



1860

## The Settler in South Africa and Other Tales

R. Hodges

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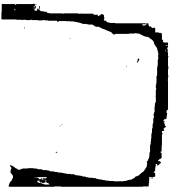
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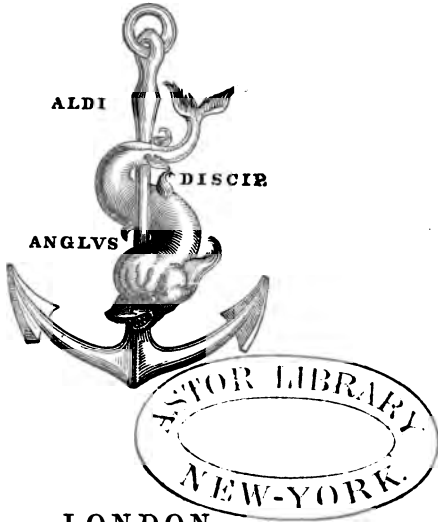






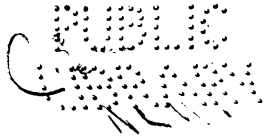


THE SETTLER IN SOUTH  
AFRICA AND OTHER  
TALES



LONDON  
BASIL MONTAGU PICKERING  
196 PICCADILLY

1860



1907  
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## THE SETTLER IN SOUTH AFRICA.

### A TALE.

**J**AMES SUTTON had passed his early years at a small farm in Herefordshire, occupied by his father, at whose death he succeeded to the farm. But things throve not now as formerly; the times had changed; and he found that, in spite of every exertion, his means were diminishing, when a letter arrived from a friend who had emigrated with his family to the Cape of Good Hope, giving so favourable an account of the climate and agricultural capabilities of the country, that James, having gained what further information he could on the subject, determined, before the little property he possessed was quite expended, to follow his friend's example; and soon after embarked at Liverpool, with his wife, four children, and an apprentice boy, in the hope of deriving from a distant soil that maintenance for his family the land of their birth failed longer to afford.

During the latter part of the voyage, the parents

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were absorbed in grief by the sickness and death of their youngest child ; which, when doomed to see, after all their watchings and anxieties, consigned to the deep, caused them to feel that separations there were even more painful than any they had heretofore experienced.

On their arrival at the Cape, a wagon was procured to convey them to the habitation of those who had been the companions of their childhood, and who now not only gave them the warmest welcome, but the best advice and assistance in their power.

This abode was situated in the district of Stellenbosch, where Sutton soon entered on a small sheep-farm ; and, taking leave of his kind friends, removed with his family to their own domicile ; whose roof, composed of reeds, and once whitewashed walls, seemed ready to fall asunder. Summer had, however, commenced, and before the rainy season came on there would be time to put the premises in a state of repair.

James soon purchased as many sheep as his limited finances would allow ; and, feeling his all was embarked in this undertaking, determined that no effort on his part should be wanting to bring it to a favourable issue.

His wife was weakly in constitution, and more fit for such employments as looking after the children than the bustle belonging to a farmhouse. Ellen, the eldest daughter, had just attained her sixth year ; the second, named Jane, and an only remaining son, were each a year younger. The sight of these little ones, who loved to accompany their father about the farm, served to stimulate his exertions ; and, while listening to their in-

nocent prattle, he felt that life had yet for him sources of interest sufficient to counterbalance many a mishap.

The garden alone was sufficient to supply him with employment for several weeks. It abounded in fruit-trees, but bore scarcely any other trace of having been brought into cultivation. There was also a vineyard, which had long lain in a like state of neglect. To bring both into some kind of order he worked early and late ; while the boy, with the assistance of a shepherd's dog, was tending the flock, and only returned at eventide, when the sheep were carefully counted by his master before being enclosed in the kraal. To a lively lad, the removal from a highly cultivated and populous country to one in which his lot was to wander amidst wild tracts, where he seldom chanced to fall in with any other human being, the transition could not but appear strange. Yet was his situation far preferable to that of many sent forth from the same land, and whose only associates were either Hottentots or Negroes ; whereas Joe, the flock once safely folded, was received by his master and mistress with kindness, claimed by the children as a playmate, and privileged to join with the family in their morning and evening devotions.

In addition to this boy, James had hired an emancipated slave, named Felix ; who, with Sabina, his wife, was allowed to occupy a hut attached to the kraal, on condition that she also should render such assistance as might be required. They were formerly slaves of the Dutch colonists ; but having occasionally been hired out to English families, had acquired enough of the language to converse with their new employers.



Sabina was a quiet indolent creature, appearing to little advantage by the side of her husband—an active-minded, loquacious fellow, who affected to hold his former masters in contempt, and often amused his present one by drawing comparisons between the Dutch and English, invariably to the advantage of the latter, whose language even he liked best; because, as he said, “it made him good to go into every company.”

With his assistance, Sutton was enabled to repair the house; while his wife, aided by Sabina, arranged their scanty furniture so as to produce an air of neatness and comfort. The garden, moreover, bore vegetables in abundance; and the vineyard supplied them not only with wine, but they half subsisted on its fruit during the hot season. Dogs, poultry, everything thrived thereon. Indeed, so nourishing are its qualities, that the inhabitants of those farms containing vineyards are always observed to grow stout during the grape season.

Sutton, in the course of his rambles, procured plenty of game, and sometimes contrived to secure a porcupine; which, when roasted, formed a dish such as no epicure need despise.

Active himself, he kept the whole family employed; and thus weeks glided rapidly away. Sabbath succeeded Sabbath; on which day they could not but feel that though in a country possessing so many temporal advantages, it was still, in spiritual ones, how deficient! And then would their thoughts fondly revert to the land of their fathers: that land where, whatever might otherwise be endured, the blessed consolations of reli-

gion are freely imparted to all who are willing to receive them. Whilst here, for members of their own church, there was no place of worship nearer than Cape Town, a distance of more than fifty miles.

James tried to keep up the observance of the Sabbath in his own household, by reading aloud the service for the day, and giving his children such religious instruction as their tender age permitted. Even Felix was fond of discoursing on such subjects. And, when asked how he had gained so much knowledge, replied, "I once bell-ringer at Stellenbosch, and know all about those things. The great Master worked six days. On Saturday he made the peoples—that the most heavy. He very tired. Sunday He rest. So the peoples must rest too. When the great Master call, without we ready, it the same as if the Governor send me to Overberg, or the Bay. I come back. He ask, 'Well, what message you brought—what thing?' I answer, 'Nothing.' Then he say, 'Felix not good, go away.' Or, when death come, that like going to Cape Town—your place fixed—the post wagon come to the door; then, if not ready, you very sorry. Some go to church to show their fine dressin; that go away like the white stuff on the mountains. The dressin must be in the heart. You must lay down your legs, and pray to the great Father. Man can't put good into you. Where the rich man now? Where Lazarus? One up—in Abraham's coat; the other—down there" (stamping his foot upon the ground).

Sabina allowed her husband to run on without interruption, as if such subjects were far too high for her

capacity; which, it must be confessed, was not of the most comprehensive order. Religion, however, seemed in her mind as inseparably connected with bell-ringing as his own; for, having been engaged to attend upon a missionary, and the old gentleman being in the habit of summoning her to his presence oftener than she approved by the sound of a hand-bell, she soon relinquished her office, declaring that she could stand it no longer, for "he was keeping church all day."

It was only since they obtained their freedom that, through the persuasions of the missionary, she and Felix had been lawfully united; and she sometimes provoked even him by her laziness. "But," he observed, "I give her now not a slap, but the word. I say, if you bad, you not belong to me. With my two hands (spreading them out), I work for you. With your two hands, you must for me." In truth no great exertions were necessary, on either side, to enable them to make a comfortable livelihood. They were allowed to take what vegetables they liked from the garden; on the neighbouring coast fish might be obtained for next to nothing; and this, with rice and fruit, furnished all they required.

After their Sunday's dinner, James would occasionally either send Felix or attend himself to the flock, in order that Joe might take his meal at home, and afterwards enjoy a little holiday by chatting with his mistress, playing with the children, or taking a walk with them. Then it was pleasant to saunter in the garden, gather fruit, and after partaking of their evening repast, read to his master and mistress some portions of



Scripture, and join with them in devout prayer ere retiring to that rest from which he rose refreshed to recommence the duties of another week. As for Felix, he was wont, at sunset, to clasp his hands and offer up a prayer consisting only of these words:—"O God! see for me! Since," said he, "I know I safe, without sunlight, when with me the sun's Master."

There had lately been a great mortality among sheep in some of the adjacent districts; and besides the risk and trouble occasioned by vicissitudes of weather, want of shepherds, &c. Englishmen had not unfrequently been induced to purchase farms falsely represented as well calculated for such stock.

Sutton, in the meantime, found his own not only increasing in number, but yielding wool of a quality to compete with any in the market. He might therefore now be considered a thriving man; yet still preserved his simplicity of character, and felt thankful to the Disposer of all events for having cast his lot in so fair a land. Sometimes, when former scenes came vividly to his remembrance, he sighed for the happiness of finding himself once more among the fruitful orchards of his own country, and the friends of whose company he could not but occasionally feel the loss; and when after a longer interval than usual, some anxiously expected letter arrived, and he recollected the distance there was between him and the writer, not until reminded by the voice of his wife and children, of the ties by which he was bound to another land, did his mind recover its wonted serenity. Joe, too, was equally interested in these communications; and his heart

would beat more quickly while listening to the recital of changes that had taken place in the neighbourhood to which he also belonged; receiving the blessing of his widowed mother, and assurances of the comfort she derived from the accounts sent by his master of his continued good conduct.

Another son had been added to the family, and Ellen assisted in nursing the baby, besides being otherwise useful. She was, in truth, a very intelligent child, and her father tried to store her mind with such knowledge as his own limited education would allow. The mother, though devoted to her children, had not the knack of imparting to them the little learning she had herself acquired; and James would with great patience and perseverance con over with his two little girls in the evening the lessons they were to learn the following day.

He now went occasionally to Cape Town for the purpose of disposing of his wool, and bringing back a supply of such provisions as the farm did not afford. To these purchases were usually added some article of dress which he thought would suit his wife; books, or toys for the children; and tools for Joe, who had a turn for mechanism, and tried to show his sense of the kindness with which he was treated by forming a variety of knick-knacks to present to his mistress and the children. During the lambing season, his master's time, as well as his own, was completely occupied in looking after the flock; and the whole household assisted in nursing the lambs that were sick, or feeble; from among which the children loved to choose their

own particular pets. When these were withdrawn, it required all Joe's eloquence to hush the sobs of his little friends ; promising that they should still see them night and morning at the kraal, and that these lambs should occupy more of his attention than all the rest of the flock.

When shearing-time arrived, Felix was wont to assume an air of more than usual importance. The sheep were, he affirmed, so fond of him that they would rest quietly in his arms till the wool was quite cleared from their backs. And certainly, when undergoing the previous washing at the river, they appeared in a far more favourable light than the demented-looking animals that, in England, seem determined to resist such operation to the death. Diversity of climate may however, in some measure, account for this difference in their demeanour ; and undoubtedly the sheep that could resist the luxury of ablution in such a stream, the clearness of its waters, and refreshing shade of the foliage by which its banks were bordered, would deserve to wear a fleece weighty as the one of gold.

The shearing was followed by a feast ; but instead of the beer, cider, and substantial viands provided in their native land, the table was laden with fruit, wine, and all the etcetera produced by change of climate. The apartment, too, was adorned with flowers ; and Joe formed for his little friend Ellen, who was queen of the festival, a crown composed of the golden-rain, whose bright blossoms might well be compared to showers of that metal. James then took up his flute, and the evening concluded with a dance.



The following day all returned readily to their usual occupations with the exception of Felix, who, being of a social disposition, found such employments as the foregoing far more congenial to his taste than working all alone in the garden ; and whose greatest pleasure, when Sutton happened to be there, was to converse with him. On one occasion observing, " When master by himself, he not want company. He can open the Bible (spreading out his hand in the semblance of a book), he can go over, over (imitating the turning of the leaves), and all the while new peoples come. I can read, too," added he, " in my heart. I see everything about me ; can think about it here (pressing his hands upon his head), and then I soon know everything. But everybody not the same. Money born with some peoples. We Africans must creep—creep, like little childrens"—at the same time bending his knees and tottering forward like a child learning to walk.

His master having remarked that, since the slaves had obtained their freedom, it would be their own fault if they also did not make money. He replied, " Yes : Missis Victoria and her uncle both very kind. They made us, slaves, free. When he dead, she put her heart on paper and sent it round for everybody to read. Her place not so heavy as her uncle's ; for, since Africans free, everybody quiet, and there no more fighting about them. Africanders (the Dutch colonists) not like that ; they very sorry." And, when asked why ? he added, " They not like to lose us cause they can't work themselves ; that's what's the matter. Long

time ago, a young prince from Holland came to Stellenbosch; Afrianders then very merry. They put yaller ribbon round their arms, light candles, make fine things (arches) of flowers. Then, they fire—so strong! twenty guns, one shoot! The prince was a pretty young man, and some cried, ‘He marry the Missis!’ I not like that. I said, it’s all nonsense. The English now masters here. The English keep masters. I stop to the English! When they hear that, they ready to herry (flog) me.” Felix concluded by imitating, with an air of real dignity, the manner in which the prince bowed, ere retiring to the house of the Landrost, saying, “I thank you for making me so much good company.”

The friends who received Sutton and his family so hospitably on their arrival in the colony, being about to remove nearer to the frontier, were pressed to return the visit; during which no slight pleasure was experienced in talking over old times; dwelling fondly on former scenes and associates; and then they consoled themselves for the loss of these by comparing their present hopeful prospects with the hardships they endured in their native land.

The separation was, of course, a painful one. It seemed as if the last link were now broken between the Suttons and their country; and, though things had hitherto gone on prosperously at the farm, affliction was soon to enter their dwelling, in the form of sickness.

The measles, which had for some time been spreading in the colony, and proved peculiarly fatal, at length

reached their apparently isolated abode. The infant was first attacked, and then the other children in succession. After many anxious weeks had elapsed, and they appeared to be gradually recovering, Jemmy, the eldest son, was seized with a cough, accompanied by fever, which baffled all their household skill. He rapidly grew worse ; yet no means had they of obtaining medical advice, the river which intersected that part of the country having become so swollen by the rains as to render it quite impassable. Vain would be any attempt to describe the feelings of the parents ; and though in the presence of the little sufferer they strove as much as possible to repress them, he seemed to mark the dejection depicted on their countenances ; for, when evidently fast sinking, after gazing first on one, then the other, he said, in a soliloquizing tone, " I hope I sha'nt die." Having cast his eyes on some toys still strewn about the bed, he took up a small tin trumpet, and applying it to his parched lips, contrived to produce a sound ; which, dissonant as it was, seemed to satisfy him ; for, relinquishing his hold, he added, " I think I sha'nt die." James said, " If you are a good boy, dearest Jemmy, and don't forget to say your prayers, then, whether it may please your heavenly Father to take you to himself, or leave you with us, you cannot be otherwise than happy." To which he replied, " Yes ; but I'd rather stay with you." The parent kissed his burning lips ; when the child inquired, " Shall I now say my prayers ?" And clasping his little hands, he repeated them in an audible tone, together with a short hymn, with which he was wont to conclude ; and hav-

ing whispered, "Good night," his eyelids fell, as if overcome by drowsiness. He however again unclosed them several times, still looking fixedly on his father, and then sank into a quiet slumber—never more to wake.

Meanwhile, James leaned over him, scarcely daring to draw his own breath, lest his ear should fail to catch the short quick breathing of his child; and, when it entirely ceased, he once more imprinted a kiss on that fair forehead, wiped away the tear with which he had bedewed it, and, after a few minutes' silence, said to his wife, who had shrunk to stifle her sobs in a distant corner of the room: "Ellen, our beloved boy is now an angel in heaven." She then tottered towards the bed, where, having given full vent to her feelings, she also gazed on the calm and beautiful countenance of her boy; and, after giving him a last embrace, was led by her husband from the room.

They now felt that they were indeed far from their native land. No kind neighbour came forward to make the necessary preparations for the funeral; no clergyman was within reach to perform the last office; all must devolve upon themselves.

Interments in such a climate are never long delayed. James, therefore, having returned to the apartment, wrapped the body in linen, as substitute for a shroud, and, at sunrise, went in search of some planks of wood, which had been set aside for far other purposes. These were converted into a kind of coffin, wherein the body was the following day deposited; and the afflicted family, after looking on their lost treasure for the last time,

prepared to follow it to the grave, made by Felix beneath a beautiful acacia growing in the garden, and which formed a favourite play-place of the children.

The mother wished to join in this sad ceremony ; but she, when the moment arrived, shrank. Her husband therefore, consigned her to the care of Sabina ; and, taking his two little daughters by the hand, prepared to follow Felix and Joe, who bore the body between them. When arrived at its destination, they silently lowered it in the grave ; the parent took from his pocket a prayer-book, in a calm, though subdued tone, read the funeral service ; and then, requesting Joe would convey the weeping children to their mother, remained to see the little mound completed by Felix.

In the evening, they again accompanied their father to the spot ; and, having collected the choicest flowers their gardens afforded, seemed to take pleasure in strewing them over the grave of their brother, as they had once assisted him in decorating that of his favourite lamb. The following morning, too, when they returned, at sunrise, and found the flowers sparkling with dew, and looking as fresh as when first gathered, their young hearts were gladdened, and Ellen exclaimed : “ I think Jemmy would still like us to play here ; and we will always make the place where he lies look so lovely ! ” The feeling of awe with which they had first approached the spot thus soon wore away, and they amused themselves as before, only taking care not to disturb the sod ; or, if one inadvertently did so, of this was reminded by hearing another pronounce the name, — “ Jemmy ! ” Even the parents, when they joined them



there, and thought of their other babe buried in the depths of the sea, felt that there was consolation at least in having this slumberer beside them.

Their latest born had not yet been baptized; and, in order to have that rite performed, they determined to take it to Cape Town. The two little girls were to accompany them; Joe being left in charge of the flock, and Felix and Sabina of the house and garden.

A wagon was procured for the occasion; and, as the oxen proceed only at a slow pace, two days were required for the performance of the journey. But these covered vehicles are fitted up very commodiously. Provision is always made for the way; and, in the summer season, it is considered no hardship to travel throughout the night. Indeed, when the moon shines bright, it may be considered a luxury after the scorching heat of the day. The sand, especially when the south-easters prevail, is found most annoying to travellers, who are usually provided with veils; and those whose sable complexions might be deemed proof against the sun's influence, were often seen with such appendage twisted tastefully round their straw hats. The sound of the wheels passing perpetually over the loose sand resembled the noise of water-works, and lulled the youngest child to sleep; while the elder ones were constantly uttering exclamations of delight, and entreating their father would either let them get out of the wagon, or gather for them some of the beautiful flowers blooming in every direction.

At length they arrived at a rill of water, bordered by green herbage, with here and there clumps of trees,

beneath which the remains of former fires showed that they had been preceded by other travellers ; and there they outspanned, to afford the thirsty animals some refreshment. There, after procuring fuel from among the heathery plants, they lighted their own fire ; and the coffee so prepared seemed more delicious than any they had before tasted. The culinary utensils were then collected, and remnants of the repast presented to the two Hottentots ; one of whom acted in the capacity of leader, the other as driver. When their meal was concluded, the cattle, which never wandered far from the station, were summoned by the accustomed call ; and approaching by pairs, in answer to their names, they were quickly inspanned, the driver cracked his whip, and away they went at full speed ; though this soon subsided into their usual quiet pace.

