. M —— had been drinking in D —— on a fair day, and returned home with a companion, a distance of about two miles, sometime after his family had retired to rest. He called his wife to get them something to drink, as their throats were burning. When drinking the water she brought him, he began to use some improper language; she requested him to desist; he became furious, no doubt in *delirium tremens*, wanted to get his gun, and seized her by her hair. His companion seems to have got sober enough to know there was danger, and to make his escape. His son, the boy alluded to, stated in his evidence that thinking the only way to extricate his mother was to cut off her hair, he got the sheep shears for the purpose; his father wrested them from him, and commenced stabbing her with them, every blow inflicting a double wound, as the points keep separate. Some of the family ran off for his brother, who lived at a considerable distance: there were no very near neighbours. According to the next part of the evidence she was found in a fainting state at a ditch near the front of the house. The savage fit he had been seized with seems to have subsided, as he was giving her some water. Not long afterwards they were found in the same bed, he asleep and she dead.

Oh! children! what a contrast that home then presented to your happy one, chiefly owing to intoxicating drink. The unfortunate man when aroused to consciousness, seeing the bloody scene—his beloved wife lying before him covered with gore, murdered by his hand—his children in terror screaming around, rushed from the house and tried to conceal himself, or to fly from where every object around served as an additional scourge to torture his conscience and feelings, which were already lacerated nearly to the highest point of endurance. He was found in this state by the police, committed to jail, tried the following assizes, through the leniency of the officers of the Crown, for manslaughter merely; was convicted on the evidence of his son and brother, and sentenced to transportation for fifteen years. With what rapidity did whiskey occasion the death of a good and useful mother of a large family, under specially awful circumstances. Banishment and the unceasing tortures of a worse punishment—a consciousness that he had been the author of such misery to those whom he loved best upon earth, and the thoughts of what must become of his children in the state of much worse than orphanage to which he had reduced them. The Father of the fatherless, however, influenced their landlord and his agent to act kindly and generously by them: he can at all times bring good, even out of circumstances apparently so full of unmixed evil. One great benefit it is to be hoped has resulted from the awful catastrophe, that they will always

regard strong drink as the source of all their misery.

"With great pleasure I am enabled to throw a cheerful gleam over the sad picture. M—— behaved so well for ten years of his sentence that the remaining five were remitted. He had, by extra work, diligence, and prudence, saved money. The generality of men would, in his circumstances, be inclined to change their names, fly to another country where the rumour of their guilt was never heard. They would never venture to face their children or the scene of their crimes; sure doing so would revive the anguish of heart they at first endured; but he did not reason or act so. He felt that whatever he might suffer it was far less than what he deserved; that he was be bound to make all possible amends to the children whom he had so dreadfully injured, and he would try to do so, cost what it would. He revisited the old ground, collected his then remaining family from different directions, and with the savings he had made carried of all to America, where I trust they will live to inculcate by their advice and example the great benefit of abstaining from intoxicating drink. The madness called *delirium tremens* which arises from intemperance, is not only particularly dangerous, but distressing, to the unfortunate victim. It has been called 'the horrors,' from the terrible mental sufferings it inflicts. Some constitutions seem to be rather more prone to it than others. It does not always require an excessive use

of ardent spirits to bring it on. There was an assistant waiter or boot boy at an hotel which I had frequently to visit; he seemed a remarkably steady, quiet lad; those of his fellow servants to whom I spoke on the subject had that opinion of him. One night when I was there I was roused by his screams; he was in *delirium tremens.* It could only be accounted for by supposing the draining of glasses and such like had too frequently fallen in his way. He was immediately removed from temptation, and never had a return of the malady. Who can tell but he himself may have somewhat of a similar constitution to that lad, so that a trifling excess might turn the scale.

"Some people might say, why harrow the feelings of the young with these details? My object is in hopes to make a deep and lasting impression on the minds of all, that strong drink is a very deceitful and dangerous enemy, whose advances should be carefully guarded against or resisted in every stage of the warfare; but especially before an evil habit has gained strength to chain us down to our destruction. I knew a man who died such a slave to it, as to say, 'offer me no advice on the subject; I know I am ruining both body and soul by intemperance; you cannot suggest stronger reasons why I should give it up at once and for ever than those which arise constantly in my own mind; but all in vain, I can't resist the temptation: in short, place a glass of whiskey within my reach, if I were to see

the bottomless pit before me, and to be told the moment I would drink the whiskey I must go headlong down into the pit, I could not resist swallowing it.' He was in a dying state at the time, and did not long survive the awful statement.

"Many people, though aware that intemperance has brought them to their death-bed, fly again in their terror to the bottle, to stupify or render themselves insensible, or to gratify the craving desire which they have created by repeated indulgence. Perhaps every individual of them was at one time a moderate drinker, and would then have ridiculed the idea that he required a caution, or could ever be otherwise, as some of my own acquaintances have done who have afterwards fallen into the degrading habit. Now, while the evils of intemperance are so great, so numerous, and so glaring, shall we be afraid to speak plainly and honestly to young and old, rich and poor, male and female, lest forsooth our observations might sound a little harsh, painful, or not suited to refined ears? Were we to smooth over all, and to tell our friends 'there is certainly no fear in your case; go on enjoying the use of intoxicating drink in moderation; there is no danger that you will have any inclination to exceed, or if you have, you can readily control it at all times. As well might we encourage a playful child to go on gathering flowers on the sloping bank of a precipice, telling him the firm level on which you were standing above was near enough to insure his safety at any time.

Now, to make amends to the children for my paining their feelings too much, if I have done so, I must give them an opportunity of laughing at me: you know I spoke both against duelling and drunkenness.

"When a bachelor, though I generally lived in the country, a friend and I always had furnished lodgings in Dublin. We had rather a humorous escape on one occasion of having our goods and chattels sold by the head landlord for the rent due by our landlady. This made us look out for other quarters. We entered one house which had a bill on the window, and, like many at our age, were at once captivated by the size of the mirror in the drawing-room, the brightness of the brass fender, and a variety of other equally important gewgaws. We made no further inquiry, but agreed at once with the landlady. We were satisfied all was under her control, and that all would go on smoothly. Some time afterwards a mysterious-looking man was observed late in the evening about the door. He had a red beard, always seeming of about a fortnight's growth; red eyes; about fifty years of age; originally, a large, coarse-looking man, now like the personification of intemperance, with a suitable stagger and description of clothing. If any person were to judge of us, his tenants, from the appearance of our landlord, he would hardly come up to the estimate we had formed of ourselves. I understood he took the owls as his models, in part as to avoiding the light of the sun. He haunted the purlieus of the theatre,

and may have been an underling there at one time, which may have procured for him still the privilege of an underground admission. If we did not sleep at the same time, we did on the same floor. The head of his bed rested against a door, that, if open, would form a communication between the room he slept in and mine. My companion lay in the room underneath. Our landlord's theatrical rehearsals were carried on in his bed during the night. They were in the Kemble style. I had the full benefit of them gratis, but I was only admissible to the undress circle. Sometimes my taste was so bad I might have wished him a short bath in the Liffey, and to be removed then to a comfortable warm bed in safety elsewhere. One night the performance was too tedious; the plot seemed incoherent; the crisis of a duel had arrived; I got out of bed over to the cross door; and as he was reiterating vehemently, 'Fire, you rascal—fire, you rascal,' I assumed the character addressed, though not a very complimentary one, and came down with a sudden loud blow against the door, that must have electrified him or satisfied him; he was shot through the head, as it must have been within two or three feet of where I struck. Acting very properly the part of a man so circumstanced, he became perfectly speechless. I should, according to the laws of prudence and honor, have retired, leaving him or his friends to search for the bullet; but like bravoes in general, I must crow over my fallen enemy. The noise I had made answered every

end admirably, whether supposed to have been supernatural or otherwise; but when I was foolish enough to renew the attack in ordinary human language, the charm was dispelled; he bounced out of bed, and descending from the heroics, threatened to have the unknown villain's life forthwith. How dare he come there? and so forth. I had only time and presence of mind to place a chair on its side right across where he must pass if he came into the room, expecting he would tumble over it, and thus give me an opportunity of passing triumphantly over his prostrate body, and down to my companion's room, expecting he might prove an useful ally; the door burst open; fortunately the shutters had been closed, and the room was pitch dark. Having learned that discretion was the better part of valour, I stood still as a mouse within a few feet of mine enemy, who, breathing vengeance, mixed with fumes of whiskey, launched out against me opprobrious epithets, which I was about to say I had to pocket; but this you are aware, from the then state of my costume, would not be quite correct. I am inclined to think he had some unwillingness to grapple with an unknown enemy in the dark; or the incipient horrors may have made him fancy he saw a Gorgon's head on me: be this as it may, he went away muttering what he would do when he got light. I followed him closely down stairs until I got as far as my friend's room, which I entered unceremoniously, but he was either too sound asleep, or too wide awake to

identify his fate with mine on the occasion. So I had to fly back unaided to my castle, determined to hold out to the last. In short, no surrender was my motto, though I had to be my own general, staff, engineer, and, above all, body guard. I lost no time in closing my door, and, in the most judicious way, placing all the available furniture so as to bear against it, working like a genuine sapper in the dark. I was inclined to imagine for the first time that the furnitue was too scanty; however, I buckled on my armour and awaited the result. The attack soon commenced. While he forced and struggled, I won't say that, had he succeeded, I had determined to extinguish him and the light, by emptying the water jug on them just when he showed his nose, but he would have deserved such a reception. Let the inference bear on me as hard as it may, I must confess I loved darkness at the time rather than light, except the light of day; but it was too long to look forward to the sun for aid at that time. Finding it in vain to attempt to storm the citadel, he raised the siege—the atmosphere, no doubt, contributing, in the uniform he wore, to cool his internal as well as external heat. My landlady, in the morning, brought me the intelligence that he was in *delirium tremens*, and requested particularly I would lock up my razors, thereby throwing a light on his fashion of wearing a beard somewhat resembling in length a hard brush. I suppose she generally preferred trimming his chin with her scissors to intrusting him

with a razor. Of course I did not delay long in changing my quarters, and never afterwards appeared on the boards with him."

Sad as the origin, and mingled with danger, as the foregoing adventure was, Mr. Trueman contrived to throw into the recital enough of drollery to cause considerable merriment. He was of a cheerful, happy disposition, which enabled him to render palatable, even to children, conversation on grave and important subjects. Having learned that the young people were to spend the following evening at Mrs. Howard's, he shortly afterwards took his leave.

CHAPTER III.

MRS. HOWARD'S.

MRS. HOWARD'S husband had been eminent as a physician and surgeon, but still more so as a man of benevolence, like his distinguished namesake of old. His last act evidenced this disposition; he had tried in vain by advice and warning to prevent the downward career of a man who was sadly addicted to drink and had a large family, nor did he desert them when poverty had compelled them to take shelter in a miserable house, surrounded by filth, bad air, and disease: they were at last attacked by a bad fever; without fee or reward he attended several members of the family to a successful issue, aware that a short visit to such a place, humanly speaking,

was more dangerous than to attend a clean, well ventilated hospital for months. He caught the disease himself at last, and it proved fatal. Well it was for his young widow that clear, strong, and decided religious principles had been impressed on her mind; that she knew she had the Father of the fatherless and the God of the widow ever ready to support, comfort, and direct her. The general sympathy of friends and acquaintances was gratifying and encouraging. The doctor, with proper prudence, had insured his life for a considerable sum, and had purchased a small property. To add to the profits of these, Mrs. Howard had opened a select school, which she was very competent to discharge the duties of—her great object being her hope to save some money to assist in getting her darling Alfred into the medical profession, which he fancied himself, and so did she, being desirous that he would follow the footsteps of his father as far as possible. The comfort and support she had experienced in religion cheered and encouraged her, so that there was no gloom or despondence ever visible in her demeanour; in fact, she had entered into receipt of that valuable legacy which the Saviour left to his disciples: "His peace," so that outward trials could hardly ruffle the surface, or disturb the even tenor of her way. Her society was pleasant and cheering to her acquaintances of all ages.

When the young people arrived at her house on the expected evening, great joy and happiness on all

sides manifested itself, though the causes would be thought too trifling to enumerate, by persons grown too wise to be made happy by such things as pictures, books, music, magic lantern, and dolls; but let me tell them, these little things are great to little men and women: so much so, that when Mrs. Howard wished to ascertain what seemed to render Emma and Mary rather downcast in the corner, she learned that they were beginning to fear they were approaching that age at which they would have to give up dolls, and with them the real pleasure of life; but Mrs. Howard immediately relieved and delighted them, by saying they would never have to give them up as long as they had pleasure in them. They accordingly set that down as meaning during their lives. After tea there was a great deal of talk about Mr. Trueman and his stories, several of which the young people repeated pretty fully again. Mrs. Howard said, "What added greatly to their value in her estimation was, they were true narratives, and therefore were solid foundations to erect the structure of temperance upon. We are and ought to be more influenced by facts than fine imaginary tales. Nothing adds to the firmness and consistency of the human character more than having the mind resting on well-known established facts. The superior learning and power of the Pharisees could not shake the confidence which the poor man had in the merciful Saviour who had conferred the great gift of sight on him. 'One thing he knew, that whereas he was blind, then

he saw.' Saint Paul was a chosen, unimpeachable witness for the truths of Christianity, having been taken from the ranks of its bitterest enemies, where he held a high, honorable, and safe position, as respected this world, and placed amongst those of the despised and suffering disciples. The one fact of his conversion was enough for him to rely upon, that he was quite right in making the change, and that thenceforth, instead of opposing the followers of the Saviour, he should willingly, nay, joyfully, devote his life to His service, though aware that thereby he brought upon himself the ignominy, sufferings, and dangers he knew so well of, from what he had previously witnessed and occasioned. Happily, we are not called on to be martyrs; nor do we require such a striking call to become true Christians. We have evidence enough to convince us fully of the truth of its essential doctrines, such as that 'God so loved the world as to give His only begotten Son, that whoever believeth on Him might not perish, but have everlasting life.' If we rest our faith and hopes as directed by this and other such like precious truths, we will enjoy present peace, and frequently an assurance of future glory: all good morals and practices are sure to be the result. With respect to the subject Mr. Trueman treated of, though he only mentioned a small portion of what he witnessed; he surely stated enough for us to be convinced for ever of the fact that strong drink is an insidious and dangerous enemy to persons of all ranks; that it makes its

treacherous advances as if it were a friend; and when, by indulgence and habit, it has acquired sufficient strength and dominion, it turns out a bitter foe. I cannot avoid speaking to those whom I love on serious subjects, because I know their value. By nature we have no relish for them, because we neither know our own necessities nor their suitableness to meet our wants. When I was a young girl, I had heard or read a good deal about the discovering of the source of the Nile. I took no interest in the subject, and thought, in my folly, that more was made of it than it deserved. The number of excellent spring wells at hand made good water so common that I undervalued it. I had a feverish attack about this time, and consequently considerable thirst. In some stage of my illness I fancied I had arrived at the source of the Nile; that it was a clear sparkling spring, bubbling up in a dry soil, gliding along, sometimes hidden, sometimes shining out, refreshing and invigorating everything within its reach. How my mind was changed on the subject. I had acquired a great relish for water; I thirsted greatly for a draught, thought the scene most delightful and refreshing to me. No wonder, then, if it attracted the admiration of the whole world. Had the entire stock of a gin palace, with its gilded bottles, been displayed on the bank, they would have been despised in the comparison. I have often since thought, the spring, its course and its uses, resembled the free grace of God and salvation,

springing up to guilty sin, blinded man undeservedly and unexpectedly, in a mysterious manner, gliding along—the inspired volume, sometimes rather concealed in types and shadows; sometimes throwing bright and sparkling visions across our mental faculties; yet disregarded until we are convinced by the Holy Spirit of our necessities and its suitableness to meet them." After this she began to exhibit the premiums Alfred had gained at school; and the high testimonials he had received from the Doctor, whose letters respecting him were so warm and affectionate that she was frequently obliged to stop in reading them, from the amount of feeling they excited. She said she feared she idolized dear Alfred too much, and that it might make it necessary for her again to be visited by some severe affliction. For so far he never had caused her to shed a tear except of affection.

"Nothing could exceed the dear good Doctor's friendship and kindness; I can hardly think of it without tears of gratitude springing into my eyes. He has even hinted to me not to be anxious about Alfred's future prospects, for if he continued to go on as hitherto, he had a plan in view that might serve him." She said she was very glad for Alfred's sake and their own, Henry and William were about to go to Mount Progress; they were sure to have one of the kindest and best of masters, if they tried to deserve it, of which she had no doubt; and Alfred's experience in the school and knowledge of

the boys might be useful to them. Lads at a public school of course had their little trials and troubles, —perhaps they were calculated to fit them better for public life when they became men. She had every hope they would conduct themselves there so as not only to have a beneficial effect upon their own future prospects, but that of others, as a good example or advice had often proved very advantageous.

This serious conversation was no drawback to the happiness and enjoyment of the evening. Music commenced, in which all present were enabled to bear a good part, in proportion to their respective ages. Miss Harper, of course, being *prima donna*, she contributed her full share to the pleasure of the evening in every stage of it. When at the piano, she took them rather by surprise by the following new version of an old toping song :—

"When glasses sparkle all around
With wine and spirits bright,
Be sure with evils they abound,
And dangers great unite;
By night, by day, they lead astray,
And would destroy the soul,
In ceaseless pain it ever chain,
Oh, sadly fatal bowl, &c.

"This world they say is a world of woe :
Who can the fact deny ?
The bitterest from the goblet flow
Of tears that dim the eye;
Too many fools despise the rules
That drinking would control,
But, oh, refrain, I urge again,
From the deceitful bowl, &c.

"For many evils it contains,
Crime, poverty, and grief,
Disease and death, or hopeless pains,
Madness that mocks relief.
Let us unite this very night
From henceforth to abstain;
Then hope may we to be quite free
From all the fatal train
Which spring from the sad bowl," &c.

When she had concluded, Mrs. Howard said she was glad to find poetical and musical talents enlisted in the good cause of Temperance,—they had been so often misapplied and degraded in the opposite one. The evening passed away so agreeably, they found it was later than they had been aware of, so they had to break up the party quickly. The night was bright and frosty, the road dry, and the stars brilliant. This gave Miss Harper an opportunity of pointing out several constellations on their way home.

The following day Mr. St. Laurence received a letter to the following effect:—

"Respected Sir,—You, as a magistrate, must be aware that intemperance and its inseparable train of evils pervade the town and neighbourhood of Anyborough to a frightful extent. We have heard something of the interesting anecdotes bearing on the subject which Mr. Trueman has been giving in your house; several of my acquaintances join me in thinking it is a pity he should confine his efforts to where they are least needed, when there is so extensive a field to sow the good seed in at hand. We would, therefore, feel much obliged if you would permit a public meet-

ing to be held in the large school-house you were so instrumental in getting built, and induce him to attend there this evening, at half-past six o'clock. I think we could promise a good attendance of the lower order, and that they will be well conducted.

"Your obedient Servant, for self and others,

"JAMES CARPENDALE.

"*Edwin St. Laurence, Esq., J. P.*"

Mr. St. Laurence, who was very favourable to the cause, went directly to Mr. Trueman's, and with some difficulty induced him to get over his nervous dislike to come thus prominently before the public, and to promise he would attend at the appointed time, which he communicated at once to Mr. Carpendale, who was a very respectable shopkeeper in the town.

CHAPTER IV.

THE FIRST TEMPERANCE MEETING.

AT the time appointed, Mr. St. Laurence and family, Mrs. Howard and Mary, arrived at the school. They found Mr. Trueman before them, and were surprised at such a number of different classes as were assembled there.

Mr. St. Laurence was called to the chair, and spoke to the following effect:—"He had long considered intemperance in every shape as the great bane of society. Some of the evils were so glaring as to force themselves upon the attention of the most

careless observer; others have escaped general observation from the universality of the practice that has hitherto prevailed, of using ardent spirits by persons of all ranks and characters, so that having been born and brought up in such an atmosphere, we are unconscious in a degree of its pestilential consequences. Some time back, when the subject was brought under the consideration of the House of Commons, the following was part of the evidence given:—Dr. Gordon, Physician to the London Hospital, stated he had kept an account for twelve months of the diseases of the hospital, and found seventy-five out of the one hundred were occasioned by or connected with the use of ardent spirits. That he had occasion to open a great many bodies of persons who died from various diseases, who were not considered by any means intemperate, but had been in the habit of taking one or two glasses daily, and in all those cases there was more or less affection of the liver. Dr. J. R. Farre, practising physician in London, stated he had been forty years practising, that he believed distilled spirits wholly unnecessary for persons in health, and the habitual use of them in a high degree pernicious. Dr. R. G. Dods, practising physician at Chatham, stated that ardent spirits are extremely injurious when given to restore vigour after fatigue, or to protect against extreme cold; that it is now generally an admitted fact that the water-drinker sustains the effects of cold better than the dram-drinker; that ardent spirits may justly be

called poison. Dr. Cheyne, Physician-General to the army in Great Britain and Ireland, stated that ardent spirits are very destructive to health, and may be justly deemed a poison ; that he had no doubt, if a man, beginning at twenty, would take one large glass of spirits, say, two ounces every day, he would thereby probably shorten his life ten years; that the entire abolition of ardent spirits would be the greatest blessing. Dr. Ellis, Physician to the Lunatic Asylum at Hamwell, stated that out of twenty-eight cases admitted into the asylum the year immediately previous, nineteen were drunkards. Certificates corroborative of the foregoing opinions, signed by upwards of six hundred of the most eminent physicians and surgeons throughout the kingdom, were given in on the occasion. Surely, after this body of evidence, of the gravest and most unimpeachable kind, any observations he could make, from personal knowledge or experience, could add little weight in producing a proper effect. Mr. Trueman, however, had his mind long turned to the subject, and had special opportunities of witnessing the effects of the use of strong drink. He brought forward in his house some awful proofs of the dreadful tendency of intemperance. Before requesting him to let us hear something more of what he has witnessed, he would take the liberty of reading an extract from the London 'Times,' on the subject:—'Of the number of deaths which occur in England and Wales

from excessive drinking only an imperfect conception can be formed; but it appears, according to the returns of the Registrar-General, that in ten years no less than 4922 deaths were directly ascribed to *delirium tremens*, and 3238 to intemperance; the deaths from the two forms averaging 816 per annum.' This may well be considered as falling far short of the real number, when we bear in mind the efforts used by surviving friends to conceal what is properly looked upon as a disgraceful end. Mr. Trueman will please let us have some of his experience on the subject."

Mr. Trueman, on rising, said:—"It is in vain for me to imagine that anything I could say would add weight to what you have just heard; but as it seems some of the instances of the evil of intemperance which came within my knowledge have caught attention, I may mention one or two more, in hopes they will form a solemn warning to us all to have neither part nor lot with such an insidious enemy as strong drink. Yes, it is insidious; it approaches as a friend, imparts at first a kind of genial warmth, promises absence of disagreeable thoughts, holds out hopes of pleasure, encourages an increasing desire for more exciting drink, leads on to an habitual use of it; then comes the fatal consequences, when it appears in its true character, that of a cruel tyrant, bent on our destruction in the most distressing manner, sparing neither rank nor sex. The Almighty alone can then extricate us from his

fangs. When Sterne was about to write his affecting piece on slavery, he found he could not bring the case of the millions born to no other inheritance close enough to his readers, so he dropped all but that of a single captive, which, though admitted to be an imaginary case, few can read without being affected deeply by it. Surely, intemperance, too, has its millions of victims, as partly evidenced by what our good friend in the chair has well brought forward ; but the very number prevents the cases being brought so close to our hearts as they should be. It would be quite different if I could bring each body I intend to refer to into this room, and let you see it in the frightful state I have. I do not intend to exaggerate or colour my truthful narratives, because I consider it quite unnecessary; and besides, it would be improper to bear false witness even against an enemy. The charges against him are numerous and grievous enough in their true colours, to show my forbearance in this respect. I have seen a woman throw herself into the Liffey, in the middle of the day, who was taken up after a considerable time alive, and probably recovered; but I feel I have not sufficient grounds for attributing the act to strong drink, and therefore I do not do so. There can be no doubt or question as to the origin of the cases I intend to adduce. Having been called on officially, I went into a long barrack bedroom. There was no living person in it but myself. The first thing that caught my attention was blood and brains

scattered up the whitewashed wall and on the ceiling. Proceeding further, I found lying on a table the body of a soldier. One side of his head was shot off, the other greatly swelled and frightfully disfigured. He had been selected from his company for a servant by an officer, and consequently relieved from many of the duties of a soldier, which otherwise he might have considered irksome. I think it may be fairly inferred he was a good character generally, save for a tendency to the glass. He got leave for two or three days to visit a detachment a few miles distant; returned in a moping condition—he had been drinking;—took an opportunity of going to the bedroom after breakfast, and ended his career in the awful manner alluded to. I have seen the body of a fisherman who hanged himself with his net, after emptying a bottle which contained whiskey that lay beside him. Also the body of a farmer, found dead in his barn, with an empty bottle, such as is generally used for wine, but he had got it filled that morning with whiskey. I have seen on different occasions the bodies of three publicans' wives, and three other females, two of them in a respectable rank in life, all found dead in their beds, unquestionably from the same cause. A farmer, who lived about two miles out of town, attended a fair or market in it. His little son, about thirteen years of age, was with him. Instead of going home in due time, he kept loitering about public-houses, and tippling,

notwithstanding all the poor boy, who was nearly worn out, could urge upon him. At length, very late he got him about a mile and a half on his way home, when the fiend of Drink, in whose clutches he was, suggested he must go back to the town. The poor boy, jaded with the long contest of the day, went home ; the man turned back. His body was found, not far from where they separated, in a ditch, in which there was about a foot deep of water. A man, who was in comfortable circumstances, loitered about the same town in a similar manner on another day. At length he took a notion he would go home. He had a box, or parcel of some kind, in the centre of his cart, high enough to serve for a seat. He mounted on this, and by way of showing off, or as if to make up for lost time, he commenced beating his horse, a quiet good one, which went off at a canter through the town. Some police, who happened to be coming in the opposite direction, were surprised to observe the horse and cart, about a mile out of the town, proceeding quietly without a driver. On coming close, they found the man dead on the cart, his head lying so that every spoke of one of the wheels struck against it as it revolved. The course of the cart could be traced some distance by the blood issuing from the skull."

