

THE
SPANISH CAMPAIGN.



A NOVEL.

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THE
SPANISH CAMPAIGN;

OR,
THE JEW.

A NOVEL.

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IN THREE VOLUMES.

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BY
MRS. MEEKE,

AUTHOR OF
*CONSCIENCE, MATRIMONY, MIDNIGHT WEDDINGS, NINE DAYS
WONDER, TALE OF MYSTERY,* &c. &c.

Look round, how Providence bestows alike
Sunshine and rain to bless the fruitful year,
On different nations, all of different faiths:
And (tho' by several names and titles worshipp'd)
Heaven takes the various tribute of their praise,
Since all agree to own, at least to mean,
One best, one greatest, only Lord of all.

ROWE.

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CHAP. I.

“**C**OME, Charles,” said Mr. Franklin, “shall you and I take a walk?”

“With all my heart, uncle,” replied Charles, running for his hat: “now, which way shall we go, uncle?”

“If you will get a piece of bread, we will walk down to the fish-pond; I am fond of seeing the fishes sport in the water.”

Charles, who was a boy of fourteen, equally anticipated amusement from the sight, therefore speedily procured a slice of bread, and they set out, with charitable intent, towards the finny tribe.

During their walk, the old gentleman began to question his nephew respecting his ~~business~~ but just come home from ~~England~~ and the summer holidays at his father's seat, where Mr. Franklin had been a few weeks upon a visit.

This gentleman was an excellent scholar, and had, nay, still continued to turn his acquired knowledge to some account, as will be seen in the course of our narrative.

His nephew's answers met his approbation, and he was expressing his satisfaction when they arrived at the pond they came to visit, which was, at what might be deemed the head, fenced in with a wooden rail, which extended nearly fifty yards. It had long been the custom to feed the fish from this particular spot; they were therefore remarkably tame, and never failed to shew themselves when they heard voices, or when any thing was thrown in to gratify their palate.

The weather being remarkably serene, the water was very clear; Mr. Franklin was therefore greatly amused and interested

by the scene ; but being rather corpulent, during an unusual ebullition of mirth, he threw himself with too much violence against the rail, which, having long withstood the attacks of time and weather, and being rather decayed, suddenly gave way, when the old gentleman fell headlong into the water. The fish, alarmed by so unusual a disturbance, hastily retreated, not feeling inclined to scramble for so large a bait.

The water at this spot was more than six feet deep, consequently the old gentleman could not feel his feet when he rose, but gave a violent roar, and instantly disappeared. Charles, who had learnt to swim at Eton, instantly threw off his coat and waistcoat, and kicking off his shoes at the same moment, he plunged into the water, caught the skirt of his uncle's coat in his mouth, and was thus enabled to drag him near a dozen yards, when he fortunately felt the ground. This gave him courage to redouble his efforts, and induced him to exert all his strength to draw the

old man on shore, as he had lost all power of assisting himself; he however soon recovered, when he was once more stretched out upon *terra firma*.

Charles having loosened his neckcloth, and done all in his power to assist nature, as he had seen practised among his brother Etouians, upon such emergencies, the smile of satisfaction visible upon his uncle's countenance, when he opened his eyes, before he was able to speak, more than repaid the intrepid youth, not only for his exertions, but for the serious alarm he had undergone.

After a time, the old gentleman faintly articulated, " You shall not go unrewarded, my dear boy, as you have certainly, under Heaven, been the means of saving my life—yes, I should certainly have perished, had you not providentially been with me, and the fish might have feasted upon me at their ease, as I have several times fed them when alone, and no one would have thought of dragging this pond for me, ex-

cept the broken rail had led them to suspect that I had found a watery grave."

Charles expressed the real joy he felt at having been so fortunately accessory to his preservation, though he had no great reason to be particularly partial to his relative, who, though supposed to be rolling in wealth, had never, as yet, bestowed a sixpence upon him, although he was his favourite, and had been named after him. The youth had therefore been more guided by instinctive humanity than by real affection, which was, perhaps, the more fortunate for his uncle, as terror did not deprive him of the necessary presence of mind.

The old gentleman having at last regained his feet, Charles proposed running home for a carriage, and farther assistance. His uncle overruled his intention, declaring himself perfectly able to walk; adding, "the exercise will do us both good, and possibly prevent our taking cold; besides, I should be sorry to alarm the family."

Charles said no more, but wet as the old

man was, he chose to examine the rail very closely, before he quitted the spot; for he was of so suspicious a disposition, that he had his doubts whether it had not been previously sawed, or otherwise weakened, in hopes that he might, by trusting to its strength, come to an untimely end; and so strange and contradictory were his feelings, that he was not inclined to rejoice when he was fully convinced that accident alone, and the decay of the wood, had occasioned his misfortune.

Charles, while he was thus employed, wrung some of the wet out of his coat, and then, with his own upon his arm, he returned with him to the house, which was not more than half a mile from the pond they had been visiting. Before they reached the lawn, they were met by sir George Franklin, who had, from the window of his study, seen them advancing, and who had guessed something had befallen them.

Before he could make any inquiries, Mr. Franklin exclaimed, "Thanks to my nephew, brother, you see me once more

THE SPANISH CAMPAIGN.

live; and I promise you, as I have already done him, that he shall not go unrewarded."

Sir George, with great apparent feeling, expressed his surprise and satisfaction, inquiring the particulars of his accident. A full explanation ensued, and the baronet swore the whole of the railing should be immediately removed, and replaced with new, of a much stronger make and texture.

Having thus rescued one of our principal characters from an untimely end, we shall leave him to recruit his exhausted frame and spirits, the baronet to relate the adventure to his lady and family, Charles to change his linen, and the servants to wonder and conjecture, and exaggerate the danger of the uncle, and the intrepidity of the boy, while we enter into a few antecedent details respecting the Franklin family, with which it is proper our readers should be made acquainted in this stage of our history.

CHAP. II.