On arriving at Cape Town, Sutton's first object was to dispose of the wool with which he had filled up all the vacant space in the wagon. And the landlady of the boarding-house where he was wont to tarry having kindly undertaken the charge of the youngest child, his wife, accompanied by the others, proceeded to make some purchases. Not being capable, like their mother, of drawing comparisons between the shops of their native country and those of Cape Town, the children were charmed with them. The following day, therefore, they, who had never before entered a church, might well be astonished on seeing that dedicated to St. George, where they went in the afternoon, to witness the baptism of their brother.

The parents' feelings may not so easily be described.

How many changes had taken place since, as on that morn, they had been able to renew together their sacramental vows! Self-banished from the land of their nativity, cut off from the comforts of social worship, and almost from all society; then to find themselves once more within a temple dedicated to the service of the Almighty; to unite in prayer with those who had not only left the same earthly country, but were journeying onwards to the same heavenly one; two of their children already gone to take possession of that promised land; and now they had come to present a third at the Throne of Grace, to enlist him under the banners of the Cross, and pray that he, together with the rest of their offspring, might be true to his Christian profession. Such thoughts were well nigh overwhelming; though, on leaving that sanctuary, they felt strengthened and refreshed for the performance of those duties themselves had yet to perform.

In the evening they strolled beneath the tall chandelier-like aloes that lined the road leading to Green Point. The beauty of the billowy bay on one side, and pleasant-looking abodes, with gardens tastefully laid out, on the other, tempting them to proceed so far, that they thought not of retracing their steps till the sun set, and the children began to complain of weariness. They looked forward with the same pleasure to their return home as they had to their departure thence, and counted over the presents procured for those left behind. Nor was Jemmy forgotten. The loveliest flowers they could find were destined to adorn his grave; and away the sisters glided the evening of

their arrival, in order to strew them over it. They were soon joined by their parents, who sighed while gazing on these fleeting emblems of their child's existence. But, on the little girls observing that, though now rather withered, the night air would revive them; and in the morning they would again look beautiful as ever,—and so, thought the listeners, will our lost babes rise refreshed and beautified after the long night of the grave.

When this little pilgrimage was performed, they returned to the house; and then were unpacked the presents provided for Joe, whose eyes glistened when they were given to him, and his master praised him for the diligence he had shown during his absence. Felix and Sabina also came in for their share of commendation, when the former took the opportunity of assuring his master that, on such occasions, he should always do what was good, adding: "I not humbug peoples—they not humbug me." This expression, which he never failed to introduce when in a moralizing mood, had been picked up from some soldiers formerly stationed in the neighbourhood, and who seemed to be regarded by him as oracles. The Scotch and Irish were, he observed, both good; but he liked the *right* English best of all.

Felix seemed to flatter himself that, could he find his way to England, his fortune would be made; for he observed: "If I go there, I take plenty much news; peoples then very pleased. When I come back, they write to the Governor: 'That man tell us all about Africa. You make him great man.'" He could, in-

deed, descant on affairs not only within, but without the colony. "The Caffres," said he, "know nothing. They won't believe the minister when he not do what they like. They say to one: 'We want rain. If you sent by the Great Spirit you make rain.'" Sinking on his knees, with clasped hands, and eyes upraised, for the purpose of showing how the missionary prayed: "And there fell great rain. Then the Caffres cry: 'That's good.' Some days after they call out: 'We had enough rain; tell it to stop.' So he pray, and it stop. 'Now,' they say, 'we know you sent by the Great Spirit. You good man; stay with us.'" Whereupon Felix rose from the soil he had been digging, and resumed his spade.

When Sutton was leaving the garden, he looked wistfully after him, saying: "When master leave me I not by myself. The other Master (pointing upwards) always with me. He better than people's company." And James felt that he might himself meet with worse companions than this unsophisticated being, whose chief failing consisted in getting intoxicated when opportunity offered. As, however, the farm was situated at some distance from any place containing a canteen, and he had no means when at home of indulging in this propensity, so destructive to the coloured as well as white population, he was not often seen in so disgraceful a state.

A young Fingo James had just hired was sent to look after the flock, under the superintendence of Joe, whose apprenticeship had nearly expired; and he wished to be doing something for himself, yet liked not the

idea of leaving a master who had treated him with so much indulgence. Nor was James the man to act selfishly towards one by whom he had been so faithfully served. He was aware that, with a little assistance, a youth of Joe's steadiness and intelligence might, by means of sheep farming, soon raise himself to independence. He therefore recommended him to procure some land, for the payment of which he would himself be responsible; and as it was common for persons possessing property to speculate in sheep who liked neither the trouble nor seclusion attendant on farming, Joe might take charge of such stock, on condition that he should receive some portion of the profits.

An agreement of this kind was soon concluded, and Joseph Hewett, with cheering prospects, yet with a heavy heart, left the home that had naturally become endeared to him. To part even with the flock he so long and carefully tended was a painful effort to his affectionate nature. He had his favourites both among the sheep and goats; though the latter, being more rambling in their propensities, had given proportionally greater trouble. As for the children, they were quite inconsolable for the loss of their kind friend, and the night succeeding his departure they sobbed themselves to sleep.

The habitation to which he removed was a low barn-like building; but his mistress presented him with a bed, besides other articles of furniture; and, by means of his own ingenuity, he fitted up comfortably his new domicile, which was only a few hours distant from that he had left.

Sutton's affairs continued to prosper, and, in the course of a few years, he contrived to save several hundred pounds, as well as considerably to increase his stock. The Fingo, though a poor substitute for Joe, proved well-disposed. The only fault he had committed was having allowed himself to be decoyed by the honey-bird in search of a bee's nest, on which occasion more than one sheep was lost. In consideration, however, of its being a first offence, this was overlooked; and he never again so transgressed. Felix and Sabina, also, on the whole, continued to behave satisfactorily; though, if offended, they did not fail to remind their employers that, "When peoples free, they can go where they please." They had, in fact, stood their ground marvellously, considering how few of the same class could be induced to abide many months, or even weeks, in a place.

Two additions, namely, a son and daughter, had been made to the family, in the management of which the elder girls were now able to take a considerable share. Some cows having been added to the stock, Ellen attended to the dairy, and succeeded in making such cheese as would not have disgraced their Herefordshire farm. The poultry, too, belonged to her department, whilst Jane took charge of the younger children, and attended to the family wardrobe. For their own they cared little, having no frivolous friends to impress them with an idea of its importance; and even of the attractions, not inconsiderable, with which Nature had endowed them, they seemed totally unconscious.

Their chief pleasure, after the duties of the day were

performed, consisted in cultivating their own portions of the garden; now, indeed, converted into a lovely spot. It was surrounded by hedges of quince, whose golden fruit might well vie with that of the Hesperides. In the centre of the principal walk stood a sun-dial, as though emblematically to show how we, by time, may be cut off in the midst of our course. This walk was terminated by an arbour composed of the grenadella, a species of passion-flower which bears a delicious fruit. There were besides, almonds, pomegranates, and a variety of other trees, affording both fruit and shade. But among these were none so dear as that beneath which their brother reposed. There would the sisters seat themselves to enjoy the cool evening breeze which came fraught with fragrance, listen to the hum of the bees among the blossoms, and melody of the birds flitting through the foliage. Sometimes their evening hymn was sung by the assembled household in that, to them, sacred spot. There, too, they loved, on the return of the Sabbath, to unite in their devotions. And the father, with the family Bible spread out before him, instructed his children in those everlasting truths on which his own hopes were founded.

Such was the life led by this peaceful family. And often did they think, with a sigh, how many others there were in England who would be glad to exchange their toilsome and troublesome existence for one resembling it.

Even Joe was gradually growing independent. He had already paid off the purchase-money of his farm, and was endeavouring to save sufficient to stock it with



sheep of his own. Having engaged a good Hottentot shepherd, he was sometimes enabled to call on his friends, from whom he never failed to receive the warmest welcome. Nor was he allowed to depart without partaking of the best fare the house afforded. With Ellen's cheeses he was always provided; and if she by whom they were made occupied a larger share than formerly in his solitary musings, he who had been accustomed to store his mind with the remembrance of all things beautiful that he had seen in Nature, could scarcely be expected to make such an exception. He loved moreover to find an excuse for calling; sometimes for the purpose of bespeaking a fresh supply from the dairy; at others, to present the sisters with specimens of plants he had picked up in his rambles, and would himself place in their gardens, because it had been remarked that those set by him were sure to thrive. Then, Jemmy's grave must not be passed unnoticed. And afterwards he would fondle the little ones, or show his skill in carpentry by setting some ricketty piece of furniture in order for their mother. Other acquaintance they had none; and therefore it was not surprising that his arrival should always be regarded by them as an occasion of rejoicing.

James now tried to turn his skill in agriculture to some account, and was taught the mode of adapting it to a different climate by a boer (farmer), with whom he had latterly some dealings, and who appeared not to have the same prejudice against the English as the generality of his countrymen. He knew little of the language; but being aware of the advantage his chil-



dren would derive from such acquirement, had sent them to school, which the Dutch colonists were more inclined to do than heretofore ; for when was prejudice ultimately found to outweigh interest ?

Sutton, since the improvement in his finances, had thought of sending his children to a seminary in Cape Town, but liked not the idea of parting with them ; and therefore persuaded himself the time was then gone by. He had given them the best instruction in his power ; and, as he intended his eldest son should take to farming, considered that much learning could not be requisite for him. Besides, it might be better to keep his daughters at home than send them where they would at least run the risk of imbibing such notions as might render them discontented with their station. Little did he then foresee how soon a change would take place in the prospects of the eldest. Yet so it was that Joe, who had sprung up almost imperceptibly into a fine handsome man, was evidently growing more and more attached to his former friend Ellen ; and the father felt that before the affections of his child might become irrevocably engaged, his duty to both required that he should weigh the consequences, and then determine what line of conduct he should himself pursue.

His mind was too well constituted to be diverted by other views from the facts before him. The youth had grown up under his own eye ; received from himself such instruction as he had been able to impart to his own children, with whom he associated as a brother ; had gained by fidelity and good conduct the affection of the family, and was in a fair way to secure a compe-

tency. His parentage too, though poor, was respectable. And albeit he had entered upon the world in a menial capacity, James had the good sense to recollect that his own birth was anything but distinguished. After consulting therefore with his wife, who had always treated the youth with the tenderness of a mother, they determined to let things take their course; and if their daughter's feelings were really in favour of the young man, that they would themselves terminate his suspense by giving her to him to wife.

Ellen was now sixteen; an age when marriages at the Cape are often concluded. But her mind still retained the simplicity of childhood; and Joe, even if he had dared to analyse his own feelings, was too sensible of the former difference in their situations, and the duty he owed his benefactor, to think of imparting them to her. She had therefore hitherto behaved towards him with her wonted frankness and good-nature; and, if a longer interval than usual elapsed without their meeting, seemed to feel not more than formerly his absence.

Affairs were in this state when her father fell sick; and Joe's visits became necessarily more frequent, he having undertaken to superintend the concerns of the farm; while recompense sufficient it was for him to find Ellen at her father's side, and see her soft blue eye beaming with satisfaction at the commendations called forth by his own diligence.

Sutton, during his illness, could not but observe the progress the youth was making in the affections of his daughter; had seen the flush of pleasure which lighted

up her cheek at his approach; and marked the slight cloud that would gather over her brow if any unforeseen circumstance prevented his appearing at the appointed time. The countenance of the youth, too, became overcast, now that his services were no longer required. Sutton, therefore, being convinced that their affection was reciprocal, determined to give him an opportunity of speaking on a subject it was evident he was restrained from entering upon only by a sense of duty; and told Joe, when he next called, that if he had ever been under obligations to him they were now cancelled, nor would any wish that it was in his power to grant be denied to a friend so faithful.

The young man made no reply. To the feelings with which his heart overflowed, his lips refused utterance. The blood rushed to his forehead; his breast seemed full, even to bursting; and when James, touched by his distress, said, in an encouraging tone, "Perhaps it would be well to apply first to Ellen;" the youth buried his face in his hands, and answered only by a flood of tears.

With the view of giving him time to recover his composure, Sutton left the garden, where they had been conversing; and having, on his return to the house, encountered Ellen, who seemed struck by the traces of emotion still visible on his countenance, she, after a moment's hesitation, inquired what had become of Joe. The parent replied that he had left him all alone in the garden, and continued—"Go, my child, in search of him, and say that I sent you to see if you can drive away his doubts."

Ellen looked inquiringly first at her father, then at her mother, who was standing near, and said, "Go, my love; what your father commands must be right." She therefore, who had always been in the habit of obeying them, went silently forward; and on opening the gate saw Joe seated on a bench beside Jemmy's grave, with his head resting upon his hand, as if in profound thought. As she approached quietly, he saw her not; until, addressing him in her usual gentle manner, she said that she had been sent by her father to see if she could drive away his doubts, though what they were she had yet to learn. He then looked up, and, in a tone that startled her, exclaimed, "Ah, Ellen! he has indeed sent a messenger worthy of himself; but how are you to be told by me?"

The young girl still regarded him with silent perplexity; and he, after a pause, added, "I'm going, Ellen, to open my heart to you in a manner I thought I never could have done; but your father is not like other men, and with his approval I now speak. He has cherished me, a servant, like one of his own children. All I have learnt, of good, has been from him; and now he is willing to be to me a father, indeed! Can you, dearest Ellen, guess the rest?" Ellen coloured deeply, but was silent, and he continued—"Can you so far forget the difference in our former lots—remembering only the affection in which we have grown up together, and can this ever cause you to become my wife?" He again paused, and she attempted to reply, but her voice faltered; and after fixing his eyes for a few moments on that sweet face, he added,

“ I know, Ellen, that you are too kind and sincere to keep me longer in uncertainty.”

She then said: “ I will try, Joe, to speak as plainly as you have to me. You know that I have always loved you. But only lately—(she hesitated)—that is, only since my father’s illness, have I ever thought that I could be more to you than I have been.” He would have interrupted her, but she proceeded: “ I am yet very young. My wish is to remain with my parents a little longer, and then, if you think me worthy to be your wife, to you I will always behave as dutifully as I have to them.”

Joe was trying to find words wherewith to express the fulness of his love and gratitude, when they were interrupted by James, who, thinking the conference had lasted sufficiently long, together with his wife, entered the garden.

Ellen, on seeing them, went forward and threw herself into her father’s arms, who embraced her tenderly, and then placing her in those of her mother, advanced to meet Joe, whose countenance clearly showed that his suit had been successful. Taking him kindly by the hand, Sutton—glancing at the grave beside them—said, “ Joe, it has pleased God to deprive me of two children, and you are going to take a third, not less innocent than they. I give her up in the confidence that you will not only be her support in this life, but cheer her onward in the course that may conduct to the abodes of those blessed infants.” To which the youth, grasping his hand, fervently replied: “ May the Almighty enable me to show myself worthy of the

blessing this day bestowed, by acting up to the instructions I have received from you!" The mother then affectionately embraced him, and the happy party repaired to the house, which Joe soon left to return to his own abode.

He now began to think of all the alterations that would be required before it could be fit for the reception of his bride; and certainly its capabilities appeared but small. He was, however, in no mood to be discouraged; and, besides, was likely to have more than he deemed sufficient time to complete the proposed improvements, as it seemed determined that Ellen was not to be his before she attained her seventeenth year.

For what had passed she was so unprepared as scarcely to believe in its reality. The visits of her lover, however, soon dispelled such illusion; and not only were these visits as frequent as possible, but his attentions were so devoted to her, as caused Jane to complain that, unless Ellen were of the party, Joe was sure to find some pretence for leaving herself and the little ones in the lurch. He tried to conciliate her by asserting that he was engaged in the service of both sisters, having just been assisting Ellen in fetching water for the refreshment of their flowers. This was from the river, whose shelvy and shady banks reminded him of the stream beside which he had strayed when a child, but which his companion was too young to recollect. He, however, loved to describe to her the ford he was accustomed to cross, and the bright shallows wherein he caught the minnows. Then would he form the project of revisiting such scenes with her, and introducing

her to his mother, who was already benefiting by the improvement in his circumstances, but had declined joining him at the Cape, saying that she considered herself too old to separate from her native country. Ellen listened complacently to these speculations, but generally wound them up by observing that she thought they ought to love the land which had so amply supplied them with the comforts of life ; and that, for her own part, though she could not fail to be happy wherever he was, yet she should prefer remaining in the same country with her kindred, and he must still prevail upon his mother to pass the remainder of her days with them.

She was now reminded by her own, that Joe, having no parent within reach to superintend his domestic concerns, she must not lose time, like fine ladies who have only their wardrobes to attend to, but prepare a supply of household linen, and assist in fitting up comfortably the cottage of her future husband. Ellen therefore set to work with all diligence ; and her sister engaged to do the same, provided she and Joe would promise to be more sociable. Felix, too, when he learnt that the latter was likely to become his master's "son-of-the-law," not only expressed his approbation by wishing them both "good-happy," and hoping they might live together nice and pleasant to the end of their days, but said his own heart was so good, that he would willingly assist Joe, without money, if he would now and then give him a little wine to drink the health of his young mistress. This was readily promised ; though as he, on a late visit to Stellenbosch, had not resisted



the usual temptation of getting intoxicated, Joe took the opportunity of representing the folly of such conduct ; to which he assented, but said : “ The peoples, like the river, not always the same. One time the waters clear ; one time the waters troubled. It the same with the world. Yesterday not to-day ; to-day not to-morrow. The Bible tell me that.” He was, in truth, very ready to quote Scripture when it suited his purpose to do so ; and, during Sutton’s illness, had more than once refused to act under the directions of Joe, affirming that no man could serve two masters ; winding up his assertion, as usual, with “ the Bible tell me that.”

Even Sabina, when, on the Sabbath, required to afford any assistance, could have recourse to the Commandments ; and on that day at least considered herself privileged to be idle. Vain was it for her spouse to declare that the Landrost himself, if he then received letters from Cape Town, could not refuse to attend to them ; and, compared to the Landrost, what was she ? Still she replied, that “ the Bible said we were to do nothing on Sunday ;” and nothing would she do.

Meanwhile, Ellen’s birthday was approaching, and arrangements were made for a journey to Cape Town, where the marriage was to be performed. It was agreed that, besides the parents, Jane should be of the party, to act in the capacity of bridesmaid ; and the younger children remain under the care of Sabina, to whom, as well as to her husband, they were much attached.

The bustle of preparation increased until the hour of departure arrived. A few tears were shed by Ellen, as she embraced her brothers and little sister Susan, who

begged she would soon come back, and bring them some wedding-cake. Joe kissed them also, promising they should not be forgotten by him. After shaking hands with Felix and his wife, the bridal party set off; and Ellen's eyes soon brightened amidst smiling countenances, and the beauty of the surrounding scene.

No mishaps marred the pleasure of the journey; and, as soon as the marriage had taken place, the parents returned with their younger daughter, leaving the bride and bridegroom to see all that was worth seeing in the vicinity of Cape Town, which the latter had not visited since his first arrival in the colony.

After a few days, they rejoined their family at the farm, and the following morning retired to their own abode, which had been completely metamorphosed. Jane often visited them there, and remarked that marriage had a favourable effect on both; for they were again converted into sociable beings.

They now began to rally her in their turn; since a son of the boer by whose advice Sutton had lately profited, and who occasionally acted as interpreter between them, had thought fit to facilitate his own progress in the English language by conversing with Jane; and the result was, that he soon after proposed for her in marriage.