At this stage of the meeting, a sudden crash was heard that startled those assembled a good deal, particularly the females.

Sturdy and two or three others rushed out, and were not long absent until they brought in by the neck a drunken, idle scamp, called Soaker, in a half fuddled state : no other person could be seen.

Mr. St. Laurence asked him how dare he do such an act as to throw stones through the window.

"Then, I'll just tell your honour why I did it. I did not know what I was about. Mr. Butt, the publican, gave me a couple of glasses for throwing two stones at the windows, to break up the meeting, and told me if I ran quickly into the plantation, no person would ever know who did it."

"I think," said Mr. St. Laurence, "some person in the county jail will know it before long ; in the mean time, instead of breaking up the meeting, you must assist us in carrying it on. Get a chair for Mr. Soaker, and place it beside mine. He is a fit representative of the publicans' cause."

"Oh, your honour, don't ask me to sit beside you ; I could never bear so many eyes looking at me at once. Let me lie down on the floor at your feet, or send me to the jail at once."

"Come, sit there ; you have made us lose too much time already."

There unfortunate Soaker sat, like a man in the pillory, with his eyes generally shut, his head stooped, or turned from side to side, and causing considerable merriment in the meeting.

Mr. Trueman then resumed:—"I think I need not trouble you with many other cases to prove the danger

position of the proprietor of the demesne, and the beauty and interesting nature of the place, lead to its being frequently resorted to by happy and merry parties who find a ready retreat in its principal cave, where they can amuse and refresh themselves.

"I must turn from such scenes to one of an opposite character. A man, his wife, and two others, chose to pass through the demesne homewards from a fair which had been held in a neighbouring town. The husband had been drinking, as frequently happens at such meetings. His wife let him stagger along without interfering with him, while the road was perfectly safe; but when they came to a little bridge, which was not fenced by a parapet, her affection and anxiety for his safety led her to catch him, to prevent his going too near the brink; whether or not, from the state he was in, it had the effect of making him desirous to assert his independence, and shake her off, I know not; but she held on with fatal fidelity, until both tumbled off the bridge into a pool formed by the river, which was full. She then relinquished her hold; it would have increased instead of lessened his danger. He scrambled to the bank and escaped. She was forced by the current into the small underground outlet it had to pass through. It is hoped her sufferings were not long protracted in the sad abyss into which she was carried. With some difficulty her dead body was got out after a time by the use of poles, &c. Oh! woman, woman, woman! often the truest and tenderest of human friends—faithful even unto death—how much and how frequently hast thou

suffered by our vices! Surely you will not despise an effort, however feeble, to check that monster evil, Intemperance, the evident source of so much misery and distress in world, especially in families.

"I must turn from these painful cases. I think every one present must already be satisfied that strong drink is a murderer. It is rather more evident that it acts the part of a robber in depriving us of our money and means of subsistence. Mr. Soaker, you could throw some light on this subject. When did your father die? 'About three years ago.' 'What family did he leave?' 'Only me.' 'What business did he follow?' 'Shoemaking.' 'Was he a sober man or otherwise?' 'He had not tasted anything stronger than water for upwards of twenty years.' 'Was he in good circumstances or otherwise?' 'I never knew him to owe a man a shilling longer than a week; he dealt all for ready money. We lived comfortably, and when he died he had £50 in the bank; £15 in the house, besides his shop well stocked with leather, boots, and such like, and his house comfortably furnished. I had learned the trade. If I had followed his example or advice I would not be here now.' 'What became of the stock and furniture?' 'Most of it went to the pawnbroker's.' 'What became of the £15, and what you got at the pawn office?' 'Oh, it is a folly to talk about it—I wanted it.' 'Did you get journeywork to do?' 'I did for a while.' 'Were the wages enough to support you?' 'Yes, while

they lasted, and I took care of them.' 'Was it your own wish or your employer's that the journey work ceased?' 'Oh, it is a folly to talk about that.' 'What about the £50 that was in the bank; is it a folly to talk about that too?' 'Oh, I'll tell you honestly about that. After I quitted the journey-work I was in great distress. I could not get the £50 at the bank until I had administered. The attorney told me it was safer there than with me, and that he would do the business when I got settled. Well, to make out life I had to run messages, and do little jobs about Mr. Butt's public house, for which I was allowed to sleep in the stable loft, and pick up what food I could there and through the town. I had been back and forward about Mr. Butt's most of the day, and of course when I had nothing else to do I kept smoking. I always kept the bank receipt in my waistcoat pocket for safety. I don't remember how it happened, for I was not right at myself; but it's a folly to talk about that. Whether I lighted the pipe after night with the receipt or put the hot pipe into the pocket on the top of it, it was all the same. When I put my hand into the pocket in the morning I found only about an inch of the receipt remained. I gave it to the attorney. I suppose the whole money is lost: he did not give me much hopes that the bank would ever pay it.' 'You said you would tell honestly what I asked. Now what is the cause that you are so poor and looked down upon, when your father

was so well off and respected?' 'Oh, your honour knows it very well, it's a folly to talk about that. I often promised I would not take more than a half one in any one day; but sure as it went down it was certain to crave for the other half; so I had to give in. What you said this evening has frightened me so much, that I would give any thing in the world for the cure, if there can be such a thing in my case.' 'Oh, there is an effectual cure; but it would be useless to tell it to you until you are quite sober: if you adopt it, you may rally yet and become a comfortable and respectable man like your father. I think, my friends, the witness present has proved that strong drink robs a man of his money, his furniture, his stock in trade, his inclination and ability to work, his opportunity of earning by a respectable trade, his prospect of employment and his character. It does not confine its plundering propensity to tradesmen. I have known gentlemen in what are called the three learned professions, men in business, some farmers, and private gentlemen, all degraded or reduced to poverty or dependance from easy and comfortable circumstances. I have seen one of them applying to chance passengers in Sackville-street, putting his hand to his hat as ordinary beggars do. When I approached he did the same to me, except that he addressed me by name. How it pained me to see a gentleman at whose table I had dined, in company with highly respectable people, so reduced. I cannot venture to

describe the wretchedness of broken-hearted wives, starving children, and unfortunate female outcasts, once the purity and joy of a happy household, now reeling in the lowest stage of degradation, houseless, through the streets, whiskey having been very instrumental in producing all this evil. Now what is the speediest, cheapest, and most certain step an unfortunate person (whether man, woman, or child) can take to get extricated from the dominion and snares of intemperance? I am happy to say I have the answer in the words of a young gentleman of high rank, but still more highly elevated by the good sense, manliness, courage, and consistency he has manifested in this matter, as well as by his many other good qualities. It is this. 'There is but one remedy for intemperance, but it is a complete and effectual one—total abstinence.' The night is too far spent to enter upon the brighter and more cheerful branch of the subject: but Mr. St. Laurence has been so kind as to say he will attend to-morrow evening at the same hour, for the consideration of it. We will be happy to meet as large a company as the house will hold. And we will now, if you please, adjourn until then; but carry with you this fact, that it may be indelibly engraven on your minds, a great portion of the outrages, crimes, and evils of society can be traced directly to have had their origin in the public house, or from the use of intoxicating drink. This is evidenced by almost every newspaper we open."

CHAPTER V.

SECOND TEMPERANCE MEETING.

NEXT day Mr. St. Laurence received a note to the following effect:—

"HONOURED SIR,—I humbly beg that you will be so kind as not to send me to jail until after the temperance meeting to-night, and that you will allow me to go to it, and to sit near the door.

"Your humble and shameful servant,

"JAMES SOAKER."

He told the ragged messenger to say to Soaker that he might attend the meeting. The principal gossip of the town this day was the temperance meeting. The publicans, their friends and many who had become intemperate by habit, affected to ridicule it; that its object was visionary, that poor people ought not to be interfered with in their enjoyments, or in their means of making out a livelihood. Others said no individuals should be permitted to scatter about death, misery, and evils of various kinds, wholesale, as they were doing, even amongst their own families. Some said the object was evidently good, but they were attempting to carry it too far. "Such visionary schemes could never succeed." Others replied, "Experience proved, nothing short of what was aimed at would have a chance of meeting the evil, as the slightest taste in most instances was sure to lead on to worse; besides

moderate tippling was the direct way to acquire the taste and habit that was so difficult to contend against. It was infinite wisdom that had suggested the prayer, Lead us not into temptation, deliver us from evil." One advantage of this talk was, that when the time came the room was crowded.

Mr. St. Laurence, on taking the chair, asked was Mr. Soaker present; on being answered in the affirmative, he required him to resume his former seat near him. He came forward, but begged hard not to be asked to get up on the large tables, which, joined together, formed a kind of platform, on which a chair had been placed for him. He pleaded at last he had a very sore leg, that he had met with an accident; but it was unavailable: he had to get up. It was said he had been very useful at the last meeting, though he did not intend it. He might be useful at this one too. When up, Mr. St. Laurence said he would be much obliged to Doctor Leech to look at the leg he complained of, that he might be exposed if he had been attempting to impose upon them. The doctor stripped the part bandaged, and exposed two severe cuts on his leg; they were greatly swelled and inflamed. "How in the world did this happen?" Mr. St. Laurence asked. "Oh, no matter, I deserved ten times as much, but not from him." "From whom?" "Oh, it's a folly to talk about it." "You unfortunate fellow, you have got drunk again, and met with some accident." "I assure your honour I did not taste bit or sup since I was in this room

last night." "Come, that is a deliberate falsehood; you took breakfast surely." "Indeed I did not; it was looking for my breakfast brought this upon me; but I beg pardon, I did get a bit, and I'll tell you all about it. I'll never forget it as long as I live. When I was coming in this direction to look for some of the labourers, or a chance boy who would bring the note I wrote to your honour, a little boy, about six years of age, was coming to the afternoon school held here. He asked me what o'clock it was. I said, about two. He said his mother was too busy to get his dinner, but had given him some bread. I said he was better off than me, for I had not got my breakfast yet. He asked was my mother too busy. I said I had no mother; it was happy for her she was dead; for if alive, I would break her heart. 'Why would you break her heart; was she not a good mother?' 'Oh, the best and most affectionate that could be.' I had to stop. He fumbled in his satchel, took out a slice of bread, broke it in two, and offered me the larger side, saying, 'Take this.' I said, 'Thank you, keep the part you are offering me, and, as you are so kind as to offer it, I'll take the small end,' which was little more than the fourth. He insisted I was bigger than him, and should take the bigger half, which, chiefly to please him, I did. He set me fairly crying, especially when I thought of how another treated me in the morning; and I said, 'Oh, that I were a child, and never to grow older.'"

Simple as this statement was, it did not leave

many dry eyes in the house. Mr. St. Laurence said, "Did you ask his name?" "Oh, surely; he said he was Willy Maxwell." Mr. St. Laurence said, "I know his father and mother well. If he be in the room, I would wish to shake hands with him; but it might do the child harm to take much notice of him for doing what I trust he will often act similarly to, from purer and better motives than the applause of others." Notwithstanding this, there was a considerable bustle and shaking of hands in one corner, which Farmer Maxwell tried to control, repeating, "Did you not hear what Mr. St. Laurence said? you will spoil the child." He was at last fairly lifted from his side, and placed between Mr. St. Laurence and Mr. Trueman, who shook hands with him, saying they were glad to become acquainted with him. Soaker also shook hands with him amidst loud cheering. Maxwell made his way up to the chair, and carried the handsome, blushing, and confused boy back to his mother, who, it must be confessed, in spite of her better judgment, took an opportunity of giving him a quiet kiss and hug, the poor child whispering to her, "Are they not foolish people to make such noise about giving a piece of bread to a hungry man?" Mrs. St. Laurence had started Thomas to the house early in the narrative; and in the midst of the confusion a good sandwich reached Soaker's hand quietly. As soon as order could be restored, Mr. St. Laurence said Soaker was in the hands of the law, and he must insist on his telling the whole pa-

ticulars relative to the injury on his leg. It was in vain that he said it would not signify; that it was done in a hasty moment; that he forgave the act; that it was all folly to talk about it. Out the story must come. So he said on this morning he went to Mr. Butt's stables, cleaned up two post horses, the car and harness; carried washing water from the river; and thinking Mr. Butt, who had seen him at work, would have no objection to his getting something from the cook to eat, as compensation, went to the kitchen door, where he met Mr. Butt suddenly, who laid a whip smartly on his shoulders, and gave him the kicks on the leg; angry, no doubt, because he had told it was he who employed him to break the window. He said his feelings were more hurt than his body; they had always been such good friends, and he unfortunately so good a customer.

Mr. St. Laurence said he was not surprised at the settlement of accounts or winding up of affairs they had just heard; it was by no means an uncommon turn for dealings between a publican and his customer. "The magistrates will have to interfere: we in our present capacity have only to bear in mind the very useful Temperance lesson it has furnished. Mr. Trueman will be kind enough to proceed with his observations." Upon which he got up, saying:

"If I recollect rightly, the last idea I brought before the meeting, when it was about to be adjourned yesterday evening, was that total abstinence was the best cure for intemperance. It puts the

limit in the right place to insure strict sobriety: if you allow it to be removed from that it is quite undefined and changeable, according to the judgment of the individual. One person may place his limit at one glass of ardent spirits in the day; another at two, and so on to any number which may not prevent the individual from knowing which is his way home, or if the course be clear and safe to reach it. I knew a gentleman who professed to approve of the temperance movement, and rather boasted of the limit he put on his own practice, which was four tumblers of punch in the day. In short, the idea of drinking moderately has no defined limit in the mind of the general public, but that a man ought to stop when his reason tells him in the time of trial he has taken enough: the preliminary step, however, has rendered it impossible for reason then to be able or willing to give a clear or influential decision. The road the total abstainer has selected for his own sake and by way of example is elevated, firm, smooth, and fenced in breast high, so that as far as it is concerned he has pure air, sure and steady footing, nothing to occasion him to trip or stumble, nor, unless wilfully, to fall over the fence. The moderate drinker's way is outside of this fence; he hobbles along with one leg shorter than the other, like a sailor on a sloping deck. No wonder the lee lurches and power of gravitation in time leave so many of them floundering along the miry road of the Drunkard—there being no well-defined boundary between the one they had set out on and it.

"The highest ranks of the temperate and the total abstainers are both anxious to rescue those who have fallen into the sad state referred to; they try to bring them out of it by various ways, but it is evident that with the proclivities those they desire to rescue have acquired they will only be safe, humanly speaking, on the firm, well-fenced-in high road of total abstinence. It has been said, 'It is easy for a gentleman living in his own house, and not exposed to the hardships of climate, toil, or vicissitudes of life, to be a total abstainer, but it would be impossible for others differently circumstanced to meet such without the aid of the bottle.' As far as my own experience goes, it gives the negative to this, and I have a stronger evidence to adduce. A military man, whom I could rely on, told me he had been about twenty-seven years a total abstainer; that he had during that time faced every hardship and danger to which people in the army are so frequently exposed; he had endured the intense cold of Canada, the heat of India, sufferings at sea, and in the Crimea, on the battle field, &c.: the result of his experience was, that he suffered less in every respect than those who had recourse to the brandy bottle. An event occurred to test his consistency: his daughter was married to an officer. The Major of his regiment, who was present, said he never knew a wedding breakfast to take place at which there was not wine to drink the bride's health; he ought to produce at least one glass for each of the guests, but he was in-

exorable; he said it would be inconsistent with his principles. If they must drink her health, let them do so in coffee as strong as they pleased to have it. He went out again fearlessly to India. I have not heard of him lately.

"If a man did not wish to carry out the system to the extent of having no strong drink within reach for his guests, he might leave it to themselves to act as they pleased, and adhere to his own rule for himself. His example alone would probably have a good effect. I believe most of those present are aware that these meetings were not intended merely to amuse; that we hope substantial and permanent good will result from our efforts to bring the evils of intemperance under your consideration. In short, we expect to commence a total abstinence society in this place. We are desirous in the first place to enrol the children, as prevention is much better than cure, and they have not acquired those fatal habits so hard to struggle against. In a very short time we must retire from the stage, and what a happy reflection it ought to be to us, that we hope ere we move off we have made some little effort to effect even partially an improvement in this respect in those who are to succeed us, not only because it may lessen the amount of misery in this world, but may preserve their minds and understandings in a state better fitted to receive and rest upon the truths which make wise unto salvation. I see some young people before me who have arrived at or near the age of manhood and womanhood: my mind is set upon

them, too, as a very important class to secure. Many of them, no doubt, have already tasted the Circean cup without being aware of its dangerous downward tendency. Pause even at the brink of the declivity, I beseech you, and enter with us on the safer road.

"Some such thoughts as these may be running in some of your heads: 'If pecuniary circumstances permitted, we would not be long without partners.'

This seemed to create a titter near the seat where Jane sat, with Thomas on one side and Sturdy on the other.

"Young men, you can hardly imagine what an assistance laying aside the glass and pipe would give towards the attainment of your very proper object. When the girls find you are making personal sacrifices partly on their account, you will find they will decline to receive treats from rivals, a great deal of ridiculous finery will disappear, and they will become in every respect more deserving of your regard. You would all be surprised to learn how much small savings and interest allowed upon deposits in the Savings' Bank would amount to. Our friend, Soaker, could tell you how much it costs an ordinary smoker in the day, and how much a moderate drinker worse than wastes. We will not stop to make the calculation now, but bear this in mind for ever, that one penny per day amounts to £1 10*s.* 5*d.* in the year. I was always considered temperate, yet I wasted 6*d.* a day, or £10 a year on

drink. My personal savings, with interest, would exceed £664 since I gave it up.

"It is of the greatest importance that both heads of a house (some fancy there should be but one—I am for two) should be strictly sober and prudent, as well as possessed of other good qualities. Young men should be fully aware that a prudent, well-principled girl without a shilling would make a better wife than one of an opposite character though generally considered an heiress.

"I am desirous to have persons of all ages, ranks, and conditions, enrolled in our society; I by no means despair of any, even where the evil habit has commenced, if they will rouse themselves and look to the imminent risk they are running of losing both soul and body; but above all, look for grace and strength to Him who, 'like as a father pitieth his children, pitieth them that fear Him, for He knoweth our frame; he remembereth that we are dust.' I could point out by name several who were reduced by the unfortunate propensity to a most distressing and hopeless state, but by God's mercy have been drawn out of the frightful gulf, and have now been for years sober and respectable, with every prospect of their continuing so; but though the great change that has occurred is highly creditable to them, and ought to prevent any from despairing of themselves or others, yet it would not be right to mention their names in public, or bring modern cases forward.

"B—— was a lad of respectable family and con-

nexions; he appears to have gotten early in life good religious instruction; he entered the Navy young; he soon evinced a tendency to drink to excess, a habit easily acquired, particularly at that time, when it was supposed no person could pretend to hospitality who did not press intoxicating drink on every person whom he wished to show civility to. He soon became so that he could not withstand the temptation. When he got leave from his ship, and amongst his friends in his native country, 'he was sure to disgrace himself.' On all such occasions, fits of remorse and a determination to amend and live temperately followed, but in vain; the demon of drink had got fast hold of him. It only wanted a spoonful to send all his good resolutions to the winds. He felt then driven to make some kind of a solemn vow that he never would return to his native country unless or until reformed. After a lapse of time, his vessel was ordered to a neighbouring station; his watch was on deck; he saw he was approaching his once loved, now dreaded country; he remembered his vow; he was aware that instead of being reformed, he was now a hopeless slave to the sad propensity; he came to the awful determination to fulfil his vow and put an end to the contest by suicide. To insure his object and shorten the death struggle, he lifted the lead used for sounding, fastened it firmly to his wrist, plunged in, and went down like a stone. The sound on his disappearance gave the alarm; whoever was near rushed to the

spot, and thinking he might appear swimming, he seized the end of the lead line, which was attached to the vessel, intending to throw it to him to catch by, if he could. Finding the lead overboard, he drew it in hastily, and, to his great surprise, found B—— attached to it, in a senseless state. Of course he was got on board, and every remedy that could be thought of was used, but of this he knew nothing. What he was first conscious of was that he was in his berth, and well attended to. That the act was wilful, must have been evident from the way in which the lead was found fastened, but with great delicacy and kindness it was never hinted to him that they knew such was the case. Religious impressions immediately acted powerfully upon his mind. How could it have been otherwise? He must have observed that God, in His mercy, used for his rescue the lead, the very means he himself had chosen to ensure his speedy destruction, and thus prevented the consummation of the awful and irremediable crime of self-murder. He had, as he imagined, such views of the sufferings and death of the Saviour for him, notwithstanding his great guilt, that he felt bound thenceforth to devote his ransomed life to his service, and so he ever after seemed to do. The foregoing is the substance as nearly as I can recollect of the account given by himself to a truthful friend of mine, from whom I had it. I knew B—— personally myself for many years in after life; I need hardly say he was a strict abstainer. I remember his

having been badly treated, as he stated, by a Liverpool man in a mercantile transaction. He used no stronger language respecting him. He had to go to Liverpool to try to get the matter arranged. When there, he got a letter mentioning that his wife and daughter, whom I believe he had left in good health, were removed by some sudden disease, and thus his once happy home was left desolate. I saw him on his return in Dublin, accompanied him to the coach: he had to travel outside. It was a dark and stormy night, yet amidst this accumulation of trials not a murmur escaped his lips. He brought the story and character of Job strongly to my mind. Let no one expect in his own case such, shall I call it miraculous, an interference.

"I should have mentioned that all the persons whom I have known to escape from the habits of excessive intemperance have wisely chosen total abstinence as their future rule. They at first often tried the moderate use of strong drink, but it always ended in relapses. Nothing can be laid to the charge of the total abstainer except that he, after full consideration of the subject, determines to practise in a laudable and effectual manner the Christian grace of self-denial, hoping thereby to preserve his own mind and body, as far as it rests with himself, in a state fit to discharge at all times the duties of his station, and by his advice and example to induce others, some of whom may be on the brink of destruction, to do so. The resolution to which we

intend to attach our names is as follows: 'Mourning over the fearful effects of intemperance, we agree to abstain from all intoxicating drinks as beverages.' We do not wish any person to sign unless he hopes by the grace of God to adhere to the motto steadily. Some of us having given full consideration to the subject will now sign. Mr. Carpendale has kindly consented to take charge of the books containing the list, to give all who wish hereafter opportunities to sign." Some sounds of applause were made, but were speedily checked by Mr. St. Laurence, who said that the proper way to mark their approbation of the sentiments and actions of those who took a part in the meeting was to add their names to the list. He and his family, Mrs. Howard and Mary, Mr. Trueman, and many others, immediately signed, and the meeting was brought to an end.

CHAPTER VI.

THE SETTLING ROOM.