THE grandfather of sir George and Mr. Charles Franklin was a miller, who had brought up a large family upon very slender means, as his principal employer, Mr. Laxton, a great corn-factor, and who held large contracts under government, contrived to keep him very poor ; but, either owing to a twinge of conscience, or to a sincere wish to make the worthy drudge some amends for his constant hard bargains, he agreed, when they became of a suitable age, to take one of his sons into his counting-house as a clerk, as the miller had, by dint of the most parsimonious frugality, been able to give his children a decent education, and young George, the third son, was reckoned a very good accountant, which particularly recommended him to the notice of the contractor, who found him a real acquisition to his establishment, since having, from an infant, been brought

sp in the mill, he was a good judge of corn; and as he was very honest, Mr. Laxton soon entrusted him to make purchases, since he thought he made even harder bargains than himself. In a few years, therefore, George assumed the name of Mr. Franklin, and was placed at the head of the factor's affairs, who, as he advanced in years, became more partial to an easy life: having accumulated an ample fortune, this induced him to offer his factotum, for such his clerk now was, a quarter share in the business, on condition of his taking upon him the superintendance of the whole, adding, as he knew his father could not afford him any assistance, he would let him in upon very easy terms.

George Franklin was all joy and gratitude, and ready to accede to every plan his master could suggest, which held out prospects of advancement to *himself*; and when he felt his power, he certainly did not stick at trifles, to increase 'the stores of his *generous* benefactor; who never had

occasion to regret having taken him into partnership, since his wealth appeared to accumulate to the full as rapidly as heretofore.

Mr. Laxton was the father of three daughters, two of whom were married, and had each received thirty thousand pounds, as a wedding portion; the youngest was about four years younger than Mr. Franklin, and having attained her twenty-first year, without having been asked in marriage, Mr. Laxton resolved to bestow her upon his now favourite partner, who had hitherto been too intent upon the main chance to think of marriage; and had he been less attentive to the multiplication-table, he would never have ventured to raise his eyes towards Miss Jane Laxton; but when apprized of her father's kind intentions, he was as profuse in his expressions of gratitude as when he understood he meant to make him his partner; and he even declared himself charmed with his intended bride, as her father's cash rendered him blind to her defects, both of

person and mind, which had prevented her having been addressed by her equals in point of fortune, since she was very short, very deformed, limped in her walk, and was pitted with that foe to beauty, the small-pox; but what was still less likely to contribute to her husband's comforts, she was of a most obstinate, unforgiving disposition, and was generally at variance with her sisters.

George Franklin merely considered her as essential to his advancement in life, since Mr. Laxton promised to give her the same sum he had bestowed upon her sisters, and to take him in half partner, which must insure him the whole business in future; and as policy had always induced him to be very polite towards Miss Jane, she had pronounced him a very sensible, prudent young man, and readily agreed to her father's wishes, as no suitor of higher, or even equal pretensions, seemed inclined to dispute the prize with him.

The preliminaries being finally settled, George became the son-in-law of the

wealthy Laxton ; and, in due time, George and Charles Franklin, the father and uncle of the Eton scholar, were added to the family, and were the only issue of this prudent match.

During Mr. Laxton's lifetime, George appeared to be very partial to his wife, which rather surprised the wily old gentleman, who was perfectly aware of his daughter's failings ; but as he attributed George's policy to regard and respect for himself, when he departed this life, which he did about eight years after he had so happily disposed of his daughter, he left his juvenile partner such ample proofs of his esteem, that a violent quarrel ensued between George Franklin and the other branches of his wife's family, which ended in a total breach ; as the now rich factor and contractor, who was of a most selfish disposition, and considered his wife's sisters, whose husbands had not attended so strictly to the main chance, as very much beneath him, had resolved to break with them entirely, well knowing that they had frequently obtained

money of Mr. Laxton while living, and he thought he had been much too bountiful to them when he died; forgetting, we must suppose, that they had at least an equal right to share his personals with himself; but he prudently resolved not to support or encourage what he politely deemed their abominable extravagance. His brothers-in-law were in the mercantile line, but they, forsooth, could not, even in winter, live in the city; they must have houses at the west end of the town, and villas for the summer season; while he (Mr. Franklin) continued to reside in Mark-lane, where he carried on his now extensive business.

Nor did he fail to mention his never having kept a carriage during Mr. Laxton's lifetime; since his wife could always command her father's, and he was partial to walking in London.

These boasts did not pass unnoticed by those at whom they were levelled, and they, with justice, retorted, that he would have licked the dust under Mr. Laxton's feet, while he lived, to ensure his favour. Frank-

lin, who gloried in the success of his schemes, retorted, till they came to such gross personalities, neither could forgive the other party; and fortunate it was for all three that they neither of them could farther vent their spleen upon each other, since, even had their own ruin succeeded, they would have gloried in seeing the name of each other in the gazette.

Mr. Laxton had certainly made a most unequal distribution of his property, since his partner came in for more than two-thirds of his personals, besides the whole of the business; and Franklin, by way of mortifying his brothers-in-law, removed to Mr. Laxton's villa at Clapham, and added considerably to his hitherto small establishment, as he knew he now ranked among the richest men upon 'Change. His own family he had long since forgotten: when his father died, he gave up the very small modicum which would have fallen to his share, which he affirmed, and perhaps thought, was very generous. But when he

sent them this notification by his attorney, he fully gave them to understand they had nothing farther to expect from him, and that he should not either notice, or farther interfere with their concerns.

He was true to his word, as he turned a deaf ear to all their farther solicitations; and though he learned from one of his brothers-in-law that his father's sister was in the workhouse, he merely replied, "He had better take care he was not reduced to seek such an asylum;" not feeling at all inclined to extend his charity to any member of his own family, though he was a subscriber to many benevolent institutions, and never omitted putting down his name to any national subscription, because this made him talked of, and increased his consequence. In due time he served the office of sheriff, which led to the mayoralty at a future day; and as he held many contracts, he was so wonderfully loyal, that while he wore the gold chain, he was created a baronet, and thus became sir George Frank-

lin ; and, like *sir Balaam*, of old, he now ascribed

“ His gettings to his parts and merit ;
What late was called a blessing, now was wit,
And God’s good providence a lucky hit ;”

and, like that worthy prototype, he wished to bring his children forward with *clat*.