As he had already conditionally secured her consent, and bore a good character, the union was sanctioned by their parents; the father of the youth engaging to procure a farm, for the payment of which he would stand security until the young couple should be able to make their own way in the world; Sutton, on his part, un-

dertaking to furnish the house, and supply them with money sufficient for their immediate expenses.

Having thus established the elder children to his heart's content, he began to think of providing for the younger; intending, if his life were so long spared, to continue the sheep-farm until his eldest son might be competent to manage it; by which time he hoped to have made a comfortable provision for the rest of the family, and could then confine himself to agriculture, of which he had always been fond.

His wish was accomplished; and, on comparing his present prosperous condition with the difficulties which beset him in his native land, he saw that even they had worked together for his good, and that he had indeed reason to feel thankful for the blessing which had been bestowed upon his exertions as a settler in South Africa.





## LUCY LEESON.

A TALE.

**A**N officer who had for some years been stationed in the West Indies was about to rejoin his regiment at the Cape of Good Hope. His only child had from infancy been left in England with an aunt, who now proposed that her niece's education should be completed with that of her own daughters. Major and Mrs. Leeson felt that they ought not to decline so advantageous an offer, and, in submitting to this second separation, consoled themselves with the reflection that they were going to take up their abode in a climate to which, after a few years, they might without fear remove this dearest object of their affections.

That time had arrived. A brother officer and his wife intending to return to the Cape, and promising that, in case the parents entrusted Lucy to their charge, they would pay every attention to her comfort and welfare during the voyage, were authorized to take her from under the care of her kind aunt, by whom she was accompanied to London, and who remained there until she and her new protectors were summoned to



join the ship in which they had taken their passage at Portsmouth.

This separation, from one who had watched over her with the fondness of a mother, was the most sorrowful Lucy had ever experienced. She was, indeed, going to join those it would be her duty, and, she doubted not, her happiness, to love and obey. The country, too, had been described to her as abounding in beauty ; yet she could not but recollect that it was in another hemisphere ; and even the thought that she was going to be reunited to her parents had scarcely power to soften the bitterness of the parting moment.

Colonel and Mrs. Crawford, to whose care she was consigned, received her with cordiality ; though each was at the same time attempting, however ineffectually, to keep the peace between three refractory children, who appeared to be equally spoilt by both.

On their arrival at Portsmouth they were directed to embark without delay, and soon reached the boat that conveyed them alongside the "Lotus," which, slowly and silently swinging at anchor, formed a pleasing contrast to the hurry and confusion observable on board. It seemed to Lucy, when transferred to that floating habitation, as if she were entering on a new stage of existence ; and who does not feel, when first launched upon the apparently interminable ocean, that for them the voyage may indeed prove a passport into eternity ? How inquiringly, too, among the different countenances on deck, does each individual glance at that of the other, as if to discover whether any sympathy is likely to arise between them ; and how bewildering does the motion of

the vessel render all the sights and sounds by which they are surrounded!

Having at length reached the cabin appropriated to her, Lucy threw herself upon the cot, and tried to collect her scattered thoughts. The soft breeze which blew through the open port soon revived her, when she arose, and began to arrange the miscellaneous articles which were strewed in every direction.

On being summoned to dinner, the passengers took the places allotted them during the voyage; and the two ladies who ranked first, or, in other words, those occupying the most expensive cabins, were stationed on each side the captain. Lucy found herself seated between a cadet proceeding to Calcutta and a civilian returning there after an absence on sick leave. The former, who was about her own age, seemed too shy to make any other advances than common civility required. The latter, after inviting her to take wine, appeared disposed to improve the acquaintance; but such formality at first prevailed that she felt half afraid of the sound of her own voice; and the civilian, relinquishing the attempt he had made to draw her out, soon relapsed into the same silence as herself.

On the removal of the ladies she retired to the cabin of Mrs. Crawford, who forthwith began to distribute among the children those sweetmeats she had selected from the dessert, to which all the hints with which she assailed the captain had failed in gaining them an introduction. There were other children on board; and when, in the evening, they all assembled on deck, the elder passengers appeared to take pleasure in forward-



ing their amusements ; these little beings possessing a magnetic influence which is quickly communicated to objects apparently the most repulsive. In fact, the spirits of all seemed to partake of the placidity of the weather ; and those who had not been subject to the vicissitudes of a voyage wondered how anybody could be otherwise than pleased with such mode of existence. They had, however, scarcely cleared the Channel, when the wind arose, and they were fearfully made aware how suddenly awful, how sublime, can become the element which a few hours before looked calm as a lake. Then, too, were put to the test those tempers that had hitherto appeared equally imperturbable ; for at sea, perhaps more than in any other situation, do dispositions manifest themselves both in their best and worst aspects.

By this tempest they were battered about for several days ; and when it subsided, and the party which before met on deck again assembled there, Lucy was struck with the change such interval had wrought in the countenances of several who previously appeared in the full vigour of health and enjoyment of happiness. To one, moreover, who had been taught to attribute to the mercy of the Almighty the deliverance of herself or friends from sickness and sorrow, and acknowledge it with thankfulness, there was something savouring of ingratitude in the unmingled complaints heard on all sides, while the passengers were recounting the misery and mishaps she also had endured in the then dark and dismal cabin to which she had been confined. The opposite one was occupied by Mrs. Wilmore, the wife of an officer in

India, to whom, after taking their children to England, she was returning, though her health had by no means recovered from the debilitating effects of a tropical climate. During the rough weather, she had kindly come forward to assist those who were most suffering; and there was so much benignity in her still beautiful countenance, and mildness in her demeanour, as won Lucy's heart. Far more enjoyment did she afterwards find in this lady's society than in that of Mrs. Crawford; whose apartment, when the children were present, was one scene of uproar and confusion, and who, in their absence, failed not to make them the subject of conversation. Sometimes inveighing against the captain, for desiring they might be removed from deck while sails were reefed, &c.; at others blaming the steward for ordering things by her pronounced improper for their dinner, and the attendants for not providing their tea before they were too sleepy to take it. Vainly did Lucy remind her that, at the time specified, the other passengers were dining, and the servants fully occupied in waiting upon them. She ventured moreover to suggest that milk and water might prove a more wholesome beverage, and could at any time be procured by the ayah. Such remarks produced only an additional list of grievances, to which Lucy had latterly listened with silent resignation. Surely, thought she, of all men those who take the command of passenger-ships require to be endued with most fortitude and forbearance. Constrained not only, as it were, to grapple with the elements in their fury, but frequently the more wayward passions of those beings with whom they are brought in continual contact;



the responsibility relating both to life and property, the nightly as well as daily watchings and anxieties to which they are subject, all tend to show how arduous are the duties devolving on them.

Then the steward and his subordinates, what have they not to endure? Who, besides the hardships to which other passengers are exposed, are obliged to scramble about, at the peril of their limbs, called upon to provide things which are, under the circumstances, unprovidable, for irritable papas, querulous mammas, and froward children. Much more comfort must the sailor before the mast experience; for he at least has his seasons of repose, and, when the storm is hushed, can sleep as calmly on the bosom of the ocean as he was wont, when a child, upon his mother's breast.

Lucy had undertaken to hear the two elder boys their lessons; but the uproar they raised, when in no mood to repeat them, soon brought the mamma to their assistance, and their teacher was often on the point of giving up the task in despair.

It was pleasant to escape from so noisy an apartment to that of Mrs. Wilmore; read to her passages from their favourite poets; or, leaning against one of the open ports, to gaze on the ever-varying surface of the deep, the fish flashing below, or a bird sailing above, though the pleasure of the latter spectacle was sometimes marred by the report of a gun, and, at the same moment, the beautiful object she had been watching with so much interest would fall into the wave, white and feathery as its own plumage; and she wished the gentlemen would find some other amusement than

depriving of existence creatures as capable as themselves of its enjoyment, and without even the accustomed excuse for such sacrifice, as, in the present instance, the bird must fall a prey not to the pitiless sportsman, but the all-absorbing ocean.

By Mrs. Crawford her young friend seemed to be regarded merely as a nursery auxiliary; and the colonel, when not called upon to act in the same capacity, was employed in pacing the poop so pertinaciously, that the labours of the treadmill must, Lucy thought, fall far short of this voluntary infliction.

The civilian, who was equally assiduous in looking after the live-stock, presented her with a few blades of barley, beautifully green, which had sprung up in some moist corner of the poultry troughs; and she examined those around, with the hope of finding some particles of mould in which to deposit her plant. But there were none. No. Not all she possessed would have purchased such small portion of her mother earth; and nothing could more forcibly have caused her to feel how completely she was banished from its bosom than this little incident. Yet, by much that was enchanting were they surrounded, in exchange for the refreshing fields and verdant landscapes left behind. Here blue was the pervading colour; but it was Heaven's own hue; and often while gazing on the bright expanse of waters, bounded only by the still brighter firmament, would she fancy that she had already reached those celestial regions her young heart had been taught to prize above all earthly possessions.

When they arrived in the latitude of the Cape, a

species of petrel, called the Cape-pigeon, flocked about the vessel ; while here and there would wheel, on wide spread pinions, an albatross, the bird immortalized by Coleridge, whose " Ancient Mariner," lent by Lucy to the cadet, seemed to have a salutary influence both on him and others ; for, though that sovereign of the ocean was seen sailing majestically above their heads, not a gun was levelled for its destruction ; and she congratulated herself on having been the means of introducing such a talisman on board.

From a spectacle so pleasing, their attention was attracted by the sound of " A sail in sight !" and the captain, who had given orders to signalize the vessel, meeting Lucy, told her that now was the time to signalize also her courage, for the craft wore a very piratical appearance, and he had commanded that preparations should be made for an encounter. She was becoming too much accustomed to this kind of nautical badinage to be daunted by it ; and, proceeding to the poop, saw that the ship, showing English colours, was nearing them fast. The captain now exchanged his telescope for a speaking-trumpet ; and the passengers eagerly leaned forward to hear the reply, and get a full view of the individuals with which the opposite deck, like their own, was crowded. After a few questions had been interchanged, and the commanders mutually promised to report their hitherto safe progress, each vessel, as if in sign of salutation, dipped gracefully her prow beneath the waves, and rebounding, in obedience to the impulse of the helm, alike pursued her course.

Though *terra-firma* had not yet appeared, the green

tinge, and peculiar smell imparted by sea-weed to the water, proved that they were not far from shore ; and several of the passengers were preparing the portion of luggage that was to accompany them there. At length the joyful sound of " Land ! " was heard ; and for some hours they continued to watch the various aspects assumed by that object so interesting to mariners, Table Mountain. A striking one indeed, under all its varieties of sunshine and of shade ; and " Beautiful ! How beautiful ! " was from time to time repeated, as they entered the bay behind which rises that stupendous rampart.

In the trouble attendant on landing Lucy was not likely to share. Her father, who had been informed by what vessel she was to sail, would probably meet her on board, and take charge of all she possessed. But sorrow at separating from those who had been the companions of her voyage mingled with the admiration excited by the surrounding scenery, until the vessel was fairly anchored, and she found herself folded in her father's arms.

When the first emotions of the meeting had subsided, she informed him of the kindness she experienced from Mrs. Wilmore : for which he expressed a desire to thank her in person, proposing, at the same time, that she should be included in their party. Away flew Lucy, therefore, with this request to the apartment in which they had spent so many happy hours together. And, after taking leave of one or two other ladies, who were still busily engaged in their cabins, she again hastened on deck. Having been lowered into the boat,

occupied also by Colonel Crawford and his family, they were soon landed on the pier, and thence conveyed in their own vehicle to the home where Mrs. Leeson, who had been confined by a severe cold, was anxiously awaiting their arrival.

This abode was situated at Rondebosch, a village in the vicinity of Cape Town ; and thus the Major was enabled to perform his duties there without being under the necessity of occupying the barracks, which, besides being unfit for the reception of his family, were completely destitute of shade ; whereas their chosen habitation was sheltered with foliage, and surrounded by pleasant walks and drives.

With these and other attractions of the neighbourhood they lost no time in making their guest acquainted, and took every means of proving their sense of the obligation they were under to her. But the hour of departure approached. After remaining with them some days, she was summoned to return on board ship, and was conveyed there by Major Leeson. Lucy, who had shown some symptoms of the epidemic from which her mother had been suffering, not being permitted to accompany them, but who stood at the gate attempting to catch a last glimpse of the form still leaning over the carriage, till a curve in the road concealed it from her sight, and she retired sorrowfully to the house.

When sufficiently recovered to extend her walks beyond the garden, Lucy rambled about collecting flowers, specimens of which she took pleasure in painting for her cousins. Their father, who had been rector of a small parish in Devon, died before his niece was ca-

pable of benefiting by his counsels. But having been taught the value of time, she was not inclined to squander it in frivolous pursuits ; and, besides assisting in household affairs, and making the accomplishments she had acquired contribute to the amusement of her parents, she gave religious and other instruction to a negro boy and girl, who had lately been released from a slave ship and indentured to Major Leeson.

From her former refractory pupils, as well as their parents, who resided in the neighbourhood, they received frequent visits ; and now and then, with the addition of one or two other families, formed a pic-nic, for which both the climate and habits of the people are so peculiarly adapted. The bustle of preparation concluded only when the whole party, laden with provisions, was fairly *en route*. When arrived at the place of rendezvous, they would encamp beneath a clump of trees, or by the banks of some shady rivulet. Fuel was collected for culinary purposes, and the coloured attendants, after spreading out the collation they were such proficient in preparing, ranged themselves round their superiors, in whose pleasure they showed their participation by displaying rows of teeth, whose efficiency was proved to be equal to their beauty by the celerity with which they despatched their share of the repast.

Lucy was attended not only by her coloured *protégés*, but likewise a lemur, which had been given to her by a Hottentot, named Japie, who worked in the garden. This little animal, which was called by the Dutch, Mier Katje (ant cat), never failed to keep pac

with the most persevering of the pedestrians ; and, when arrived at the appointed place, amused itself with foraging for ants' nests, until tempted back by the odour of the viands, for some of which it would prove its predilection by plunging eagerly into the dish, to the equal detriment of its own coat and the appetite of more than one of the spectators.

The young negroes, who seemed to fancy themselves restored to their native wilds, testified their joy by making the rocks resound with the songs to which they danced, after being crowned by the other children with flowers, which they twined also around their own fair foreheads. The parents meanwhile either strolled about, or seated themselves in some shady nook, gazing alternately on these happy countenances and the beauty of the surrounding scene.

In returning, the gentlemen, who were seldom without their dogs and guns, perchance prevailed on the most enterprising among the ladies to accompany them by some short cut to the village ; and all usually re-assembled for the remainder of the evening at the house of one or other of the party whereof the pic-nic had been composed.

To such social meetings their society was commonly confined : Mrs. Leeson occasionally accompanying her daughter to public entertainments at Government House. A fancy ball had lately been given there, at which she, attired only as a country girl, attracted a greater share of attention than many assuming more conspicuous characters. Hers was a style of beauty which would not bear classification : but consisted chiefly in remark-

able clearness of complexion ; and the soft yet occasionally kindling expression of the eye, coinciding in colour with the rich auburn hair by which her forehead was shaded. These attractions were accompanied by a natural dignity of manner, so mingled with modesty as could not fail to interest the beholder. And when riding out with her father, many a young cavalier would, while accosting them, quietly turn his steed, and continue in their company as long as he could find the slightest pretext for so doing.

These encounters sometimes concluded in an invitation to dinner. The attentions of such visitors, however, had hitherto made little impression on their object, whose present situation comprised so much of happiness, that she was not inclined to exchange it merely for the sake of gaining an establishment, and possessed too much good feeling to encourage the assiduities of any suitor she did not intend to accept. Nearly a year had therefore elapsed since her arrival in the colony before such character was assumed by a young officer, whose vanity sufficed to satisfy him that no lady could decline his addresses, and on whom the coldness with which all advances on his part were met had not the slightest effect. Lucy consequently felt little pain in rejecting the proposals of one who, she was convinced, would quickly console himself by transferring his affections to those he considered more capable of appreciating them.

The arrivals of letters, either from India or England, were among the happiest incidents of her quiet though not monotonous life. Young companions she had none ;





but in her negro pupils she continued to take much interest. Mrs. Leeson sometimes accused her daughter of spoiling these children; and certainly the arch manner with which Wandie imitated the shake of the finger, and repeated the "Oh, fie!" called forth by certain acts of insubordination exhibited in the course of her lessons, seemed to justify such accusation. If, for instance, after spelling "F-l-y, fly," one of these insects happened to be pointed out as an example, whenever the word was met with in any subsequent lesson, her eyes, in spite of remonstrances, continued to wander round the room, till, having discovered some living specimen, she would clap her hands, and exclaim, "Fly! fly!" in a tone sufficiently shrill to startle the whole household. The verb "to cry" likewise produced fits of affected sobbing, so loud and prolonged that Lucy felt the necessity of being more cautious in having recourse to such practical modes of illustration. Her pupil was nevertheless not slow in finding these for herself. Thus, after spelling "S-i-n, sin," and inquiring, according to custom, "What dat?" before it could well be explained that when Wandie was naughty then she sinned, having found an interpretation more to her own taste, she commenced chanting the letters over to the tune of a hymn she had lately heard at church. Vain was it to repeat that the word *sing* was of very different signification from the one she had just spelt. It was not only resung in a still higher key, but the lesson concluded in a voice raised to the same concert pitch. She even undertook at times to correct her instructress, who, having repeated the preposition *to*, pronounced



by herself *toe*, she shook her head, saying, "No." And then, casting her eyes over the remainder of the page, singled out the adverb *too*, observing, "Dis, too ; dat, toe." Such assertion, however, not receiving the required assent, she, with a toss of the head, added, "Den, you tay *to* ; I tay *toe*." Which resolution she failed not to keep : taking care to pronounce the letter *o* always with peculiar emphasis.

Neither were the authors themselves exempt from Wandie's criticism, who, on reading one of Mrs. Barbauld's beautiful hymns, commencing, "Negro woman ! pining in captivity !" stopped, saying, "No ; *negress*." When a little more advanced in learning, any word which she either could not or would not pronounce aright, she scrupled not to affirm was Dutch, remarking, "Me no speak Dutch ; me speak Angrish" (Anglicè, English).

Sindandie, moreover, by way of displaying his progress in that language, would scream out to a youth who acted as footman, "Missis call !" when missis called not, or give some other information equally incorrect ; and, receiving from the said youth a box on the ear for his pains, when summoned to his book, he explained by signs the nature of the punishment inflicted, repeating, at the same time, the name of Feedelick (Frederick), and then, resting his head upon his hand, and turning up the whites of his eyes, tried to indicate by such die-away attitude that Feedelick's ill-usage had quite incapacitated him from repeating his lessons. There was, nevertheless, something so affectionate and confiding in his nature, that he became a general

favourite. At day-break he was regularly aroused from his slumbers by the katji, which would, fire-worshipper like, look out for the rising sun, and, raising itself on its hind feet, remain in that position for the purpose of deriving the full benefit of his rays. This social little creature never failed to accompany the family party beneath an avenue of oak leading to the house, when the moonbeams were glancing through the boughs, and fires, kindled by the agriculturalists at the base of the rocks, ran in zig-zag directions up the fissures in their sides, till the lofty and serrated summits of those natural fortresses became encircled by a blaze contrasting beautifully with the calm aspect of the sky.