On the following day, Mr. St. Laurence called at Violet Hill. He said, "I have come to consult you on different matters connected with the object we have in view," addressing Mr. Trueman; "but I will first speak of the thought that is uppermost, though, perhaps, somewhat visionary. In most country towns of a moderate size there are twelve

annual fairs, and fifty-two markets. These furnish great and frequent opportunities of acquiring habits of intemperance, owing to the fact, that payments cannot be prudently made in the open street. The public-house has the only door open to them ; the owner should get some compensation for his trouble; the smell of the drink, and the custom of cementing all dealings with a treat of the kind, combine to lead to the intoxicating cup. It is not only the acquiring of a ruinous habit, such as led to the frightful tragedy in the case of the steward, which you brought forward last night, but when reason is partially dethroned by the glass, advantage is often taken of the victim by the person inclined to overreach him. I was assured lately, by one whom I have full reliance upon, that he had thought over a purchase when sober, and decided firmly that it neither suited his circumstances nor purse (some hundred pounds were involved in the transaction), therefore, that he would not make the purchase. He was pressed much to drink, consented with difficulty to take the first glass, with less pressing to take a second; eventually the bargain was concluded, while he had the power of his hands to affix his name to an agreement, but not of his reason to refuse. It is notorious that at auctions, &c., such means are often had recourse to; but my plan has reference chiefly to fairs. The proprietors of towns should have a large public settling room constructed in every town. If we

wait for this, we will be like the clown in the fable, waiting on the bank until the water in the river would all flow past, that he might get over dry. What I propose is, that a good roomy house, having offices and yard to suit, should be taken near the fair green, as soon as such can be had. If used hitherto as a public-house, so much the better. The barrels, counter, &c., can be removed; all the concern cleaned up in a plain way; small narrow tables, like those used in some schools, with narrow boards annexed on either side for seats. I don't want to tempt the occupants to remain sitting too long; each table not calculated to hold more than two each side, to be placed with an end to the wall. No doubt there will be a kitchen behind the front room. Perhaps it would be well to take down one end of the partition wall, to enlarge the accommodation, and facilitate communication. If possible, a respectable man and wife, without family, should be engaged. The man to attend chiefly to the door and front room; the wife to be prepared to furnish mugs of coffee or tea, bread, eggs, or in time, if there be a demand, soup or broth. A variety of documents, such as bargains frequently render necessary, should be printed, and always at hand, according to approved-of forms, to be supplied to those calling for them at, perhaps, a halfpenny each. Suppose one, in blank, prepared to be filled up as an engagement that the animal sold is sound, &c.; another, that no engagement has been given;

another, prepared in blank, for a partial engagement; I O's, bill and receipt stamps. Suppose a buyer and seller, on going in, paid a penny each, that would be the general cost to them of the entire transaction. There should, on fair days, be a trustworthy man at the gate, with pen, ink, and book, to receive the rate considered necessary to charge for the cattle per head ; to note the owner's name, number, or description, shortly, of the cattle; and a boy in the yard to look after them. Perhaps a few beds in the house, if found in demand. It appears to me such a system would be safe for man and beast, give a check to the drinking system, and to the frightful amount of litigation and cross-swearing about engagements, &c., so prevalent now. There should be painted on a board in front, 'The Safe Settling House.' Neither of us need fear, single-handed, to engage in the undertaking, as it would not be an expensive one ; but if we join in it, there will not only be a double supervision, but the public will understand at once that the object is not so much for individual gain as to serve them. It would be talked of, and may lead to an extension of the system. I think the house may be made consistently productive in other respects, so that, in one way or other, we would not lose much, if anything."

Mr. Trueman immediately replied:—"I think the project is an admirable one; I will most readily join you in it."

"Now for my second subject. Here is a letter I received this morning:—

"'HONOURED SIR,—I feel dreadfully distressed when I think what I have been guilty of, both as to the school-house affair and Soaker's. I had on both occasions, unfortunately, taken a drop. You, Sir, can know nothing of the great temptation it is to be constantly handling it, nor how soon it deprives a man of any little sense he has. It may be some relief to my mind, if you will kindly accept of the enclosed £5, and apply it as you may think proper. Of course, I must afterwards submit to the law, whatever it may bring on me.

"'I am your distressed and humble Servant,

"'THOMAS BUTT.

"'*To Edwin St. Laurence, Esq.*"

You know the circumstances; what should be done in the case? Shall I return the money, and force Soaker to prosecute, or expend it on him in clothes, &c.?"

"Do you know," Trueman replied, "I have great hopes Soaker will henceforth prove a strictly sober man. I think, if left to himself, he would be very unwilling to prosecute. Suppose, without telling him of the money, you tried how he was inclined on the point."

It was agreed this should be done. It turned out as Mr. Trueman expected, as to what Soaker's wish was, with respect to having recourse to law. He earnestly besought Mr. St. Laurence to forgive the matter, as he had done; they were not likely to have any conflict in future, as he was going to resume his trade; his former employer promised to

give him work when he would return from jail. He had advanced him the cost of the stuff to make a little pair of boots, which he held up to them in a nearly-finished state. Trueman took them from him, and examined them particularly. He said they were exceedingly neat and well executed, and that it was a shame to see a young man, who could work so well, employed at the dirtiest and humblest work about a whiskey house, ragged, and occasionally almost starving.

Soaker replied : "I have brought all the evil I have endured on myself, and deserved ten times as much." Mr. Butt's treatment, instead of an injury, he trusted, would prove a blessing. He hoped he would never drink a drop of intoxicating drink during his life; and humbly begged he would be allowed to put his name to the list in the book at Mr. Carpendale's. This was granted, and they left without hinting at Mr. Butt's letter.

In the morning, Maxwell came over to Mount Pleasant, exhibiting the little boots. He said Soaker had requested permission to measure Willy, which was granted. When he came back with the very nice pair he exhibited, all their efforts failed to induce him to take money, or any other compensation, even his breakfast, though he very probably needed it. This decided Mr. St. Laurence that, as far as he was concerned, he would not press Soaker to prosecute, and that he would

tell him that day of the £5, and consult him as to how he wished it to be applied.

As he went in front of the house, Maxwell made some such remark as "the very birds of the air have confidence in you."

He replied, "You have not seen it all. Stand where you are; I will show you some of them have confidence in me."

He then advanced a few steps towards where some pigeons were on a house roof. He stretched out his arms; in a few seconds they flew down and perched upon his arms and his head, to the astonishment of Maxwell, Mr. St. Laurence being artful enough not to disclose that it was not disinterested love that attracted his feathered friends to him, but the expectation of food, as he had trained them by degrees to feed in that way occasionally out of his hands.

Sturdy was one of the earliest who came in to sign the book. Jane signed soon afterwards. Thomas and Martin would have signed if the rule would permit one glass in the day. So would Simpson, a farmer who was sadly addicted to drink, and often remonstrated with on the subject by Mr. St. Laurence. It was evidently reducing him fast from comfort and respectability to the reverse, and inflicting great distress on an excellent wife and nice promising children. When Mrs. Simpson had heard of the movement, she called on Mr. Trueman and gave him a lamentable account of their family affairs.

Simpson was prevailed on with some difficulty to attend the meeting at the school-house. Having mentioned Jane and Sturdy, it may be well to notice a phenomenon respecting them for men of science to solve if they can. It was observed that, though they started for church on Sunday mornings from different houses, and at different rates, they generally were found together before they proceeded a third of the way. There seemed to be no foolish flirtation in the case; on the contrary, her ear-rings and some extra ribbons disappeared. Her dress became more sensible, neat, and tidy. His blue necktie remained a mystery; but he was not half so fanciful with respect to his costume as Thomas. He told Jane he knew a lad who was determined if he could to give up both smoking and drinking, and to deposit in the bank as much as these habits had formerly cost him, and also £1 a quarter from his wages.

She approved so much of the lad's good intentions, she said she would make a neat cotton bag for him; but it would be small, and not of very strong material, so that the lad should have often to relieve it by transferring its contents to the Savings' Bank. Her master had made her commence to do so with a trifle some time back. Could there be anything like flirtation in this kind of talk? Thomas occasionally attempted to flirt; but fine a fellow as he was, she neither relished his talk nor himself. It was rather an uphill affair for the friends of the society to gain for it ground against old-established evil habits

and propensities, still they persevered, and were rewarded by being able occasionally to rescue an unfortunate victim of intemperance, besides the satisfaction of knowing they were preventing the downfall of others who had shown a proclivity in that direction. They were likely to assist successfully in perhaps the most feasible, if not the most important branch of the undertaking—guarding and restraining the young from acquiring the habits and propensities so ruinous in themselves, and so difficult to contend against when formed. Strenuous effort against every sin and in every path of duty is ours, looking for aid and success to Him who overrules all events, and is sure to bring good out of such a course.

Vacation had commenced at Progress Hall. Alfred Howard had arrived at home. He was deservedly a great favourite wherever he was known. He came laden with trophies of victory, and testimonials of good conduct, as usual. He, of course, became a constant and welcome visitor at Mount Pleasant, and cheered all the parties there; for however lightly people may think of it, be assured that it is a trying occasion for an affectionate mother to separate from beloved children for the first time, as Mrs. St. Laurence was shortly about to do. Fears, well founded and otherwise, assailed her, which the return of Alfred, happy, and improved so much in all respects, tended greatly to remove, as well as the kind and judicious conversation of Mrs. Howard.

The families were always attached to each other; but their intimacy and regard had much increased of late. They spent most of the evenings of this vacation, which was a short one, together, either in the house of one or the other. Alfred readily promised he would use every effort to keep the St. Laurences from harm. He was lavish in his praises of the Doctor, whom he looked upon as a good father. He said the St. Laurences would find him equally kind, for he was certain they would be diligent and well conducted, which were sure passports to his favour. On being asked if the boys fought much amongst themselves, had he ever to fight, he said they did not often. He had only one little skirmish. Not being permitted to pass over "the little skirmish" without giving particulars, he said: "Battersby, Senior, some time after I had gone to school, made a remark that it was rather odd how I contrived to escape to that time without a boxing match. I said the secret was, I had no desire to injure any one, and that I was a great lover of peace. He said it was the very best plan for all cowards to take. I felt hurt, but said nothing. He asked, 'Would you box Brown?' a lad about my own age, who was present. I replied, 'Certainly not, I never had a quarrel with him,' nor did he say as unkind a thing to me as he had himself said.' 'Oh, is that the way of it? You would rather box me than him; with all my heart; then here's at you,' squaring at and striking me. I then, of course, fought away as well

as I could. He was a practised hand, and older. So, it rather surprised the boys who were present that I kept my feet as well as I did. We were at last separated by several of the large boys—both rather in a disfigured state. He did not, nor did any other of the boys ever call me a coward afterwards, though I have persevered in stating, I do not like quarrelling, either personally or amongst the boys, and I have frequently succeeded in preventing fighting."

All seemed surprised that the fortnight could pass over like a week. We, too, must pass over lightly the parting scene. The excuses their mother made to have a quiet look at them the night before, after they had fallen asleep, good Miss Harper's efforts to encourage and divert her, the tears, sighs, prayers, and embracings; and just imagine Mr. St. Laurence and the three boys off together on the van which started from Anyborough at ten A. M., for Disbally. Unfortunately, as the boys considered it at the time, Alfred could not get room on the side Mr. St. Laurence and his sons were. So he had to content himself beside a stout young countryman, who gave an account of feats of activity he had performed the previous week, in a tone loud enough to be heard by Mr. St. Laurence. The van appeared to move on in a zigzag kind of way; but Mr. St. Laurence, not having been much used to van travelling, did not remark that the driver was in fault: even after he had got a slap with the lash of his

whip on the hat, he only called up to him to be more careful not to do so again: the cunning fellow looked seldom, if at all, back, and did not speak. Alfred remarked to his neighbour, the driver had taken a glass, and began to speak against drinking. The other replied it was bad to exceed, particularly in a driver, but a little of it was very useful; it fitted a man for anything that came before him. He had taken just one glass that morning before the van started, and he felt it of great use. He could do anything, even jump or leap better than if he had not taken it. "See," he said, "the driver has dropped one side of the reins. The van is going too much to the other side of the road." Both sides of the reins ought to have been buckled near the driver's hand. Alfred bounced off, rushed to the horses' heads, gave them a sudden pull with all his strength, turned them to the middle of the road, and got them stopped just as his companion joined him. There were several shouts from those on the opposite side that they would be thrown into the ditch, which was very large and deep. At the spot in question there was no fence sufficient to prevent the wheel, which had got within a few inches of it, going over. I won't attempt to repeat the exclamations against the driver, nor the thanks to the brave boy, who had, with such wonderful quickness, activity, and presence of mind, been instrumental in saving so many lives, when on the very brink of destruction; the distance from the track of the wheel to the edge having been about

five inches; so that those on that side were overhanging the pit. Mr. St. Laurence said he trusted they would all be ever grateful to God for preserving them; that His arrangement to have the proper instrument at hand in the proper place was worthy of remark. He and his sons had been very anxious to have the boy on the side they sat: had they succeeded, where would they all have been now? The young man who had said shortly before that the one glass he had taken at starting fitted him for any emergency must now see he was mistaken. It prevented the quick perception of the danger and sense of the duty to be attempted which flashed at once into the mind of the boy, who had taken nothing calculated to excite or disturb his intellect. In a minute or two, no doubt, the young man would have been ready and willing to use more strength and activity in averting the danger than the other possessed; but then it would have been too late. All called out against trusting their lives again to the driver in his present state. Mr. St. Laurence consented to take the reins until he sobered a little, or another could be had. Howard, who had become the hero of the day, took Mr. St. Laurence's vacant seat between the boys, and they proceeded thus the entire way to Disbally. Mr. St. Laurence, though glowing with admiration at Howard's exertions, was inclined to blame him for not mentioning that the driver was tipsy as soon as he observed it. Howard said he had known him to drive in that state before, and

was unwilling to report it, lest he would lose his situation. Dr. Teachem was, of course, glad to see his old, highly valued friend, and his new pupils; and they were as well pleased as could be expected with everything they saw and met with. The Doctor said Howard's conduct, on the critical occasion mentioned, was just what might have been expected of him. He was a fine fellow, and the model he would recommend his sons to follow. This conversation was of course private. After the boys had gone out to the play-ground, some of the party found there glanced sideways at them; some stared more boldly, and one from a small crowd called out: "Howard, these are green coves you have brought. Does their mother know they are out?" Henry and Willy, of course, felt a little odd at this reception; but Howard said, "never mind that goose. All this will soon wear off, and you will feel yourselves more at home;" so they held up manfully, greatly encouraged by seeing several of the fellows shake hands cordially with Howard, and evidently glad to see him. A tear or two, on both sides, next morning was quite excusable when their father was leaving. Still they felt they had a kind of elder brother in Howard, ever ready at hand. The Doctor found they were better grounded in English under Miss Harper than boys of the age coming to school generally were. They had merely commenced Latin Grammar. They told the Doctor they thought they would, for the present, get on faster by themselves than if tied to a class, as they felt they

were too far back for their ages. To this he kindly agreed, which made them very happy, and stimulated them to work still harder. After the usual amount of private moping and communing about home, they began to feel more at their ease. Diligence at their studies contributed a good deal to this. The letters they had from home, though rather softening, were a great comfort; and so the first two months glided away without any very remarkable event happening. By this time they had become acquainted with all the boys: had formed temporary friendships with some, and unfavourable opinions of others. According to general custom of giving nicknames, they had been dubbed "the saints," partly from their names, and partly in ridicule of their greater attention to religious and moral duties, than what generally prevailed. Howard was frequently included in the name from being their special friend, and having similar tendencies.

CHAPTER VII.

PATRICK'S DAY AT SCHOOL.

It having transpired that the Doctor was to dine out, a conference took place on the play-ground, at which it was decided that his doing so and the national holiday coinciding, proved it was an occasion impossible to be passed over without a proper

celebration, and drowning of their shamrocks, &c. "What fun it will be to make the saints drunk: wise and clever as they fancy themselves, they will be as great fools as any of us then. Won't it be splendid to see them staggering about?" "I have a great mind," O'Brien said, "to keep sober myself for the pleasure of laughing at them." Some said, "You had better not consult them on the matter; they will rather spoil the sport than add to it." "Never fear," O'Brien replies; "I'll do the work. Let them be ever so cunning, I'll entrap them. Can't we put a drop of the good stuff into lemonade? Here they come, very opportunely. Saints, you are just in time. We have been blaming ourselves for never having had a feast to your honour, though you are the greatest favourites in the school. We are desirous to make amends this evening, and have an excellent opportunity, as the Doctor is to dine out. Besides, this being Patrick's Day, we ought to have a mild imitation of what will be going on at the Castle and other fashionable places. Our usual apartments for such entertainments are the dormitories, where we can be nice and quietly by ourselves. Faucett is not a bad scraper on the fiddle, and we can have cakes, sweetmeats, and lemonade; in fact, a regular ball and supper, barring the ladies, whom we are better without. It is to be got up all in honour of you, and to welcome you to Progress Hall. I'll be answerable that the Doctor will not

object to it; but the noise of the fiddle cannot annoy him, even if he have not a good ear for music, for he will not be at home."

Henry replied: "I am sure Willy and I feel greatly gratified by your proposal, but we are quite unused to entertainments of the kind, and would feel out of our element; besides, we would not wish you to go to any expense on our account."

"To prevent your fearing to put us to expense," O'Brien said, "we will waive our original and proper intention, and allow each of you to subscribe two shillings."

"Will you allow me to speak a word to Howard?"

"Was the benevolent Howard left guard over your purse, that you can't expend two shillings without his leave? We don't like to speak to him where money is concerned. He is the son of a poor widow; we would not let him contribute to anything. There is no time to lose: say, will you contribute or not? We don't wish to have stinginess mixed up with our entertainment in any way."

Upon this, Willy and he handed out two shillings each. They then went to tell Howard what had happened, who said they were taken in. It would, no doubt, be the usual drunken jollification that would take place.

The truth of this soon became manifest. A quantity of strong punch was manufactured, and dealt about. Henry, Willy, and Howard, of course, refused to take any.

O'Brien said, "Oh, I forgot you objected to punch, and that you were promised lemonade ; you shall have some immediately."

They called after him to take no trouble on their account, as they would take no lemonade either. They were staying near their beds, as Howard said he must also keep an eye after his own, to guard against tricks being played on them, which was very likely otherwise to happen. Pipes and cigars were introduced; Faucett commenced the fiddle, and all kinds of folly reigned. O'Brien and the two Battersbys came back to the saints with lemonade, as they called it, which they had taken the trouble to make specially for them, all others preferring punch. They ostentatiously displayed a squeezed lemon; but all in vain, they persevered in refusing to taste anything.

"Is it after all the trouble you have put us to? You may as well take it quietly, for you'll have to do it the way a child is obliged to take its medicine —by force. We can't be made fools of by you in this way. Come, Battersby, catch hold of the big saint; I'll pour it in."

Upon this a contest ensued, ending in the breaking of the glass, and spilling the contents over Henry. Then they turned to Willy, who struggled manfully, until they broke the glass against his teeth, and cut his lips. Upon this, Henry rushed at them, and both brothers struck right and left at the three, who did not spare them in return.

Howard, hearing the affray, dashed to their relief by the shortest way, past the table where the punch was being manufactured, and, in doing so, kicked down and smashed accidentally a bottle containing whiskey, placed on the ground, the table having been rather crowded.

"For shame!" he cries; "three big fellows beating away at two boys. Quit instantly, or strike me."

They desisted, and sneaked off, using such words as, "The troublesome puppies, they deserved twice as much."

Howard then found Willy's lips were cut, so he started off for his miniature dispensary stock; examined the wound, closed it neatly, put a little dressing and sticking-plaister over it, and said, "You have suffered shamefully, but it was in a good cause."

At this time several came up, saying Howard must get a bottle of whiskey for the one he broke. He said he would follow them to the table in a few minutes. When they had gone, he asked Henry to lend him a few shillings to pay for the bottle. As soon as he got them he went to the table, where a rough party had assembled. He offered them the price of the whiskey, which they said would not do. It was a shabby trick of him to break the bottle, as if accidentally, in order to have a laugh at their expense with his brother teetotallers. He assured them it happened quite accidentally, as he rushed

to stop the fight; but all in vain; he must place a bottle containing the same quantity on that table, as common honesty required; that he was one of the privileged boys, who could go into town when he pleased; that if he did not instantly set off, he might mark the consequences. O'Brien said he would accompany him, and that they would not be many minutes absent. Some unkind allusions were made, which vexed him, so, to end the matter, he set off with O'Brien. Having obtained what they wanted, they came to the gate on their return, but found it closed. It was part of the porter's duty to report every lad whom he admitted after the shutting of the gate. O'Brien caught Howard by the arm, brought him up to the garden-wall, stating, "Here is the way all the boys who are late go in; it is quite easily done, and saves much trouble." So saying, he got on the top of the wall, asked him to hand up the bottle, which he did, and then both got over the wall. When O'Brien landed in the garden, he expressed wonder what kind of stuff they had got, pulled the cork easily out with his fingers, as he had told the woman who supplied it there would be less trouble if the cork were only slightly put in. He took a hearty swig, saying, after he coughed, it was "pretty fairish." Howard, not being accustomed to transgress, felt quite unhappy, and rather confused. The night was dark; in passing under a bush his cap was brushed off; he tried to find it, in vain,

O'Brien adding to his terror by urging him on, stating the greatest difficulty was before them—getting into and across the yard without alarming the dog ; as to the cap, that would easily be got in the morning; the gardener was no telltale. So, on they went, scaled the yard wall, and just had time to shut the door between the yard and the playground, after passing through it, when the dog came rushing up to it barking. O'Brien turned, saying, "Howard, you are a first-rate fellow. You must certainly join us in robbing the garden in harvest, as we do every year." The other declared that he never was in such a position before, and trusted he never would be in the like again. This only called forth a burst of laughter about the punch table. He, of course, continued to refuse tasting a drop. Faucett, who had commenced with "Patrick's Day," was at this time playing Scotch reels, fast and furious; in fact, reeling was beginning to be the order of the day, or rather of the night. O'Brien declared he must have a reel, and stuck to it until his erratic movements frightened all others from bearing a part. At last he fell on the floor, and hurt himself. Howard came to the rescue. The swig in the garden, a drop he took before and afterwards, and the dancing, had rendered him insensible to all that was going on. Howard got him by the arm, and by strength rather than persuasion, got him to stagger along to the inner dormitory, in which his bed was, he at-

tempting to say, as he went along, "I must have a smoke ; I must have a smoke." As he passed along, he got half lying, half sitting, into the usher's bed, which was next the window, and, like the one on the other side of it, had curtains. Here he became quite unmanageable. Howard was obliged to go for assistance.

From the skirmish O'Brien had with the St. Laurences, he did not wish to bring them in contact with him. He said, when passing them, O'Brien was in a bad state; he could not manage him, and was going for Douglas to help him. As he passed on, they went to the inner dormitory door, when, to their horror, they observed O'Brien surrounded with smoke and flame, having fallen back into the bed. They rushed at him, dragged him out of the bed across the floor, threw a little water out of the jug on his neck-tie, which had ignited. They then rushed at the quilt and curtains, which were in flames, dragged them to the floor, put the blankets closely over them, emptied all the water jugs within reach on the top of them. All this was so rapidly done that it was over before Howard, who had some difficulty in making out Douglas, had returned with him. They emptied a little more water on the blankets from the outer room jugs, opened the window to let out the smoke, examined O'Brien, whose chief damage seemed to consist in the loss of a neck-tie, shirt neck, one eyebrow, some hair on that side of his head, and an incipient whisker. The other marks

he bore were attributable to the conflict with the St. Laurences. They had wisely not reported the matter to the revellers without, who would have but added to the danger and confusion. In a little time they got O'Brien, who was rendered slightly amenable by what had happened, into his own clean, dry bed. From the investigation, it appeared evident the fire originated in his having succeeded in igniting the match in his attempt to smoke; and, unconscious of what he was about, placing it burning on the quilt. Their attention was then called to an unusual noise outside. It was not until the next day they heard the cause of it. Thomas, the servant, had shown himself at the dormitory door; instantly there was the cry of "A spy, an informer—shoe him, shoe him." A shower of shoes immediately was levelled at the unfortunate man. So he had to retreat without having time for a word of explanation. He was a great favourite with the boys in general, and came to say the Doctor was expected back in a quarter of an hour, that they might have time to settle down quietly.

The party in the inner dormitory came to the conclusion that it was desirable to put an end, if possible, to the scene of noise and folly without. Howard accordingly took a bit of the tallow candle, went to Faucett, told him the music must stop. Faucett said he was heartily tired of it himself; but they were all at him to continue to play, or give them the instrument to scrape on, or perhaps break. "I'll soon

render it quiet in any hands with a slight touch of this to the bow." Faucett knowing it should be only an apparent temporary injury, consented. The bow got a touch; the instrument became speechless, and was put past. Dancing was given over. Many who were tired, and some who were done up, were not hard to persuade to prepare for bed. The next thing that occurred to the Saints' party was the damage that might arise from the fragments of the broken bottle and glasses to any one who touched the floor with bare feet near the places where they had been broken. So they issued a proclamation to guard against that. They went from bed to bed to see that each boy was properly settled in his own, and that the candles were safely extinguished. After regulating and settling the rooms in a considerable degree, taking special care to collect, as well as possible, all the particles of broken glass, they revisited O'Brien, found him fast asleep, the smoke gone, and the room pretty well aired. Fortunately the usher, who used to occupy the bed that was burned, was absent for a day or two. Several other boys who occupied that room had gone quietly to bed.