The eldest, George, was now more than of age ; but though he had given him an excellent education, he could not bring him forward in his own line. He was a very well-disposed youth, he agreed, but he had no turn for business ; and was he to leave him at the head of his mercantile establishment, ten to one but he appeared in the gazette, he was of so easy a temper ; he should therefore let him be the gentleman ; he was fond of a country life, so he should be the lord of a manor ; he might shine in that part, as it required no calculations.

Charles took much more after himself ; he was a shrewd lad, but the *dog* disliked

the confinement of a counting-house; he had the woolsack in his eye, and he liked to humour him. So Charles had studied for the bar, and at eighteen had been articled to an eminent counsellor; but soon after he was out of his time, just as he had been entered at the Temple, being upon a visit at the newly-created baronet's at Clapham, some words arose between him and his father, who, unaccustomed, of late, to contradiction, and a tyrant in his soul, swore he would cut him off with a shilling, for his impudence; going in search of his will while giving vent to his rage, which he threw into the fire when he returned, and finally desired the young lawyer would leave his house that moment. He had given him an education, and a profession, and he might live by his talents, or starve, for his folly.

Charles, who well knew there was no appeal from this sentence, as his father often boasted that he never recalled his words, and who greatly resembled him in point of temper, being equally sordid, and

to the full as obstinate as either him or his mother, gave the baronet a most insolent look, swearing in his turn, " that he would never, uninvited, re-enter his doors ; nay, he was half inclined never to do so, even if recalled with every mark of regard ; he had merely spoken his mind, and he was resolved never to crouch to a tyrant of any description ;" so saying he departed.

The baronet was more and more provoked, and he resolved to punish the insolent offender by immediately establishing his eldest son, whom he resolved to unite to a woman of rank, fortune being a secondary consideration, as he now resolved to aggrandize his family at every expence.

As a preliminary step to the realizing his visions of greatness, he purchased a very fine seat in Buckinghamshire, where the present baronet now resided, to which he immediately took his wife, who was so delighted with the situation, that she resolved to fix her abode there ; but while it was putting in proper repair, a violent dis-

pute arose between the baronet and his lady about the banished Charles, whom she defended out of mere opposition to her husband ; and as there were no longer any reasons to induce sir George to spare his lady's feelings, or to humour her irascibility, he gave as free a loose to his passion as she did to hers ; and as she was at last quite exhausted, violent hysterics ensued ; these were succeeded by a serious fit of illness, which, when least expected, terminated her existence.

Sir George felt very little regret for a woman whom he had never loved, but whom he had treated with a great degree of civility during her father's lifetime, and he thought he deserved great credit for not having entirely thrown off the mask since his death. He buried her as became his relict, and he was undecided whether he should or should not make a second choice, when, in consequence of the horse taking fright, he was thrown out of a whiskey, and received so severe an inward con-

tusion, that he died within the twelvemonth after his wife.

During his long confinement, he was exceedingly mortified by the obstinate perseverance of his youngest son, who never sued for pardon, nor ever, as he understood, made any inquiries respecting his health, and he did not choose to recall him, even when dying; but he did, a few minutes before he breathed his last, in the presence of his physician and nurse, say, in a faltering voice, to his eldest son, whom he had constituted his sole heir, "Be kind to poor Charles; he never offended you; you ought to give him——"

We cannot exactly say the specific sum, as the physician understood the dying man said fifty thousand pounds, the precise sum he had bequeathed him in the will he burnt; but the young baronet understood *five* thousand, and that sum he declared his intention of bestowing upon his *dear* brother; adding, he would readily double it, if he did not consider the wishes of the deceased as sacred.

The attending physician, and even Mrs. Nurse, thought he might safely do so ; but they did not understand his feelings, we presume, and it was a matter they could not enforce.

Charles Franklin was therefore formally apprized of his father's demise, and invited to his funeral, which, he was informed by the undertaker, was to take place on such a day, and at such an hour.

Charles understood the hint, and felt convinced that his company was not required before the appointed time ; nor would he have attended, even upon so solemn an occasion, but for the persuasions of his friends, who observed, that he must, ere long, learn whether his father had made another will ; if he had not, he might demand his share of the personal estate ; and as Charles was bent upon tormenting his brother, he, contrary to his expectations, appeared among the mourners ; and when they returned home, the baronet requested *Mr. Franklin* would stay and hear the will read.

He acquiesced in silence, as did most of the invited friends. The deed was very short ; and Charles, as he expected, heard his name pronounced, merely to record that he might require a shilling at his brother's hands.

He made no remarks, but when the lawyer had ceased reading, he rose, saying, " I give you joy of your superior talents, sir George ; you may as well pay me my legacy at once, as it will save us both trouble."

The baronet, who saw all eyes turned upon him, and who read expectation in those of all present, also rose, and taking his brother's hand, said, " I am truly sorry for your disappointment, my dear Charles, and still more grieved at your having no one but yourself to blame for your recent mortification ; my father did, however, mention your name in his last moments ; I shall pay due regard to his recommendation ; probably, had his life been spared a few years longer, he would have made some permanent provision for you, though

he felt much hurt at your never having sought to deprecate his anger; nay, he even accused you of want of feeling, and, considering his long illness, I cannot exonerate you from the charge of neglect; but I did not mean to reproach you for what is past recall; when I have arranged my affairs, I will let you know; meanwhile, I promise, before our joint friends, to be accountable to you for five thousand pounds, which, all things considered, is certainly more than you have a right to expect at my hands; but——”

“Have you done, sir George?” interrupted the stern, sarcastic Charles.