The loxias, which swing their pendent nests in the branches of these trees, formed a noisy yet interesting colony. The female bird often, with loud vociferations, pulling to pieces the structure her submissive mate had with so much labour completed, and forcing him to commence another. These nests are divided into more than one compartment, having the aperture below, as a security against snakes and other enemies.

Locusts were committing great devastations in the neighbourhood, and the two negroes enjoyed particularly this period of excitement; now falling in the rear of Japie, and rivalling the din produced by the large watering-pot with which, as substitute for a drum, he perambulated the garden. Then running wildly through the vineyard, Sindandi waving a red flag, for which colour the locusts are said to have an aversion; and Wandie, with one hand jingling a bell to the accompaniment of her own voice, and filling the other with



her victims, which, seeing her young mistress approach, she darted forward to exhibit. When Lucy ejaculated, "Poor things!" she repeated, "Miss Lucy say 'Poor things!' Things eat all missis's grapes!" and then scampered off, exclaiming, "I go show missis." On being told to give those she had collected to the fowls, she replied, "No; too good for them; I eat 'em myself." Which she did with great glee.

Mrs. Leeson's chief amusements consisted in her poultry-yard and dairy. In the garden, too, she took considerable interest; but not possessing her daughter's love of literature, and having been accustomed to more society than their present country residence afforded, she sometimes found time hang rather heavily on her hands, and would sally forth in a pony-chaise, for the purpose of making visits among their military acquaintance. On these occasions usually collecting a good deal of miscellaneous information. Such as the names of vessels lately anchored in the bay, and lists of passengers they contained. What revolutions the change of ministry in England was likely to produce among functionaries at the Cape. How Mr. A. had, on the arrival of one newly appointed, given a grand entertainment, in the hope of securing an eligible alliance for his daughter. Captain B. having been ordered to the frontier, it was supposed the long talked-of match between him and Miss C. would be broken off, &c.

Then these visits were in due time to be returned; when Mrs. Leeson had the opportunity of informing her friends how many quarts of milk her English cow produced, the best method of fattening poultry; and



when such topics were exhausted, they could still have recourse to that ever fruitful one, the annoyances occasioned by Cape servants ; each lady giving an instance thereof more aggravating than the last, till, having reached the climax, they all agreed that it would be better, far better, to wait upon themselves, leave the colony, or resort to any measure, however desperate, rather than subject themselves to such perpetual torments. Yet, if these causes of excitement existed not, it would be difficult to divine how many a Cape house-keeper, English as well as Dutch, could succeed in "driving on the system of life." This the major accomplished by attending parade, lounging afterwards along that fashionable part of Cape Town called the Heerengracht, scrambling over the country in search of game, and occasionally entertaining, or being entertained by, a few military chums. Both he and his wife were, in a worldly point of view, good sort of people, but, in other words, too worldly-minded.

With the Anglo-Indians visiting the Cape they had hitherto formed little acquaintance. A letter was, however, after a longer interval than usual, received from Mrs. Wilmore, informing them that it had been conveyed to the colony by her brother-in-law, who intended to sojourn there awhile for the benefit of his health. Major Leeson accordingly introduced himself to the stranger, gave him a general invitation, and, on his return home, made a very satisfactory report of his new acquaintance. The connection with her friend was alone, to Lucy, no slight recommendation ; and Captain Wilmore, who lost no time in returning her father's

call, was welcomed in a warmer manner than that with which she usually received strangers. He was a younger brother, and, though of a somewhat sickly hue, possessed a fine figure and expressive countenance. But what most interested Lucy in his favour was the tone in which he spoke of Mrs. Wilmore as the real sister of his affections. The regret he expressed at her not having been able personally to introduce him to her friends; and, when he took his leave, Mrs. Leeson and her daughter agreed that he was the most pleasing person with whom they had for some time conversed.

After a few more visits, the slight reserve at first visible in his manner wore away, while that of Lucy, perhaps imperceptibly to herself, proportionally increased. The oftener, however, they met, the more they seemed pleased with each other. He accompanied her father and herself in their walks and rides. They strolled together in the garden, which he was even more assiduous in cultivating than her scholars, in whom he appeared to take much interest, frequently rewarding them for good behaviour by some present brought from Cape Town; and contrived so completely to gain their affections, that, next to their young mistress, they agreed it would be better to live with so kind a gentleman than anybody else on earth. Her own heart might thus seem to be brought into some jeopardy; but she was not wont to be guided only by her feelings, and, in this instance, had time to study more closely a character of which she was already disposed to form so favourable an opinion.

Mrs. Wilmore had, with her accustomed propriety of

feeling, refrained from lauding him in her introductory letter; but Lucy had repeatedly heard her descant on his good qualities, and such commendation could not fail to have considerable weight. By degrees, too, she discovered from himself how frequently she had formed the subject of their conversation. He ventured to insinuate the motives by which he had been induced to bend his course to the Cape, instead of proceeding, as he at first intended, to England; and, in short, soon became all but a professed suitor for the hand of Lucy.

Her parents watched with mingled feelings the turn events were evidently taking. Such an alliance they could not but deem desirable for their daughter, yet knew not how to reconcile themselves to the idea of again parting with her, particularly for such a climate as India. She, too, from all she had heard of the listless life led by the generality of her countrywomen there, had never felt inclined to extend her travels so far. But the force of circumstances seemed to be leading her in that direction, and, with such a companion, she was not likely to find much difficulty in reconciling herself to the change. Then, the delight of embracing once more her dear Mrs. Wilmore! That was an additional motive in its favour, and one of which the brother failed not to avail himself; for he was constantly describing the comforts and pleasures pertaining to their own social circle, and at length summoned resolution to inform Lucy that her presence was alone necessary to render his happiness complete. For the decision of this point he was permitted to refer to her parents; and thus, four months after his arrival in the colony, it was deter-



mined that in half as many more she should become his wife.

Lucy was thenceforth more fully occupied than ever. Father, mother, her betrothed husband, besides those dependants by whom she had rendered herself so beloved, all seemed to have additional claims on her time and attention. Wandie and Sindandi entreated that they might be allowed to accompany her to India ; and it required more resolution than she at present possessed to decide even which of the four-footed pets must remain at Rondebosch.

As the evenings became chilly, in addition to the party assembled round the tea-table, another was formed before the fire, consisting of two dogs, a cat, and the katji, which would either play with the other three, snuggle itself between them, or, seated in the attitude of a kangaroo, would turn its head first over one shoulder and then the other, uttering at the same time a chuckling sound, as much as to say, " Are we not a united family?"

After tea the gentlemen had recourse to chess or backgammon ; or, if the elder one happened to pass the evening from home, the other would either accompany Lucy's voice at the pianoforte, or read aloud while the ladies worked ; for Mrs. Leeson professed to be fond of reading, and, when rallied by her intended son on the soporific effect his voice seemed to have upon her, affirmed that she found the book very interesting, and only wondered what could have rendered her so drowsy. But a sight more absorbing to him was the daughter, as she bent over her embroidery, or cast it aside to at-



tend to the importunities of the katji, which seemed determined that neither person nor employment should interfere with the attention it had so long claimed.

Yes, they did indeed form a happy group ; though in the midst of such enjoyment Lucy was not seldom reminded that the addition lately made to their party must ultimately lead to the desertion her parents were destined to endure. When, where, if ever, would it again be their lot to meet ; and what trials might await herself, even with the chosen of her heart, in that land where she was thenceforth to sojourn ? He, too, notwithstanding the glowing picture he had drawn of their Indian home, could not but wish that it might have been his fate to conduct his bride to a more favourable climate than that from which his own health had already suffered. And then would he gaze on her pensive countenance, till their eyes met, and the cheeks of both assumed a deeper tinge, as each thus attempted to interpret the thoughts of the other.

A gloom was at this time cast over the family circle by the death of Sindandi. During his illness, originating in a cold, and terminating in inflammation of the lungs, Lucy constantly administered his medicines, and he tried to testify his gratitude for the care she bestowed upon him by the docility with which he obeyed her directions. Less vivacious, he had from the first proved more tractable than Wandie, who, when in an argumentative mood, would take pleasure, even where her catechism was concerned, in giving contradictory answers. On her duty to her parents being explained, saying, " I got no parents ; I can't help that." And



on being reminded that among the duties she owed to others one was to speak the truth always, bursting into tears ; and when asked why she did so, replying, "Cause Miss Lucy talk about truth," which she was conscious of having a few hours before violated.

Sindandi, on the contrary, had always repeated the catechism in a becoming manner, and now remarked, that since it told him to "hurt nobody, by word or deed," he had never quarrelled even with Wandie ; that she, who was weeping by his side, must mind what the kis-kism (catechism) said, and then she too would be taken to Heaven, where their kind Miss Lucy would soon come, and they should dwell with God for ever.

When the family shortly after assembled round the bed to witness the baptism of the dying boy, and saw his sable brow sprinkled with the water of regeneration, Lucy prayed that to this her spiritual child she, and all who were dear to her, might indeed be eternally reunited. And when that guileless spirit passed away, his inquiring countenance and affectionate solicitude were still present to her mind, not only during the lesson-hours, but others also ; and she felt that no one could be trusted to feed her pets, take care of katji, or water her favourite plants, as Sindandi had done.

But by other thoughts she must henceforth be more fully occupied. The time fixed for the marriage approached, the wedding-cake was ordered, the bridal-party selected ; and she wished that it could have included Mrs. Wilmore, the aunt, still so tenderly loved, and cousins, with whom it had been agreed that, in case of their forming such engagement, they should act in



the capacity of bridesmaids to each other. Now, one was already wedded, and had accompanied her husband to the West Indies ; so that they were less likely to meet than ever. Their prayers would nevertheless, she knew, be offered up for her wherever she might be ; and, with Providence for her guide, and such a husband as was now assigned to her, she never, never could feel desolate.

It was decided that immediately after the marriage they should, according to custom, set forth on a little tour. Those only who have been engaged in such matrimonial arrangements can form an idea of the bustle and debates to which they give rise ; and Mrs. Leeson sometimes felt inclined to accuse her daughter of indolence for not being in as great a hurry and confusion as herself.

At length the preparations were completed. The wedding-day arrived ; and, if there be truth in the adage, " Happy is the bride that the sun shines on," Lucy's brightest dreams of felicity might well be realized. Arrayed in white, and adorned only with natural flowers, her aspect was lovely as the weather ; and she preserved during the ceremony an equal degree of composure, while he to whom her troth was plighted trembled on receiving the hand for which he had so often sighed, and offered up a fervent prayer that her union with him might never be the means of disturbing that serenity it would be the dearest object of his heart to secure.

The servants and other dependants all strove to do honour to the nuptials ; and Wandie was proud of dis-

playing her taste in forming nosegays and garlands of the flowers selected by herself and Japie, with whom also his young mistress was an especial favourite. He had, however, foretold that ere long they must lose her, since he was sure the salt-water man would soon come and carry her away. To his prediction being fulfilled in the person of Captain Wilmore he nevertheless became completely reconciled.

After partaking of a collation interspersed with such a profusion of fruits and flowers as could scarcely have been exhibited on a like occasion in their own country, the task of leave-taking was concluded. The carriage containing the bride and bridegroom drove from the door, others gradually disappeared, and the parents were left to solace themselves as they best might during this separation, which was only a prelude to the more painful one they were soon to experience.

The excursion extended to a part of the coast which, though possessing so unpoetical a name as Hottentot's Holland, contained scenes of the most wild and picturesque description. Nor, for those who are all in all to each other, could a more suitable abode be found than the one occupied by Captain Wilmore and his wife; bordered in front by the bounding waves, and behind by a range of mountains, over which the sunset shed a rich and shadowy radiance.

After passing a week on that unfrequented shore, they returned by a different route, reaching Rondebosch at an earlier hour than they were expected; and Major and Mrs. Leeson's exclamations of surprise and pleasure at their sudden appearance were well-nigh over-

powered by those of the group occupying the rug. The daughter, therefore, after tenderly embracing her parents, left her husband to answer the multifarious questions of both, while she tried to pacify her pets, by patting one, stroking another, and taking up a third; the katji, with its usual chuckling tone, contriving at length to take possession of her lap, and there snuggle itself to sleep. Nothing like drowsiness was experienced by the rest of the party, which did not disperse before midnight; and next morning all resumed their usual avocations as if no such event as the marriage had taken place.

To Lucy her accustomed haunts became doubly dear, now that she was so soon to be separated from them, perhaps for ever. And for such ardent admirers of nature as this newly-united pair the scene was really enehanting when the sun gilded the horizon, and sugar-birds, in splendour rivalling his parting beams, were seen; some hovering in air, and others poising their graceful plumage while sipping the luscious juice contained in the cone of the protea, the species of which called the silver-tree, forming clumps and groves, afforded a shade beneath which they loved to linger, till Wandie, who was sent to summon them to tea, thus broke the spell by which both were bound.

They would afterwards assemble beneath the verandah, to behold the beauties of the starry firmament, gaze on the Cross, exhibiting still to the eye of faith the means through which alone we may hope to arrive at those glorious regions. And though the stars entitled by mariners the False Cross continue to deceive

many, yet, as if to prove the triumph of Christianity over Paganism, the two magnificent luminaries in the limbs of the Centaur turn like pointers to the real symbol of our salvation. Thence would the eye wander to those archipelagoes of light known by the name of Magellanic clouds, or the imagination attempt to fathom the murky caverns of the Milky Way, and where the spirits of darkness might be supposed to dwell.

Those southern constellations, too, with which they had been acquainted from infancy, appeared to shine with redoubled splendour in this their native hemisphere; and even Wandie, who usually contrived to insinuate herself into the party, would join in the general admiration. On exclaiming, "Look! there Sagittarius!" she was however reminded by her mistress, that a girl who sometimes waited at table with unwashed hands should rather cultivate an acquaintance with *Aquarius*. Among her fellow-servants she could find none who took the slightest interest in such contemplations; and one a few shades fairer than herself, on being requested to "come, and see Fomalhautjé,"—the last syllable forming the pet termination of all Dutch names,—replied, in a tone of contempt, "Ah, go away wi' you, Hottentotjé."

Latterly, however, her thoughts had been diverted into a new channel, it being determined that she, together with a more efficient attendant, should accompany her young mistress to India, for which they were to sail in a few weeks; and the care of making preparations for the voyage rendered Mrs. Leeson as busy as she had before been on account of the wedding.



Again the task of general leave-taking was gone through. Again followed the parting—how infinitely more painful!—between parents and the child who had during the two short years of their reunion formed the solace, the joy of their lives. Even the eyes of their newly-acquired son were suffused with tears whilst receiving their blessing, as if he felt a pang of self-reproach at robbing them of such a treasure. And the poor little katji ran from one to another, in vain seeking to be caressed by any, till fairly established in the cabin of its mistress, and the vessel was already under weigh.

After awhile, Major and Mrs. Leeson had the comfort of receiving a letter from their daughter, giving an account of the voyage, and dwelling with delight on her meeting Mrs. Wilmore, in whose husband, so much resembling her own dear Arthur, she felt that she had indeed found a brother. Then expatiating on the beauty of the country, and the interest with which she regarded its inhabitants. In conclusion observing, the only remaining wish of her heart was that she might once more enjoy the society of her dearest parents.

Alas! and what is this, our life, but one long wish? Nor was thine in this world ever to be accomplished.

Only a few weeks had elapsed, when a letter was received from Captain Wilmore, conveying to those same parents the woeful tidings that they were now childless, and he a widower. His beloved wife having, in the course of a few days, sunk under an attack of fever.

The letter also informed them that his own health was such as to render it not likely he should long remain to mourn her loss on earth ; and, to the dying request of their departed daughter adding his own, that, though not permitted to meet again in time, they would so use the portion of it yet allotted them that they might all hope to be re-united in a joyful eternity.

The next accounts were from Mrs. Wilmore, containing the mournful intelligence that her brother was now no more. That, having consigned his remains to the same grave as those of his deceased wife, Colonel Wilmore and herself were, for the benefit of their health, about to visit the Cape.

There they soon after arrived, accompanied by Wandie and the katji, who roamed from room to room, as if in search of one they were destined never more to meet, and renewing thus the poignancy of the parents' grief.

They were, however, soon led to acknowledge that even this, so sore a trial, was still tempered with mercy : the startling intelligence having shortly after arrived of the revolt in India, and the atrocities there perpetrated ; while they had the consolation of learning that their lost ones departed in peace ; and their own affections, which had heretofore been fixed only on earthly objects, became more and more purified and sublimed, till they too could exclaim, in the language of the Psalmist, " It is good for me to have been afflicted, that I might learn Thy statutes."







## THE CAPE INDIAN.

### A TALE.

**T**HE Anglo-Indian, visiting the Cape of Good Hope, is an anomalous being; penetrating into all parts of the colony, and mingling with every variety of its inhabitants, yet assimilating with none. Wynberg is, however, generally chosen as his head quarters, both on account of the salubrity of the situation, and its proximity to Cape Town. And there Captain Newell, who had obtained leave of absence for the benefit of his health, retired a few days after his arrival from Bengal. He had no inclination to enter into the usual routine of visiting, and soon grew weary of encountering the equestrians, pedestrians, and occupants of every kind of vehicle, which, regularly as the ebb and flow of the tide, pass and repass between that Richmond of the Cape and its metropolis.

Recollecting that some friends, on their return to India, had given a pleasing description of a village a few hours' distance from Cape Town, he determined to visit it; and soon after took up his abode with a boer



in the vicinity of the same village, whose family consisted of a wife and three children.

The dwelling was large and commodious: a hall, with apartments on either side, extending through the centre, and at the back of which there was a glass-door opening into a lovely little arcade, composed of the oleander, and leading to a river whose banks were bordered by the wild olive, prickly pear, different species of mimosa, and the arum;\* which, owing to its property of fattening swine, is called in that unpoetical land, pig-lily.

The grape season is considered so beneficial to Indian invalids, in general, that their arrival at the Cape is often timed accordingly: and to Captain Newell, it was a treat to gather the fruit for himself from the extensive vineyard appertaining to the farm. But the part of the premises that pleased him most was that bordered by the river; in which, before breakfast, he enjoyed the luxury of bathing, and on whose banks he would sometimes stroll, or seat himself with a book till aroused by the children who were sent to summon him to dinner. At this repast he was stationed beside the Jufvrouw, who insisted on transferring to his plate whatever she considered most savoury. And though Mijnheer's method of carving set all ordinary rules at defiance, yet did he contrive to dispatch that and his meal with such celerity as might well surprise those moving in a sphere more refined. There was in his manner a mixture of shrewdness and simplicity which, combined with his broken English,

\* *Calla Æthiopica.*

could not fail to amuse ; and when the labours of the day were concluded, and cloth laid for supper, his guest was sometimes persuaded to take a seat at table and discuss farming affairs with him, or household ones with his wife, till the clock struck nine, when the family retired to rest, and rose with the sun to resume their customary occupations.

To the late hours of the invalid his host could not reconcile himself, asserting that, till he adopted their early habits, his health never would be re-established, and to the beneficial effects of such mode of living their personal appearance and invariable appetite bore ample testimony.

A civilian and his wife, who arrived with Captain Newell at the Cape, now took a house in the village. They had repeatedly moved from place to place ; and, on his first visit, he found them complaining bitterly of the treatment they everywhere experienced, declaring that those with whom they had to deal, on discovering they were "Indgians," seemed only to consider how they might best be fleeced. The servants, moreover, were pronounced to be the greatest possible plagues ; in short, the colony was so disagreeable that they already wished themselves again in Bengal. Their visitor had seen enough of his fellow-voyagers to perceive that they were not very easily satisfied, though, from all he had heard of the exorbitant demands sometimes made on such sojourners at the Cape, it was natural to conclude their complaints were not altogether groundless.