Howard was not aware that Henry St. Laurence had suffered so much as, when he had time to examine, it appeared he had. In dragging off the burning curtains and clothes, a great deal of skin was taken off his right hand. Both Willy's were blistered. He got out his old linen and ointments, and dressed them as well as he could. They then sat down

near Henry's bed, having the light of their candles shaded, so as not to disturb those inclined and able to sleep, in order to be ready to attend to any who might require their assistance. In their quiet communings they expressed themselves very thankful that the evils of intemperance (part of which they were witnessing) had been so strongly impressed on their minds before they left home, and that it was total abstinence, and not moderate drinking, that they had adopted as a rule. "Had it been the latter," they said, "as soon as we had stepped over the only evident boundary that exists into the enemy's country; or at best the debateable ground, how probable it is that we would have fallen into the snares laid for us. As it is, we have had no wavering in our own minds; no necessity to consult each other as to the strength of the liquor, the size of the glass, how often it was to be used—no need of having more distinct instructions as to the precise stage to stop at. Uncertainty is an useful ally of the enemy. The good woman thought she had gained a great point, when she got her husband to promise he would not drink strong drink out of his own house. Finding, in time, this ineffectual, with great address, she got added to the vow, 'nor in his own house.' The old habit struggled hard for a time with his scruples of conscience, but at last obtained a way of having its cravings indulged in, by getting the man, when his wife was out of the way, to stand right over one of his thresholds; so he considered

he was neither in nor out of his own house; consequently he was on neutral ground, not affected by his vow, and at liberty to take a taste." O'Brien was not the only lad requiring attendance that night; but by degrees all seemed likely to rest. So, after a survey of the wards again, the three we feel specially interested in committed themselves into His hands who had preserved them through the day from falling, and went to enjoy a well-earned sleep, notwithstanding the smarting of Henry and Willy's hands. These little troubles they thought nothing of. They had no mental sting annexed to them—rather the reverse. Willy had made interest with the cook for a jug of whey, and was up at daylight visiting O'Brien and the other invalids, for there were several who may be so described. Henry's hands were very sore; so Howard's skill was again useful. All, except O'Brien, were able to leave their beds, and get down in some way to the school-room.

CHAPTER VIII.

THE INVESTIGATION.

As the Doctor entered the school, his countenance betrayed great distress and anxiety of mind. When he reached his usual seat he commenced in an agitated manner: "Boys, I regret to say it is my duty this morning to inquire into conduct, the like of

which never disgraced this seminary since I commenced conducting it. You are aware how unwilling I am to inflict punishment, particularly of a heavy kind. I have only expelled two lads during my time. If, however, I shrunk from my duty when plainly before me, I would be quite unfit to preside here. This investigation is likely to end very seriously for some individuals. It is therefore necessary to proceed on it with calmness and deliberation. I hope every boy will answer truthfully the questions put to him, and that there will be no rough, hasty contradictions or contentions. Every boy considering it necessary will have an opportunity of clearing up or explaining any part of his conduct that seems to require it. St. Laurence, Senior, what is the meaning of this ?" (holding up a paper found posted on the dormitory door, on which was written: 'The Grand Jollification in honour of the Saints is going forward').

"I never saw it before."

"That is rather an evasive answer: who are meant by the Saints ?"

"I believe Willy and I."

"Did you contribute to the jollification? "

"Willy and I gave two shillings each, which we were told were to be expended on cakes and lemonade."

"Did you give no money to be expended on whiskey?"

"I gave 3*s*. 6*d*."

"Was that to purchase whiskey?"

"Yes."

"You seem to have contributed liberally, and to have borne a considerable share of the results; your face and hands appear to have been a good deal injured. What has disfigured your face?"

"I had a little skirmish."

"With whom?"

"Pray don't press me to tell, Sir, it is all over.

"I suppose it went with the drunkenness: which party struck the first blow?"

"I think Willy or I did."

"Did you cross the garden going into or coming out of town last night?"

"I was not in the town or garden last night."

"Have you lost anything?"

"Not that I am aware of."

"Are you quarrelsome?"

"No, I prefer peace and quietness much to quarrelling."

"Battersby, Junior, you seem to know something of this affair, and to have considerable marks of punishment on you. How did they come there?"

"Henry and Willy St. Laurence flew at me like young tigers, and beat me as you see."

"Had you struck either of them before that?"

"No."

"Were they drunk?"

"I can't say they were very drunk."

"Did they fight with any others?"

"Yes, they fought with O'Brien and my brother; besides, they had some great row in the inner dormitory, but I did not hear the particulars."

"Did they go early to bed?"

"No, I think they were the latest in the house going to bed last night; they went roving about from bed to bed disturbing the others, so that they could not sleep."

Thomas, the servant, was then called on.

"What cut your face?"

"When I was about to go into the dormitory last night to advise the young gentlemen to go quietly to their beds, I had hardly opened the door when I heard, 'A spy, a spy, shoe him, shoe him;' a shower of shoes came immediately, levelled at me; this one struck me in the forehead; I had my hands up striving to save myself and caught it; I made my escape as fast as I could."

"Do you know who threw it?"

"No."

"Do you know to whom it belongs?"

"There are so many shoes, I would not like to guess."

Willy St. Laurence came forward, looked at it, and said: "It is mine; I missed it this morning."

"Did you throw it or any other at Thomas?"

"No, it was slippers I had on; I did not see Thomas at the door, nor any person throwing shoes in that direction."

"You must have been blind and deaf, then, if you

were in the room, as the shouting and rattle against the door would have awoke you, if you had been ever so sound asleep."

"Thomas, where did you get this cap?"

"About the centre of the garden. There were tracks of two boys across the garden. The cap must have fallen from one of them. It could not have been thrown where it was from without. Henry St. Laurence appeared written on the inside of it. He admitted it was his, but persevered in his denial of having been in the garden."

The Doctor said, "I don't wish to prolong this painful investigation. Circumstances have forced upon my mind the conviction that the St. Laurences have been the ringleaders in this sad business. I won't go the length of saying they have prevaricated, but it is evident they have suppressed much information they could give to throw a light upon it. Henry's stating at first that he only gave money to purchase cakes and lemonade, and afterwards having to admit he gave additional money for the express purpose of buying whiskey, is anything but creditable. The cap and the shoe, and the marks of their quarrelling, and two of them falling on Battersby, are equally discreditable to them. Their having been here a short time is a slight palliation of their offences, but I regret I cannot get over paining their excellent parents with a very unfavourable report of their conduct—so contrary in many respects

to what I had every reason to believe it would have been."

At this crisis, Howard came up, greatly distressed and agitated, and said: "I have been acting the part of a shameful coward while this investigation has been going on, more from dreading the consequences to my dear mother than to myself. Yes, Sir, you will have to report the St. Laurences to their parents, but it must be, that they rank amongst the noblest and best characters you have ever had within these walls; that they are and have acted as brave, prudent, truthful, consistent, and remarkably well conducted boys, under very trying circumstances. This there is the best possible evidence of; but you must be aware, Sir, that every right feeling person, though ready to confess the truth, as far as he alone is concerned, is unwilling to volunteer statements implicating others. It is that feeling that has made it appear there was improper reserve or want of candour in their statements. It restrains me in some degree, too. In justice, however, I must transfer the heaviest portion of what appears charged against Henry to my own shoulders. It will relieve him to that extent, though probably ruin me. The 3*s.* 6*d.* Henry spoke of as given to purchase whiskey was lent by him to me for that purpose. I had, unfortunately accidentally broken a bottle containing whiskey, got for the treat, and had to replace it. I went

into town for it, and the gate having been shut on my return, I was tempted to cross the garden walls coming back. I had put Henry's cap on in mistake ; both having been bought at the same place, were alike. It was rubbed off my head by the branch of a tree ; in my haste I could not pick it up."

The Doctor said: "I am, if possible, still more surprised and distressed by what I hear. You," addressing Howard, "were fully aware I had publicly stated, bringing whiskey in for the boys and crossing the garden were both serious crimes that I could not overlook. I cannot trust myself now to give utterance to my feelings."

A pause and strict silence ensued, until Henry began : "Oh, that Alfred had not spoken ; he has made Willy and I more unhappy than before, and probably brought on a much worse calamity than would otherwise have happened. Had Willy and I been reported, or even expelled, not only for what we were guilty of, but supposed to be guilty of, distressing as the circumstance would have been, we still have a father ready to forgive, and to contrive some other plan for our education. Alfred has no father. When it was known we were coming here, his mother, to encourage us, brought us to her house, showed us the premiums he had gained, read us part of letters she had received, mentioning him in the highest terms. They touched the mother's heart ; tears of affection for him, and of

gratitude to the person who wrote the letters, rolled down her cheeks. She was often obliged to stop. She said she was afraid she would have to be visited again by a severe affliction, to prevent her idolizing Alfred. She was ashamed of being so sensitive about him ; he never had cost her a tear by misconduct ; she could not bear the thoughts of anything such as commonly happens to others tarnishing him. Oh, Sir, her heart is bound up in him, and if— if——" He could go no further; he burst into tears.

He soon found himself in the Doctor's arms, who said, "Dear boy, forgive me; I have spoken too hastily of you and Willy."

He got from the Doctor only to find himself in Howard's embrace, both shedding tears. Willy, in turn, got embraces from the Doctor and Howard.

At this moment the schoolroom door opened, and O'Brien entered, sadly disfigured by the previous night's proceedings. The hair on one side of his head was singed off, and one eyebrow; his nose swelled and crooked ; his face pale. He said he regretted he had not heard in time of the investigation, as he was the only person who could clear up every part of what had happened ; that he was a most disinterested witness, as respected others. He was prepared fearlessly to prove that he himself was the sole originator and chief hand in carrying out all the evils that had occurred. He was quite prepared for the result. He knew the Doctor

could not do otherwise than expel him. The only favour he would sue for was liberty to remain for eight or ten days, until he became in a fit state to enlist, which he was determined to do. Let this matter end as it would, his friends would have this consolation, that strong drink would never bring him to the triangles. When very young, he had been in a garden, adjoining a barrack-yard, when an unfortunate young man, perhaps the handsomest in the regiment, underwent a severe flogging for drunkenness. His cries and screams were heartrending. But they made no impression on him, compared to what the proceedings of last night had done. He trusted he could now, with his whole heart, say, he hoped he would never taste intoxicating drink again during his life. He then went over the story of the conspiracy to set the St. Laurences drunk ; when stratagem failed, the Battersbys and he trying to force drink down their throats ; Henry knocking away the glass they had at his mouth ; their breaking another glass against Willy's teeth, and cutting his lips; Henry's striking at them ; the battle of the two sober boys against the three larger boys, not sober; Howard accidentally breaking the bottle of spirits which was on the floor, when rushing to their rescue ; the stratagem used to make him get another bottle, instead of the one he broke; his accompanying him into town; inducing him to cross the garden, when they found the gate shut on their return; he himself taking

such a drink out of the bottle in the garden as soon made him beastly drunk and insensible ; he only recollected Howard trying to get him to bed, and he contending to have a smoke ; his setting fire to the bed and curtains with the match, unconscious of what he was about; when Howard had gone away for help, the St. Laurences, whom he had been boxing and ill-treating a few minutes before, dragging him out of the bed, and tearing down the blazing curtains and quilt; putting the blankets over them, and emptying the water jugs on the blankets, until all was extinguished. "This," he said, "may prove the imminent danger I was in," holding up the fragments of a shirt neck and necktie. "If you examine the St. Laurences' hands, you will see what the rescue cost them. Hold up your hands, Henry."

But this he would not do.

"No nursetender could attend more carefully until a late hour at night than they, Howard, and Douglas did. Willy was at my bedside very early in the morning with a jug of whey. Henry could not dress himself from the state of his hands, or he would have been there, too. They surely followed the Scriptural advice of overcoming evil with good; and I trust they have succeeded. I am anxious to go off to hide my shame." So saying, he left the room hastily, and went up to the dormitory.

The Doctor, turning to Douglas, who was near, said: "Here, surely, in real life is enacted, 'Me me

adsum qui feci in me convertite ferrum.'" He then requested Henry to show him his hands, which, when uncovered, appeared considerably burned; Willy's were blistered, and the sleeves of his coat and shirt had the marks of fire on them. The Doctor then said: "Every step as it has been unravelled in this case is calculated to stir up new feelings and excitement in my mind: we have had a most merciful escape from an awful tragedy: the loft over the dormitories is filled with inflammable matters; had the flame from the curtains penetrated through any crevice to it, who could tell how many lives and what amount of property might have been lost? or even if the other curtains or quilts had been ignited, what a sad case it must have proved! It is evident unfortunate O'Brien has been rescued from a terrible impending death, which he could not have escaped had efforts at relief been a few minutes later. The good Henry Havelock, when a lieutenant, feeling in himself the value of true religion, exerted himself successfully in awakening many of the soldiers of his regiment to a sense of it. This, of course, had great influence on their morals and general conduct, and, amongst other things, they gave up drinking. Those who adhered to the old system tried as usual to entrap them again, by ridiculing them and other methods. They dubbed them saints, &c.

"If any person be sincere in his religious profession, little or even great persecutions often make them

more decided. When in Burmah, the army was one day suddenly and unexpectedly apprised of the near approach of the enemy. Sir Archibald Campbell instantly ordered a certain regiment to advance and occupy a desirable position. It was found that several of them had been tippling, and consequently they were quite unfit to discharge such an important duty. Frightful would have been the consequence had not Sir Archibald recollected he had a resource immediately available. He called, 'Turn out Havelock and his saints; they are sure to be sober and fit for duty.' It would have been better taste not to have used the word saints in issuing the order; however it was promptly and energetically obeyed; they secured the position, and a great advantage was gained. In our time of extreme danger, it was 'the saints,' too, who came to our relief, and no doubt saved some lives and much property; they proved themselves heroes in the best sense; they were qualified for the work in the same manner by total abstinence; had they not been strictly sober, or had they given an alarm to the boys generally, many would no doubt have rushed to their assistance; but probably not in time, or they would have been in such a state as would have but increased the confusion and danger.

"The St. Laurences nursetending one who had so maltreated them is a very agreeable subject to think of—a lovely gleam of sunshine in the dark picture. The question most urgent on my mind now is, how

I am to act eventually with respect to unfortunate O'Brien. Of course he will get the time he requires to recover; but how can I let him remain here afterwards? He certainly made the best amends in his power by his full and frank confession, and I fear much, should he leave in disgrace, he is so hot-headed, he would rush and enlist. I think I will try what your judgments individually would be, and I trust you will give them candidly. In order that you may not be influenced improperly in doing so, it shall be done by ballot. I will give each boy two bits of paper; one with a cross on it, the other quite blank. Whoever is of opinion that O'Brien's conduct yesterday should be forgiven is to put the blank piece into the hat; those who think otherwise are to put in the paper with the cross on. In the meantime no boy is to tell what he intends doing, or to influence another in any way—in fact he should not speak on the subject."

Immediately a few sheets of paper were cut up, and a blank and a crossed piece handed to each. The Doctor held the hat, so that even he could not see what kind each lad had put in. They were not long in depositing one piece each. Then the scrutiny commenced, and, to the delight of all, a single piece with a cross on it did not appear. A cheer burst forth when the Doctor said: "You are so unanimous in your wish I must comply with it. I forgive, and will try to forget, O'Brien's misconduct. Howard,

let you and the St. Laurences go up and communicate this to him."

After they had gone for the purpose, he said: "I think after the excitement of the morning we are all rather unfitted for study; so I may as well give this as an holiday." The boys immediately went off cheering; some of them ran up to report the holiday to those in the dormitory; Blair returned back to the school-room about some plan of his own; Howard and the St. Laurences went out to the playground, where there was great shaking of hands with the former and clapping the latter pair on the back, as their hands were too sore for the usual method of salutation.

Douglas was asked what the Doctor had said to him in Latin. He replied, from the moment he heard that quotation he had hopes all would end well; it was from the 9th Book of the Æneid of Virgil, where Nisus rushes in from where he was secure to save his beloved and beautiful young friend Euryalus, calling upon Volscens, who was about to plunge his sword into Euryalus, to turn it against himself; that he was the person deserved to die, and not Euryalus. The Doctor appeared to see some resemblance both in Howard and O'Brien's conduct to that of Nisus. "The custom hitherto with us has been to try to throw blame off ourselves on others. I trust it will not be the case in future."

When they were chatting in this way, out came Blair, with something in his hand, and Thomas fol-

lowing with three chairs and a bunch of laurels; Thomas was despatched for a fourth chair, and an express sent to O'Brien, requiring his immediate attendance. Blair, with his usual skill, had printed on a large sheet of paper, fastened on the back of an old sheet-almanack board: "Anyborough for ever." There was an immediate struggle for Howard and the St. Laurences' caps, and they were decorated with the laurels. By this time O'Brien had come down; but when a similar attempt was made to get his, he got vexed and distressed, stating it would be cruel to him, and turn the whole affair into ridicule, to class a villain like him with honourable boys. If they wished to gratify him, they would allow him to be one of the bearers of the chair of one of the St. Laurences.

They and Howard would gladly have excused the chairing, but they were overpowered with numbers. Each of the heroes wanted his chair to be last in the procession; but Blair said they had nothing to do but to submit to him; he was master of the ceremonies, and he would march in front himself; after him, the St. Laurences, and then Howard. Blair got his placard, with laurels on the top of it, elevated on what had been the handle of a broom. On they went cheering. When they came opposite the Doctor's window they halted. Blair held up his placard conspicuously. The Doctor pulled down the sash, saying: "Take care, boys, these are precious fellows; don't let them get a tumble or be hurted." He read the placard.

"That is right. Anyborough is entitled to come in for its share in the honour for sending us such boys. You have given me a subject for a postscript to my despatch. Blair called out, "Three cheers for the good Doctor," which was immediately responded to, with caps off, by those in the chairs as well as every other: even poor O'Brien, with a silk handkerchief over his head and face to hide himself was not silent. The Doctor waved his hand—"Thank you, boys, that will do; more might make my hand too unsteady for writing;" so they passed on.

After the chairing they were not inclined to fall into the ordinary amusements, but continued chatting. Some of them said this was no ordinary day; it ought to be marked in some way. Douglas said: "The way I intend to mark it is, to become henceforth a total abstainer." "So do I," exclaimed Blair and some others. They then agreed to form a Total Abstinence Society, bearing the present date; but they would not take any signatures, except of those who had thought well on the matter, until the following day, that the parties might give it full consideration, and then persevere in the course steadily. They prepared a small book for signatures, with an agreement at top, similar to that of Anyborough. Several of the leading boys requested permission to sign at once. The Battersbys and some others made up their minds they would never sign; they could drink a little or let it alone as well without joining.

The next day Douglas told the Doctor it was a great pity such fine and industrious boys as the St. Laurences were so far back in Classics: that, if the Doctor would permit, he would act as their tutor, through the week, measuring their tasks in Latin Grammar, Syntax, &c., &c., as he found they could master and understand them, which the Doctor readily consented to. Howard got a promise from O'Brien that he would remain at the school until the good effects of his change were visibly permanent, and until he had chosen a profession or employment becoming a gentleman, as nothing that had happened need prevent him from doing so; besides, he owed it to the school to try to counteract any evil effects his former levity might have occasioned. The last idea strongly impressed his mind. I think we may now rest satisfied all will go on well at Progress Hall, under the care of the good Doctor, and turn our attention in another direction.

CHAPTER IX.

CARPENDALE'S NOTIONS.

THE Doctor's report to Mr. St. Laurence was an admirable epitome of the proceedings, though he pressed very severely on himself for want of confidence, even for a moment, in the sterling character of the boys. He said no circumstances, however

apparently adverse, should have been able to raise a cloud of doubt in his mind on the subject; but it brought on himself a painful and severe punishment while it lasted; and, when it passed away, they shone with increased lustre. Human nature is naturally selfish. Boys and men are prone to cast all blame off their own shoulders, let who will bear it: not so these boys; every one of them rather desired, seemingly, to bear whatever portion might be laid on him of the blame another deserved. Was not this an unusual way of fulfilling the Christian duty of bearing one another's burthens? He requested Mr. St. Laurence to communicate the contents of his letter to Mrs. Howard, to save unnecessary writing. This Mr. St. Laurence readily complied with. Mr. Trueman, too, had an opportunity of rejoicing at the conduct of his boys, as he called them. It would not be possible to describe the feelings of thankfulness and delight which the communication excited, particularly in the hearts of the parents; and as it was so corroborative of the value of total abstinence, as well as of the worth of the boys who were such general favourites, Miss Harper, who was going in to order some things at Mr. Carpendale's, got leave to show it to him. He was warm in his expressions of admiration of the boys; of thankfulness that they were enabled to stand so severe a test, and that a total abstinence society, an off-shoot of their own, had been formed in so important

a place. He showed Miss Harper the list, which was slowly but steadily increasing. He went on to say: Amongst young men of this class it would be invaluable if they could be got to join it. At present they generally spent their evenings and part of the nights in that most dangerous place, the billiard room. It combined drinking, gambling, other expenses, and bad company. In fact, it was in a provincial town an open road to ruin, as the gin palace is in the city. He was sorry to have to add, many of the commercial travellers assisted in misleading. Some of them, to gain popularity or to procure orders, gave entertainments, of which intoxicating drink was an essential ingredient. Some played billiards, or even more hazardous games; kept, or pretended to keep, accounts of what they won or lost during the year; and either asserted it was in the main profitable, or at least not a losing affair; but it is seen to be a gaining affair to the landlord, whose profits, as well as any winnings that any person may gain, must come from some loser; and it is soon evident that those who frequent the billiard room become drunken and embarrassed. It would be far more safe and respectable for travellers to gain business for their employers by the quality and the price of their goods, their consulting their customers' interests, by not inducing them to take an overstock, or an injudicious one; and, under any circumstances, not to use treating as an inducement.

"Of course, I sometimes try to bring forward these ideas where there seems a possibility of their being useful; but I am apt to get laughed at for my pains. I can afford this, as I find I am always able to pay my way, and to purchase exactly the goods I want upon the best terms. I should apologize for talking to you, Miss Harper, on mercantile affairs. It is the close connexion between temperance, prudence, and success in trade that led me into it. There are societies which profess to benefit their members; the injury they do them by their social meetings is pretty evident—not so the good. I have heard two of the members conversing on the subject, who agreed that it merely formed an excuse for leaving home, and spending jovial evenings, leading to habits of intemperance. Union is strength. If any one of the dear boys who have displayed such brave and Christian conduct had no one to keep him in countenance, or strengthen him by word or example, how likely it is he must have fallen. Mr. St. Laurence will be glad to hear Wainright has employed Soaker as a journeyman, and is greatly pleased with his work and his steadiness."

We should have stated ere this that, at the earnest request of Soaker, Mr. St. Laurence had returned the £5 to Mr. Butt.

"The attorney thinks he may now safely administer; and he has no doubt but the Bank will then pay the £50, upon certain forms being complied with. Mr. St. Laurence will be surprised to hear

that Mr. Butt has been with me, stating he had not tasted a drop since the day he struck Soaker, and that he thought it would strengthen him in his resolution to continue to abstain if he were allowed to sign. I told him he would soon feel a great personal benefit if he continued permanently to abstain; but I thought it would be inconsistent to have a person continuing in the spirit trade on the list."

All this intelligence was, of course, very gratifying to Mr. St. Laurence and the others who were interested in the good work.

It should have been mentioned that Mr. Carpendale, who was very musical, had prevailed upon Miss Harper to promise him a copy of the new version of "The Glasses sparkle on the Board," which he had heard of.

One morning Maxwell and Willy appeared at Mount Pleasant. Of course they were kindly received. Maxwell said he had to report frequently to Willy the story of the pigeons alighting on Mr. St. Laurence, to assist him in making a picture of it; but he thought he would make a better attempt if he saw it in real life. A kind of promise being given that he might have a chance of that, there was very little rest given until he came. Mr. St. Laurence was expected back very soon from Mr. Trueman's. Miss Harper, in the meantime, set the girls free to receive the visiter as he deserved to be. They were very happy at the occasion; first showed

Willy the pictures and other curiosities in the house, after which they went, hand in hand, out to their little gardens. Their little spades and rakes seemed marvels to him. At length it was announced Mr. St. Laurence had arrived, and was prepared to exhibit his magical power over the pigeons. As they all walked out together, the feathered performers eyed them with reserve, if not suspicion. Mr. St. Laurence told Willy they did not speak English; but he would soon see they understood him. So, desiring the company to stop where they were, and advancing into the yard, he called up—"Tom, Willy Maxwell has come to see your exploits. Come down, and bring a good many with you." He stretched out his arms, when, to Willy's great astonishment, down they came trooping in numbers upon his head, shoulders, and arms; however, as if not to tire him, they did not remain long.

Mr. St. Laurence came to Willy and said: "Now, I don't wish to deceive, so I will tell you my secret: I have always been kind to the pigeons, bringing them food, and never hurting or frightening them. I used to feed them on the stone steps leading to the granary. I scattered some of the oats at a little distance; some nearer my hand, which I left open and filled with oats. They picked up the most distant first; they came nearer by degrees, until they snapped a grain or two hastily from my hand. Finding this not dangerous, they crowded each other

until some had to move on to the wrist. It was expecting food, and not in consequence of the words I said, they flew down; but I must not deceive them either; I must now feed them a little." So he got oats from the granary, and held it to them as he had described. After speaking a word or two in private to his father, he said: "Your father has consented to your getting a pair of young ones. I will tell Sturdy to look out for a nice pair of a suitable age, and to bring them home to you." Willy's tongue could say but "Thank you, Sir." His face and eyes said more. When they went into the house, there was cold meat, bread, cheese, and jam, for the visiters, and good spring water. Before they took their leave there was great whispering between the girls and their mamma, after which they came with a small spade and rake, pencils, a drawing book, with cattle, pigs, fowl, and other farming sketches in it, and some of their own drawings, as presents for Willy, who was nearly overwhelmed with his wealth and their kindness. Mr. St. Laurence said he would find it much easier and better to copy from that book than to try original designs yet. All were charmed with him, and said they hoped he would often come, which he afterwards did. Sturdy, of course, executed his commission well in the evening. So Willy had enough to delight him for a considerable time.