The baronet, who had been always rather afraid of his brother, paused, and the provoked young lawyer thus resumed:—
“You do right to sound your own praises, since no one present seems inclined to extol your generosity; my father had a right to speak and act as he chose, but his liberty of speech has not devolved to you with his fortune; so spare me your censures upon my conduct; I strictly adhered to his

injunctions; I had no right, uninvited, to seek his presence; you invited me, it should seem, not out of respect to his memory, but to humble me in the presence of our joint friends—you have certainly the ball at your foot, but take care I do not, at some future period, make it rebound as high as your face; meanwhile, what said my father, when he, as you acknowledge, recommended me to your notice? and who were present beside yourself? since I will accept no favours at your hands. My mother, poor soul, gave me her savings, just before she died; they did not amount to much, but they will suffice me till I can rise in my profession, or they may serve me to assert my rights, as I feel convinced that you have taken a very unfair advantage of our respective situations: my father thought you had no head for calculation, but he seems to have been mistaken, or perhaps self-interest has brightened your faculties: but I repeat, I will not be obliged to you. I was in the right in the debate which occasioned the

breach between my father and me—you know I was, and my father seems to have felt it before he died. How far you endeavoured to keep up his resentment, I shall not inquire; he was very obstinate, you were very treacherous, and I did not choose to humble to him, nor to take the trouble to defeat your interested plans; so now please to tell me what were the late sir George's last words, that I may be able to judge whether he had repented of his severity towards me."

"You are hardly entitled to a reply, Charles, since you, it seems, only attended upon this solemn occasion to vent your spleen upon me; I should have thought my promise to advance you five thousand pounds deserved at least your thanks."

"I repeat, sir George Franklin, I am not inclined to be obliged to you; you have ever been my enemy; the mask you would assume is much too flimsy to deceive me: my mother was not your dupe: but I did not come here to wage a war of words

with you; on'y tell me what my father said; did he desire you to pay me a certain sum before witnesses? If so, I can establish my right, and that I mean to do."

The weak, though avaricious baronet, was confounded, and began to fear his brother knew more than he really did; he therefore stammered out, "Doctor — and nurse Slatten were both in the room when my father——" sir George raised his voice, and felt his courage return with his recollection—"when my father beckoned me to his bedside—I leant over his pillow——"

Here the speaker's feelings overcame him; he had recourse to his handkerchief; and, after a decent interval, proceeded—"He whispered your name, desired me to be kind to you, and wished to have mentioned the precise sum he thought you entitled to; *five* was all I could understand, and I naturally construed his meaning to be thousands; but you could not have treated me more grossly, had I *translated* it hundreds: as for attacking me in law, that would only oblige me to pay you one

shilling; so, believe me, I despise your threats."

"So much the better for you, as Fear is a very unpleasant companion, particularly when conscience goads her; but I thank you for your information—doctor —, nurse Slatten, and yourself, were in the room, yet no one could hear, or rather understand, my father's meaning; certainly, if you, who leant over his pillow, were so puzzled, those at a greater distance may well plead ignorance; still I shall wait upon doctor —; he is a man of honour, and can have no interest in deceiving me; as to nurse Slatten, she is, doubtless, too much *indebted to you* to be very communicative to me."

"Your base insinuations, Charles, would almost provoke me to treat you as my father did."

"I can take a hint, sir George, and shall, in consequence, leave your house; I will not make any rash vows, but I think I shall not speedily re-enter it.—Gentlemen, your

most obedient;" leaving the room, and in another minute they heard the house-door shut after him.

Sir George had never been more foiled; no one present seemed to give him any credit for his kind intentions, and he now dreaded his brother bringing an action against him, or filing a bill in chancery to the same purport; and his guests were not inclined to remove fears which his guilty conscience increased, as he well knew he was, in fact, wronging the memory of his father, and cheating his brother; since sir George had certainly desired him, as he valued his last blessing, to give his brother fifty thousand pounds; and this he could very well have done, since, independent of his business, his father had left him ten thousand a-year. But he was, as weak in principle as he was in understanding; and he resolved, except the law obliged him to act honestly, to stick to his first tale.

Meanwhile Charles called upon doctor —, in his way to the Temple, and finding him at home, entered immediately

upon the subject of his father's death, seriously inquiring what he said, or in what terms he had recommended him to his brother ?

“ I wish, Mr. Franklin, I could absolutely contradict your brother's statement ; but I was not near enough to hear distinctly what your father said ; your brother must have understood him. I thought, and said so at the time, sir George said fifty, but your brother so positively affirmed he said five, I cannot venture to swear I was not mistaken ; nay, if I could, I fear, even in equity, my evidence would prove of little or no avail, as time was allowed your father to have added a codicil to his will : as to nurse Slatten, she seemed convinced your brother stated facts ; therefore, I fear you must content yourself with the sum he offers you ; if he means to wrong you, you need not envy him his sensations, and perhaps, in the end, his money may not prosper so well as yours.”

Charles thought this was slender consolation, but as he found he had no chance

of obliging his brother to do him justice, he empowered a brother counsellor to settle the business, and vowed eternal enmity to the baronet, who readily paid the five thousand pounds, and hoped he should at least get off with something like honour; but he found he was generally blamed; he therefore, as speedily as possible, disposed of the business, the villa at Clapham, and the town-house, and took up his abode at Claverton Hall, the name of his seat; and as he had plenty of money, he purchased several adjoining farms, and, by way of increasing his income, farmed a large track himself; but, as his father had said, he was no speculator, nor did he prove himself a good farmer; his bailiffs enriched themselves at his expence; therefore, at three-and-thirty, he gave up this unprofitable experiment, and resolved to marry, and have a comfortable home.