In taking leave, he promised to call on them occasionally ; and, while wending his way homewards, felt

the more thankful to find himself domesticated in a family which, though unaccustomed to the usages of European society, possessed that suavity of manner and kindliness of disposition which constitute true politeness. He showed his sense of the parents' attention to his comfort by the notice he took of the children; not only making them presents, but promoting their amusements, and facilitating their progress in the English language—often at the expense of those Oriental ones he intended to study in his retirement.

During the summer season, in addition to their other employments, that of packing fruit for the Cape Town market devolved on them. Several cart-loads of peaches and apricots had already been sent there, and, as each specimen required to be folded in a separate leaf, this was no slight undertaking.

The locusts, which had not for many years appeared in such numbers, were extending over the colony, and the consternation they spread in their progress was scarcely less than if the Caffres themselves were pouring in upon it. Much more systematic, however, in their movements were these swarming assailants, and most disastrous were the accounts given of the devastations caused at the different farms whereon they encamped in their course. At length, a column of them was seen sailing over the valley in which the village is situated, though so high in air that to the inhabitants, who stood gazing upwards till half-blinded by the sun, they appeared like flakes of snow. The following day their flight was considerably lowered, when they more resembled faded leaves driven along by the autumnal blast.

All kinds of devices were resorted to in order, if possible, to prevent their alighting, and nothing was seen or heard in any direction but kindling of fires, cracking whips, hoisting flags, firing guns, shouts, screams, &c.; each individual hoping by such means to secure his own property at the expense of his neighbour's. One, who had hitherto borne the misfortunes of his fellow-creatures with the greatest equanimity, was now heard to lament the fate of his friend's vineyard, lying in a direct line with his own; and another, who had the character of being remarkably pious, refused to take any means of molesting these marauders, affirming that, having been sent as a punishment for their sins, such inflictions should be submitted to with silent resignation.

The purchasers of grapes determined not to lose what they considered so favourable an opportunity of depreciating their value, saying that, if not sold at once, they would serve only as a feast for the locusts. The sellers, on the contrary, asserting that since wine would be so much dearer the price of grapes should increase accordingly.

Then endless were the disputes to which such visitation gave rise. Some people declaring that they could not enter their own grounds without the risk of being wounded by a shot from that of their neighbour. Others threatening to apply to the magistrate for a prohibition of fires blazing in every direction, and which, with the assistance of a south-easter, would, it was said, consume not only the houses but inhabitants. The whole village was, in fact, figuratively, if not literally, in a flame;

the children also adding to the tumult, being freely admitted to the premises from which they had before been carefully excluded, in the hope that they might now assist in expelling these more formidable invaders.

Mijnheer's farm was less damaged by them than those of his neighbours, and a furious gale which arose soon after the departure of the locusts caused him to declare that they were the least evil of the two. It being impossible to drive away the wind, which uprooted the tall firs that sheltered the house, and cut off the tops of his young vegetables.

The children had each a portion of ground laid out according to their several tastes. In Mina's, the eldest, flourished the *Datura*, or Moon-plant, so called because as the light of that orb waxes or wanes, the flowers are said to be more or less fragrant. Her brother's plot was filled with a variety of beautiful bulbous plants, and that of the younger sister with geraniums, and heaths of dazzling brightness. Captain Newell was frequently withdrawn from his studies to admire some new specimen; and this happy trio, carrying with them the tea equipage, would accompany him to some romantic spot, and, while he botanized around, they boiled the kettle, spread out the bollijes (cakes mixed with grape-juice), and revelled amidst the luxuriance of Nature till the sun's rays, gilding the horizon, warned them it was time to return.

The civilian and his wife took long rides; and Captain Newell, who occasionally joined in their excursions, escorted them to a kloof, which terminated in a cascade forming the source of a river, whose serpentine course

the equestrians having repeatedly crossed, the route became so rugged that they were obliged to relinquish their steeds, and scramble to the spot where the water, in one wide torrent, was dashing down the rocks, the crevices of which were filled with ferns of the most vivid green, mingled with lilies whose bright scarlet blossoms, bordering thus beautifully the cataract, baffled all attempts to procure a single specimen. Above the boiling abyss was seen only the cerulean sky, save that here and there some bird peculiar to the locality, after hovering awhile in the air, would dart downwards to bathe beneath the spray, which, sparkling in the sunbeams, rivalled in splendour its dazzling plumage; or, peering over the edge of the precipice, might be seen the spring-bok, next moment bounding from crag to crag with equal grace and agility. Sometimes, too, amidst the din of waters was heard the jabbering of baboons, hurling from the heights large stones, to escape which the excursionists found it necessary to effect a hasty retreat.

In returning, Captain Newell was sometimes persuaded to dismount and pass the evening with his friends, who often visited the farm accompanied by their young family, whom the children there were always happy to supply with fruit and flowers, and introduce to the different kraals, where, after being treated to new milk, they amused themselves with the pet calves, kids, or lambs.

Meanwhile the parents were regaled with coffee and konfijt, in the art of making which the Jufvrouw excelled; nor did she fail to supply them with such spe-

cimens of her housewifery so long as they remained in the neighbourhood, of which, however, they were soon weary, and returned to Cape Town. They resembled, in fact, the generality of Anglo-Indians—a restless order of beings, constantly wishing to quit a climate so enervating, while fated to remain in India, yet praising it at the expense of every other country in which they fail to find the luxuries that have to them become necessaries of life.

Captain Newell was led to contrast his last visit to these friends with one he afterwards paid to a Dutch family, every individual of which seemed, like the furniture, to have been formed for the identical place occupied by each, and to have no more idea than those inanimate objects of transferring themselves to any other. The head of the family had lately made the farm over to his son, reserving for himself only a few acres of ground, which he cultivated with the utmost care, while his wife assisted her daughter-in-law in superintending household affairs and training a grandchild to walk in the ways of his forefathers. The latest born had, the week before, been snatched from them by croup, and touching it was to see the sickly appearance of the young mother as she took her only remaining treasure on her knee, and the melancholy smile with which alone she answered the comments made on his thriving looks.

At the request of their visitor, who saw in the hall, among other specimens of old-fashioned furniture, an organ, the grandfather, though complaining of the stiffness of his fingers, contrived to play the morning



hymn, with which he had at daybreak aroused his family for the last forty years. This performance concluded with a march, which had been as often repeated; and when the full tones of the instrument filled the spacious apartment, rendered gloomy by the twilight, faces of divers shades might be discerned at the door, the domestics considering themselves privileged to listen to the music, and at the same time gaze on the company. After persuading his guest to take some refreshment, the old man accompanied him across the farm, and on parting pressed him to repeat his visit.

He took pleasure in portraying the beautiful scenery with which the neighbourhood abounded, and, having in one sketch introduced the children of his hosts, he presented it to them, who showed their appreciation of this mark of attention by redoubling their own, and giving, from day to day, additional proofs of the interest they felt in his welfare. The life he now led was calculated to cherish that contemplative turn of mind with which he had been endued. A life in which art had not yet usurped the place of nature. And if he did at times long for the society of some kindred spirit with whom to enjoy such scenes, he could at least, by the aid of imagination, people them with specimens of humanity more perfect than any it would be his fate to find were his earthly pilgrimage prolonged to an age his present state of health seemed not to indicate. Though so much addicted to musing, he was not one of those visionary mortals whose lives are spent in vague aspirations never likely to be realized; but he was induced by inclination, as well as duty, to unite with



others in promoting institutions for the benefit of his fellow-creatures, and had not only during his short sojourn at Wyneberg assisted in advancing those objects, but still contributed to their support.

One of his favourite rambles was to a cottage, built on the farm by a former slave, who, in return for such privilege, and the additional one of cultivating a piece of ground for a garden, assisted in dressing and taking care of the adjoining vineyard. It was pleasing to mark the alterations and improvements from time to time made in his little domain. The live-stock consisted of a pig and some poultry. From the thatch were suspended rows of mealies (maize), shining like beads of burnished gold, dried fruits, gourds, &c. &c. Beneath this roof the whole family, amounting to three generations, found shelter, and their visitor lamented that instances of the same kindly intercourse between the emancipated negroes and their former masters were not more frequent.

Having been informed that a young officer in the same regiment as himself was lying dangerously ill at an hotel in Cape Town, and without a friend to soothe his sufferings, Captain Newell felt it incumbent on him to offer any comfort and assistance in his power; and as his own improved health enabled him to bear the exertion, he determined to ride the following morning to Cape Town. At daybreak, therefore, the Jufvrouw was busy preparing his coffee, and furnishing him with refreshment for the journey. He in vain endeavoured to convince the good woman that such supplies were superfluous. She insisted on placing them in his

pockets ; where the children, moreover, contrived to deposit their own little offerings, and after he set off continued to run beside his steed till they found themselves fairly distanced. The clearness of the air and the tranquillity that prevailed, as the sun tipped with gold first one and then another summit of the hills, till his glowing beams illumined the whole horizon, the birds warbling their welcome to the new-born day, and cattle, let loose from the kraals, browsing among the bushes, proved so attractive, that the traveller for awhile lost sight of the melancholy purport of his journey, and rambled on in that dreamy mood the scene was calculated to inspire.

The sight of Cape Town dispersed these reveries ; and on arriving there he went to the hotel, where he was told that the officer for whom he inquired died the preceding day, and that his remains had been conveyed thence for interment about half an hour before. On hastening towards the cemetery, his former associate perceived with sorrow that he was too late to assist even in that last, sad office, having met, on its return, the funeral procession, composed of a detachment of soldiers belonging to a regiment quartered in Cape Town, and whose band was playing some sprightly air. Proceeding to the ground it had just quitted, he found that the grave was nearly filled up, over which, before his return to the country, he ordered a slab, with a simple inscription to be placed, both that the body might moulder undisturbed, and surviving relatives be enabled to find the spot where it reposed.

Under circumstances so sad many who have been

tempted, in search of health, to these salubrious shores expire; and when informed that a nurse, engaged by the medical attendant, had been the only individual near to receive the dying words, or listen to the last sigh of one he had lately seen surrounded by friends and festivity, the survivor felt that such might have been his own fate, and prayed that the warning thus conveyed might not be lost upon himself.

He left town betimes in the morning, but had not proceeded far before he was overtaken by a tempest; the wind blew in gusts, and from the rain, which poured down in one continual torrent, it was impossible to find a shelter. Nothing could be more dreary than the face of the surrounding country. Before him lay the long range of mountains which the preceding morn had worn an aspect so smiling, but was now clothed with clouds; and behind broad ridges of white sand, appearing in the distance like breakers, might induce the spectator to imagine himself in the midst of the troubled ocean. Not till he reached the hills which divide the flats from the adjoining district did the storm seem disposed to abate. But when from such elevation he looked on the lovely vale that lay before him, the wind was hushed, the air cleared, the sun shone with renewed splendour; and, while gazing on the landscape below, assuredly, thought he, a scene like this should inspire only sensations of peace, hopefulness, and joy. Yet with these his feelings were little in accordance; and when weary, wet, and desponding, he arrived at the farm, found himself surrounded by cheerful faces and the object of kind solicitude, thoughts of the de-

parted still clouded his spirits, and after he retired to rest the same gloomy visions continued to haunt his slumbers.

In the morning he arose feverish and unrefreshed, and after vainly trying to rally his spirits the young people proposed a walk. It was one of those fine, clear days, when winter was passing away. The birds began to build, the trees to bud, and promise of spring to expand the heart till it kindles and glows, and the warm current of life, like that of surrounding nature, circulates with renewed vigour through the veins. As they pursued their course by the banks of the stream, and entered the vineyard, of which the labourers had just completed the pruning, and were perambulating with a banner, music, and shouts of rejoicing, the feelings not only of the children, but their companion also, responded to this sound of gladness, and they lingered awhile to gaze on the vine-dressers thus celebrating the conclusion of their task. The flag, so triumphantly waved, was composed of a handkerchief pertaining to their master; the band, of a tamburine and fiddle; whilst in the rear were the wives and children of these labourers, adding, by the variety of their habiliments, to the picturesque appearance of the procession. When the prescribed number of circuits was completed, they drew up before the adjoining cottage, where, having united in one hearty cheer, the music and dancing recommenced, and hats were tossed in the air to the accompaniment of another chorus.

The evenings were still chilly, and to the comfort of Captain Newell, like other Indians, a fire was indis-

pensable. Upon this were heaped fir-apples, which filled the room with an odour resembling frankincense, their crackling produced a cheerful sound, and the kernels, which flew from the bursting seeds, and were collected by the children from the ashes, proved in flavour superior to burnt almonds. What though the apartment contained neither pianoforte, scrap-book, nor other drawing-room requisite? It was filled with innocence, mirth, and festivity; and cold must have been the heart unaffected by such influence.

The wanderer's leave of absence had now nearly expired, and he paid a farewell visit to the families with which he had formed acquaintance at the farms bordered by the river. Nor were his friends at the cottage forgotten. He had purchased some materials, converted by Mina and her sister into various articles of apparel, and with which they accompanied him there.

Very different was the scene now presented from what he before witnessed. The youthful mother of the rising generation, having been employed in washing at the river, had taken cold, which finally fixed upon the lungs, and for whom, her mother informed their visitor, the doctor said he could do nothing. That "she must go away." The parent then turned to gaze on the pain-worn and pallid countenance of her daughter, who lay on a pallet, gasping away her life, and whose children were vainly attempting to make her participate in the pleasure they experienced at such unexpected addition to their scanty clothing. On the departure of the donor even she, however, attempted to express her gratitude, by invoking blessings on his head.

He had promised his young friends at the farm to accompany them once more to one of their favourite haunts, where, having rested awhile, they roamed about in search of plants to complete his herbarium ; and he, seated on the ledge of a rock, amused himself with his sketch-book ; though, on laying down his pencil, he felt that the tints of a Claude must fail to produce more than a faint representation of that sunset scene.

The glowing orb was already half sunk beneath a long range of purple clouds, whose summits exhibited forms the most fantastic. Above these the sky, clear as amber, was tinged with green ; this transparent plain being surmounted by a ridge of copper-coloured clouds so wave-like that they resembled a molten sea, over whose dazzling surface sailed the young moon, which, like a crystal boat, rose and sank alternately in the boiling tide. The thin vapour that lay scattered amidst the diversified peaks of the opposite hills was suffused with a rich crimson hue, and the atmosphere around seemed saturated with that kind of gleamy light which usually accompanies a rainbow.

Captain Newell continued to gaze on this gorgeous spectacle till it faded from the view, and his thoughts took an equally sombre turn, from the recollection that he was looking for the last time on a spot where he had so often loved to linger.

The evening before his departure the children chose from their gardens the choicest bulbs and seeds as presents for their kind instructor, and as, in passing, he paused to admire Mina's moon-plant, whose white blossoms were waving in the breeze, she, selecting the

finest she could find, requested he would place it among his other specimens, adding that he must think of those who gathered them; and one so kind would not forget, however far away.

The tone was touching in which these words were pronounced, and his own feelings were equally affected at the idea of so soon separating from a pupil to whom he was imperceptibly growing more attached. She had just attained that interesting age when the innocence and vivacity of childhood become mingled with the feelings of maturer years, and he, in receiving her offering, said he should indeed esteem those moments among the sweetest of his life that had been spent with such companions.

When they returned to the house the Jufvrouw was employed in packing what provisions she considered the voyager would require; and now that the children could no longer conceal from themselves the proximity of his departure, it was painful to compare the despondency accompanying their preparations for that event with the alacrity they had shown on his former visit to Cape Town. In the morning, moreover, instead of attending him to the vehicle which was to convey him there, the younger members of the family shrank, to conceal their sorrow, behind the then weeping mother, and a tear stood even in the father's eye, as he silently grasped the hand of his guest, and retraced his steps to the house.





## THE EMIGRANT GIRL.

### A TALE.

**A**NNA RUSSEL was only six years of age when she lost her mother ; and the father, a poor sickly mechanic, after striving a few years longer to support a family of five children, followed his wife to the grave. The four younger ones were removed to the workhouse : but a member of the “ Children’s Friend Society ” proposed that Anna should join a party of young emigrants about to be dispatched to the Cape of Good Hope ; and, having been supplied with whatever was requisite for the voyage, she embarked at Gravesend with eleven other girls, and the same number of boys. Among the latter was one entitled a monitor ; who, though not invested with much authority, managed to acquire some influence over his companions. The former were placed under the superintendence of a matron, who engaged to take charge of them until their arrival at the Cape.

The vessel, after touching at Portsmouth, was twice driven back by contrary winds, when most of the passengers took the opportunity of going on shore : the

ladies, for the purpose of procuring all sorts of little indispensables, which had been forgotten in the hurry of getting on board; and the gentlemen, that they might escape, if only for a few hours, from the confinement to which their previous habits had so ill prepared them to submit.

After getting clear of the Channel, the passengers were for the next fortnight buffeted about in the Bay of Biscay; and having, meanwhile, been subjected to all the discomforts that cold, drenching, dead-lights, discordant sounds, and tarry-odours could inflict, came forth from their cabins; some pale and subdued from the effects of fright, bruises, sickness, and exhaustion; others, loudly lamenting the fate that had exposed them to the fickleness of winds and waves.

The weather continued wayward until they made Madeira, which may well be considered a Paradise of repose to those but just emerged from "Biscay's sleepless Bay;" and all who had the liberty of going on shore lost no time in doing so. During their absence the young emigrants had full scope to dance about on deck. The weather in those latitudes was lovely. Boats, laden with fruit and flowers, were constantly coming alongside the vessel; and to these they were treated by the sailors and servants, who were amused with their childish sports. Then they would watch with delight the sea-fowl wheeling around them; fish rising in every direction: the rainbows, ever varying in hue as they irradiated the masses of that magnificent mountain-scenery: and when the vessel again got under weigh, notwithstanding the love of change, so

natural to childhood, many a lingering look showed the reluctance with which they left so pleasant a port. The wind, however, was fair, and, when arrived within the tropics, Anna and her associates usually seated themselves, with their work, on some planks beside the long-boat, or mingled among the ayahs, children, dogs, &c., that passed almost the whole day on deck. When confined to the steerage, they amused themselves by singing hymns—such songs as “Home, sweet Home,” or “Auld Lang Syne.” And touching it was to hear strains so plaintive chanted by these homeless beings.

The boys were confined to the fore-part of the vessel, and consequently less observed, though their voices were also sometimes raised in concert; and, on Sunday, when divine service was performed, they took their station with the sailors on one side of the deck, and the matron with the girls on the other. The capstan, covered by the national flag, formed a commodious desk, before which stood the commander in his character of chaplain, and cold must have been the heart that did not kindle with holy fervour while the voices of the congregation were raised simultaneously towards that heaven which seemed already to have been attained, as its own azure tints were reflected on the smooth surface of the waters.

The evening, concluding a day thus devoted to calm and holy contemplation, could not fail to prolong that peaceful frame of mind which, on land, is too often disturbed by the cares that cling so tenaciously to those engaged in the constant routine of business. Here, on

the contrary, such cares are for the time, at least, discarded; and the spirit acquires a capacity for enjoyment of which it seemed heretofore incapable. Even those anxieties caused by the interest we take in others are for awhile forgotten. Of the vicissitudes which may have befallen our friends we know not, and therefore flatter ourselves that all may be well with them. And then there is pleasure in meeting our new companions; admiring with them the setting sun, the rising moon, and hosts of stars, which twinkle as though abashed at the brightness of Him who brought life and immortality to light. How refined, how exalted become the feelings while gazing on the beauties so thickly strewn above, beneath, and around us, and with what thankfulness we regard the Giver of such good gifts! Even the young emigrants participated in these feelings, and long and intently would Anna watch one particular star which shone far ahead of the vessel, as if to light her to that land in which she was henceforth to dwell.