CHAPTER X.

THE FUNERAL.

Some days afterwards Mrs. Butt made her appearance at Mount Pleasant. She told Mr. St. Laurence that she was happy to be able to report that her husband had not tasted intoxicating liquor since the day he had acted so shamefully by Soaker; what was still better, that he had determined to give up the sale of it; even of the stock on hands, which was not large. In short, he was so strongly impressed now with the injury it did to every one who meddled with it, that he determined to destroy it, and to set up a kind of temperance house, such as Mr. Carpendale had been speaking to him about. He was going to destroy the liquor privately, but Mr. Carpendale prevented him, stating, that by conducting the matter publicly, it would serve the temperance cause and also himself in the business he proposed taking up. The difficulty in doing it publicly was, that the mob probably would rush in, force the casks from him, make themselves drunk, and try to turn the whole affair into ridicule; but if a few of the police were ordered to attend, for the purpose of preventing a seizure of the liquor or a riot, all would go on well. She therefore came to request he would give an order for the attendance of the police for the foregoing object.

Mr. St. Laurence asked how she felt at the idea of giving up a money-making business that she had always been used to, for one that very little was likely to be made by. "Oh, Sir, I am delighted at the plan: I will look upon the day the whiskey will be destroyed as happier than my wedding day. It converts the best of men often into savage beasts, and makes them a terror to their wives and families. I would rather live on potatoes and salt all my days with sobriety than fare sumptuously with drunkenness. We have unfortunately seen a great deal of the misery it occasions. No later than last night poor Mrs. Simpson knocked us out of bed to learn if we knew anything of her husband, who had been seen late in the town drunk, and had not reached home. 'Oh, dear Mrs. Butt,' she said, 'if you knew what a painful thing it is for a wife of one who would be a good husband but for the liquor to leave five young children alone in the house and to come into town with a fearful look into every dangerous ditch, expecting possibly to find his body in one of them, you would, at any cost, forswear the cursed trade.' I was happy to be able to state he was safe in our house. He had come into it in such a condition that we thought he would be in great danger if he attempted to go home; so, with great difficulty, we got him to bed, where he was fast asleep. That I agreed with her now as to the trade being a bad one, I was happy to say my husband and I had determined neither to taste nor sell a

glass for the remainder of our lives. 'Oh, thank you heartily, dear Mrs. Butt, you have taken a great load off my heart; I will be able to run swiftly home now to the children. Dear knows, they may be in danger from the fire.'"

Mr. St. Laurence said he highly approved of the destruction of the whiskey publicly. He was sure Mr. Trueman would attend the ceremony with him. He would take care to have the police, and also the gauger, to test the quantity and quality, lest any person should attempt to say it was merely a pretence. He thought two o'clock the following day would be a good time, it being a market day; to which Mrs. Butt replied: "Oh, dear Sir, the sooner the better;" so that hour was fixed on. "Have a grave dug in the ashpit, and I think there will be an unusual number of light hearts at the funeral. Tell Mr. Carpendale I hope he will attend."

Poor Mrs. Butt returned home happier at the prospect of such an amount of her husband's property being destroyed than if it were the gaining of a considerable sum. Mr. St. Laurence and Mr. Trueman were in town before the time appointed. They obtained the attendance of the police and gauger. The matter had been talked of, and when the gate was thrown open a considerable crowd entered the yard. Mr. Butt and Soaker were the chief persons required in carrying the barrels to the ashpit.

Mr. St. Laurence then said to the crowd: "The

destruction of the whiskey which is about to take place is quite a voluntary act on the part of Mr. Butt. He has become convinced that he cannot conscientiously carry on the trade of whiskey selling, and that it would be even wrong in him to dispose of the stock to another who would retail it. He, therefore, has determined to destroy it. We are here merely to discourage any foolish rioting. The excise officer will please test and measure the contents of each cask now."

This he immediately did, stating aloud that the liquor was distilled spirits of the ordinary strength. He then mentioned the quantity each cask contained.

Some of the crowd called out, "This is as bad as the burning of the Indian widows on the death of their husbands. That whiskey has done no harm; divide it amongst us, and it will do a great deal of good. We will put it where Mr. Butt will not be answerable for it. People coming to funerals generally get whiskey."

Mr. St. Laurence said, "Would you have him give gratis what he would not give you for money?"

Mr. Butt and Soaker then commenced emptying the casks into the pit, which they did effectually, amidst cheering and groaning.

Mr. Butt then said: "Boys, I feel quite assured that I have done what is right. I hope I will never again injure any of you. The business I am now about to enter upon is likely to be very unpro-

fitable as to money matters, compared to the one I have been in, but we have no doubt it will yield us more peace, happiness, and satisfaction than we have enjoyed for years past. If any of you be so kind as to favour us with your custom, I think you will acknowledge in time that we will give you better value than ever we did before."

The gentlemen present and many others shook hands with him, and wished him success in his new employment. All then moved off, each party making comments according to their own views. Mr. and Mrs. Butt now, of course, got permission, and signed the roll of total abstinence. They immediately set about a thorough remodelling and cleaning up of their establishment. In a short time it was metamorphosed into a very nice, clean, and respectable-looking temperance coffee and lodging house; the former shop being framed chiefly for the accommodation of dealers to settle their money transactions in. Mr. St. Laurence got the engagement and other papers legally prepared and printed, also the different charges which Mr. Butt thought it judicious to make for the use of the room, the yard, &c. This was stuck up in the old shop, to save the trouble of bargain making; and the scale being understood as regulated in some degree by Mr. St. Laurence, gave a kind of firmness to it that saved some discussion. Sturdy used his influence in the fair green to give the house a trial; Mr. Carpendale and many others used theirs, too. They

were all so successful, the danger was, the number of persons who came on the first fair day could hardly be attended to. Joe Butt, the young son, and Soaker, who attended the first fair day, as a special favour, managed the yard and stable admirably. Mrs. Butt was in her element at the tea, coffee, and such matters—bright, active, and happy; in short, the day furnished a favourable omen as to the success of the undertaking. Mr. St. Laurence and Mr. Trueman had presented them with a handsome press, with divisions in it for the papers, and a bookcase, filled with a well-selected collection of useful and interesting books. These gentlemen looked in occasionally during the day, which had a good effect. Soaker agreed with Mr. Butt for permanent board and lodging, his services not to be included in any way that would take him from his trade, at which he continued to work steadily and well, at high wages.

All was going on brightly and happily with them, when an event occurred to shock and distress them very much. A crowd came carrying a man on a door. As soon as Mr. Butt learned it was unfortunate Simpson, who had fallen from his horse in a drunken state, greatly injured and insensible, but still alive, he admitted him. They had him laid on Joe's bed, in a room off the kitchen. Doctor Leech arrived very soon, and ascertained that his left arm and collar-bone had been broken, but said what he feared most was concussion of the brain ; he could

not ascertain as to that yet. Simpson's consciousness in a measure returned while the doctor was setting the broken bones. Mrs. Simpson rushed into the house breathless and ready to faint, as she had heard her husband was killed. Mrs. Butt said he was much better since he had come into the house; that the doctor was setting his arm; but it might injure him for her to go into the room until the doctor sanctioned her doing so. They would take as good care of him as they could.

"Oh, dear Mrs. Butt, I knew it must come to this. He never would give it up; always saying he had made a rule in future never to take more than one glass in the day. That future never came; that one glass was always sufficient to upset all his resolutions. Does the doctor think his life is in danger, or that he is greatly injured?"

She replied: "I did not wish to crowd the room while the doctor was there. I heard them say his arm was broken, which, of course, is a serious injury, but not likely to be a fatal one. It is a great happiness to us now that we are out of the trade."

When the doctor was consulted, he said it would be better for her to go home to her children. He would be able to judge in the morning when it would be prudent for her to see her husband. So, upon Mrs. Butt promising to send word in the morning how he was, she went home.

Soaker and Joe took turn about of sitting up

with him during the night. The doctor said in the morning he seemed better than he had expected. The apparent stupor had nearly passed away: most of it, no doubt, had been occasioned by the drink. This intelligence was sent to Mrs. Simpson, who arranged with a steady, careful woman to take care of the children and manage in her absence. It was thought the best time for her to see her husband first was while the doctor was visiting, and it was so carried out without any apparent injury, she having determined to behave as calmly and quietly as possible. She, of course, installed herself from thence as his nursetender; and faithfully, patiently, and well she performed the duties of the office.

Mr. St. Laurence and Mr. Trueman were greatly distressed at the severe injuries Simpson had sustained, particularly on account of his wife and family; yet, if he survived, they had great hopes it would prove a more effectual argument for his completely abandoning strong drink than all they had been able to use hitherto: he would have ample time to consider over his past course and its ruinous consequences; and while softened by his sufferings, and the habit of intoxication interrupted, they trusted good advice and example might have some effect upon him. They called often to inquire how he was getting on, and had some conversations with him, but did not press the cause of the accident much upon him lest it might excite him before he could well bear the subject. He mentioned that this was

an inconvenient time for him to be laid up, as it was the proper one to have a certain field ploughed. To his surprise, in a few days afterwards he learned that Sturdy, with Mr. St. Laurence's team, had been out and done the work in good style. Another piece of news that reached him when he was on his sick bed was that his neighbour, Tom Ennis, was about to sell his snug well circumstanced farm. He could well guess what occasioned the necessity for this: we are all clear-sighted with respect to our neighbour's errors. Tom and he hardly ever met at fair or market that they did not drink together for good fellowship until both were fuddled. As a matter of course, his farm was mismanaged and unproductive; he borrowed money where he could; his creditors have become pressing, and this is his only resource. The auctioneer's bell was soon heard. The farm and stock produced altogether about £600. The debts, with law costs, amounted to £250. Unfortunate Ennis got tipsy, of course, when the auction was over, and commenced treating all who were supposed to have assisted to raise the prices, as well as others supposed to be friends or acquaintances, until he became incapable to move about or speak articulately. Fortunately, he was not entrusted with much money that day. Mr. Trueman saw him in this state, and knew for a considerable time how he had been going on, and had tried, in vain, to stop his career. He spoke to the auctioneer, to let him know when the money was about to be

paid, and to take care that it should be done when Ennis would be perfectly sober. He went to him early next day, and found him, as he expected, too unwell to attend to business; however, he prevailed upon him to employ an intelligent and trustworthy man to get in the claims of his various creditors, to assist him, as soon as he would be able, in investigating them, making out a list as approved of, and afterwards settling with them, upon their giving proper receipts. It appeared that after clearing off all, about £350 remained.

Mr. Trueman reminded him of the advice he had so often urged upon him; that it was not following it left him now without house, stock, or land; that the money which remained would but hasten his ruin if he had the handling of it himself; that as he had no near relation or dependant, he should invest it in a safe annuity for his life, payable in quarterly gales, which he would assist him in effecting; the produce would procure him safe and comfortable board and lodging as well as clothes; so he could not become destitute. He replied there was no fear of him; he could manage his money very well; he would rather have it than an annuity. The result was what might have been expected: between drinking, treating, losing, and being plundered, the money soon disappeared. When constrained by severe hunger and want, he found a refuge in the workhouse, where eventually he ended his miserable days. Before the crisis had occurred, his rapid downward

course assisted to deepen the impression on Simpson, which his own severe accident, and the unanimous advice of those by whom he was now surrounded, had urged on him, namely, that nothing but total abstinence would suit his case, and this he hoped to adhere to strictly henceforth with help from on high. He was aided in it by the breach in his habits of intemperance forced upon him in the state he had brought himself to, which in a slight degree weakened their power. Another motive was the unwearied exertions of his wife to relieve and attend to him in every way without a murmur or reproachful word. He used often to think, if not express, "what a return she is making for my wicked, thoughtless, and cruel conduct towards her and the children! In short, the frightful accident that threatened death and misery was converted by Him who overrules all events into a great blessing, which the entire family had ever after to look back upon with thankful hearts. He recovered so fast from the effects of his injuries that the doctor permitted him to be removed home in little more than three weeks. Being well off in pecuniary matters, he compelled Mr. Butt to take double the compensation that the latter proposed as sufficient for the trouble and expense they had. A strong and mutually advantageous friendship ever afterwards existed between the families.

CHAPTER XI.

THE WEDDING.

In country towns and districts, where the population is not great, neighbours naturally observe and discuss each other's proceedings: a conversation like the following took place between two women and their daughters, when going to church.

"So the match between Jane and Sturdy is broken off; I knew how it would be; they made too much of each other to expect it would last. Sturdy has taken on with Bessy Wood, the carpenter's daughter. He spends all his leisure time either at the carpenter's house, or looking over his work at the gate-house; he went in alone to church a few minutes ago, leaving poor Jane behind. Men are changeable in their notions; but for that he would not give up Jane for Bessy Wood."

"Well, no doubt its Jane's own fault: these good looking girls often bring trouble on themselves and others: very likely some person that she thinks better than a ploughman has been speaking to her, and so she may have given him his walking paper, as she did Thomas before."

"I'm afraid she is rather a flirt."

They went on thus, blaming and defending each of them in turn, according to fancy, until some new subject struck up, or they had got to the church,

Judge their surprise, when at the usual part of the service the banns between Sturdy and Jane were duly published. By degrees, afterwards, the whole mystery was unravelled: it was diffidence that prevented Jane coming in with him that day. Mr. and Mrs. St. Laurence valued both highly. They went to live in the new gate-house after the marriage, it was to be a neat, comfortable, and roomy concern, suitably furnished; ground was given behind the plantation for potatoes and vegetables. This accounted for Sturdy's superintendence and other mysterious grounds for imaginings.

The wedding came off in due time. Miss Harper and her pupils were present at the ceremony. A good substantial breakfast was given in the gate-house, as a kind of house-warming. The absence of all intoxicating drink, and the presence of some members of the family, contributed to preserve good order. The bride's dress, like herself, was remarkably neat, sensible, and tidy. She was to continue as laundress for the family, and he in his usual position. Simpson, not unmindful of past kindness, sent a considerable quantity of oatmeal and bacon; and Mr. Carpendale contributed liberally in his line. Both had difficulty in overcoming Sturdy's independent scruples. With the additional contributions from "the big house," they had a fair start in commencing housekeeping.

Thomas and Susan were at the breakfast, but that did not prevent their making unkind insinua-

tions elsewhere—such as, It was mean of Sturdy and Jane to be currying favour by becoming teetotallers. They would not do so. No man, or woman either, should tie themselves up from the liberty of enjoying a glass of punch, unless they had been drunkards before, which never could or would be said of themselves. Notwithstanding this assurance, they both had, on more occasions than one, been observed to have exceeded. The family had been endangered by Thomas having done so when about to drive; she had allowed the meat to burn; and both had broken dishes and tea-things when under the influence of intoxicating drink; in fact, they had both received warning that, if they were observed to be so again, they would have to leave the service. This seemed to make them watchful for a time; but no confidence could be placed in their system. A sharp observer would be inclined to fancy they were carrying on a courtship, which turned out to be the fact. Notwithstanding the warning, it was thought prudent often to employ Sturdy to drive, and Jane to assist in the kitchen. This, of course, increased their jealousy and enmity against them. At last, on one of these occasions, Thomas broke out, and stated he would not remain if he would be treated as if he were unable to drive or attend table, and a common ploughman put in his place. This and a few additional words, evidencing the effects of strong drink, rendered his dismissal necessary. Susan took up his quarrel,

and eventually moved off too. Bessy Wood was sent for and engaged; Sturdy and his wife assisted in every capacity where they were required so efficiently, that very little inconvenience was felt by the change.

Thomas and Susan both went to America; what became of them afterwards we are not prepared to say, further than, if they became total abstainers, they probably would be found good servants; but if otherwise, not.

The letters and reports from Mount Progress continued to give great satisfaction. The Doctor wrote that, by Douglas's plan, he thought the St. Laurences had got over nearly double the work they would have done if tied to a class; but their friends need not expect they would get any premiums, except for good conduct. It was their own wish no mark of superiority should be given, when they were brothers of different ages, and each had only one to compete with. Some of my readers may possibly have a faint recollection of the feelings they experienced in youth when they were about to return home after their first absence from it. Others may recollect what they experienced in anticipation of beloved children's immediate return after such an absence. How restless both parties were the previous night from excitement; how much slower than usual the coach or van appeared to travel; what fears arose lest the delay should have been caused by some untoward accident; what trans-

port of joy prevailed, when they had actually arrived, and found themselves in each other's arms; they, and only they, can form a proper idea of the state of mind and feelings of our young friends and their parents on the commencement of the first vacation. And on the arrival of the former at "Home, sweet home," what surprise the parents and others manifested at the increased size and improved appearance of the boys; and how the latter, when leisure occurred, ran about to see every person, place, and animal familiar to them, gratified at the reception they met in every direction, especially from "Fido," the house dog. The van had arrived at three o'clock. Mrs. Howard had agreed to bring Alfred and Mary to dine at Mount Pleasant at five. Mr. Trueman had also promised to come. When they arrived, there was additional happiness. After dinner there was some mysterious nodding and signs passed between the boys. Alfred at last arose, and got them to leave the room with him. After being up in their own room a few minutes, he ushered them down, ornamented with a large handsome silver medal on the breast of each of the St. Laurences, tied round the neck with a dark blue ribbon. Alfred, though not so ornamented, seemed the happiest of the party. The first impression of the spectators was that they were temperance medals, but when examined closely, the following appeared to be the inscription on Henry's, in plain, neat characters; William's bore exactly the same, with the exception

of his name having been substituted for Henry's:—"Presented to Henry St. Laurence by Doctor Teachem, for a successful effort to save life, imperilled by fire, at the risk of his own; on which occasion he manifested in a surprising degree prompt energy, courage, judgment, forgiveness of injuries, prudence, self-denial, and sobriety, under trying circumstances." After the medals had been wondered at and admired, Alfred began to relate the occurrence which led to the presentation of them, knowing that the others, from modesty or humility, would pass over essential parts of the transaction. His heart was glowing with love for his friends, and a desire that their merit should be fairly understood; yet, with coolness and accuracy, he went over the events which our readers are already acquainted with; and though, from the Doctor's previous report, it might be considered a twice told tale, his narration was full of interest to his hearers, and tended to raise himself in their estimation, notwithstanding his bringing forward prominently the parts of his own conduct which might be called blameworthy. The other lads said they had got much more credit than they deserved on the occasion, as almost any boy in the school would have acted as they did, had he been a teetotaller, and just at hand as they were when the fire commenced. They were then much gratified at hearing the progress total abstinence was making in that neighbourhood, and the prosperous turn it gave to the

affairs of all who joined the Society. Mr. Trueman said the longer he lived, and the more he thought upon the subject, the more evidence he had that strict sobriety qualified a man better for the exercise and enjoyment of his religious privilege, added to his efficiency under every circumstance, to his respectability, to the influence of his example for the good of others, and even to his pecuniary resources. He hoped the lads would be very careful of their medals, and be stimulated by them to appropriate abidingly the good qualities inscribed on them. Supposing a very possible case—that they were in a strange country, without a friend or acquaintance, and wishing to get employment for their support, would not the production of the medal afford *primâ facie* evidence of a character that might safely be entrusted, or taken at least on trial? Sterling worth would then have an opportunity of manifesting itself, and of securing increasing advantages. The evening, it is needless to say, was spent very happily; indeed that might be said of the entire vacation. It was easy for such lads, young, healthy, well-conducted, and religious, to find enjoyment in everything around them, especially as their friends were very desirous to make home happy to them.

They never desired what are called field sports, feeling that they should not derive pleasure from inflicting pain; they had, however, plenty of riding, driving, swimming, running, visiting, and walking.

The three lads generally contrived to meet every day. Some of their earliest visits were to Mrs. Butt's. She was very happy at having such a comfortable and respectable house to show them; she was particularly proud of the press, the bookcase, and its valuable contents—all the gifts of Mr. St. Laurence and Mr. Trueman. She said the front lower room was generally pretty well occupied in the evenings, except on public days, by readers, who paid 1*d.* each; those who preferred the room above it, paid 2*d.* Smoking was not permitted in the house; there was very little noise, and no riot. Some few of them took coffee or tea occasionally, but these were more generally strangers on public days; besides, they had nice, quiet reading frequently themselves in the kitchen. She said Soaker had been so steady and kind, Joe had taken a fancy to bootmaking, which they were glad of, as they could not do better for him than give him a good trade. The law forms were also exhibited.

We are afraid we have been rather remiss in not having before this introduced, in a more formal manner, a very important character, the Village Lawyer or Attorney, with a very appropriate name, Mr. Law. It was he prepared the documents which were got printed respecting the cattle dealing. They were duly scrutinized and approved of by our young friends. He had also got payment of Soaker's £50 from the Bank, and had it safely and profitably invested for him. Their next visit was to Willy

Maxwell, who was very proud to exhibit his handsome pigeons, tamer, as he said, than Mr. St. Laurence's; for instead of keeping generally on the house top, they could hardly be kept out of the kitchen. His father had got a box made for them, which was fastened to the gable of the barn. They slept in it at night. The farmer felt honoured by their visit. He showed them his fields, garden, stock of cattle, horses, and dogs. The latter two chiefly caught their attention. The condition of all proved him to be skilful, industrious, and thriving. Of course they called on Mr. Carpendale, who was so delighted to see them, that his usual prudence and good sense could hardly restrain him from complimenting them on their good conduct at the school in a degree painful to their feelings. Howard made one of them exhibit the medal he got. Mr. Carpendale pleaded hard that it might be left with him, as he wished to show it to several of the society; but their modesty prevented such an exhibition being made of it. They spent the remainder of the day, as previously arranged, at Mrs. Howard's, in a very happy and rational manner. Douglas had told them the great labour of acquiring a knowledge of Latin lay in the understanding and committing thoroughly to memory the grammar and syntax; that an excellent time for effecting this would be the vacation. That if they would agree to dedicate about an hour and a half every day, except Sunday, to this object, and adhere strictly to the plan, they would be sur-

prised at their own progress. They had told him of the beautiful river rolling past their father's. In fine weather the banks of it would be an excellent place occasionally to commit to memory at. He would advise their sitting a little apart, so as not to be tempted to converse. They might place themselves within sight and call, and meet when they chose, to hear each other repeat what they had learned. The seats and grotto in the garden would answer the purpose very well too; but if the weather were at all damp or cold, some quiet rooms within would be better than either. About three or four days after they arrived at home, Willy reminded Henry of this; said he was quite willing to commence it; that it would rather increase than diminish their pleasure, to think how they would astonish them at Mount Progress when they went back. They would have plenty of time for amusement besides, and relish it better by knowing they were gaining ground every day. Henry fully approved of their commencing the plan, not only for their own advantage, but to prove to the Doctor his kindness in not tying them to a class would not be thrown away upon them; besides, it would be a great matter if they could enter the college when Howard and Douglas were in it. These views influenced them greatly, and caused them to progress rapidly all the time they spent at school.

One fine day, when at their studies on the bank, as usual, Henry called to Willy to bring the dog,

a great Newfoundland one, as he saw something floating in the river. Willy ran up with Fido. Upon the object being pointed out to him, the dog plunged in, and soon, to the horror of the boys, appeared to be dragging the dead body of a man to the shore. They shouted for Sturdy, who came running, thinking, perhaps, that one of them had fallen in. The clothes and boots of the unfortunate man were of the description generally worn by gentlemen; the body was decomposed. It appeared on the inquest that the deceased had held an excellent situation under a person of high rank, which he had lost by intemperance. No evidence was given that could throw any further light on the question, how he came to his death; but the public made up their minds that he had either wilfully thrown himself into the water, or, in a state of intoxication, had fallen in. He had left a wife and family in a state of distress and destitution not easily described. The poor boys were rendered so unhappy by the event, that they ever afterwards relinquished their pleasant seats for study on the bank, because they reminded them of the sad scene. They had recourse to the garden and elsewhere instead.

Miss Harper encouraged them greatly to pursue the system they had adopted. She enjoyed study so much, even for the pleasure it conferred, that she said it would be but fair in them now to become her instructors in the Latin Grammar, which they

readily complied with. She was very studious, and made rapid advances. Who knows what amount of classic lore she might have obtained; but suddenly she became, as it were, incapable of fixed attention. She would sit with the book before her without turning a leaf, her thoughts wandering like many a foolish schoolboy. The lads often spoke to her, and threatened to punish her for idleness. She blushed, and once or twice something like a tear was seen. They got frightened, thought some of her relations might have died, or that she must be ill. They loved her, and agreed they would jest no more with her about her idleness, but tell their mother what they observed. Soon after she told them she had become too stupid to be their pupil; she must give up Latin. They said it was well for them she did, for otherwise, it would have been said soon they could teach her no more. Their mother having more experience, soon guessed the cause.

To prevent our readers suffering from anxiety or impatience, we may as well state at once that Mr. Carpendale had been paying her marked attention for some time past, and eventually had made proposals of marriage. He was an excellent, well-principled, and thriving young man, consequently, if Mr. St. Laurence (who had not yet been consulted on the subject) approved, she felt inclined to favour his addresses. With such a subject pending, it was not to be wondered at if she found it difficult to devote a sufficient amount of attention to the grammar. As soon as Mrs. St. Laurence ascer-

tained how the case stood, with her sanction she consulted her husband, who said he thought the offer a very desirable one, the only drawback being that they would lose her society, and the girls the benefit of her advice and instructions; but that should not stand in the way of her prospects for life. This was intimated to Mr. Carpendale, and it was agreed the marriage, if possible, should take place before the lads returned to school. With all the energy and activity called into exercise, it seemed for a time a doubtful affair if the wedding could be held before the termination of the vacation; however, all was ready a week before that.