The ensuing winter he spent in London, as he resolved to obey his father's injunctions, and choose among ladies of rank. He was in the prime of life, and his large

income was reputed to be much more than it really was, since, in fact, he was rather poorer than richer, for all his speculations; yet he was a very good match, and certainly a handsome man; but he had not improved during his life of seclusion; an air of fashion might have concealed his want of intellect, and a better understanding would have induced him to conceal his mean propensities; since, as he found he was not very expert at getting money, he resolved to be very careful in his expenditure; though, like many weak people, he was very ostentatious, and often threw away more than, had it been properly applied, would have made him appear generous. His title and known fortune were, however, sure passports to the hearts of many women. The niece of a peer, who possessed a fortune of sixty thousand pounds, listened with pleasure to his tender speeches. Her fortune was in the hands of her guardian, a banker of eminence, in whose house the baronet chose to place all his unemployed money. This gave him so

high an opinion of sir George's principles and understanding, that he readily agreed to his proposals, and did not insist upon such large settlements as his ward's fortune seemed to require.

Greatly did sir George pride himself upon his policy in this momentous business; but, alas! before he had ceased to congratulate himself upon his skilful management of the cunning banker, and before he had been married six weeks, the house stopped payment for an immense sum. Sir George was minus about twenty thousand pounds of his own, and all his wife's fortune, which he had left to accumulate, as he had an idea of becoming a partner in this tottering firm.

Such an unexpected loss drove him almost mad, as it was very uncertain when, or if there could be any dividend, the house was so involved; he therefore hurried his wife into the country, where he resolved she should remain. But she was not so easily managed; she insisted upon his living like a man of rank; and as she was

very well disposed, she rendered him rather more popular than he had been heretofore.

She proved a very fruitful vine, as she brought him a child once a-year; and at the time our history commences, the baronet was the father of nine children, some of whom were marriageable, and by no means so rich a man as when his father died: but we will now return to his brother Charles, as we have already saved his life; therefore our readers may wish to know how he came to be a visitor at his brother's mansion.

CHAP. III.

MR. Charles Franklin having *eaten* his terms, began, as usual, by accompanying the Judges upon their circuit; and as he was really very well versed in his own profession, and no despicable pleader, he yet

hoped to reach the woolsack, as many chancellors had began life with as small a sum, and were not equally frugal in their expenditure.

Upon his return to town, after his first professional excursion, not being overburthened with business, he recollected an old woman having applied to serjeant —, the preceding spring, when he was at that gentleman's chambers, respecting an estate to which she said she was heir. The serjeant had no time to attend to *such proving*, not being, like a *generous solicitor*, whom the author must not, out of motives of delicacy, name, inclined to display his talents for the love of God; he therefore hastily dismissed the poor widow: Charles passed her as she was departing, and asked her address, which recurred to him during this time of leisure, and he resolved to hear her story.

He accordingly called upon the good woman, who kept a small haberdasher's shop in Fetter-lane. She had one daughter, a pretty neat young woman, who

briefly informed their visitor that they were heirs to an estate which brought in more than three thousand a-year, which had been seized by a very rich relation, who laughed at their claim, and their poverty proved his greatest security. Charles made minutes of all she said, and felt convinced that he could assert their rights: many solicitors would be glad of the job; he would undertake to plead their cause; and he hoped, by good management, to render this business extremely beneficial to himself.

As a preliminary step, he expatiated at great length upon the serious risk he must run were he to undertake the management of this very intricate business. He must employ a solicitor, at a great expence; bring up witnesses from a great distance; take many journies, not to mention his own time and trouble; still he would venture to do all this upon certain conditions.

They were ready to agree to every thing he could require, and if blessings would have gratified him, they were not sparing.

THE SPANISH CAMPAIGN.

“ It was no unusual thing,” he said, “ to give the one half of any species of property, to be put in undisputed possession of the other, and he would undertake to bring their cause to trial upon those terms; he would be at all the expence, and he would stand to every loss, if they were inclined to divide the gains with him, since it was but just that he should share in the benefit likely to accrue from his interposition ”

They hardly gave him time to explain his wishes before they acceded to them, declaring he was their best friend—an angel sent from Heaven, with many more very grateful appellations; nay, the old woman declared she would give him the whole, if he would take her daughter into the bargain, and allow her a maintenance while she lived.

Charles affected to take this in jest, but resolved to think of it at leisure: suffice it to say, having made his own terms, he entered upon his arduous undertaking with every hope of success; and so indefatigable did he prove, that in less than eighteen months

he brought the business into court, as he feared the widow would not live till the suit was decided. She had long had recourse to drams of all denominations, to raise her spirits, and her daughter had imbibed the same pernicious habit, in which they indulged more frequently than ever, upon the strength of their approaching good fortune.

The suit was, as expected, decided in their favour, to the satisfaction of a crowded court; and, as Charles Franklin had foreseen, he gained great credit for his liberality, since it was not generally known upon what terms he had displayed his generosity; and as the person who had seized the widow's inheritance had knowingly defrauded her of her right, he was condemned to pay her all the arrears due, and saddled with heavy costs; therefore, altogether, she came into upwards of four thousand a-year.

The old woman did not survive the event more than six weeks, and as Charles was

convinced the daughter was in a rapid decline, he readily agreed to fulfil the widow's dying wish, by becoming her husband ; and the poor girl was so elated with the idea of marrying a gentleman, and so good a man, that she scarce grieved for her mother. As change of air had been ordered by her physicians, Mr. Franklin sent her down to her newly-acquired seat, with an old servant of his mother's as her principal attendant, and where he paid her frequent visits, and always gave Dorothy strict orders to let her mistress have whatever she required.

We will not say that he was thus necessary to her death, but certainly such unbounded indulgence, and such perfect solitude, induced her to have more frequent recourse to her favourite liquor, which, as might have been expected, soon terminated her existence, since the remedy was literally worse than the disease.

Charles, who had in fact married the estate, did not grieve for what he deemed the *incumbrance* upon it being removed,

since he was thus, at seven-and-twenty, in possession of an ample fortune, and hitherto his character had risen with his riches.

He had taken every precaution during his wife's lifetime, such as levying fines, and cutting off entails, to enable him at her demise to dispose of the contested estate, as the land did not bring him in five per cent. and the house would be a great expence. A neighbouring gentleman, who had long cast a lingering look towards the place, soon made him a very handsome offer, which he eagerly accepted; and having speedily settled the business, he returned to his chambers in the Temple, solely intent upon improving his recent good fortune.