They were meanwhile nearing the Cape; but, when within sight of Table Mountain, the cloud which hovered so portentously over its summit appeared frowningly to repel their approach, and they were soon driven back by all the fury of a south-easter. It seemed as if the hopeful visions so long cherished were never to be realized; and this disappointment was felt the more, as, owing to the fine weather latterly experienced, they were quite unprepared for the hardships they were again destined to endure. The sea rose terrifically high; not bursting into angry billows, as in the Bay of Biscay, but a mountainous ridge of waves, steadily advancing on

one side, threatened to engulf the vessel in the abyss that seemed yawning to receive her on the other. Then came the concussion, which caused her to stagger, till, having regained her equilibrium, she rose like a bird upon the water, calmly awaiting a recurrence of the shock. During the night she was struck by so heavy a sea that the waters rushed into the steerage, and a fearful shriek from the young emigrants caused several of the passengers to spring from their beds, under the impression that they were indeed being buried in the deep.

The following day the wind subsided ; but no less than a week elapsed before they anchored in Table Bay. The weather was then calm ; the setting sun cast a rich glow over Table Mountain, and tinged the clouds which lay in distinct strata along the horizon with every variety of hue. So lovely was the scene that the passengers felt almost reconciled to the intelligence that they were not to land that night.

In the morning the vessel was cleared of all its living freight, excepting the crew and emigrant children, who were detained until their arrival had been reported to the agent of the Society, by whose direction they were removed to a part of the coast in the vicinity of Cape Town, called Green Point. There they were received by a person who had been sent out with another party of emigrants, in the capacity of matron. The dwelling was entitled Victoria Lodge, and the patch of uncultivated ground surrounding it, by her, somewhat ostentatiously, styled "The Park." She was, nevertheless, a well-meaning managing woman,

and took a real interest in children committed to her care. During the morning they were usefully employed; and, in the afternoon, allowed to range about the *park*, and gather shells and sea-weed along the shore. As soon, however, as suitable places could be procured, they were dispersed in different directions, and Anna was indentured for five years to the widow of a boer, or farmer.

The old lady received with kindness her young charge, whose occupations proved to be by no means burdensome, consisting chiefly of needle-work, waiting upon her mistress, and going on errands about the scattered village in which her new abode was situated. Occasionally, she was sent to bespeak corn, wine, or other produce of the neighbouring farms, and would take the opportunity of collecting beautiful heaths, bulbous and other plants, with which her path was strewn. With the orphan flower she sympathised, as being of the same family with herself; and the little heart's-ease, though it differed from that found in her own country, was an especial favourite. Then there were the white and yellow everlastings, the evening-flower, which perfumed the air with its delicious odour, and equally sweet blossom of the night-geranium, as well as a variety of other plants, with which she returned so completely laden, that, not knowing how to dispose of her fading treasures, she was obliged constantly to discard them, consoling herself, however, with the reflection that they were not so difficult to replace as the mineral riches by others squandered.

Sometimes she fell in with a former companion, also

apprenticed in the neighbourhood; and though with the boys, while on board ship, she had little opportunity of making acquaintance, one, about twelve years old, she occasionally encountered, and with him tried to enter into conversation; but, either from having latterly had no other companions than the cattle he was employed in tending, or from taciturnity of temper, Edwin was found less communicative than her female friends. She knew that he was not only, like herself, an orphan, but had neither brother nor sister, and she therefore thought that he might well reconcile himself to his lot. Yet, when asked, he replied, "I like my land best." And, on her observing that the Cape also was a fine country, he merely added, "But it seems so curious!"

It had not occurred to Anna that the indulgence she at present experienced might cause her to feel only the more acutely those trials to which she might soon be subjected; though her mistress, who had been "skilled in the uses of adversity," strove to impress her with those principles from which she had herself derived such unspeakable consolation. Her connections, like those of all the Dutch colonists, were numerous, and chiefly resided near the frontier; an only son, who was to inherit the little property she possessed, had married and settled there. But, during some disturbances, his farm had been pillaged, and he was induced to join those adventurers who migrated to Port Natal.

Carlina, a sometime slave of the widow, and who still remained in her service, soon became attached to Anna, whose amusements she was ever ready to promote; or, if any accident befel her, to recommend

some of the numerous nostrums with which she was acquainted. Indeed, the life the young emigrant led might well be considered a happy one. Her father had contrived to send her to school till she could both read and write. The Bible that belonged to him she still possessed; and the old lady knew enough of English to listen with pleasure to the portions of Scripture which were read to her in that language.

The garden was large, and laid out with the regularity everywhere observed by the Dutch. In the lower part there was a pond surrounded by pretty little parterres of flowers—these Anna carefully cultivated; and, when weary of such employment, would rest beneath a willow which grew beside the water, and whose foliage, waving in the breeze, formed a refreshing shade. Again, after sunset, she might be found watching the fire-flies, which were glancing about among the fragrant blossoms of the vine, with which the upper portion of the garden was planted; and often had her mistress recourse to the bush-honey as a cure for the colds thus caught. But it was a pleasant remedy, and pleasant, too, was the method of procuring it. When the dews had fallen plentifully for a night or two, Carlina and her young companion would wander among the flowery shrubs with which the flats were overspread, and starting the sugar-birds from their repast, remain till twilight, employed in shaking the luscious juice from the cone of the protea into the earthen vessels with which they were provided, and then return, like the bee, literally laden with sweets.

Anna, as she grew older, appeared to have some



tendency to consumption, and the widow thus excused herself for bringing up her apprentice more tenderly than was thought judicious by some of the neighbours, who looked upon the glowing complexion that lighted up her dark eye as an indication of confirmed health. She was constant in her attendance at the school-room, where, on Sunday, divine service was performed by the clergyman who had undertaken to instruct, in their religious duties, the emigrant children scattered around the neighbourhood. When dismissed by him, they would accompany each other a little way, and talk over former amusements on board ship, as well as the happiness they experienced during their brief residence at Green Point.

One of them, with whom Anna had been most intimate, was also living in a Dutch family not far from the village, and obliged to undergo such drudgery that in the course of these conversations she sometimes threatened to run away. This was an expedient occasionally resorted to by the boys when they either were, or chose to consider themselves aggrieved. But the girls found it less easy to adopt such means of emancipation; and Jane, who possessed an open though vehement temper, was usually brought by her friend to a better frame of mind before they parted.

A former slave, still employed by the widow, was equally disposed with herself and Carlina to look upon the young emigrant in the light of an adopted child, and she liked to chat with him. Damon, who knew how to appreciate the blessings of liberty, was fond of expatiating on such subjects; and, to Anna's



remark on the fineness of the weather, replied—"Yes, always fine in Africa. Africa fine country; but Africanders (the Dutch colonists) not good. English much kinder people; they made us—like themselves—free! Once we work—work all the week, and, at the end, get nothing. Now, the master holds out his hand so"—extending his own sable one—"and says, 'There's your money.' And then we can clean us, and go to church, where the preacher tells that it's no good to kill, nor to steal, or do other bad thing. Africanders said, when we free we do those things, but it's now long time, and we not do them. People can walk all night, and nobody hurt them, only the wolves. The lady out there, now very happy;" pointing in the direction of the river. And, being asked who was she? he seemed somewhat puzzled, and at length answered, a little hastily, "Why, the lady that sit down in the king's place." When told she was called "Queen," he sighed, saying, "That heavy word!" and then added, with another sigh, "When I boy, a gentleman want to take me to that country, but my master not like to sell me. Now, I too old. I come to work for the Jufvrouw because she good woman, and I once master's slave. Only she must not now be angry, or I go away." In truth, Damon had repeatedly asserted his liberty by walking off in a huff, but never failed soon to find his way back, being aware that he could not better himself; and, as he said, moreover, because he liked the place.

Others, who had once been slaves of the widow, came to see her occasionally. Among these were May and

Janetje, whom he "took," to use his own expression, and a convenient one it was for the kind of connection formed by these ignorant creatures, calling themselves Christians, yet who seemed to be recognized as such only by the white handkerchiefs the women wore round their heads, as a distinction from the red ones of the Mahomedans, whose alliances, on the contrary, are usually sanctioned by some kind of religious ceremony.


Janetje had lately called to ask the Jufvrouw whether she would advise her to get married to May, as the minister said it would be right so to do, but she was unwilling to take so important a step without first consulting her former mistress. Janetje seemed to think that, since she was free, on May alone should devolve the labour of supporting her, though from this opinion he thought fit to differ. Whether, therefore, she considered that by marrying him she was more likely to gain her point, or whether the recommendation of the missionary had most weight, was not easy to determine. However this might be, the old lady told her by all means to follow the minister's advice; and, a few days after, she was seen with her hand thrown over her shoulder, leading May up the aisle of the missionary chapel in which the marriage, together with those of several other couples, took place.

They were all clad, as is customary on such occasions, in black, with the exception of the white collars and handkerchiefs twisted round the head, and fastened on one side with the bow worn only by brides. One of these was so infirm as to be unable to stand throughout the ceremony, but expressed a fervent hope

that her union with the kind old man, who had been faithful to her for nearly half a century, might last, not only through time, but eternity.

Janetje's son Jan, whose family already consisted of several children, was to have been married on the same day as his mother, but the poor fellow had fallen sick, and she could not well await his recovery, because, as she said, if the wedding were longer delayed, she, as well as May, would become liable to the tax, commonly called head-money; whereas, when once legally united, it fell only on the husband. Janetje must not, however, be accused of acting from mere mercenary motives; for, when congratulated on her change of state, she observed, with a sigh, that it was indeed good to get married, nevertheless they were, for the present, worse off than before, the wedding expenses having even exceeded the amount of the tax.

On account of May's propensity for drinking, his wife found that it was not so easy to secure a livelihood as she imagined; and, when relating to the Jufvrouw the amount of rent they had to pay, she placod her arms a-kimbo, and pronounced the English to be a very bad government. Exclaiming, "What for they make us free? We no ask them. Now, we nobody to keep us, and they make us pay everything." Notwithstanding this bravado, both she and her husband would have been sorely troubled had they supposed there was a possibility of their again being brought into bondage. But, with the view of ingratiating themselves with their former owners, the emancipated negroes sometimes affected to scorn even their freedom; not suspecting



that they might thus furnish thoughtless or interested people with arguments for riveting on others the chains by which they once were bound.

Fortunately for May and his wife, they had no family to provide for, and her son, the offspring of some former connection, being restored to health, was about to be married in his turn. One morning, therefore, while the widow was at breakfast, he and Lena presented themselves before her in bridal array, and, after being complimented and counselled a little on the occasion, Jan begged that his name might be put on paper, according to the minister's request.

Now this proved a puzzling one, inasmuch as the mother was known by no other appellation than that of Janetje. By way, however, of solving the difficulty, she was summoned, and told to repeat the name of the father, who had been a soldier of the —— regiment. After taking a little time, in order to recover her recollection, she pronounced it to be Mack, which the son chose to construe into Macray. This was by his mother contradicted; and, after some discussion, the Jufvrouw, wishing to bring the question to a conclusion, besides, as she said, making the word sound more English, inscribed it Macwright—the future designation, perhaps, of some distinguished family; for who knows what important part the descendants of this fine young fellow may be destined to perform during the revolution of ages? But so much for the origin of names.

In the afternoon the widow went to pay the wedding visit. The door of the dwelling was open, and Jan and his wife, who, like himself, had European as well as



African blood in her veins, were seated in due form, expecting the arrival of a tea-party. They rose to receive their guest, who, after offering her congratulations, proceeded to admire the apartment. A looking-glass, lent by a neighbour, and in which they from time to time glanced at themselves very complacently, had been by Anna garlanded with flowers, as were the white-washed walls. On a table, in the centre of the room, was spread out the tea equipage, round which the younger children were dancing, while Jilippa, the eldest born, who had that day attained her seventh year, and whose complexion contrasted curiously with the white frock beneath which her bare feet were dangling, had taken possession of one of the chairs borrowed for the occasion, and seemed delighted to have the privilege of celebrating her own birth-day together with the marriage of her parents.

The Jufvrouw soon retired, but sent Anna with some konfijt, and Carlina kindly offered to hand round the tea and kookies. After partaking of which the company sang several of the hymns learnt in their little chapel, and then quietly dispersed.

The following day things went on in their usual course. Jan returned to his work, and even May was observed to frequent the canteen less than formerly. When he next happened to meet with Anna, and had answered her inquiries after his wife, he continued, "Now we married, we very happy. When Janetje not do right, I tell her. When she do right, then she follow me." Anna having expressed her pleasure at such intelligence, ventured to ask why it was they

were not wedded before? To which May, without hesitation, replied, "Because the orders (alluding to head-money) had only lately come out."

One of the old lady's most frequent visitors was the schoolmaster, who united with her in lamenting the changes that had taken place in the colony since their youthful days; and, when such subjects were exhausted, Mijnheer would question Anna with regard to her learning, partly, perhaps, with a view of displaying his own. He was, nevertheless, a kind-hearted being, and allowed her the use of his library, containing books both in the Dutch and English languages.

She had now entered her fifteenth year, and was led to look forward to the future more thoughtfully than might have been anticipated in one so young. She felt that Heaven had indeed been bountiful to her, and earnestly did she pray that whatever, either of joy or sorrow, was still in store for her, she might never fail to place her reliance on that Power to which alone we can finally look for support. The state of her health, which was more than usually affected by any trifling cold, perhaps in some measure fostered these feelings. The increasing infirmities of her mistress were a source also of uneasiness. Like most Dutch matrons, being of a full habit, she was growing somewhat lethargic, and so averse to exertion of any kind that it required all Anna's powers of persuasion to induce her to extend her walks beyond the garden.

At times, however, she called on some acquaintance, and Anna had thus an opportunity of conversing with one or other of her emigrant friends, from them gene-

rally receiving some tidings of the rest. On such occasion, Jane, after recounting the history of several others, resumed her own; and said, that though she had latterly less cause for complaint, not a day, nay, scarcely an hour passed that she did not long to return to her own country. Anna, though so happily situated, could sympathize with her friend on this point, and her heart yearned once more to embrace her brothers and sisters, and tell them all that had befallen her since they parted. There seemed, however, no chance of their joining her at the Cape, the "Children's Friend Society" having been abolished; and the clergyman to whom they were indebted for religious instruction had left the colony. The health of her mistress was evidently declining fast, and the time had now arrived when Anna, instead of being, as heretofore, a solace to her, became the source of constant anxiety.

Having been heated, while working in the garden, she drank some water from the river, by which, at the further end, it was bounded. This imprudence brought on one of her accustomed colds, which confined her for a fortnight to her room, and a harassing cough, which resisted all the usual remedies, soon indicated but too clearly how the complaint was likely to terminate. At first she thought little of herself, and grieved only for the trouble she occasioned her kind mistress, in whose presence she strove to appear cheerful, stifling, as much as possible, the cough; and, when able, it was a relief to retire to the garden, where she felt free to ponder over the past, the present, and future; now seeming to assume a solemnity of aspect for which she was unable



to account. Could it, she thought, be decreed that she should soon exchange scenes that had become so endeared to her for the gloomy habitation of the grave! And then visions of her departed parents presented themselves to her imagination, inviting her to partake of their felicity; until, from those blest abodes, she fancied herself looking down on the brothers and sisters who were still toiling onwards, through difficulties and dangers, to the same heavenly country. After indulging awhile in such reveries, she returned to the house, soothed and prepared for the performance of those duties which were compatible with her present state.

Thus days and weeks elapsed, the disease making sure though slow advances, until her mental constitution was doomed to receive a shock no less severe than that to which her bodily frame had been already subjected.

The widow having supplied her patient with what was requisite for the night, retired to rest, and not before morning was it discovered that she had been seized with a fit of apoplexy, and was found by Carlina in a state of insensibility. She, instead of startling Anna by such intelligence, sent for the village apothecary, and, in the meantime, did all in her power to arouse her mistress from the stupor in which she lay. But such efforts were unavailing.

The doctor, on arriving, opened a vein, from which no blood flowed. He had seen Anna several times during her illness, and now undertook to inform her of the loss she must soon sustain. The poor girl was, at first, so stunned by the communication that not a sound escaped her lips. A gush of tears having in some

measure relieved her, and the doctor taken his departure, she summoned all her strength to enable her to reach the apartment containing her beloved mistress; and touching it was to behold so frail a being thus watching, in sickness and in sorrow, the departure of this her last earthly support. She was lying in the same state as at first, and but for the slight motion of the chest, produced by breathing, might be supposed already to have expired. It was in vain that Anna spoke to her in the most tender accents, entreating that she would make some reply. The same quiet breathing proved how insensible she was, at least to all external objects of interest, and the young girl hung over her, still gazing and listening till her sight failed, and she fell fainting on the bed.

The old lady continued, for the two following days, to take no other nourishment than the wine with which her lips were moistened. She then breathed her last, apparently without pain, and Anna was borne by Carlina from the room, nearly as unconscious of what was passing around her as the corpse they had just quitted.

Having been placed upon her bed, she sank into a deep heavy slumber, broken occasionally by the cough, which had been greatly aggravated by the effort of watching over her deceased mistress—that mistress who had once listened to the sound with such anxiety! It was accompanied also by an increase of fever, so that when aroused from such state of exhaustion, some time elapsed before she became sensible how forlorn was her situation, and that her whole dependence must, indeed,

henceforth be placed on that Almighty Power to which alone she could now look for protection.

The arrangements for the funeral and care of the property devolved on a nephew of the deceased, until directions as to its final disposal could be received from Port Natal.

When the time arrived, Anna expressed her determination to accompany the body to the grave. In what manner the ceremony would be conducted she knew not. She wished but to watch to the last over the remains of one so dear, and Carlina, though fearing for the consequences, attended her to the burial-place, which was situated in their part of the village.

As is customary at Dutch funerals, the followers were numerous. Of their presence Anna seemed unconscious, and to the service listened not. But when the coffin was committed to the earth, and the loose stones rattling upon the lid proclaimed the return of dust to dust, she involuntarily advanced a few paces; and, fixing her eyes steadfastly on the coffin, remained immoveable until not a trace of it could be seen; and she was aroused by Carlina, who alone stood beside her, and into whose arms she threw herself, mingling her tears with those of the faithful creature, who, alarmed at the state to which she was reduced, stifled her own sorrow, and, seating her companion on the nearest grave, awaited in silence till she was so far recovered as to enable her to reach the house. This the boer, who was aware of his aunt's attachment to Anna, gave permission that she should remain in whilst it was untenanted; and thankful she felt for such offer, although a desolate

one it was to return to. How desolate, they only can know who have sustained a loss so irreparable.

Carlina tried to obtain a livelihood by taking in washing—an employment that often detained her at the river all day. But, according to her own maxim, “What we no help, we mun do;” and she only lamented how inadequate that was for the comfort of one more and more requiring her assistance. For the present, however, Anna was not without the means of contributing to their support from the trifling sum the employers of the apprentices were required to place in the savings’ bank on their account. She considered, moreover, that in case of recovery she might, in some measure, be able to discharge her debt of gratitude to Carlina; but had, latterly, a kind of foreboding that her illness would terminate otherwise, and sometimes thought it would be well to escape thus from the pains and anxieties she had lately experienced, and rest beside her mistress in the grave.