Gentle readers, you have often, no doubt, remarked an April day in which soft showers and sunshine alternately supplanted each other. Keep that picture before your minds, as shadowing forth the smiles and tears attendant on a well regulated approaching bridal affair. My pen is too dry, stiff, and unpoetical to give you any better idea of how the females in Mount Pleasant passed the time that intervened between the discovery of the grand secret and its consummation, except when they were asleep, or their minds and hands were engaged in making the necessary preparations. At last it came off in a very respectable and sensible manner. Of course there was a reasonable number of carriages in requisition. The bride and her friends, the groom and his, came after the ceremony to Mount Pleasant, where they spent the day in a variety of

pleasing and amusing pursuits. We were near falling into a grand mistake by omitting to state the breakfast and dinner were such as might have been expected from the known kindness and hospitality of the heads of the house. The general idea that pervaded the townspeople was, that the bride and groom had set off for Dublin, when, to their surprise, they arrived at Mr. Carpendale's about ten o'clock at night, quietly, in Mr. St. Laurence's carriage, and in a week or so Mrs. Carpendale found herself quite at home and happy in her new sphere. About this time, a very valuable new piano, the gift of Mr. St. Laurence, arrived there. A very nice young cow had been sent on the day of the wedding by Mrs. St. Laurence, as Carpendale had a convenient town park. Mr. Trueman also gave a valuable present, and the young people tokens of their regard. Emma and Jessie were sent to Mrs. Howard's as boarders. Mrs. Carpendale insisted they should come daily to her for an hour or two for extra instruction.

CHAPTER XII.

SCHOOL AGAIN.

Soon after the wedding the lads returned to Mount Progress. The Doctor received them as if they were his own children. He and Douglas were surprised

at the extent of grammar and syntax they had committed to memory, and understood well. The Doctor considered they were qualified to join a class that had commenced classics eight months before them, but he would not ask them to do so, lest they would eventually be retarded by them. They thanked him very much for this, and stated their object was to make up for lost time. It was their father's intention they should enter college, and they would be glad to do so, if possible, before Douglas and Howard should leave it. They soon gave evidence no ordinary class would keep up with them, which they were aware, or at least believed, was owing rather to extra diligence on their parts than to superior powers of intellect. We believe both these causes contributed in some degree to the result. It would be tedious and unprofitable to trace, step by step, the progress and history of schoolboys. Our readers may believe that the St. Laurences, by pursuing diligently and steadily the course they had commenced, became qualified to enter college in little more than half the time boys generally spend at classics; and just when Howard had entered as a sizar, they entered as pensioners. Douglas had entered as a sizar two years before. He by diligent study, in which he delighted, attained in time the height of his ambition —a Fellowship. Blair went to Glasgow College. Eventually he became an excellent Presbyterian minister, and obtained a good congregation. I may

here give the substance of one of his letters, written to Henry soon after his ordination.

"I can never be sufficiently thankful for having joined the Total Abstinence Society at Mount Progress. It has, under God, been the saving of me. Presbyterian ministers in country districts seem to be placed in a specially dangerous position for acquiring habits of intemperance. Many of their hearers are farmers, who have been in the habit of attending fairs, buying and selling, giving and receiving treats, consequently have acquired bad habits themselves, and look upon pledging each other in strong drink as the evidence of true friendship and hospitality. When I came here as a probationer (on trial, there was a vacancy), and went out amongst them, spirits and water, or something of the kind, was offered to me nearly in every house. I was urged to take it as quite necessary after my walk, either because the day was hot, or it was cold. Of course, I declined it as civilly as I could, not wishing, on the slender footing I had, to commence open war at once against their habits. A friendly elder came to me with a rather grave countenance, to advise I would try to conform to the customs of the country; not doing so made the people imagine I had too high notions to be a suitable minister for them; they could not afford to have wine always ready when I visited, as the members of a city congregation might have. They liked much my doctrine, the manner I acquitted myself

in the pulpit, and when visiting at their houses; but pride in a minister was enough to tarnish all his good qualities, and to unfit him particularly for going amongst humble country people. It was the only reason they had for declining to choose me. I told him I felt obliged by his candour, and the opportunity it gave me of letting my sentiments be more generally known. It was not pride that made me refuse strong drink ; I would as readily refuse wine as spirits. I asked him did he ever know a clergyman who had acquired a habit of exceeding. If he did, was it any advantage to himself, his family, or his congregation? He said, unfortunately, he knew more than one who had brought themselves and families to ruin by it. He would just mention one case. He knew a very nice young gentleman who was chosen by a good strong congregation, who, as well as the Presbytery, were proud of him for a time. He married advantageously. All seemed to go on in a very happy and prosperous way until it began to be discovered that, instead of stopping when he had drank a proper allowance, he began to drink to excess. All the arguments of his wife and other friends, including the elders, to prove that he ought not to take more than a tumbler of punch after dinner, a little beer, and, occasionally, when in company, two or three glasses of wine—which, your Reverence knows, is a reasonable allowance for a clergyman—proved useless. He said he knew they were advising for the

best, but it was too late. He had acquired such a craving for strong drink, he could not resist getting at it in large draughts where and when he could. His wife excluded it from the house, but the publicans accommodated him, until he became quite reckless; in short, he left his bed one night, went to a public-house, after it had been closed, was known by the publican, who refused him admission, advised him to go home immediately, which was quite near: he was found drowned in the morning. I replied: 'You have narrated a true and very distressing tale. I was acquainted in early life with the unfortunate young man, and heard his sad fate before. You have furnished me with one of the strongest arguments why I should adhere to the system which this congregation seem to object to, namely, not to use strong drink. I adopted it when at school, several of my schoolfellows and I having been convinced that it was desirable for us to come to such an agreement. We never since have changed this opinion; on the contrary, we have been very thankful for having adopted it early in life. I am very desirous, for many reasons, to become a placed minister, and like this locality and congregation, as far as I have seen, very much, with the exception of a tendency to the habit we have been alluding to; but I must tell you, if the taking one tumbler of punch or one glass of wine would ensure me an unanimous call, I would feel I could not conscientiously purchase it at the cost. I ask you, as a sensible and

friendly individual, would you wish me to place myself in the way of possibly falling into a similar downward course to that you have referred to? or would you even wish it possible that I could ever be taken by surprise, so that from my eye, my tongue, or my brain, it could be discovered I had taken ever so little strong drink? Remember, the habit is very easily acquired; it increases in strength, as a matter of course, until it frequently becomes irresistible, and that some of the most intelligent men and popular preachers have fallen by it. In short, I may as well avow, that if this congregation be so kind as to give me a call, one way of proving my gratitude, and returning their kindness, will be by efforts to stem the current of intemperance.' Shortly after this I received a call, the elder having laid before them the substance of our conversation. The general impression was, I had peculiar views on the subject, but, if they rejected me, possibly they might get worse."

O'Brien conducted himself steadily and well during the remainder of the time he continued at school. Some time after he left it he got a commission in a cavalry regiment in the East India Company's Service, and sailed for India. In the course of time the elder Battersby became an attorney; his brother went to a merchant's office, and from thence to several other places, never giving satisfaction to any of his employers, from his tendency to drink; at last both enlisted in the Bengal Artillery. It is strange

to think that boys, having so many similar pursuits and intimate friendships at school, should diverge in so many various directions, engage in quite dissimilar occupations, and frequently never meet again. On the other hand, it sometimes happens that an old schoolfellow turns up unexpectedly, so much metamorphosed that it requires some conference and a reference to boyish proceedings to satisfy you of his identity. Instances of both these cases occurred in after life to some of our friends.

CHAPTER XIII.

COLLEGE.

THE St. Laurences, as may have been expected, did not get high places when entering college; they observed afterwards amongst their class-fellows something like a sneer at a question they ventured to ask one of them, as if it evidenced they were too ignorant for their position. This rather perplexed them at the time; they determined not to expose themselves to the like again, and yet, if possible, not to pass over anything without understanding it; so they wrought with great diligence and perseverance, having no help but what they could render to each other, or what they occasionally got from Douglas. This system soon changed the impression the class had formed of them. Howard, that he might occasion the less expense to his mother, determined to try to

carry on at the same time the study of surgery and medicine with the usual college course; with this view, he entered the respective schools, attended the lectures and dissections, not in the ordinary way merely to entitle him to certificates, but to acquire knowledge, and this from the very start. A person having any idea of the pursuits he had in hands would say he was aiming at too much, and, therefore, was likely to fail in all: to study so as to pass the College of Surgeons was quite sufficient to give full occupation of itself to any lad: when the diploma in this was obtained, then he should read for medicine. However, he had his own reasons and plans, and was determined to try to carry them out, though he found that, after running from lecture to lecture, and then sitting down to read, he could hardly resist falling asleep.

He was in time elected clinical clerk to Steevens' Hospital, which gave him great practical advantages, and an opportunity to many eminent men in the profession of witnessing his worth. On the eve of the time he proposed to go in for his surgical diploma an event occurred calculated to shake his hopes of success:—M'Claren, an acquaintance of his, who had been some years longer studying, and was looked up to by all the lads as long since better qualified than any of them, having acted as grinder and assisted at the lectures and dissections, was clever and industrious, went in, and, to the surprise of all, was rejected. He accounted for it afterwards in a very rational

way. Feeling nervous on that morning, he was advised to take a little wine; he took a glass and a half; it gave him confidence, but in some way confused his ideas. As a proof of it, he said: "When the examiner was proceeding on the construction of the human body, he said: 'Give an example of a lever of the first order.' I immediately replied: 'A common crowbar,' which raised a little laugh. 'Well,' said he, 'You are quite right, if our subject were common mechanics, but in the course of my dissections I have not met with a common crowbar in the human body.' Of course the laugh was repeated. There was nothing damaging in this; I only mention it as a proof of the effects of a glass and a half of wine; I never before thought that five glasses would have had as much. I intend to go in almost immediately again, to prove to all my friends I can stand the test well without any stimulant or additional study. Take my advice, Howard, do not taste a drop on the morning of your examination, or preparatory to an operation, or in any critical situation in which you may be placed."

Howard told him he had given it up altogether for some years, and hoped never to fall back upon it. Soon after this Howard obtained his degrees in surgery, medicine, and arts, all with great credit, and within a few weeks of each other. It may be imagined how proud and happy this made his friends. The good Doctor Teachem immediately used the great influence he had with a director of the East India

Company, and obtained for him a medical appointment in that service. He got but a short time to see his friends and recruit himself at home; but he made good use of it: he spent a great part of it at Mount Pleasant. We can conceal nothing from our readers; so we may as well give a hint that he found a special attraction there. The girls, though still almost children, were beautiful and agreeable. He could hardly help the folly in his own mind of thinking, if possible without disclosing his thoughts to any living being, that if his life were spared for seventeen years, he would be entitled to take furlough for three years, which would complete the twenty; at the end of which he could retire on a handsome allowance. By this plan he would not have to return to India. How he hoped to employ his furlough we may leave our readers to conjecture.

Mr. St. Laurence and Mr. Trueman set Mrs. Howard's mind at rest on one great difficulty she had. The outfit and passage would cost more than her purse could meet. They said they would lend Alfred the difference. If he lived he could easily repay it; if not, they would wipe it off. Henry and William, as he was now called, came home to share in the company of their dear Alfred before they were to be parted perhaps for ever. The pangs attendant on the separation of such a son from such a mother and friends, under the circumstances, are too severe and too sacred to attempt to describe. I will neither pain my readers nor myself by attempt-

ing to do so. They had a considerable share of good sense and confidence in the guidance and protection of an overruling power which enabled them to bear up under the event as they should. Henry and William accompanied him to Dublin, and saw him on board the packet at Kingstown bearing up with a stout heart, as they wrote to his mother. He passed the additional examination required by the Company in London very creditably; had his likeness taken and sent home to his mother; provided his necessary equipments, procured Shakespeare's Hindustani Grammar and other works, by studying which on the passage he was enabled to pass the colloquial examinations soon after landing. For economy, he took his passage in a sailing vessel by the Cape. A young German who had got a similar appointment accompanied him. They were both very musical, and became great favourites on board, when their capacities in this respect were known. Unfortunately their professional skill was also put in requisition. A great storm arose, and when attempting to furl the sails, one man was knocked from the rigging into the sea and drowned; two fell from it on deck, and were greatly injured. When called up to attend to them, the storm was so violent Howard could hardly keep his feet or hear a word of what they shouted to him. We must leave him on his passage and turn back to our other friends.

CHAPTER XIV.

THE ENGINEER.

HENRY had decided on the profession of a lawyer. He had taken honors every examination after the first; he had also satisfied the Benchers that he was very capable of eating his dinners at the Queen's Inns. I should apprise some of my readers that this used to be the way of learning the law at that time. He had now to proceed to London, to the Temple, to carry on his studies; but, as the law is a dry and uninteresting affair to most people, we will leave him poring over Blackstone, Coke upon Littleton, and other ponderous volumes, and turn to William. He joined the engineering class, was brought into competition with a set of lads who had been preparing for that profession; for some time, consequently, they were better grounded than he was in the necessary preliminaries: this, of course, placed him at the foot of the class. There were two fellow-commoners in it who seemed to keep aloof, as if they looked down upon the pensioners—at least so William thought—and he determined he would not encroach on their dignity; so he observed a very respectful distance of manner towards them. His advancement in knowledge was so marked, however, that at the second examination, Harrington, one of them, said, "I'll bet any man £5 that before

we separate as a class St. Laurence beats the man that got the first place this time." To be taken notice of this way, when near the bottom of the class, by a gold medallist, a fellow-commoner, very near the top of it, whom he had almost treated with disdain, had an extraordinary effect upon him. He blushed up, reproached himself mentally for his mistake, and consequent conduct. It was not pride, he now was convinced, but natural distance of manner with strangers, which prevented Harrington from being familiar from the first. There was also a gratifying stimulus in the observation; he must be making progress, or it would not have been made. The ice was thawed: a great, warm, increasing, and lasting friendship, or rather affection, commenced, and continued ever after between Harrington and him; they became inseparable in the out-door work, such as surveying, laying out imaginary railroads through the Phœnix Park, Howth, Wicklow, &c., with correct plans, levels, measurements, &c.: in fact Harrington always refused to go out unless accompanied by St. Laurence, and their plans and measurements were taken as proofs whether the work of the other division of the class was correct or not.

After one of the public examinations, an elderly gentleman—a stranger to St. Laurence—came forward, and asked him would he accept of a tuition; if so, he would get him a valuable one. St. Laurence thanked him, but said he had so extensive a

course of reading before him, he would require all his time to do himself justice.

St. Laurence and Harrington were frequently in each other's rooms. We should premise that engineering books are very expensive and numerous. On one occasion Harrington asked St. Laurence, "Where are the rest of your books?" The other replied, "You see the extent of my library." "Is it possible! This will never do; you will have to get double the number you have here; and more expensive ones, too, if you hope to distinguish yourself at the degree examination."

"The fact is, Harrington, I have to study economy; I speak to you as a brother. My father never in the slightest manner complained of the expense Henry and I have put him to. Like a wise man, foreseeing the costs of our professions, he began to bank up so as to meet it when we were young; but I learned accidentally that nearly all he had accumulated has been expended on us."

Harrington, interrupting him, said: "I see your motive; I honour you for it; I will tell you what you must do—treat my books as if they were your own. If I should not be within when you call, leave a slip of paper on the table, stating the name of the book you have taken, and the date, that I may know where to find it. Begin immediately to use them; the six days' examination for the diploma is drawing near, so you have no time to lose."

"You are one of the right sort, Harrington; but do you think I could use the weapons which you offer voluntarily to place into my hands against you? It is pretty evident the first place in the class will be awarded either to you or me, so in point of fact we are rivals: you, certainly, are a generous one, as evidenced by your pressing upon me what might possibly turn the scale against yourself. Would you have me be so ungenerous as to borrow your books to acquire information for the purpose of enabling me to dethrone you from your proper position—the head of the class?"

"Do you remember, St. Laurence, the anecdote of the French cuirassier who, in the heat of action, when about to cut down a British officer, withheld the blow, bowed and passed on, when he observed the officer, had but one arm? I am in the position of the cuirassier, with the exception that I am by no means certain that I could overcome you though only half armed; but suppose I could, and did, what satisfaction would ever arise to me from it, knowing that what gave me the superiority over my dear friend was by having a few more books which I withheld the use of from him? No, my dear St. Laurence; let me enjoy the pure and disinterested pleasure of placing you on an equal footing with respect to this examination; then let each answer as he best can. If I don't succeed in gaining the highest place, my friend will. In short, I must insist on your using my books as freely as if they

were your own, if you wish to make me happy or value my friendship."

St. Laurence's scruples were overcome; he promised to do so. He then amused Harrington, by stating his first impressions of him. The latter stated they were very natural for him to form from his ordinary manner: he must try to correct it; his judgment and feelings were quite the reverse. It was the individual's personal worth and character he valued most: for instance, he had a greater regard for Douglas and Howard, though they passed through as sizars, than any, save one, of the fellow-commoners.

The interval between this and the six days' examination for the diploma was spent diligently by both, and both stood the serious test remarkably well; however, St. Laurence, after the close of it, was declared the first man. He got, in addition to his diploma, which was signed by seven leading men, in the six different branches of study required, two certificates of extra merit, signed by three individuals of high standing each, and four private testimonials given by Fellows. As the latter bear on his moral character, we give a copy of one of them, omitting date and signature.

"I have been college tutor to Mr. William St. Laurence during his course in our University, and I have great pleasure in stating the entire satisfaction I have felt with him during the whole of our intercourse. His diligence has been unwearied, his moral character without reproach; and in the peculiar branch

of study to which he devoted himself, the Engineering course, he was decidedly the best of all who went in for the final examination. I am convinced that he has every quality requisite for success in the profession which he has chosen; and his moral excellence is such as to render his future prosperity an object of interest to all who have had the pleasure of his acquaintance.

"*Day of* 18

"M. A. J.,

"*Fellow and Tutor, Trinity College, Dublin.*"

Having obtained his degree in arts, too, he set off for home, to enjoy the society and congratulations of his friends, and a little rest from mental labour. He could not be persuaded to remain there long. He said his father, for many years, had been at great expense on his account: it was time he should now try to do something for himself; he understood there was engineering work going on in Canada; he wished to try his chance there. Accordingly, the different certificates and testimonials were got printed, and with them, his medal, and a few pounds, he set off for Canada, where he commenced hunting for employment. His youthful appearance was against him. His character looked well in print; but how could an employer be convinced that it was not a fabrication got up suddenly for an object at the expense of a few shillings, as types refuse nothing. Upon this question being raised, it occurred to him that the medal might be a more substantial evidence of his early character. So he ventured to produce it. His object was answered. The employer said, upon the strength of it, he would give

him a trial at 5*s.* per day. The undertaking he was first employed in was bringing water to the city. He soon gave evidence of his worth, and got 7*s.* 6*d.* per day. He was removed to the Grand Trunk Railway, then in progress. His salary was raised in time to 15*s.* a day. Winter set in; the contractors were pressed for time, and had to try to carry on part of the work, notwithstanding the change of season. St. Laurence hesitated for a time, considering whether he would venture to expose himself to the severity of the winter; but he decided on doing so, rather than run the chance of getting out of employment. Who has not heard of a Canadian winter? The ground one great sheet of dry snow, about eighteen inches deep; the wind calm; the sky clear and deep blue; the thermometer some degrees below Zero. The great river St. Laurence, so lately yielding freely to the prows and keels of numberless crafts of all dimensions, and permitting itself to be beaten into foam by the paddles of every steamer, has become, in a few hours, a solid unyielding mass, holding in its tenacious grasp any vessel that did not escape when it was a liquid. It now offers itself as a highway for all manner of conveyances and passengers. A kind of holiday time is proclaimed; business in a considerable degree is laid aside. The inhabitants wrap themselves up in furs and other clothing until little more than their eyes are visible: out they go in search of pleasure. Numberless sleighs slide along to the music of the bells attached

to the horses drawing them. Skaters, male and female, crowd the river. When tired by the proceedings of the day, they retire to houses well warmed with stoves, and having the cold excluded by double sashes on their windows, so that the temperature is kept up higher and more evenly than in our houses in general. Our friend, William St. Laurence, could not at this time share such comfort, happiness, and safety. He was out in a wild, uninhabited district, where, perhaps, he had to use considerable care, lest he should lie down at night on a hard surface, and find he had sunk into a soft, wet place in the morning, his only luxury being his faithful, large dog, imparting some of his heat to his master's almost frost-bitten toes, by lying on them. Another evil was bad food, and the danger of a short supply of it.

While affairs were in this state, the superintendent stated, such was the urgency of the case, that all hands must work on Sundays. This he refused to do. He was threatened to be reported. He said he would run his chance, as there could be no cause of complaint as to the quantity or quality of his work on the other six days. He was not dismissed. Do we hear some of our readers say, "Quit your prosing; give us something lively and sensational. If you be good for anything, you have a fine subject now. The breaking up of the ice!—the loud, sudden, and startling reports it makes!—its dividing into separate masses, floating towards the ocean!

Come, clap your hero on one of these small moving islands ; make him perform miraculous jumps for his life from mass to mass, such as would throw the feats of a chamois into the shade, one inch short in any of the instances being enough to ensure a deadly plunge into the icy embrace of his great namesake! Let there be a fair Canadian witnessing the scene; and when he falls exhausted on the last iceberg, there being only one jump now required to place him in safety, and that not so great as many which he had performed, but lost he must be for want of ability, when the excited fair one springs on the iceberg, raises him up, catches his hands, tells him he has but one slight effort more to make, and she is so sure he can perform it safely, she will catch his hand, so that they will live or die together!—this rouses all his remaining energies; they catch hands, rush to the chasm ; take it flying ; their feet alight on the opposite side, his rather too near the edge; he staggers back into the chasm; she maintains her grasp firmly; struggles bravely, and with great difficulty saves his life at the risk of her own; gets him to her father's, where he is well taken care of; he soon recovers ; abounds with gratitude, which, unavoidably, is converted into love. Place a reasonable amount of difficulties in the way; let all be surmounted in due time, and end with a happy marriage. In a suitable part, bring in the mighty St. Laurence, in a drifting humour, laughing at the theory of men supposed to be wise, that water

always finds its level, and showing its fallacy by heaping up part of his thirty feet or so high on the quay of Montreal. Nothing short of this will render your story tolerable." Alas, kind reader, have you not observed by our halting and crippled gate we have no talent for sensational writing? at least, we are subject to a kind of twinge or stitch in our moral side, if we attempt to unite even a small portion of fiction with truth. We have suffered in this way in the progress of this tale; so, please, let us hobble on. We will feel gratified if you can bring yourself to persevere in accompanying us.

Some of the sub-contractors of the Grand Trunk Railway having failed to execute their work, St. Laurence was employed to do it. This he performed so well, he got a section of it to form, and a salary equal to £1 per day, with a staff of seniors under him, and an ample supply of money. When in this position, he had a house at the end of a village in which he resided; a servant slept in a remote part of it. St. Laurence had got relief from a pain which had kept him awake for some nights, and fell into an unusually sound sleep. When he came down stairs in the morning, he found the offices and all the boxes, desks, &c., in them, had been broken into, the iron safe only excepted; it bore the marks of fruitless efforts to break it open, too. Of course, he was greatly alarmed. He picked up a letter, found it contained a cheque for £1000, and another containing one of a lesser amount, both of

which had escaped the observation of the burglars. It appears probable that something had alarmed the party before they had effected their object. They had carried off nothing whatever. The life of St. Laurence was evidently in imminent danger. Had he not been in a sounder sleep than usual, is it not probable he would have heard some noise, supposed it was a dog, or something of the kind, gone down to turn it out, been seen by the gang, compelled by torture to open the safe, and then murdered, to prevent his witnessing against them, as most likely they were his own navvies, and, consequently, known by him? or if they had succeeded in robbing the strong box without disturbing him, might not a report have been raised that he was in collusion with the party, as he was almost an untried and unknown youth?

His next exciting adventure was this. The residence to which he had removed was on the bank of a river. He had a small boat drawn up on the beach when not required; he heard cries of distress from the river; ran down; his servant and a friend ran after him. They observed some people clinging to a boat, which had been upset, and was drifting down the river. They launched his boat, bore down upon the other with all possible speed, and arrived just in time to rescue a brother and sister, the only persons who had been in the boat when it upset. "Now," our sensational reader cries, "how

can you avoid finding an excellent wife for him in the rescued damsel?" Ah, truth forbids it.