He first entered into a league with the solicitor he had employed on this important cause, which was equally beneficial to them both, since Charles Franklin was a sound lawyer, and, as in the widow's case, declared himself the patron of all oppressed people. The world gave him credit for his humanity, and he contrived to make

such good bargains, that he found his apparent Quixotism turn to very good advantage; and besides thus *toiling* in the cause of *benevolence*, he seldom let a day elapse without attending Garraway's coffee-house, having previously fully informed himself of the real value of every thing that was there sold by auction; and thus he picked up some excellent bargains in houses: being a young man, he also dealt in reversions, which were generally almost given away, as they are seldom sold but under a statute of bankruptcy, or other insolvent cases; and he was particularly fortunate in these speculations, often declaring that he had realized fifty thousand pounds funded property, for less than a fifth of that sum.

We shall not tire our readers with dwelling upon the various modes he pursued to increase his hoards during the ensuing twenty years; suffice it to say, the richer he became, the more anxious he grew to increase his store; nor did his naturally obstinate bad temper improve as he advanced

in years; and his avarice was now fully displayed and understood, even by those who had once given him great credit for his apparent disinterestedness; still some few people found it to their interest to pay their court to him, when they wanted to borrow money upon mortgage, or other good security, as they well knew it was no otherwise comeatable; of course they despised the man, even when he ministered to their necessities.

He continued to reside in chambers, having purchased a set a great bargain, where he was for many years attended by old Dorothy, whom he had placed about his wife, and who was his cook, slut, and butler; at last she died, worn out in his service; and he had the charity, or the generosity, we are at a loss to decide which, to give her niece a two-pound bank of England note, towards her funeral.

He was now at a great loss for an attendant; but having engaged a person to put his rooms to rights, &c. he chose to take his meals at a chophouse, and sometimes at

a coffeehouse, as he very seldom, except upon meetings of business, was invited to dine out, or at any other person's expence.

More than thirty years had elapsed since his father's death, without his ever having exchanged a word with his brother, though he had heard, with inward satisfaction, of the banker's failure, and that the baronet had sensibly decreased his inheritance.

The baronet had also been assured that his brother had accumulated a large fortune, and was living in the most private manner, to increase it; he therefore, guided by the same principles which had induced him to defraud him in the first instance, now anxiously wished to be reconciled to him, since a renewal of acquaintance might lead to his disposing of his property among his children.

Lady Franklin, who was certainly *mistress*, nay, we might add, master, of her family, was continually preaching to that effect, as she had lived in such style, that they had not lain by much for their chil-

dren, though the boys now wanted to be settled and brought forward in the world, and the girls must have marriage portions. To do all this she found they must break in upon their principal property, which, as every thing was dearer, and as she did not wish to curtail their own expences, she wished to avoid ; therefore, a few of this reputed miser's thousands would be of real service to them, she frequently observed.

Sir George felt the justice of the observation, still he retorted with reproaches respecting her extravagance, but more generally listened in sullen silence to her lectures ; and as she knew he had a very poor head for plotting, and that his heart was not interested in the business, she resolved to bring about the seemingly arduous task of reconciling the brothers herself.

A solicitor of eminence, who had chambers under Mr. Franklin's in the Temple, had long been in the habit of doing business for sir George, and he was also upon

tolerable intimate terms with his neighbour; to him she applied, and he seconded her so ably with the baronet, even exaggerating Mr. Franklin's possessions, that sir George agreed; though he did not choose to make the first advances, he had no objection to conniving at any plan likely to bring about the desired reconciliation, as he foresaw his family might be material losers, should his brother die while they continued at variance.

Mr. Franklin felt as men usually do (even misers, as they advance in years), a sort of intuitive regard for his nephews and nieces; their mother he commended for her spirit, as he felt convinced that she both humbled and plagued his brother, at whose *chicken-heart* he often laughed, even with Mr. Greenwood (the gentleman who had undertaken to heal the deadly breach between them), declaring no woman should ever have governed him; however, as he had not been offended by the children, why, he should like to have an opportunity of judging of their dispositions, and whether

they were likely to do more honour to the race than their weak father, who would never have made a fortune, since he did not know how to keep, or, indeed, how to spend what he had inherited; still, if the foolish fellow chose to humble himself, he had no objection to consign the past to oblivion, as he was now the richer man of the two. In fact, he enjoyed the idea of looking down upon his brother, who had certainly displayed not only his want of principle, but his want of feeling, during their late interview. He also recollected that he was mortal, and that he could not take the money he had been so anxious to accumulate, into the other world; and as he was not, like the baronet, fond of bestowing his money upon public charities, he thought he might as well leave it to his brother's family; and he also wished to select those among his children who were most deserving of his bounty.

Mr. Greenwood had heard him express these sentiments, therefore laid his plans accordingly, and told the baronet he had

better give his brother the meeting at the coffeehouse he now frequented, where it might appear purely accidental.

Sir George made no objection, and on the appointed day he met Mr. Greenwood at this place, about five o'clock, to discuss some law business, they said; and having ordered a dinner likely to suit the taste of him they wished to entertain, they took their seats in the very box he generally preferred, and ordered their repast at his usual hour, desiring it might be rather sooner than later, as they expected some one upon business. The waiter offered them a larger box, but they did not choose to remove; and having drawn their curtain, they were sitting very snug, when their dinner was brought in. Mr. Greenwood began to fear the counsellor had been engaged somewhere else, but they had scarcely began ere sir George made him a sign, and the next moment Mr. Franklin looked into the box.

“Ah, my good friend,” cried Greenwood, starting up, and catching his hand, “you

have arrived just in the very nick of time—you have smelt us out—come, take my seat.”

Sir George also rose, and made a sort of advance, while his brother made a faint effort to disengage his hand, which seeming to bring Greenwood to his recollection, he whispered an apology, adding, in a louder tone, “but blessed are the peace-makers; and family disputes should not last for ever.”