Every object within doors reminded her only of the loss she had sustained, and to the garden she became more attached than ever. It revived less painfully the remembrance of scenes gone by. The beauties which surrounded her called forth feelings more in unison with their own peaceful aspect, and there would she linger till her soul seemed to imbibe the same heavenly influence, and she felt elevated, for the time, above all earthly care.

When Carlina was washing at the river, Anna sometimes seated herself on its bank, which curved till the view was terminated above by one of those bold beet-

ling rocks that seemed to oppose all further progress ; while, below, the waters might be traced through a long leafy perspective, until lost in the dazzling radiance of the western horizon, and she wished that the current, still flowing at her feet, could waft her to those glorious regions with whose beauty no earthly pomp could compare.

On such occasions it was a comfort to find herself so near her watchful attendant, without whom she seldom returned to the house. But the Bible was her constant companion ; from that she derived treasures of knowledge, such as enabled her to look forward with resignation, and even with steadfast hope, to what she now perceived was likely to be the result of her illness. The rapid inroads it was making became more and more apparent from the daily wasting of her frame, and she almost wished she might be taken to her eternal home before that in which she had been so cherished on earth failed her.

Meanwhile, Carlina scarcely allowed herself any rest. Yet attempting to restrain her in these labours of love was like striving against a 'south-easter, and Anna could only pray that the kindness it was here so utterly out of her power to repay, might be rewarded hereafter. She had hitherto scarcely alluded to their separation, but now talked more of eternity, and tried to impress upon her the duty of submission to the Divine will. It was, however, still like striving with the wind ; Carlina was by nature a stoic ; she would fain persuade herself that her companion's time was not yet come, and quietly pursued her course.

Damon, since the death of his mistress, had been employed by a neighbouring boer ; but he occasionally brought his young friend some fruit and flowers, of which he knew she was so fond, and for which she thanked him with a faint smile, saying, " Ah, Damon ! they are indeed beautiful ; but I'm going soon to join our dear mistress, in a place where the flowers will never fade, and where you and Carlina will also come, if you only ask pardon for past faults, and try to be better for the future."

The old man gazed on the young girl, whose eyes were fixed upon him, as if awaiting an answer. He felt that he would like, at last, to be where she was. But his ideas with regard to another world were too indistinct for utterance ; he, therefore, merely replied, that it would make his heart sore to part with her ; nor could he see why she should not have plenty of time to stay with them, since she was yet so young. Anna silently shook her head, and he, casting down his own, as silently departed.

From the schoolmaster she also received an occasional call ; he saw that to one so evidently on the brink of eternity human lore could avail nothing ; his discourse therefore took a more spiritual turn, and she felt really edified by his conversation.

Jane, who informed her mistress of the state to which Anna was reduced, had latterly been allowed to visit her, and she sent an affectionate message to her former companions, residing in the neighbourhood, requesting that as many as could gain permission would, with Jane, attend her to her grave. This last office was not

likely to be long delayed ; the cough was at times almost suffocating, and fever fast consuming her. During the quiet intervals she wrote a letter, in which, after taking a tender leave of her brothers and sisters, she exhorted them to prepare for the time when they, too, must feel the vanity of all earthly objects of desire.

She was now growing too weak to take her accustomed walk in the garden, but would seat herself beneath her favourite willow, and watch the large blue lotus floating on the surface of the pond ; or listen to the voice of the *gente-ve*, which word, signifying “ people coming,” the bird being wont to repeat, was supposed to foretell the arrival of strangers. Anna, however, who could look forward to the appearance of no human being in whom she was likely to take much interest, sometimes imagined that celestial spirits were hovering around, as if waiting to guide her to those blissful abodes which, for her sake, they had left and were now longing to regain. These and other fancies would flit across her brain until aroused by Carlina, who came to conduct her to the house.

They were now informed that this once happy abode was to be theirs no longer ; it having, at length, been let, and the tenants were to take possession the following week. Anna received such intelligence with composure—the things pertaining to time were as nothing to one about to enter into eternity, and she retired to rest without showing any signs of uneasiness with regard to the approaching change.

Carlina then sought for some habitation, such as might suit their scanty means, and returned with the



hope of having, in some measure, succeeded; but she spoke not to Anna on the subject.

In the morning the invalid, though perceptibly weaker, persisted in taking her accustomed station in the garden, and there Carlina left her while she pursued her ordinary occupation. On returning to the spot, her patient appeared to be asleep, and she approached quietly for fear of disturbing her.

She was leaning on a bench shaded by the willow, with her hand placed upon the open Bible, while a bird perched on the branches above cried, "Gente-ve!—Gente-ve!" as if for the purpose of arousing her who reposed so quietly beneath.

Carlina remained with her eyes fixed on the figure before her. The countenance, though calm, was pale as marble, and the body so motionless that she involuntarily laid her hand upon the bosom—but, it beat not! the spirit had departed! and, after gazing a few minutes longer on the lifeless remains, she bore them to the bed on which her mistress had breathed her last. Then, with a sorrowful heart, this faithful friend sought the advice and assistance of the schoolmaster, who made the few arrangements that were necessary for the funeral, the expenses of which were defrayed out of the money in the savings' bank. Damon and Carlina attending as chief mourners, and four of the emigrants, including Jane, completed the procession.

The remains of their late associate were laid beside those of her lamented mistress; and, though surmounted by no monument, the arum, which grows so luxuriantly around, illumines, with its torch-like splendour, the grave of "The Emigrant Girl."





## THE PRIZE NEGRESS.

### A TALE.

**A**MONG those who, having been released from a slave-vessel, receive the appellation of Prize Negroes, was little Loya, once the happiest of the happy; and, in the songs, dances, and gesticulations that constitute the accomplishments of those untutored tribes, excelled all her companions. But, alas! the time soon arrived when such activity could avail nothing: she, and a younger brother, who had roved some distance from the cabin of their parents, being seized by a slave-dealer, dragged to the coast, and thrust into the hold of a vessel to which some hundreds of the same race had before been consigned.

When the terror occasioned by such seizure had somewhat subsided, the mingled moans of the sufferers must have melted any other hearts than those already seared by the practice of such atrocities; but who only attempted to repress these lamentations by threats of the lash. The stinted portion of food considered necessary to sustain existence was, in vain, offered to

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their captives, till the cravings of hunger could no longer be endured, and several pined to death without even tasting any sustenance.

Loya, meanwhile, remained in a sort of stupor, except when aroused by the struggles of her brother, to whom she was manacled, and who had been seized with convulsions, which soon terminated in the stillness of death. When the supercargo approached, for the purpose of separating the living from the dead, her head was reclining on the body of her brother; and, in order to ascertain whether life was alike extinct in both, he dragged them together upon deck, and, seeing the eyes of Loya open to the light of the setting sun, severed the corpse from her side, threw it overboard, and thrust his shuddering victim back into the hold.

The weather being boisterous, the hatchways were now closed upon the wretched beings, whose sufferings became so insupportable that many soon expired. The cry for water was incessant, yet this continued to be doled out only at the appointed time, and the dungeon again closed on the nearly suffocating survivors.

Providence had, however, prepared a means for their deliverance. Having encountered a British ship, the slaver was, after some resistance, boarded, and its human cargo liberated—though one-third of the captives had already perished, and the remainder were reduced to such a state of weakness as to require lifting into the messenger of mercy thus sent for their release.

Loya, like the rest, was bewildered by so strange and sudden a transition. Her head turned dizzy, and her feet refused their office, till the effects of pure air,

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wholesome food, and kind treatment, caused her, though still feeble, to recover her wonted buoyancy of spirit. Very different was the fate of others, whose strength was so prostrated as not to admit of restoration; and before the ship, which was conveying them to the Cape of Good Hope, arrived in Table Bay, no small proportion of the remaining sufferers had been committed to a watery grave.

After performing quarantine, the survivors were transferred to a building in the vicinity of Cape Town, where they were supplied with food, clothing, and medical attendance; and, when their health became sufficiently restored, an advertisement was issued, in order that those persons who wished to have any of the prize negroes apprenticed to them might forward their applications by an appointed time. These quickly poured in from all quarters—though by far the greater number of applicants remained with their demands unsatisfied.

Loya was indentured for four years to a boer, who had taken his wagon to Cape Town for the purpose of conveying there some of the produce of his farm, and carrying back as many negroes as he could obtain. She, however, only fell to his share, and followed her new owner from the temporary asylum in which she had been placed, like the large watch-dog, Caffre, resembling herself in colour, and with which she contrived to form acquaintance before arriving at the Boer Pleine, where the wagon was stationed, into which she was lifted by her master, who then took his place beside the Hot-tentot driver, while another, of the same race, holding

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a thong attached to the two foremost oxen, ran before them till beyond the precincts of the town.

For Loya such mode of travelling possessed all the charms of novelty; she rejoiced to find herself once more surrounded by the wild luxuriance of nature; and, when the oxen were out-spanned, and Mijnheer spread his dinner on the herbage, she and Caffre received their portion of the repast, and then ranged about, one in search of game, and the other picking up here a tortoise, there porcupine quills, flowers, insects, &c., with which she beguiled the remainder of the way.

About sunset they arrived at the habitation of the boer, whose wife, with half a dozen children, came forth to meet him. Their attention was fixed on Loya, who, while her four-footed companion bounded forward to welcome, and be welcomed by all, kept close to Mijnheer's heels, and listened in silence to the merriment and remarks of which she became the subject. On their assembling at supper, she crouched, with Caffre, at their feet; and, when they retired to rest, made her bed upon a mat beside his. A negress, several years older than herself, had been for some time apprenticed in the family; her native dialect differed from Loya's, which had become mingled with that of the Portuguese, who possessed a settlement on the part of the coast whence she had been taken. Nevertheless, on account of the similarity of their complexions, she persisted in calling this girl *sorella* (sister), and a coloured woman, who also formed a part of the household, received from her the appellation of *ma-ma*.

No sooner did the morning-star, called by them fore-

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loper (forerunner), reach the horizon, than Mijnheer arose—this luminary serving as a signal for spanning the oxen to the plough; the other cattle being tended till the return of eve, when they were reconducted to the kraals, the calves suckled, cows and goats milked, and broods of poultry secured in their coops by the Jufvrouw, who found in Loya a willing and active assistant.

A boy, about the same age as herself, and who had been placed with another boer in the neighbourhood, though free from any symptoms of disease, appeared to pine away from utter desolation of feeling. He was constantly calling on names unknown to those around; all attempts to soothe him proved unavailing; the tears continued to roll down his cheeks; he did not try to make himself understood; scarcely took any nourishment; and soon sank—the victim of broken-heartedness.

Loya's spirits, on the contrary, seemed inexhaustible. Though unable to converse with the children, she sometimes amused them with a kind of dance, consisting of a whirl, in which the arms were tossed to and fro, and accompanied by a song, the words of which sounded peculiarly soft and mellifluent compared with the harsh guttural tones of her young auditors. These exhibitions usually lasted till the Jufvrouw made her appearance; and when, as was frequently the case, this happened to be in anger, they who had been the means of enticing Loya from her work usually slunk quietly away, leaving her to bear the brunt of the storm. The faults of the other servants, over whom neither master nor mistress could exercise the least control, were often visited,

with double severity, on the apprentices. In consequence of such treatment, the elder one had become too hardened to be restrained by any other than corporal punishment; and her example had such an effect on a being like Loya, ready to yield to the slightest influence, either for good or evil, that she already took to pilfer, and practise arts of deception to which she had not before been addicted.

The habitation of which she had now become an inmate consisted only of a low range of building, divided into three compartments, the central one being that commonly occupied by the family. The floor was composed of a kind of compost, redolent of the cattle kraal and stable. On the rafters, supporting the thatch, the swallows were building unmolested, and, seemingly, unobserved. Here and there stood a tree, stunted for lack of moisture; like the corn-farms in general, this being almost destitute of shade. It had, for some time, been suffering from the effects of drought; and even, for household purposes, the rill of water which usually flowed from the hills had failed. The cattle were dying for want of sustenance; the crops, too, seemed likely to fail; but, just as the hopes of the agriculturists were expiring, the earth was refreshed with rain; the spirits of all revived, and the business of the farm was pursued with more than wonted alacrity.

Even Loya rejoiced to revisit her favourite rivulet, and quench her thirst from the clear waters, with which, having filled her bucket, she crowned it with a beautiful flowering shrub that grew beside the banks; and, apparently insensible to the weight then placed upon

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her head, returned, singing blithely one of her native songs. The foliage, first used to prevent the water shedding, served afterwards for the purpose of sprinkling it upon the floor, in order to lay the dust. Besides quickly absorbing the dregs of tea, coffee, and other liquids lavished upon them, such floors are, in winter, less cold than those of brick—no slight advantage to individuals who, like the servants, and sometimes children of the family, were not possessed of shoes. With regard to learning, they were all nearly on an equality, for how was this to be obtained, when the parents themselves had been brought up in complete ignorance, and the nearest village was situated at too great a distance to enable even their own offspring to benefit by the school there established?

On Sunday, Mijnheer occasionally drove his wife, and one or two of the elder children, to a place of worship; the domestics being, meanwhile, employed in gossiping together, washing, or mending their clothes; and were summoned, on the return of their master and mistress, to assist in taking from the cart those articles they had, after divine service, purchased, to save the inconvenience of another journey. The only commandment, indeed, their mistress took the trouble to impress upon them the sinfulness of violating, was the eighth. In her own children, however, such acts as stealing sugar, konfijt, &c., were almost entirely overlooked, though visited on Loya with a severe flogging.

By the terms of the indenture, the boer was bound to supply his apprentices with proper food and clothing; yet, with the latter they were very scantily provided;

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and, when Loya's were hanging in tatters about her heels, she was abused by her mistress for not mending them, though never had she been taught to do so, nor possessed even the necessary materials.

The apprenticeship of her sorella having expired, she immediately removed to Cape Town, and took up her abode in the house of a Mahometan, who not only let lodgings to those so situated, but professed to procure them places; such residence, as may be supposed, proved by no means favourable to their morals, and they continued to be harboured by him so long as they could obtain wherewithal to defray the expense of lodging.

Loya wept sorely for the loss of this associate, in whose bad habits she was but too well initiated. Nor was her so called ma-ma calculated to exert a more salutary influence. Having stolen some biltong (flesh of the bok), which was placed in the chimney to dry; she affirmed that it had been taken by Loya, who received the usual punishment, inflicted with a slipper, and was threatened with being sent, the following day, to the tronk (jail). Dreading such durance, she determined, if possible, to effect her escape, and seek refuge with her sorella. The distance to Cape Town was discouraging, neither had she any recollection of the route before traversed, yet flattered herself that all difficulties might be overcome. In the morning, therefore, before day dawned, she arose so softly as not to arouse even Caffre, turned her steps in the proposed direction, and, scarcely daring to look back, followed, for some time, the track of wheels, half obliterated by the sand. Such mode of travelling proved very fatiguing, and,

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after a while, she seated herself among the bushes, and began to eat some mealies (maize) which had been boiled the day before.

Having risen, for the purpose of proceeding, she perceived the figure of a horseman advancing in the direction she had taken ; fearing, lest it might be her master in pursuit of her, she shrank farther within the bushes, among which a rustling was soon heard, and in a few minutes Caffre was at her feet, expressing his joy at the meeting, by barking and jumping upon her. Very different was the reception she received from the boer, who, guided to the spot by the barking of the dog, seized the terrified girl, and, laying a whip across her shoulders, remounted his steed and lashed her forward, while Caffre hung his tail, and, looking imploringly now at his master, then at Loya, tried to testify the concern he felt at having been the means of leading to such a catastrophe.

On arriving, panting and exhausted, at the house, the culprit was not only loaded with invectives by her mistress, but the children also seemed to exult at this termination of the pursuit. As, however, her services could not easily be dispensed with, instead of being placed in limbo, she was, for the next week, kept to hard labour, with regimen of rice and water. She bore the upbraiding, to which she was perpetually subjected, in silence ; but became reckless and sullen, and so difficult was it to get anything done by her, that, being at length tired out, the boer—who had been told that another party of negroes was expected—determined, when he next visited town, to request the superin-

tendent would make over her indentures to some other individual.

The widow of a Scotch agriculturist, residing in the nearest village, had in vain applied for an apprentice, and, being willing to take her on any terms, to that person she was soon after transferred. Her new mistress appeared disposed to adopt milder measures than the former one, and if before placed in such a family she would have acquired habits of order and cleanliness. She was, besides, well clothed and fed, but seemed to have little more chance of obtaining food for the mind than heretofore, since her mistress took no pains to afford her either moral or religious instruction; the time not devoted to more active employments being spent in attending to the wardrobe of herself and children. Loya sometimes had the privilege of being employed by them in the service of their dolls; and when reproached for soiling the work so much more than themselves, would, spreading out her fingers, reply—“ Ah! that cause I black—you white.” She proved, indeed, far quicker in acquiring their language than the art of plying her needle; and if they alluded to the little friends left in their native land, invariably inquired whether “ they black or white?” Though often treated capriciously by her young companions, they did not assume towards her the same tyrannical tone as the children of her former mistress; and then, the present one, however provoked by her idle, or slovenly habits, never had recourse to that dreaded instrument of correction—the slipper.

Having determined to join a sister who had been

some time on the frontier, and finding that the most convenient mode of travelling would be by water, the widow resolved to remove to the house of a friend in Cape Town, for the purpose of making such arrangements as were necessary for the voyage, with the prospect of which Loya, who no longer remembered the miseries attendant on her former confinement on board ship, was delighted, seeming to think she had thus a chance of being wafted once more to her native country and kindred.

The journey to town was performed in the same kind of vehicle as conveyed her thence, and Loya only wished she could, in this instance, have been accompanied by her faithful friend, Caffre. With the place she soon found there was little prospect of increasing her acquaintance, as the widow required her services within doors; while another negress, well acquainted with the topography of the town, was employed in running on errands. Neither was the pleasure Loya anticipated in meeting with her sorella likely to be realized, having earned, from the before-mentioned negress, that the Malay's establishment was broken up, and her friend, after professing Mahometanism, removed to another district.

Preparations for the voyage being completed, and the wind favourable, the widow embarked, with her family, in a coasting vessel, and landed at Port Elizabeth.

Thence the passengers proceeded, in a wagon, to Graham's Town, where Loya felt disappointed at finding no prize negroes. Her apprenticeship, however,

had nearly expired, and hearing that some boers were about to remove with their families beyond the frontier, in search of pasturage for their cattle, she thought this would be a fine opportunity to see something of the world, particularly on being informed that they were going to traverse a country inhabited by people of her own colour. No sooner, therefore, did she obtain her liberty than she hired herself to the wife of one of these boers, intending permanently to take up their abode beyond the boundaries of the colony, and who, after taking a lasting leave of the friends assembled for the purpose of bidding them farewell, departed with all their property, consisting of numerous flocks and herds.

In the emotions depicted on the countenances of others, Loya, who was leaving behind no kind connections, could not participate; and, possessing no earthly goods, was equally free from the cares attendant thereon. She was now engaged partly in the capacity of nurse, her new mistress being too sickly to attend entirely to five children, the youngest of which was an infant.