Soon after this a deputation of strangers, trustees for an eminent college, waited on St. Laurence, and offered him the Professorship of Engineering in it, with a high salary and half of the fees of the pupils for his services during the winter, he to be at liberty to follow his profession as he pleased during the summer. He expressed himself very much flattered by the offer, and grateful for it, but begged to decline the honour, as he was very desirous to follow his profession. We cannot conveniently accompany him in doing so, but our readers may rest satisfied he fulfilled the predictions of his early friends of Trinity College; constructed many great and lasting works in England, the Continent, and South America; had a large salary, and a tenth of the profit on his work; has enjoyed many honours, and has purchased now a very handsome and convenient villa, rent free for ever, in the neighbourhood of London, where he resides happily with his wife—for he has a nice one, and family, too—though she did not catch him on an iceberg, nor did he fish her out of the river. He has quite enough of professional means and employment to meet all reasonable wants and wishes, and is, we trust, thankful to that Almighty Power, who has guarded and protected him through many dangers and difficulties. We may leave him in this happy frame and position, and turn to some of our other friends.

CHAPTER XV.

THE DOCTOR.—INDIA.

We believe we left Howard somewhere in or near the tropics, surrounded by porpoises, sharks, flying fish, and favoured occasionally with the unwelcome view of an iceberg. The elements, when aroused here, are quite in earnest. The sun seems bent on broiling you, though you defeat his object occasionally by getting a bucket of salt water heaved over you, and getting under an awning, to shield you from his rays. The wind, when in the humour, soon dashes this aside, makes ribbons of the strongest sails, engages the waves to toss you up and down like a child, until you are heartily sick of the amusement; no cannonade can compare with the thunder, nor pounded rosin in a blaze with the lightning; down rushes the rain like a waterspout, in heavy streams, not in drops. A novice is convinced that the end of the world is come, at least to him. The weather-beaten vessel outlives all. They enter the Hoogley, and land at Calcutta. Howard is sent to Dum Dum, and soon afterwards farther into the country, where few European faces are visible; he feels doleful, and inclined to question the wisdom and advantages of his taking such an appointment. The pay (about £300 per annum) tends to reconcile him; he sets immediately about trying to save for his mother. His earliest letters express the opinion,

that intemperance in drinking and eating contribute greatly to mortality there. Young medical men in that service are seldom attached to a regiment for three years or so. In that time he was able to remit to his mother £400, to repay the cost of part of his education and outfit. Obscurely as he seems to have been placed, his character shone brightly enough for Sir Charles Napier, the then Commander-in-Chief there, to hear of it. He was specially pleased with his remittances to his mother. It coincided so exactly with his own views of what was right, he caused his secretary to write to Howard to name any post in his power to grant, which he considered himself capable to discharge the duties of. Howard had always been fond of horses, and hearing that though, in the ordinary course, it might be twelve years before he became full surgeon, as promotion went on by seniority, yet he might get the duty and pay of that rank nearly, if appointed to the irregular cavalry. He accordingly named that service in his reply to the secretary, and obtained it immediately. By this his pay was doubled, and he was brought into good European society, which contributed greatly to his happiness. He was like in a new world when he got to Delhi. He found the men of the regiment comparatively better conducted than the European soldiers he had come in contact with; they were the sons of natives in good circumstances, who purchased their own horses, &c.

Sir Charles left the country soon after this, his public parting order containing a good temperance lecture, as well as a reproof to thoughtless and selfish young men. He stated to the effect that many of their friends had submitted to considerable privations for the purpose of advancing them in life, yet, when they arrived in that country, and had liberal pay, instead of trying to remunerate these friends, they spent their money in champagne, &c. He was happy to be able to state he knew an instance or two of young men who, by their conduct, proved exceptions. We believe that it is usual for the officers of the irregular cavalry to test the metal of horse and man of every new addition to their force, in the rank of an officer, by riding out as if for amusement, and taking a direction they are aware of will lead to high and difficult, if not dangerous jumps. Howard's horse was rather thin, but high mettled; he himself enjoyed such feats, and had got far more practice in the line than our readers are aware of: he saw the object was to pound him; but finding this impossible, and that he took everything that came in his way, as if it were an every-day occurrence, he was raised considerably in their estimation; he soon placed their regard for him on a more rational, substantial, and permanent footing—his professional skill, willingness to serve, steady, temperate, and good conduct: his musical talents also tended to make him an agreeable companion; he played on several instruments. These occupations he found a greater

source of pleasure and safety than what the mess-room table afforded after dinner, so he retired to them early. Youngsters meet with many strange sights and sounds soon after their arrival in India—processions of elephants, the nightly howl of the jackall and tiger, dangerous reptiles, and other animals.

When Howard was at the hills, on one occasion he was awoke with screaming in his room, the windows of which were open as a matter of course. He bounced out of bed, put his bare foot on something soft and clammy; he was certain it was a serpent; it turned out to be a frog, nearly the size of a duck; a large bat had flown in, and seized upon a bird that had come in for safety and repose during the night; but was sadly disappointed—the screaming was its death song. Leopards sometimes bounce upon the dog beside you, and carry him off; one killed a cow or buffalo, and dragged it some distance. Howard traced it, lay in wait the following evening with his rifle, and shot it when it came to feed upon the carcass. He had the beautiful skin preserved for a trophy to send home. Tigers, wolves, and pigs are sufficiently dangerous to prevent there being any lack of excitement in the chase. Crocodiles, six or eight of which may be frequently seen basking in the sun on the bank of a river, each averaging perhaps ten feet in length, would not be very desirable companions. Monkeys and birds of beautiful plumage abound and enliven the scene. But we have not

time to look for amusement at present. We must leave Howard engaged in his various duties, and return, telegraph-like, to Europe, as we feel as if we have been overlooking to some extent one of our characters by no means deserving such treatment.

CHAPTER XVI.

THE LAWYER.

HENRY ST. LAURENCE continued his system of diligent study at the Temple, as he had done at school and in College, though some of his companions tried to persuade him it was absurd, that he would have many years after being called to the Bar, when he would have nothing to do but study law, if he felt inclined so to do, as no person ever thinks of entrusting a young lawyer with business. There was a great deal of truth, but very little wisdom, in this advice. It did not discourage Henry from proceeding as usual, for he knew the habit of industry was very valuable; it was not easily acquired, and, even when acquired, it might be lost by giving way gradually to indolence or pleasure-hunting. The remark led him to turn his attention to stenography, and he became very expert as a law reporter. In this character he got considerable pay from the editors of some first-class newspapers, which gratified him greatly, because thereby he relieved his father almost entirely of his support; it exercised his faculties, and brought him under the

notice of eminent professional men. The time at length arrived for him to be called to the Irish Bar. A few minutes after the form had been gone through, when he had seated himself beside a lawyer of his acquaintance to listen to what was going forward, and accustom himself to be looked at in his wig and gown, he was astonished by hearing the crier of the court calling out, in the usual distinct and audible voice in which he summonses lawyers of eminence when wanted by attorneys, "Henry St. Laurence, Esquire, counsel-at-law." He was a little confused at the trick, as he supposed, which some of his young acquaintances had played upon him; he went out, expecting to be laughed at, when a young stranger met him, with a bow, handed him a declaration to peruse and affix his name to, and his fee (a guinea). Henry of course returned the bow, thanked him, and said he would examine it immediately, aware that he would see the attorney's name to whom he supposed he was indebted in the draft.

Some of our readers, if we ever have any, may require to be initiated in the fact that a declaration was the plaintiff's first pleading; that there were printed drafts of them to be had at the law stationers, and any intelligent attorney's apprentice, after two or three years' service, could fill them up without difficulty in ordinary cases; but the lawyer must still get a fee and sign his name: so the embryo attorney who had the one in question thought his having a lawyer of ten minutes' standing, called loudly in

court, and handed a fee by a stranger, would serve as a temporary amusement, which would bring its own excuse; at all events, there was some shaking of hands and smiling between Henry and his neighbour. If the latter told him never to accept a seat on the Bench as long as his practice continued to bring in a guinea every ten minutes, it was good advice.

We are here reminded of a frightful death. The attorney whose name was to the declaration escaped. He dined with a friend two or three miles out of Dublin. It was feared there was too much of what was then called hospitality going forward. He left pretty late for the city on a remarkably smart, active mare. She was rather headstrong. The spurs, in head or on heel, or both, roused her metal. It is supposed she galloped nearly the entire way in by Merrion-square, and Nassau-street. Crossing the great thoroughfare, Grafton-street, she dashed on through Suffolk-street, and staked herself on the spikes of an area in St. Andrew's-street, which meets it in a curve. The velocity and sudden check threw the rider over the spikes into the area, instead of impaling him on them. Some articles in the area were supposed to have contributed to the saving of his life. The chief injury he sustained was the breaking of his jaw. The unfortunate animal struggled off the spikes; could be traced by a stream of blood for a few yards, until it fell dead.

Henry continued to attend the Courts daily, paying particular attention to the observations and

decisions of the eminent Judges, noting down such as he thought necessary, extending his knowledge and his circle of acquaintance in the profession; he also became known as steady, industrious, and well qualified to report cases—all steps in the right direction, though not immediately productive of much money. The long vacation having commenced, he soon after left town for Mount Pleasant, where, as well as in the neighbourhood, he met with a hearty welcome, particularly at Mrs. Howard's. He became a frequent visitor there, and had some laughing at his first ten minutes' experience of the profession. He asked Mary what had become of the doll in which her happiness had been bound up, and learned it had been transferred to young Miss Carpendale, who seemed to prize it equally. They used to take frequent walks into the country together. On one occasion they happened to be separated from the rest of the party. Mary asked him had he got any more declarations. He replied he had been just studying how to frame a very important one. She said she thought they were all matters of form. He said this one was not at all so. It was a question of title to a very small, but a very valuable property, not as large as her mother's house. He was most anxious on the subject. He might say more than his professional reputation was at stake on the result.

"Dear me; can you get no experienced person to assist you? Where is the property situated?"

"Here it is," catching her hand.

She, withdrawing it suddenly and confused, said: "Henry, I am astonished at you. I would never have thought you would, by way of amusement, trifle with any girl's feelings."

"I assure you I don't mean to trifle with you; I never have done so with any girl; I am perfectly serious; I have long valued you, much more highly than I can express; and have looked forward in hope to the delightful prospect of once being in a position to beg of you to unite your fate with mine."

"Stop, Henry, if you value my friendship: you know such an event never should, never can happen. You are not in a position to take a pennyless girl like me. Your judicious and proper course is quite plain before you. Young lawyers are freely admitted into good society everywhere. You will be very likely to meet with a girl in all respects deserving of your affectionate regard, who will, in addition, have a reasonable fortune, and good professional connexion, suppose, for instance, the daughter of an eminent city attorney, of good character: he could at once introduce you into practice. Now, like a sensible, well-principled man, take my advice in this respect, and never allude to the subject again to me."

He replied: "Is it possible you think a love so well placed and deeply rooted as mine can be obliterated or transferred at pleasure for the sake of a few pounds or advancement in the profession? Your

advice would be an admirable one for a young lawyer whose affections were disengaged; but it is not applicable to my case. May I ask, was it on my account you gave the subject such full consideration as to know all its bearings so well?"

"It was, indeed."

"It is evident, then, that you have felt an interest in me; that you anticipated the possibility of what has happened this morning occurring, and that you determined to meet it in your own romantically unselfish way. I want no confession of a tenderer or stronger feeling in my favour; nor am I so imprudent as to rush into a hasty marriage immediately; but my prospects are brightening, and I think you might venture to risk something. Come, give me back the hand you snatched so hastily from me."

She did so: he raised it to his lips, whilst she endeavoured to conceal her blushes and tears with the other.

"This cheers and encourages me more than I can express. With such a prize in view, I can now work with ardour. It is wonderful what an impulse hope gives, and upon what a slender foundation it can rest. You will laugh at me when I tell you, the world appeared brighter to me for two or three days, because, when I was about to leave town, the Attorney-General said to me: 'A friend has spoken to me about you. Please call on me when you return.' Upon this I have been raising the super-

structure in imagination, that he would wish me to save him some trouble by noting his briefs, looking out for cases for him, and such like, and that this will stamp a kind of credit on me that may be useful." He also told her something of his reporting powers. They tried to carry on after they joined the others, as if nothing particular had occurred between them.

Next post, by a strange coincidence, two letters arrived—one from William before he left Canada, enclosing a bank draft for £100 to Henry, stating he had got quite rich, and that Henry must accept of this as a small token of his love. The other was from Howard to Mary, with a similar sum, and much to the same effect, as far as the money was concerned. Henry felt rather disappointed at Mary's visits to Mount Pleasant being hardly so frequent as formerly; however, he made up for it by increasing the number of his visits to her mother's.

Shortly after this, the neighbourhood was thrown into deep sorrow by the serious illness of Mr. Trueman. Doctor Leech, who was considered very skilful, attended him carefully; but, from the first, had little hopes of his recovery. Mr. St. Laurence and Henry went frequently to see him. He spoke to them freely and calmly of his approaching end; told Henry he had imposed upon him the duty of acting as his executor, but hoped he would find all his affairs so well arranged that he would not get much trouble. He desired him to pull out a certain

drawer, and to take the will, which was sealed up, with him. This Henry did. Mr. Trueman said: "I have been almost constantly, of late particularly, looking forward to the change which must take place in a few hours. I have every confidence that all my sins have been atoned for by my Saviour; so that my affairs for eternity are in a still better state than my worldly trifles. I have great reason to be thankful, I have enjoyed so many of the blessings of life, and escaped so many of its evils for such a length of time, that now, on my death bed, my mind is so full of 'the peace of God, which passeth understanding.' My bodily pains being so trifling is another cause of thankfulness. Tell our total abstinence friends that, looking back from this bed, I never felt joining that society or trying to persuade others to do so any cause of regret, but quite the contrary." This conversation happened on the last night of his life. He shook hands with them, and said: "Farewell: may our next be a happy meeting. I think I am likely to enter on my heavenly inheritance before morning." And it turned out so. He went off in the course of the night without a struggle. He had expressed a wish that his funeral would be as quiet as possible, and that there would be no scarfs. He always disapproved of such mummeries. However, his death was regarded as a public calamity, and crowds from all directions assembled. An excellent address was given at the grave, not for the purpose of eulogising the dead, but of benefiting the living.

The following were the general contents of his will, which in due time were carried out. He bequeathed Violet Hill, stock, and furniture, to Mrs. Howard for her life; after her decease, to her son Alfred, or daughter Mary, if Alfred should not then be alive. To each of his old servants, who were man and wife, an annuity for life of £10 per annum, and £10 to each of them in hand; £200 to Mrs. Howard; £300 to Mary Howard; £100 to Mrs. St. Laurence; and to her three younger children, £100 each. £19 19*s.* 11*d.* to Mrs. Butt; a similar sum to Mrs. Carpendale, Willy Maxwell, Sturdy, and Soaker; £100 amongst religious societies named; £100 to be expended in advancing the interests of the Anyborough Total Abstinence Society, and in assisting deserving poor persons in any way which to his executor should seem meet; all the residue of his property to Henry St. Laurence, whom he appointed his sole executor. This residue eventually turned out to be about £600. He owed no debts. A list enclosed with the will showed the particulars of his property, and that it was all in a good, tangible shape. The object of the bequests to Mrs. Carpendale and others, being a penny less than £20, was to save duty.

CHAPTER XVII.

THE DOUBLE WEDDING.

Mrs. Howard soon afterwards removed to Violet Hill, and gave up her residence in Anyborough. Immediately after Henry's arrival in Dublin, he met the Attorney-General, who gave him a very friendly reception. It turned out as Henry expected; he required some competent person to assist him in some laborious parts of his profession, and from what he had heard of Henry, thought he would be very suitable, if willing to undertake the duty. He named the pecuniary compensation he proposed to give, which was handsome. Henry replied, that was quite a secondary matter; he felt it an honour to be selected, and would readily do what he could in the way of assisting. The knowledge and industrious habits he had acquired now told in his favour, and surprised the Attorney-General, who made no secret of it; consequently he began to pick up business as a junior pretty fast.

By his father's advice, he took a neat, comfortable house, in a respectable and convenient street, Emma having agreed to go, to assist in selecting and arranging the furniture, and to bring a suitable woman servant with her, all which she executed admirably. It is rather a troublesome affair, the furnishing a house; yet when it is for the first time

engaged in, and for a young person starting in life, it brings with it the pleasures of ownership and novelty; and, if prudently entered upon, hope is apt to open a vista in the imagination for the view of a bright and happy future. It did so, at all events, for Henry. The furniture was all of a neat, suitable, and useful description. The entire establishment looked remarkably well.

One day, when Henry was alone in the Attorney-General's, a gentleman was shown in, whom he did not recognize at first, but who proved to be Harrington, William's great friend. After going over part of William's successful career, and some other matters, Harrington said he was, unfortunately, in an old Chancery suit, but he believed he had a good, honest case, and a safe guide in the Attorney-General. Henry told him, in his opinion, he could not have a better, and that he had paid him the compliment to select him as an assistant; that both were very much engaged at that time, but he would be glad to see him any evening at his own house, mentioning the number and street, and so they parted for the time. It was late when the Attorney-General came in. He told Henry he would feel obliged by his stopping to dine, as he had important business he could assist him in that evening. If he wrote to prevent waiting dinner for him at home, he would have it sent, which was done.

Harrington lost no time in availing himself of the invitation, wishing to spend the evening going over

old college affairs with Henry. He arrived at his house about six o'clock, was ushered into the parlour, when, to his surprise, he found Emma, whom he had never seen, instead of Henry. She said she had a hurried note from her brother, intimating he was prevented by business coming home to dinner; she could not say exactly when he might be in.

"I perceive I am addressing Miss St. Laurence; my name is Harrington; I have been a college acquaintance of both your brothers. I met your brother Henry at the Attorney-General's, and promised to come here some evening, to talk over old affairs; but I would not have come so unceremoniously, had I not thought he lived in the bachelor style we used to do."

"I am sure he will regret he was not at home to receive you. I have heard him and William speaking in the highest terms of you, especially of your kindness to William. He may be in soon; perhaps you would rest for a little."

He gladly availed himself of the offer; for, much as he had seen of the world, he never had seen a young lady who made such a favourable impression on him at first sight. He saw in her a flattering resemblance to both his old friends. They were at no loss for a subject for conversation. The success of her brothers in life, particularly William's, his travels, and the works he had accomplished, afforded an ample field for discussion.

The evening wore on; no sign of Henry. She rang the bell, got up tea, and were enjoying themselves very comfortably when Henry arrived. He explained that he and the Attorney-General were hard at work ever since dinner; but if he had known the treat that was before him, he would have been greatly tempted to have deserted. "What do you think of my new house, and my wife?" pointing to Emma.

"Oh, I know you too well to be caught by your tricks now. You are like myself, an old bachelor; and as you have not time to eat your dinner, what chance have you of ever being able to look out for a wife?"

They spent the remainder of the evening very agreeably for themselves, but an attempt to describe how, in detail, would not be equally so to our readers. The result is what they would desire to know. It is shortly this: Harrington repeated his visits very frequently, came to the conclusion that Henry stood next to the Attorney-General in talent at the Bar, and that Emma stood next to no young lady he had ever known, but far beyond them all. She was greatly prepossessed in his favour, by his conduct towards William. This, I trust, will excuse her in the eyes of all prudent young ladies for not insisting on a much longer personal acquaintance with him before giving a favourable answer to his proposal. All agreed that the Chancery suit should be terminated before the bridesmaids should

be engaged, for if it went in favour of Harrington, he would be more easily made happy; if it went against him, he would require comfort; but if it remained unsettled, his thoughts would be too much divided to give proper attention either to his bride or his suit; besides, a difficulty arose as to Henry's future domestic arrangements—they were sure to be broken up. He had forgotten his College powers of self-help. How could he get tea made morning and evening, and arrange about something to eat in the shape of dinner, when Emma was taken from him? All of a sudden it occurred to him Mary Howard might take compassion on him under the circumstances, and come to his relief. With all the ingenuity of a lawyer, he brought forward to her the great advantages of a double wedding, one set of bridesmaids, one general dressing, one breakfast at Mount Pleasant, one going to church, one cheering by the mob. These reasons, of course, were irresistible; a double wedding was hailed by all the parties as very advantageous.

This being settled, Henry was able to give undivided attention to the case, which was ripening fast. Harrington induced him to hold a brief in it, an unusual thing for such a junior; he studied it well; it appeared to him quite straight and fair; the day arrived; he took down in shorthand the statements and arguments on the other side; and made a skeleton of how they should be met. We are unable and unwilling to attempt particulars

of the hearing, which occupied several days. Suffice it to say, in consequence of the absence of his senior, Henry was brought into action prominently, and attracted the admiration of all present by his efficient treatment of the subject. The Chancellor pronounced an elaborate judgment in favour of Harrington, stating that the points and arguments brought forward, especially by his junior counsel, appeared in his mind unanswerable. This, uttered in the presence of many solicitors and others, brought him into notice, so as to tell on his fee-book. In short, he became generally considered to be a rising man at the Bar, which his intercourse with the Attorney-General helped to confirm. So soon as the excitement of the victory began to subside, the gentlemen bethought themselves of the young ladies' consents, and urged them to name the day for the double bridal affair.

Harrington went, by invitation, to Mount Pleasant to get acquainted with the other members of the family and the Howards, Alfred having been an old friend of his, too. He admired the country greatly, and the people he met with still more; and, notwithstanding the absence of all intoxicating drink, there was a great deal of pleasant, rational, happy, and lively intercourse. Harrington wrote to Henry that as it was his musty old books and studies that were likely to retard their happiness, he would memorial his friend the Chancellor against him, if he did not not pitch all aside, and come to the

country at once; and, if that threat had not the desired effect, he would pay his addresses to Miss Howard, whom he was half in love with already. Whether these threats had the effect, or some other reason, it signifies nought to us. The result was, in a few days he arrived at Mount Pleasant. There was a grand council of fair ones, at which it was resolved the weddings should come off on the then next Tuesday week. And now the bustle commenced in earnest, though the brides were inclined, from the simplicity of their tastes, to act as if they believed the saying was strictly applicable to themselves, that "beauty needs not the foreign aid of ornament." The only extra pieces of attire they seemed to think necessary were veils; however, they submitted calmly to the authority of the bridesmaids, which was but a proper training for the government of their intended lords and masters.

At last the weddings came off: they were, in the language of the people, magnificent: the brides, so lovely at all times, far outshone their former selves. They returned to Mount Pleasant amidst the cheers of the populace: the bride's cakes, with their elephants, castles, and cupids, were stupendous and splendid; but we are only exposing our ignorance; we wish we had thought of it at first. If there be any of our readers who wish for a description of the double wedding of Mount Pleasant, let them ask about it the first time they go to Anyborough, and we are sure they will hear they never saw the like

of it there. Henry, of course, had to set off for Dublin, not that he had the entire weight of the Four Courts resting upon him, but still how could they get on without him? Harrington's handsome estate and mansion lay in the county Wicklow: he preferred in his journey avoiding the beaten mail coach road. If their respective ladies had any voice in the matter, it was uttered in so low a whisper, it escaped our observation. We believe settlements were not considered necessary in either case. Mr. Law acted as best man to Henry, and was pronounced by the best authority, the bridesmaids, to have been a valuable addition to the party; a very nice and agreeable young man. If he escape contagion after that, it will surprise us. Notwithstanding the great prospect of happiness and comfort which these marriages promised, we cannot conceal the fact that genuine tears bedewed the faces of both mothers and daughters when the carriages drove up in which they were to leave; and when they were in each other's arms, about to part. Let husbands, if they can, equal in pure, permanent, and disinterested affection, the mothers from whom they separate their beloved ones. The weather proved favourable, and both parties arrived at their destinations safely and happily. The ladies soon scrutinized with approbation the habitations of which they all at once became mistresses. We question if they even had to suggest an alteration in placing any article of furniture in a different position

from where it stood—a test of good taste in both parties. Mary, no doubt, felt rather lonely during the daytime, whilst Henry was absent; but she wisely strove to drive all pensive thoughts away by useful occupation; she was not accustomed to such a moving panorama as that which the street afforded; so it provided her with a little variety whenever she chose to look out. Emma was placed in a rather more congenial sphere; Harrington was seldom obliged to leave home. She had a handsome demesne, garden, and pleasure grounds to feast her eyes on; and many a delightful songster, such as she had been used to, gratified her ears. Then the distance to Dublin was so short, she expected to exchange visits frequently with Mary. Both could enjoy the ready and cheap pleasure now of corresponding with their friends in different directions, and had the prospect of seeing some of them occasionally, so we may leave them enjoying the honeymoon.

CHAPTER XVIII.

INDIA AGAIN.