Sir George seized his cue, advanced two steps, and, with a tolerable grace, extended his hand.

Charles Franklin received it, while he said, “Thank God, I never bear malice;” though at the very moment he recollected, even with increased bitterness, their last parting.

Sir George had more of the polish of fashion, therefore uttered a very apropos speech, and a hope that they should henceforth be better friends than ever.

“That may very easily be,” was the retort.

The kind mediator shoved the speaker into the box, and took his seat next him, saying, "Come, the dinner is cooling—Waiter; bring another plate—Here is a fine piece of salmon, and we have a broiled fowl coming, to which we can make any addition."

Thus running on, to prevent either brother reverting to the past; and all was once more peace and harmony, though neither brother was the dupe of the other. But as Charles now hoped to look down upon the baronet, and as sir George knew he might gain, and could not lose, by paying him some degree of court, they became very good company, after a few glasses of wine; nor did they separate till a quarter before ten, when Mr. Franklin broke up the party, but not before he had promised to spend a fortnight at Claverton Hall during the long vacation.

Thus was the long-suspended family intercourse renewed; but though his present was the third visit Mr. Franklin had paid his brother, hitherto he had not distinguish-

ed any of his children, nor had he, as yet, made any one of them the most trifling present ; still he appeared to be a general favourite with the young folks ; and lady Franklin certainly took infinite pains to make every thing agreeable to a man she most cordially despised ; but whose money she wished to secure to her family ; and as Mr. Franklin had not a friend to divide his attention, he found his brother's family circle more agreeable than he expected, or chose to acknowledge.

CHAP. IV.

THE hero of our tale, the juvenile Charles, had, during his first visit in Buckinghamshire, become his uncle's favourite ; and he pronounced him a boy of very superior parts when he first conversed with him, two years before.

Of the elder children he took but little notice ; the three elder girls had been educated at home by a governess, and seemed to fancy they were very accomplished, which he did not allow ; and as they were not remarkable for their beauty, he saw very little to admire in them, and thought the five thousand pounds a-piece, he understood their father talked of giving them when they married, would hardly procure them husbands, and he did not feel inclined to increase their portions, thinking it a matter of very little consequence whether any of the Miss Franklins, the elder of whom were, in their own opinion, marriageable, ever married at all.

The eldest son, who had been named after his father, seemed to fancy himself a privileged being, as he was to be the future baronet, and future possessor of Claverton ; he was therefore merely civil to the old *quiz*, as he termed his uncle, but declared, though as fond of money as any youth of his age, he did not care a straw for his musty hoards. John, the next son,

who was a student at Cambridge, and intended for the church, paid him much the most court of any one, as he knew that by the loss of his mother's fortune, he was solely dependant upon his father; and though the baronet had a tolerable living in his gift, John endeavoured to make a friend of his uncle; but the shrewd old man pronounced him a weak, fawning puppy, and often said, in an ironical tone, "that he reminded him of his father at the same age."

Lady Franklin knew this *compliment* boded John no good, but he was not her favourite; indeed, like Mr. Franklin, she gave the preference to Charles; he was the handsomest of her children, and the one she thought took most after herself; and as she kept up an intercourse with her own family, she hoped, through their means, to procure him a lucrative place in some of the departments under government; she had therefore insisted upon his being sent to Eton, as she was resolved he should receive a very good education.

Charles himself had a strong predilection

for the army, but prudently resolved to study politics, since he did not seem likely to succeed so well in any other line.

Mr. Franklin had also received an excellent education, and was perfectly versed both in the politics as well as laws of his country; he was very well read, and was very capable of instructing his young favourite, whom he fancied took after him; he therefore had it in contemplation to adopt him, but he feared that would be taking a thorn out of his brother's foot and placing it in his own, as the boy would be a certain expence, and might, after all, disgrace his lineage.

But before he reached the house, on the memorable day on which our history commences, he resolved, at every risk, to take charge of his future fortunes; and as the time drew near for his departure, he requested a *tête-à-tête* with the baronet, when he thus entered upon the subject nearest his heart:—

“ You have a large and very expensive family, sir George, therefore, I suppose

you will have no objection to my taking one of your sons off your hands?"

"Certainly not, my dear Charles, since what you propose must prove an eventual benefit to the boy; I think I guess that your choice has fallen upon your namesake, and I must allow that he is a general favourite. I don't wish to flatter, but he strongly reminds me of yourself at a similar age."

The miser was pleased, as the idea coincided with his own thoughts.

"But what are your intentions with respect to his future life? lady Franklin hoped to have secured him a permanent provision in some of the public offices; but we have another boy, Edward, who may be educated for that line—do you mean Charles to study for the bar?"

"No; I can, if he pleases me, place him in St. Stephen's chapel; and if he proves a good orator, I shall certainly do so; but perhaps you will not approve of my bringing forward your third son in a superior style to his elder brothers?"

“ He will never take place of George, and John must endeavour to obtain a mitre, that he may keep pace with him ; at all events, your kind intentions may inspire him with emulation.”

“ Say, rather, with envy, brother ; but I would advise lady Franklin to exert all her interest in his behalf, as to me John appears very deficient in energy, and to have made very little progress in his studies.”

“ I agree to the justice of your remarks, brother ; but as he knows that I cannot do much for him, he must exert himself ; I have ever preached up your example.”

“ I give you credit for your wisdom ; since I have accumulated a very large fortune, though my father,” looking his brother full in the face, “ left me at your mercy ; had you managed your affairs as wisely, you would have been able to give your daughters ten, instead of five thousand pounds a piece, and to have allowed your eldest son, when he came of age, a separate establishment ; but I agree that I

have no right to censure your conduct ; I merely mean to remark, that I have been making a fortune while you have been wasting the property which came to you by inheritance ”

Sir George felt these home strokes, and wished he dared have retorted ; but his brother knew where he was most vulnerable, and that he must now humble to his superior talents and riches.