After proceeding, with little intermission, for several days, the farmers formed, with their wagons, a kind of encampment; and, while her master was thus occupied, and his wife preparing their repast, Loya was equally busy, collecting fuel, carrying water, and rambling with the children in search of honey, wild fruits, flowers, &c. — employments far more congenial to her taste than any in which she had latterly been engaged. On the risk attending so arduous a journey she had never calculated; and even when they penetrated further into the country, and the fears of her companions were ex-

cited by finding themselves in the vicinity of the Caffres, this child of the desert showed no signs of alarm, affirming that, from people of her own colour, she could only meet with kindness, and proposing to parley with them.

Besides the anxiety arising from such causes, many were the difficulties experienced in surmounting precipices, fording streams, and forcing a way through almost impenetrable jungles. Nor from wild beasts was it easy to secure the flocks; sometimes, too, pasturage was scarce, and the cattle suffered for want of water—the heat being, at times, intense, and its effects still further aggravated by the sand-flies, which swarmed in every direction.

Having, at length, performed the greater part of the journey, the wanderers flattered themselves that its perils were well-nigh past; but, on reaching a range of mountains bounding the territory of some barbarous tribes, they were soon seen assembling in considerable numbers, and, though they ventured not to attack the boers in a body, it was difficult to perceive their approach, till a shower of assegais, falling on all sides, several of the emigrants were wounded.

During this scene of excitement and confusion, Loya was pierced in the side by one of those weapons; and, reeling forward a few paces, she let fall the infant into its mother's lap, saying, "It will make their heart sore to have hurt their sorella;" then sank at her mistress's feet. All around were too much interested in their own safety, and that of their kindred, to attend to the stricken girl; and not until the barbarians were routed was her wound dressed.

When the boers were about to proceed, she, with others in a like condition, was carefully placed in a wagon, the jolting of which, however, increased her sufferings so much that, on their arrival at a kraal inhabited by Fingoes, she, at her earnest request, was committed to the care of a missionary and his wife, stationed among them, and the wayfarers resumed their journey, nor again halted till they had surmounted the rugged barrier still interposed between them and that land of promise for the attainment of which they had endured so many dangers.

Meanwhile, Loya was tenderly nursed, and slowly, but ultimately recovered. She then became a pupil in the school attached to the station, soon after married one of the native teachers, and tried to evince her gratitude for the mercies she had received, by assisting in the conversion of those kind, though uncivilized beings, by whom she was, indeed, treated as a "sorella."



## GOING ON TOGT.

### A TALE.

**T**HE following sketch takes its title from those excursions which, at the Cape, are undertaken by individuals that have not yet risen, or have fallen in the world; in short, who, from whatever cause, find themselves unable otherwise to procure a livelihood. For instance, does a youth wish to marry, without having the means even of supporting the expenses of the honeymoon?—he must first “go on Togt.” Has a tradesman become insolvent? He can, by his own account, borrow money, or, according to his neighbour’s, secure so much of his former stock as enables him to “go on Togt.” For this purpose a wagon is procured, capacious enough not only for the reception of the articles intended for sale, but to furnish the occupants with bedding, cooking utensils, &c., for the space of from four to six months,—the time usually required for such expeditions, which sometimes extend far beyond the boundaries of the colony.

George Simpson, a young Englishman, married to

the daughter of a Dutch widow, having failed in gaining a subsistence by horse-dealing, store-keeping, and sundry other vocations, contrived, with the assistance of his mother-in-law, to raise the requisite funds. Not being encumbered with children, it was agreed that his wife should accompany him, on account of her acquaintance with the language and customs of the boers, with whom they intended to barter. Accordingly, while he was procuring saddles, bridles, agricultural implements, and whatever else was likely to find a market among them, she made up such habiliments as might suit the taste of the female members of their families.

After receiving the farewell visits of her numerous connections, Mrs. Simpson and her husband called, according to custom, on the minister of the Dutch Church, to ask his blessing, and beg that they might have the benefit of his prayers during their absence.

The following morning, a wagon was drawn up before the door; and, while it was being loaded, all the idlers of the village assembled; some for the purpose of taking leave, and others, that they might have the privilege of gazing on the only animated scene the place afforded. Delays, however, seemed destined to occur. Several of the oxen purchased as draught ones soon proving that they had never been accustomed to the yoke; and Simpson was obliged to go in quest of others. The Hottentot drivers, too, who had been lounging all day in the village street, unfortunately containing a canteen, found the means of getting intoxicated; and the sun had nearly set when the travellers commenced their journey; the widowed mother



following them with her eyes, from which the tears were streaming, till they were fairly out of sight; and, after shaking hands with the friends who accompanied them to the confines of the village, they proceeded slowly on their route.

Notice of such expeditions is usually sent to the Vendue-master at those towns where the travellers intend to tarry, that he may apprise the inhabitants of a sale to be held there at an appointed time.

It so happened, that on arriving at the proposed place the Simpsons found they had been anticipated by others; who brought the agent over so entirely to their interest, that, under different pretexts, he from day to day deferred disposing of the goods appertaining to the new comers. And they would have been completely foiled had not a friend suggested the expediency of laying out their things to the best advantage in the open air; and, having by such means escaped the expenses attending an auction, they were enabled to undersell their rivals, whose sale was deserted, purchasers flocking thence to the Simpsons' stalls, which were quickly cleared, to the discomfiture of the opposite party.

Not only at all the villages, but farm-houses by the way, they stopped to exhibit their remaining store; consisting of smart waistcoats, neckcloths, and other articles of apparel, besides cigars, superior to any the boers could manufacture from the tobacco grown on their farms. Then a sore temptation it was for their wives and daughters when Mrs. Simpson displayed the specimens of mantua-making and millinery with which

she was provided ; particularly on her assuring them that she had herself gone to Cape Town for the purpose of procuring the patterns, which were all of the newest fashion. And even the domestics crowded round, to supply themselves with gown-pieces, handkerchiefs, Malay hats, cutlery, &c.

To the venders these visits proved not only profitable but pleasant ; they being treated with the greatest hospitality by the inhabitants of such localities, who were naturally desirous to learn what was going forward in that world from which they were so completely secluded.

In the intervals between these halting-places, the wayfarers had recourse to their own supply of provisions ; sometimes travelling throughout the night, at others lighting a fire beside the wagon ; and, while his wife reposed beneath its cover, and the cattle were grazing around, Simpson would keep watch alternately with the two Hottentots, who spread their sheepskins on the ground, and beside them crouched their dogs, ever ready to sound an alarm at the slightest approach of danger. Simpson was provided with powder and shot, to protect his property from the attacks of wild animals, or still more formidable Caffres, and also to secure a supply of game when other resources failed.

Meanwhile, his wife employed herself in making-up such articles of apparel as seemed most in demand among her customers ; or, when weary of this occupation, she would walk beside the wagon, and amuse herself with collecting plants peculiar to that part of the country. At times, her courage was put to the test by

the roar of wild beasts, encountering acclivities over which it was difficult to conduct their unwieldy vehicle, or fording some mountain torrent swollen by a sudden storm; though at the season chosen for these expeditions the sky is usually unruffled by a cloud. Here and there might be seen the ostrich, like some small sail gliding rapidly before the wind; or the springbok, startled by their approach, would bound, as if on wings, away.

As one of the seasons for administering the Sacrament, at a town situated near the frontier, was approaching, they pressed forward, in order to arrive before the Dutch families, then in the habit of flocking there, returned home, and soon encountered a small party of Caffres; who resort to that neighbourhood for a kind of ochreous earth, with which their bodies are smeared. On seeing them, Mrs. Simpson shrank within shelter of the wagon, while her husband advanced a few paces, for the purpose of parleying with them. On his intimating that they required some other covering than the unguent there procured, they scornfully replied:—"We need no raiment. We are not the white man's slaves." And, having asked for some spirits and tobacco, to the latter of which they were treated, they bounded back, balancing their assegais with equal grace and dexterity.

On the eve of the Sabbath the travellers reached the town, which, notwithstanding the solemnity of the season, presented the appearance of a fair; many families, not only from the most remote parts of that district, but of others also, being assembled for the purpose of

uniting with other members of their communion in the same sacred ordinance.

This duty performed, they took the opportunity of supplying themselves with whatever articles they required from the salesmen ; who, being aware of the approaching *Nachtmaal* (sacrament), had timed their visit accordingly. Although among these there was no slight competition, so numerous were the customers, that Simpson and his wife soon disposed of the remainder of their merchandise ; and instead of proceeding, as they intended, to barter with the natives beyond the frontier, determined to wend their way homewards.

For some of their goods they were paid in produce ; and all the cash they had been able to collect was expended in the purchase of live-stock, to look after which Simpson engaged two Fingoes. In spite, however, of care, some sheep were lost ; and of the draught oxen, those most quiescent of creatures, more than one died by the way.

The travellers' object now was to traverse only those parts of the country which afforded most pasturage, calling occasionally at farm-houses, with the view of augmenting their stock. For the friends left behind divers presents had been procured. For one, a monkey, another, a beautiful species of antelope, and for a third, an equally fine specimen of the Caffre crane. While one of the drivers held the reins, the other wielded a long whip, with which he occasionally brought down a small bird. And such tokens of his dexterity were presented to the mistress, who also collected birds' nests ; some composed of the long silky stems of the everlast-

ings, with whose golden blossoms they were embossed ; others of the soft down of a kind of cotton plant, and which were used as bandages in cases of sore throat, &c. With the assistance of the indicator they obtained honey, white as the aven-blomen (evening flower) from which it was extracted, and of a delicious flavour.

Thus hour after hour glided almost imperceptibly away ; for of time they kept no count, whose mode of life resembled that of the flocks by which they were surrounded. Sometimes, while the cattle refreshed themselves beside a limpid stream, their owner would enjoy the luxury of bathing therein, and then partake with his wife of the repast she had spread out on its banks.

Even the herdsmen were happy to have escaped from the sameness of their accustomed haunts, to visit the upper-land, as the western parts of the colony were by them designated ; and the drivers, being no longer within reach of a canteen, became docile as the animals they conducted. So unfrequented was their route, that meeting even a wagon by the way had for the wanderers the same sort of interest as hailing a vessel at sea. And it more than once occurred, that ; while they were outspanning in some shady spot, they met with other travellers, who would there halt also for refreshment ; and, after passing a few hours happily together, each supplying the other with whatever was most needed, they separated, mutually charged with messages, or perchance a few hasty lines, to inform their friends of their welfare.

Books, save the Bible, they had none. But that book of nature was open for their perusal ; and dull in-

deed must have been the intellect, as well as cold the heart, that failed, from such a source, to derive instruction.

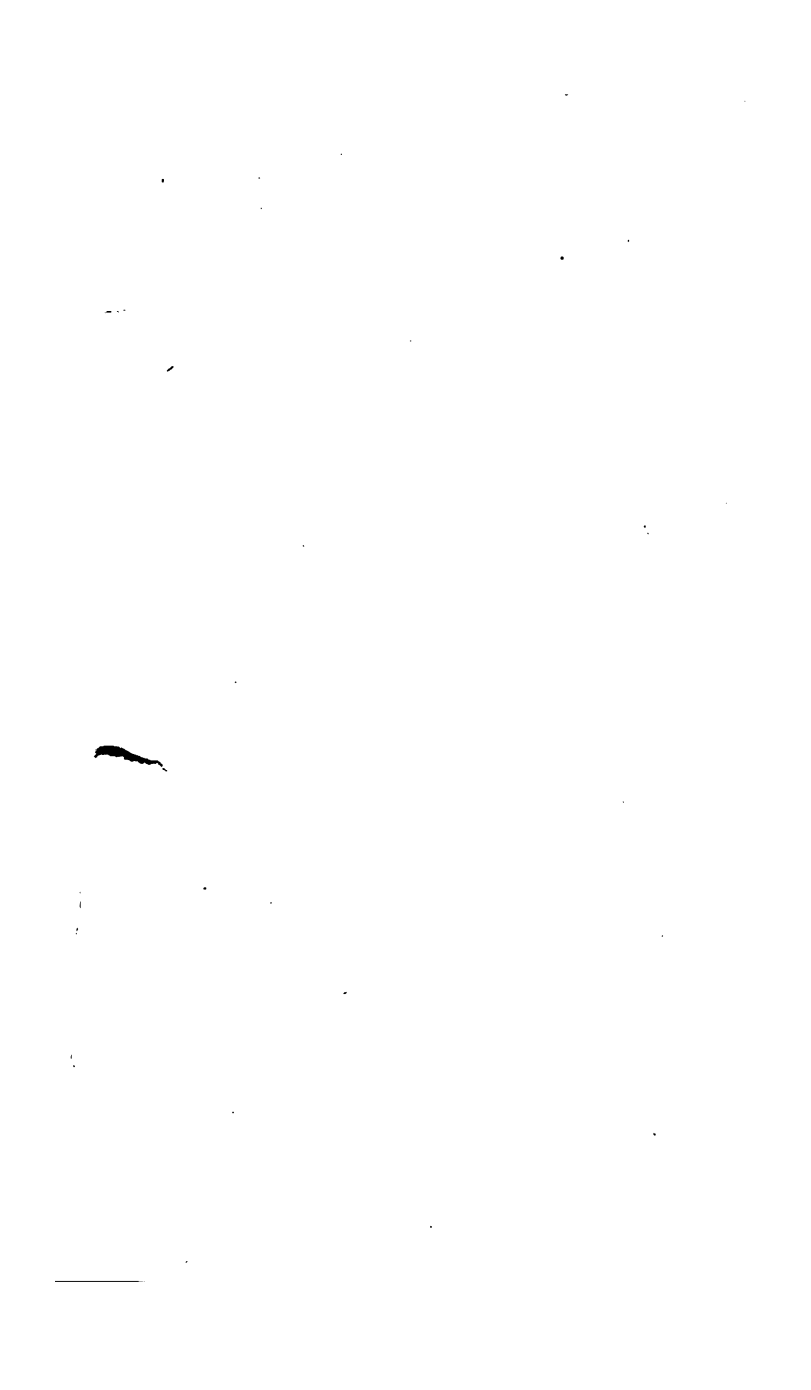
A sadder loss than any the Simpsons had yet experienced now awaited them. One of the herdsmen, who was following some stragglers from the flock, when the sun's rays were most powerful, fell down, and soon after expired. Having opened a vein, and taken other ineffectual means to restore animation, they buried the body, so as to preserve it from the fangs of wild beasts, and, with hearts heavier than heretofore, pursued their journey.

After proceeding some distance, one of the wagon-wheels was broken while they were attempting to cross a river whose bed was strewn with large stones ; and, though they contrived to procure assistance from a neighbouring farm, Simpson could not succeed in getting the wheel repaired, and was under the necessity of replacing it with one which proved so inefficient, that whenever they encountered a part of the road more than usually rough, his wife was wont to alight, while he adopted the proverbial expedient of putting a shoulder to the wheel. The faces of both had become completely bronzed by the sun ; and, to prevent the skin from peeling off, they anointed it with sheep-tail fat ; an article so generally useful that the colonists could ill dispense with the species of sheep possessing such appendage, notwithstanding the increasing value of their wool. Forging streams formed one of the greatest impediments the travellers experienced ; and Mrs. Simpson, who had oftener encountered such obstacles than

her husband, observed :—"The sea you may depend upon ; for the Almighty said, 'Thus far shalt thou come, and no further.' But for the rivers," she, with a shrug of the shoulders, added, "I don't trust them."

Though some goats—without which the flock would not take to the water—had been selected as leaders, several of the sheep were transported to such a distance by the rapidity of the current that it was impossible to recover them. The season, too, had arrived when the autumnal rains might commence ; and, after enduring divers hardships and delays, gladly did the wanderers draw near their home ; a name sweet indeed to them, as to the mariner after a voyage of as many months ; yet do the same roving propensities as commonly recur in one instance as the other. And when they at length reached their destination, received the embraces of their family, and related the chances and changes that had befallen them, having moreover made so large a profit on the stock obtained in exchange for their goods as enabled them to purchase a house, this domicile was, the following season, advertised "To Let," for the space of six months, during which time it was the intention of the proprietors again to be absent on Togat.

FINIS.





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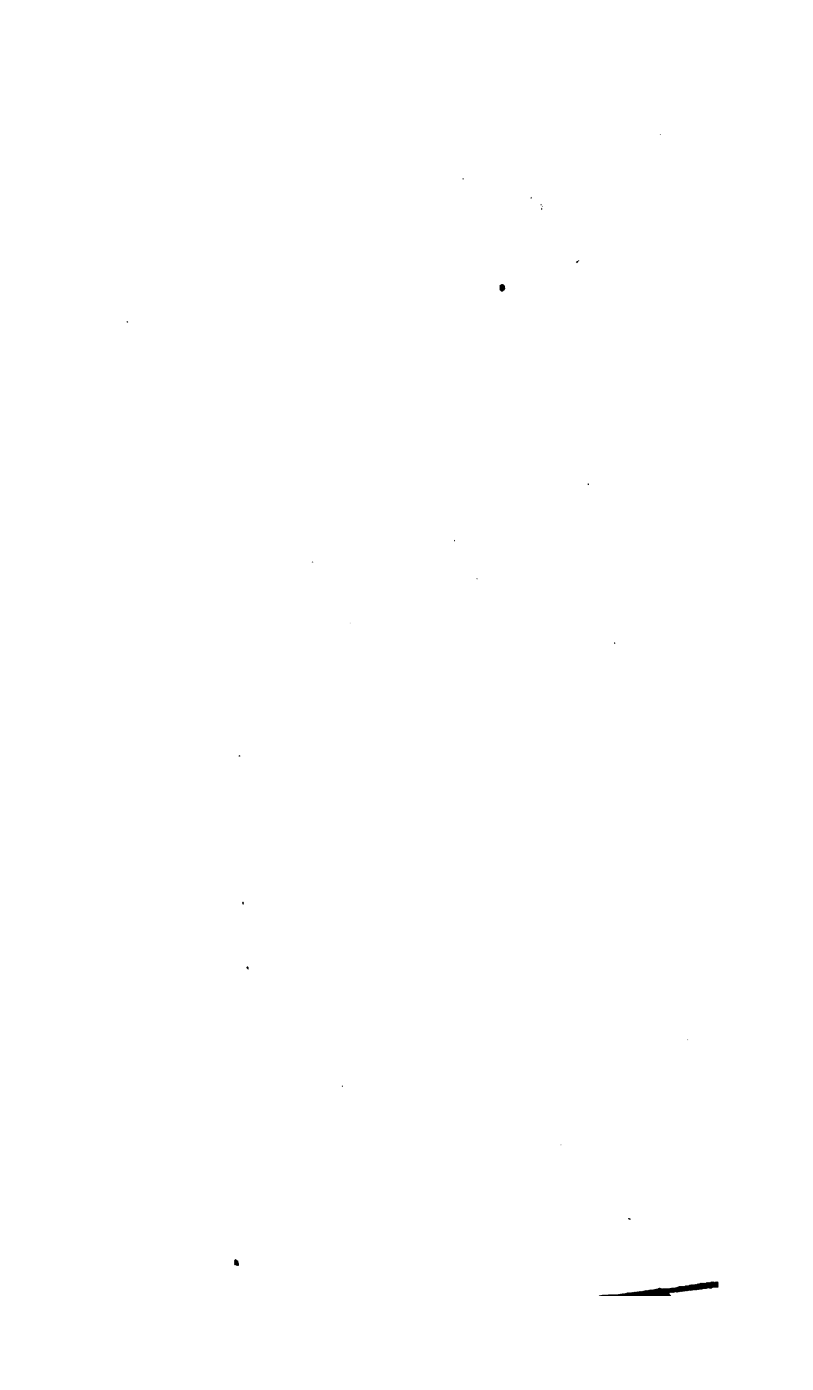
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