We must now return to Doctor Howard. His regiment had been removed several times. We now find them at Peshawar, in the Punjab. Far as it lies towards the north, it is still India, with its climate and its peculiarities, neither very safe nor pleasant

occasionally. For instance, the Doctor and a brother officer were riding on the bank of a deep river: the orderly called out from behind; there was instantly the report of a gun. The ball passed the Doctor quite closely, and stuck in the bank beside him. The man who fired was on the opposite bank. He hid behind a rock. There was no near way of crossing the river or getting at him. He was probably loading for a second shot; so they set off homewards expeditiously. The regiment was afterwards moved to Mooltan. Of course they took part in all the splendid shows, durbars, and amusements that came in their way, and no doubt were, like others, occupied in some of them, in May, 1857, when the awful mutiny burst on them all like a thunder clap. The public must have the frightful details still in their recollection, and the wondrous energy, coolness, courage, and determination which the small band of Europeans, civil as well as military—nay, even females and children—evinced. We will mention one instance in which the Doctor and his regiment were principally concerned: he was attached to a cavalry regiment. Some of them behaved well on a subsequent occasion, which we may notice. Two regiments of native infantry became mutinous there, and determined to murder all the Europeans in the station, who only numbered about fifty, and were, of course, nearly all officers. The Colonel in command got a whisper of it. He determined to try and disarm them, when 150 European soldiers, whom he

expected in about a week, arrived. A deputation from one of the mutinous regiments came to the other at night, wanting them to proceed with them direct to the massacre. The regiment applied to succeeded in getting it postponed for a day. The Colonel got an intimation of this, and concluded, if he did not succeed in disarming them immediately, he and all the other Europeans would certainly be murdered. He therefore ordered a parade in the morning of every man in the garrison. He communicated his intention to a few specially steady fellows, amongst them, Howard. The two mutinous regiments were, together, about 1500 strong. The cavalry regiment in which Howard was, numbered about 600. There were some native artillery. He placed the mutinous regiments in a compact body. Every individual of them had his gun in his hand, and twenty-one rounds of ammunition on his back. The cavalry were drawn out in line, so far distant as not to be able to hear what would be spoken. The artillery were placed behind them. The Colonel ordered the officers of the native infantry regiments to fall out. He commenced then to make a speech about the impropriety of the Sepoys elsewhere disturbing the country, &c., &c. He ended by saying it was desirable, until peace would be restored, that the regiments he was addressing should lay down their arms. He made a signal which the officers of the cavalry understood, and immediately made an opening in the centre of their line, through

which the artillery could be seen with their guns apparently pointed at the mutineers. "If you lay them down at once all will pass over well. If not, another signal, and you are blown to atoms." What a fearful moment! The scale balanced with a quivering motion, but, by the blessing of God, the plan succeeded: they laid down their arms. It was a critical and nervous affair all through, even afterwards, guarding the arms until the 150 Europeans came up. It appears that the very artillery made use of to inspire dread were likely, had they known what was going on, rather to have joined the mutineers than the reverse, as they did so some months afterwards, when the mutineers, thinking from their great numbers, if they took the Europeans by surprise, they could easily destroy them. They broke up their bedsteads to form weapons, laid hold of every other thing they could for the purpose, and rushed on the 150 European soldiers when at dinner. Fortunately the latter had their arms beside them; they sprang up, attacked the mutineers, killed vast numbers of them, and drove many into the river, where they were drowned; the remnant fled in all directions. On another occasion, about 200 of the cavalry regiment to which Howard was attached were scouring the country at a distance from their station. An overwhelming number of insurgents came upon them by surprise. They got into a place enclosed by a wall, and kept the insurgents off by firing at them. To improve their screen, they placed some

saddles on the wall. These were soon perforated by balls from the enemy. It became a regular siege; but the cavalry had no food except the peas which were on the horses' forage. After a time notes were got conveyed into them, intimating that if they would give up their European officers and join them, they would get plenty of food and booty. They held out for two days and nights, and were about to kill one of the horses for food, when a reinforcement appeared in view. They soon joined them, and routed the enemy in all directions. Had it been an European regiment that was so circumstanced, expecting no quarter, their holding out, or unwillingness to surrender their officers might not excite admiration or surprise; but surely it was a brave and noble act in natives to resist to such an extremity rather than do so. But we are forgetting that, though we have recited facts, we are not historians. Had we sufficiently accurate materials, no doubt the truth would prove more strange and interesting than fiction. Who has not had to shudder at the awful scenes that occurred during that time, or not to lament friends or acquaintances amongst the victims? Who can refrain from admiration, if not astonishment, at the amount of heroism exhibited on all sides?

Picture to yourselves, if you can, one instance—a small body of men, hardly exceeding 4000, including natives, sitting down to besiege Delhi, when in the hands of the mutineers, in such a climate; their enemies within the walls and around them exceed-

ing in number 70,000, well disciplined and well armed. Three of the besiegers, one a bugler, volunteer to blow open the gates during the night with bags of gunpowder, sure to have hundreds of guns immediately discharged at them from the walls; the bugler's hope and wish being that he would have life to see a good breach made, to be able to sound clearly an advance to his friends, in doing which his last breath should pass through the bugle, all which was fulfilled. Our troops heard the loud, suddenly broken summons, rushed over his and his brave companions' dead bodies, through the breach into the city, against fearful odds and other great disadvantages, cutting their way through their enemies, until finally they were enabled to place the British standard floating over the Imperial Palace. The day was won, and the head of the dreadful mutiny had received a withering crush. Our old school acquaintance, now Captain O'Brien, was one of the brave assailants. Ever since he had joined the Total Abstinence Society he had conducted himself steadily and well, consequently he maintained his character and position as a gentleman, and rose in his profession. He had a sad account to give to Howard, when they met, of the Battersbys. He said he had met George, the elder, when about to be invalided from the Bengal Artillery; that he could not avoid infringing the rule of the army, by asking him to come to his room in the evening for the sake of old times, he having himself had such a narrow escape

from a similar course. George said the whole turning in his brother's career and his own seemed to hinge on their determining, when at Mount Progress, to maintain through life the system of moderate drinking, instead of total abstinence. The daily practice after they left school of taking some every day imperceptibly created an increasing desire for, and an indulgence in it. But for this he had a fair chance of succeeding as an attorney. It blighted his prospects, his affairs became desperate, and not wishing to meet his old friends in such a position, he chose the Bengal Artillery to enlist in. He said: "My brother Tom tried situations in several places of business, but had to give them up, and eventually followed my example, choosing, for my sake, the same regiment. In consequence of our education and steadiness, at first, we both were appointed bombardiers, but almost as speedily fell back again, from the old infirmity. There are a great many men in our regiment born in the rank of gentlemen, but reduced by the same cause. We have taken a great pride in displaying desperate feats, particularly when placed beside an European regiment. I should have said Tom and I frequently moralized over our fallen state, resolved and re-resolved never to exceed one glass in a day, but all in vain. We tried opium as a substitute. It made bad worse. If we escaped detection on parade, we thought it a great matter. Poor Tom, at last, was one of a troop moving heavy guns. He was on a

leading horse; the road they had to take led to the top of a bank, and then descended gradually in a sloping direction down the face of it. The great danger lay in the first yard or two of the descent; the weight of the gun, unless by steady management, might carry all down the bank. Unfortunately, my poor brother was, from some cause, too rash; all went off the road down the bank. He and the horse he rode on were killed." The unfortunate man broke down. I tried to say, for himself there was still hope; not in moderation or so called temperance, but in the system we pursued—total abstinence, assuring him if he persevered in that course he would soon feel the benefit of it. Without hurting his feelings, I planned some matters to assist and comfort him on his homeward course, and parted from him, not as a captain should a discharged private, but in a way that would have shocked my brother officers had they seen it, with a warm shake of the hand, and a prayer that he would be enabled constantly to adhere to the good resolution he had formed.

The Iron Duke is said to have expressed an opinion that being much influenced by religious feelings would mar the character or conduct of a soldier. We doubt the truth of his having said so, and still more, that such would be the result. If we had a choice we would not select either the army or navy for a profession, except the medical branch of them; but we maintain that, whatever position in life a

man may have been, from choice or necessity, placed in the best substratum of character he can have is good sound religious principles, such as the men who shone as the brightest, bravest, and most useful characters we had in India during the dreadful mutiny were imbued with. It is almost invidious to name any of them, but we can hardly avoid mentioning Havelock, Outram, the Laurences, Montgomery, Edwards, and Neil. We have only mentioned a few of those generally known to have been strongly influenced by religion, and yet it was no drawback to their efficiency in a time of fearful trial. Thankful and happy may we be that their efforts, and those of others, have, under God, been instrumental in putting an end to that frightful state of things.

CHAPTER XIX.

RAILWAY PROCEEDINGS.

We have generally hitherto travelled second class in railways, under an impression that it suited best our purse and station in society. On the present occasion, however, we feel more ambitious, and have taken a first class ticket. Having assumed the higher rank, should we not the airs, of a first class passenger, give some additional trouble, and take as little on our own account, or that of others, as we can ; there must be some aristocratic blood in our veins; we feel it begin to circulate ; we are in our

proper position. The train is not quite ready to start, but we will make the most of our elevation by stepping in. It is something to be seen looking out of a first class. We commence struggling with our luggage, when a considerate young gentleman, as I am now inclined to call him, steps forward. "If you will permit, Sir, I will assist you." Seizing the heaviest article, he asks, "Which carriage?" We point to first class, and say, "You are very kind." In a short time, with his assistance, we and our luggage are comfortably placed; we close the door, and by way of recompensing the young man for his civility before he goes to his proper station, which, judging from his humility, we imagine should be in the second or third class, though he had all the appearance of a gentleman, we give him from the window a nod, and a "Thank you, Sir;" we then sit back, gratified at the attention our present rank had obtained for us. Almost immediately afterwards our friend opened the door, begged pardon, and seated himself in the same carriage; we felt rather hurt at the encroachment, and disposed to be reserved and silent, though in time we generously forgave it on account of his past civility: a nice old clerical-looking gentleman entered, who was not so scrupulous or reserved; he entered into conversation with our friend, as we may now venture to call him, who soon manifested an elegance of address, a fund of general information, a fluency of neat and appropriate language that convinced us we were the snob, and he the thorough-

bred, well-educated, and accomplished gentleman. We were silent from pride at first; we continued so for a time from mortification. He took compassion on us, addressed us with great suavity, banished our ridiculous and absurd notions, led us mentally, without any affectation or wish to display, a delightful tour on the Continent, into the highest society; assured us, notwithstanding our own expressed ideas to the contrary, that we would soon feel quite at our ease in company with the Prince of Wales ; he had often been so ; that he was a perfect gentleman ; that real gentlemen never took airs upon themselves, nor let the society they mixed with feel their inferiority in any painful manner. We had an admirable illustration of this in himself. We believe he was a gentleman of high rank and Aide-de-camp to a nobleman in the highest public position.

Notwithstanding the well-deserved castigation he unwittingly gave us, we became quite delighted, or rather fascinated, with his company, when, unfortunately, we arrived at a station, and were obliged to part, perhaps for ever, in this world. He, however, we trust, had indelibly engraven on our minds the fact that a real gentleman is likely to be kind, obliging, and condescending to every person he comes in ordinary contact with, and that he never attempts to lord it over others; that, though a man happen to be born a nobleman or royal prince, he has a higher position to attain—that of a thoroughbred Christian gentleman; for it is evident the

principles of true politeness, as manifested by our friend, are laid down with the greatest clearness and strongest motives in the Scriptures. For instance: "Be kindly affectioned one to another, with brotherly love, in honour preferring one another;" "Mind not high things, but condescend to men of low estate;" "Let nothing be done through strife or vain glory, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves." There is nothing in the position of the highest or humblest man in society to prevent his endeavouring to manifest the essence of politeness, Christian benevolence.

We have to start by rail from the Capital at an early hour; so after a slight repast, some good resolutions and prayers, we betake ourselves to rest. We arrive in good time the following morning at the terminus, so much in love with the character of a real gentleman that we indulge again in a first class ticket, but, we hope, with an improved state of feelings, and a desire to manifest a measure of humility and kindness to those we meet with. Three children were ushered into the carriage; acting upon the recent lesson, we caught an arm of each as it came forward, and helped it in. A fat nurse attempted to follow; we gave her our hand, but in vain for a time, until a porter put his shoulder to her behind, and shot her in with a velocity that would have been dangerous, had we not, with the gallantry of a true knight errant, checked the motion judiciously with our arms, and placed her comfortably on the oppo-

site seat. If we had a prolonged involuntary smile on our features during the operation, our readers will please bear in mind that this was the first time we had an opportunity of trying to put in practice the lesson we had so lately learned. A gentleman with a beard, well muffled, entered, and seated himself at the far end; afterwards a veiled lady, who was accompanied to the door by a gentleman, who took an affectionate leave of her. Of course, we assisted her to a seat. We had a kind of vague impression the nurse had mistaken her class, yet that was nothing to us—we had the same duty to discharge as if Masters George, John, and Billy were scions of nobility; so we endeavoured to keep them from tumbling out by leaning against the door—also to prevent our own knees interfering with their dirty boots, and to keep them from knocking against nurse or each other. My muffled neighbour had in the mean time obtained leave from the veiled lady to put up the sash—intimating that, having just arrived from an Indian climate, the draft might be dangerous to him. At the word Indian she seemed to brighten up; said she had heard a good deal of India—the hardships and dangers the Europeans in the Bengal Presidency experienced during the Mutiny; she trusted all was safe and quiet there now. This led to an interesting dialogue between them, which caught my attention so much, I was led to neglect Billy, John, and George opposite, and suffered accordingly a number of accidental assaults of various

kinds from them against my knees, feet, &c. After a little the veiled lady asked the gentleman if he happened ever to have met Doctor Howard of the Bengal Cavalry. "Have met him!" he said—"why, we have been, I might say, inseparable ever since he joined that regiment." "Is he a great favourite?" "Oh! yes; fully as great as he deserves." "That contains rather an unfavourable insinuation." "Well—the fact is, I know him too well to give him unqualified praise; but he is generally well thought of." We began to think our cynical friend was more candid than the occasion required. "His friends," he said, "live in the neighbourhood of Maryborough; I am going to see them: I hope his mother is alive and well." "Oh! yes; her daughter was married some time past to a Mr. St. Laurence; they have a nice family; he has moved to Mountjoy-square, and is getting on well as a lawyer." "Do you," he said, "know the St. Laurences?" "Oh! yes; intimately." "I am told St. Laurence has two sisters, the greatest beauties to be seen anywhere—is this the case?" "He has two sisters; but, as to their being beauties, that is a matter of taste. One of them is married to Mr. Harrington, a gentleman of fortune in the county Wicklow." "Oh! yes; but I have heard the greatest beauty is still unmarried: perhaps she has been crossed in love, and will never marry—what do you think?" "These are strange questions to ask." "Well, I think you answer as if you wished to be

even with me for not eulogizing your friend, Doctor Howard, in an unqualified manner." "If you take my advice, you will speak nothing unfavourable of him in the neighbourhood you are going to: they will be apt either to question your veracity, or imagine there has been some jealousy between you." "If they think the latter, they will be quite mistaken. If Doctor Howard ever marry, he will be apt to take an Irish wife when he comes home—that is, if an Irish girl would take an old sunburned Indian. Why, he is as discoloured and old-looking now as I am. It may seem a little odd, I have brought no letters of introduction. As far as the old lady is concerned, it don't much signify; I am sure she will be glad to have half an hour's conversation with one who knows her son so well, and has seen him very lately; but how to have an opportunity of seeing this great beauty is the question; for I need not return to India without having done so—it would make Doctor Howard very unhappy. Does she think as favourably of the Doctor as you do?" "Much the same." "Her father would, I presume, not sanction an unknown stranger making a morning call; but suppose I were to contrive to meet her on her walks, made a respectful bow, stated I presumed I had the honour of addressing Miss St. Laurence—that I was just from India, where I had the pleasure of being intimate with Doctor Howard, who, I understood, was a friend of her family; that he would be quite unhappy at my being in this neigh-

bourhood, and fortune favouring me with an opportunity of accosting her, if I did not avail myself of it. Would she think me very impudent ?" "Perhaps not." "The misfortune is, that the ladies of this country are, pardon me, I was going to say, so selfish as to conceal with veils the most lovely complexions in the world, especially as they appear to strangers like me, who—having for years only seen dark, sallow ones—would be delighted and gratified beyond measure with a glimpse. Suppose I were to add, in my address to Miss St. Laurence, I am about to start for India again—might I take the liberty to request you will raise your veil for one minute, that your image may be for ever photographed on my heart, how do you think she would take it ?" "Please, Sir, quit this foolish talk." Indeed, it struck ourselves that the muffler was coming out rather too strong.

The train very seasonably, as we thought, stopped, as he seemed likely to annoy the lady by the manner in which he spoke of her friend, the Doctor, and his familiarity. "Tickets, if you please,"—a general rummage ensues. We were right—the nurse had mistaken her class. It was easy getting the children out—not so her, as we did not wish to adopt the shouldering part which proved so effectual getting her in; however, with the help of a second porter, she was safely landed on the platform, and we suppose placed in her proper carriage, leaving us alone with our fighting friends. Suddenly we heard,

"You are very rude, Sir;" then addressing us, she sad: "Please, Sir, call the guard or the station master." We looked round—saw the man that had been muffled bare-faced, and sitting beside the lady; we had not observed any more that had taken place. "For shame, Sir," we said, "to annoy the lady—go back to your seat, or we will call the guard." He took no notice of us, but said, "Jessie, I am Alfred." We understood at once that he was the Doctor Howard, and she the Miss St. Laurence, they had been talking about, and that they could clear up matters better without our interference. Being caged in, all we could do was to keep our nose steadily and perseveringly as near the window as we could safely do, as if scrutinizing earnestly some external object. If we heard any noise like a gentle pat on the cheek, how could we help it, even if it happened to be the sealing of a treaty of peace between the parties? At length the gentleman, being skilled in surgery—fearing, perhaps, lest the crick in our neck should become chronic, or our nose acquire a stereotyped form, like a piece of bruised putty, said: "We beg your pardon, Sir, we have unexpectedly discovered in each other the most intimate friends of early childhood. I left home when this young lady was still a child; time has metamorphosed her into what you see. Climate, years, and a beard have disguised me—you need not fear any further warfare between us." The position they were in, hand in hand, her veil up, dis-

closing a beautiful face suffused with blushes and tears, were ample securities against further strife. He said her accent at first, then her knowledge of places, and people, made him suspect who she might be, and he was fully confirmed as to her identity by picking up an article she had dropped with her name on it; but he had made a grand mistake in shaking her hand before he apprised her of his name. What a range of happy conversation then took place. He told her he had not apprised his mother of his intended coming, lest anything should have detained him, and she would have imagined many evils. He intended to send Mr. Carpendale before him to prepare her for his reception. She then had to give a description of Harrington's place in the county Wicklow, of Emma and her three children, of Mary and her four, each having a lovely young Alfred—of all the changes our readers are aware, and many more. If we mistake not, she disavowed ever having been crossed in love or having made any hasty rash promises on the subject. He even seemed to think it was a very favourable time for him to throw shadows before her in a whisper of events that might happen before long. Whatever he did say appeared not to frighten her; nor do we think, if he even pressed her hand, he did do so in such a rough, ungainly manner as to occasion pain; but our readers know we had become far too well bred to pry into such affairs, and the most prudish

may make some allowance for the Doctor's seeming levity under the circumstances.

Then the question arose whether there should be an attempt to keep his arrival a secret until his mother, who no doubt was at Violet Hill, had seen him. This, however, was impossible. Mr. St. Laurence was waiting with the carriage for Jessie; the warm reception he gave her companion and some expressions he used set the town in a ferment: crowds came rushing to see him, but he escaped most of them for the present by driving out in the carriage to Mount Pleasant. Mr. St. Laurence immediately after went to Mrs. Howard's, told her, Jessie had arrived, that she had met Alfred in Dublin, he was quite well, and would be with her immediately. Alfred was so impatient that he arrived almost at the moment, and soon was in his mother's arms, she almost fainting with joy. Mr. St. Laurence remained with them until they merged into a calm, delighted, and happy state; he then went home to enjoy Jessie's story of their travelling together as strangers, and the subsequent discovery. His safe return, after having passed through so many dangers, caused a general joy in the neighbourhood. The two families spent a great deal of time in each other's company.

CHAPTER XX.

CONCLUSION.

THE story of the attachment of the young people soon became known. Alfred had served seventeen years in India, and now had got home on three years' furlough, after which he expected to retire without having to return to India, on what was called full pay, to which would be added £300 per annum out of the Medical Retiring Fund—so there seemed to be no obstacle to their happiness. He wrote to Henry and Harrington, that as soon as his mother could spare him he would pay them visits; he would have called on Henry in Dublin, but did not know the address he had changed to, and could not spare time to hunt it out before the next train, which would bring him home; he gave them humorous accounts of his quarrel in the carriage with Jessie, and a hint that he hoped to be even with her yet.

About this time William returned from abroad, and intended settling in the neighbourhood of London, but before doing so he brought his wife and children to see their relatives. This was a great additional source of enjoyment and variety. Mount Pleasant and Violet Hill were both put into requisition, and well filled. They moved in some time to Henry's, and afterwards to Harrington Hall, enjoying great happiness every step. The meeting between

William and his old friend, and now brother Harrington, was quite a joyous affair. It was well it was in a country place, where they could exhibit their affection for each other without restraint. After a while, when walking about through the grounds, they might frequently be seen with the arm of one round the waist of the other, like loving schoolboys.

William always attributed his special success in life to Harrington's patronage. He had hardly got well settled in his villa, Nightingale Grove, until he easily prevailed upon Harrington to return his visit there. Howard in the meanwhile was not backward in pressing his suit with Jessie, and, having got the consent of all parties, in prevailing upon her to name an early day to make him happy. As soon as Henry, Harrington, and William heard officially of this, each claimed the honeymoon to be spent at his place; so, after due deliberation, it was agreed they should visit all— first Dublin, then the county Wicklow, and afterwards Nightingale Grove. The wedding was as quiet and sensible as the public would suffer it to be. The projected trip was carried out admirably and happily; the great difficulty was the effort to confine their stay at any of the places to the time appointed in the programme, there were so many attractions and stratagems used to detain them. In short, the old-established principle of self-denial alone enabled them to carry out their plan. On their return, they found Mrs. Howard had given a great

proof that she retained the energy she always had in full vigour: she had Violet Hill completely renovated by painting and papering, which was all the house required; the garden and grounds were also cleaned up. She said she knew Jessie was very neat and tidy; she had tried to make the place so as to be agreeable to her, who, whatever the law said, was to become its mistress thenceforth. She intended to reside in it merely as a friend. We need not describe the contest on this subject, nor exactly how it ended—suffice it to say, that a discordant feeling on any subject never marred their happiness, and in due time Mrs. Howard proved an excellent and useful nurse and governess to the next generation, as she had to the former one.

In our opinion there is hardly a more important occupation in the middle rank of life than that which is generally termed a schoolmaster, nor is there an individual who should be looked up to with more respect, nay, honour, than one who discharges the difficult and arduous duties of such a position well, as the good Doctor Teachem did. When advanced in life he wisely thought it desirable to retire. He had sufficient means, and no family but a respectable housekeeper. He requested Mr. St. Laurence to look out for a small neat place near Anyborough. He loved the neighbourhood for the sake of his dear old pupils and their friends. The chance of seeing some of them occasionally, he said, would throw a gleam of sunshine over the

evening of his days. Their conduct and example not only wrought a favourable change while they were at Progress Hall, but furnished a powerful argument for him to urge upon others as to the great advantage of good moral principles and diligence. Our own experience warrants us in stating that a few words of private, judicious advice, coming from such an instructor to a boy while his heart is soft and accessible, may have a decidedly favourable effect on his conduct through life. The Doctor was always on the watch to avail himself of such opportunities. He was looked up to by the boys rather as an affectionate father than a hard taskmaster. Fortunately, a nice suitable place near Violet Hill, called the Retreat, became vacant, and was engaged for the Doctor. As soon as his arrangements permitted, he removed to it, thereby, to a certain extent, assisting to fill up the blank occasioned by poor Mr. Trueman's death. He gave and received much gratification by joining the small circle of society there.

Doctor Howard, after his return to the country, became almost a daily visiter of his, and tried to assist him in his little plans for improving his garden and grounds, the great advantage resulting being the pleasure of being together. Howard had, of course, to go over very many incidents of his Indian life; he had to repeat whatever he witnessed or knew of Captain O'Brien or the Battersbys. When referring to the former, the countenance of

the good old man used to brighten up with admiration, and the tears stand trembling in his eyes; but when to the latter, they no longer kept their balance; but trickled down his cheeks, as they might those of an affectionate mother. He then would clap his hands over his face, as if ashamed, and say something to this effect: "Excuse me, Howard, I have become a child. Knowing my own weakness, I should not have asked you to speak of the Battersbys; but they, too, were my children. I wish you could make out George; perhaps something could be done for him yet." Howard, of course, tried to cheer him up, said he had intended to hunt out George, if possible, and would try to do so. He then endeavoured to turn his attention to some more cheerful subject. When shaking hands at parting, the good Doctor generally thanked him for his visit, adding a little prayer like this: "May God continue to watch over and bless you and yours, my child."

We believe it is judicious to take leave of the friends whose stories have just occupied our attention, while their positions, characters, and circumstances, present so agreeable aspects; but let us not part from them without carrying off, like the good Doctor's visiter, a blessing. There is quite enough of solid, unvarnished truth in their histories for us to be convinced in our own minds thereby firmly and permanently, that sound religious doctrines, moral principles, and total abstinence from intoxi-

cating drink, have a great tendency to preserve us from evil, to promote happiness and prosperity in this life, and to prepare us for entering, through the merits and sufferings of the Saviour, upon a state of bliss hereafter, "greater than eye hath seen, ear heard, or it hath entered into the heart of man to conceive, but which God hath prepared for those who love Him."

THE END.

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