The baronet looked confused, and agreed to the justice of these remarks : “ he had been very unfortunate—the loss of lady Frankiin’s fortune had considerably deranged his affairs—and he had lived up to his income ; till he found, as his family increased, taxes grew more heavy, and provisions dearer, that it required great management to keep out of debt.”

“ I dare say you have, since you have allowed yourself to be governed by an expensive wife ; however, her ladyship seems to have seen her error, and if you prudently retrench, before it is too late, you may avoid mortgaging your paternal in-

heritance ; so by way of relieving you from one expence, I will, if it meets lady Franklin's approbation, take charge of Charles ; he is my favourite, and appears to possess great inherent courage, strong parts, and he has, by risking his own life to save mine, given me a very sincere proof of his regard ; so if you and her ladyship can resolve to resign him wholly to my management, and if he is willing to accept of my protection, I will take the entire charge of him."

Of all his children, sir George least wished to part with Charles, as he fancied he would make his way in the world better than either of his brothers ; but to oppose his brother's wishes would, he knew, lead to a quarrel ; nay, might induce him to make his will in a pet, and leave his money to charitable purposes ; he therefore, fully sensible of his past folly, affected to be delighted with a proposal, which, in reality, was far from pleasing, and became answerable for lady Franklin's acquiescence.

Charles would, he felt assured, rejoice at his uncle's determination, since he must be highly gratified at having made himself such a friend.

Mr. Franklin triumphed in the baronet's visible mortification, since he had selected the flower of his family, the favourite of both father and mother, who both entertained the most well-grounded hope of his doing credit to his name, and evidently meant to exclude all the other children from a share in his property; and were his offers to be declined, even in the most flattering manner, he had resolved, and sir George felt convinced, that he would never again visit Buckinghamshire. But not anticipating a refusal, he resolved, if it should please God to spare his life, to enable his namesake to look down upon all his brothers and sisters; he would bring him into the House; nay, while thus castle-building, he even hoped to see him in the ministry. A peerage he could easily purchase, and he certainly might marry.

more honourably, and rather more advantageously than his silly father, of whom he was now completely revenged.

While he was solacing himself with this very comfortable reflection, sir George imparted his intentions to lady Franklin, who sincerely regretted his having selected her favourite child for the object of his bounty; but, like her husband, she felt she must comply with his caprice, or lose all the fruit of the reconciliation; Charles was therefore sent for, and told of his uncle's proposals by his mother, who had dispatched sir George to signify her joyful consent to his brother.

Charles was a lad of very superior parts, and at once comprehended his mother's difficulties; he neither liked nor disliked his uncle, though he felt grateful for what he considered as a certain mark of his regard; and as he knew he must not expect to spend his life under the paternal roof, he made a merit of necessity, and agreed to be ruled by his mother's wishes; he was, besides, the less averse to accepting

his uncle's offers, as he was no favourite of his brothers, the youngest excepted, and his eldest sisters always spoke of him as their mother's pet; still both they and his brothers were very sorry when they learnt that he was selected by their uncle as his future heir.

This the old gentleman easily read in their countenances, and inwardly exulted in their mortification. Sir George and lady Franklin carried it off much better, and Charles appeared neither elated nor depressed. He thanked his uncle for his kind intentions, hoped he should prove deserving his kindness; acknowledging that he should regret leaving the paternal roof, but he trusted that he should be permitted to revisit the scenes of his childhood.

Mr. Franklin assured him that he should always accompany him to Claverton Hall, nor did he mean to remove him from Eton, where he seemed to have made considerable improvement; he should often visit

him there, as he had several friends at Windsor.

Suffice it to say, that Charles, at the expiration of the holidays, left his father's, with his uncle, who spent a night at Windsor with him; and, by way of rendering his studies more profitable, he engaged a private tutor to superintend them, who assured Mr. Franklin that his nephew promised to be an honour to that celebrated college.

These commendations induced a - old gentleman to be really liberal when he parted from the youth, though he read him a serious lecture upon extravagance, and certainly gave him some very good advice, telling him that he fully hoped to hear him hold forth in the Lower House before he was thirty. He had only to make the most of his time, and he would bring him forward in the world without troubling his mother's family.

Charles was certainly flattered by the prospect held out to him, still he could not

relish many of the miser's petty notions, who desired him to keep an exact account of all he spent, as that would teach him the value of money, and seemed to think there would be great merit, even at his age, in hoarding, if it were only pence.

Hitherto our hero had not been indulged with much pocket-money, but the little he had to spend he was not required to keep an account of, nor had he ever been blamed for relieving a beggar; but this his uncle seemed to think a crime; every such person had a parish, and it was a folly, if not a sin, to bestow any thing upon such wretches.

Charles thought this strange doctrine; they however parted excellent friends. The old gentleman proceeded to town, and having reached his chambers, began to calculate what this boy would cost him before he became of age.

He was frightened at the sum total, yet he resolved to spare no expence to bring him forward, since, as he knew himself to be in receipt of upwards of twenty thousand a-year,

he thought he might venture to allot one thousand for their joint expences; and as he wished to keep Charles to his duty, he generally sent for him to Windsor once a month, either on a Saturday or Sunday; and, as he promised, took him down into Buckinghamshire when he paid his annual visit to his brother.

Both sir George and lady Franklin seized these opportunities to impress upon their son's mind the necessity of implicit obedience to his avaricious uncle. Lady Franklin agreed it was paying very dear for his hoards, but assured her son that she knew him so well, the turn of a straw would induce him to leave his money to found an hospital; and as his father's family were more expensive than ever, since he had been obliged to settle a part of his income upon his eldest son, who was lately married, and John was still at college, where he had launched out much beyond his allowance, the elder girls still hung on hand, the two younger were at school, and Edward was at an expensive academy near

London; therefore Charles found his chief dependance was upon his uncle; and he not unfrequently wished, spite of all his promises, that he had adopted John or Edward as his heir; but as the die was cast, he endeavoured to profit by the excellent education he was inclined to give him, which he did so successfully, that he was pronounced one of the best scholars at Eton by the time he was eighteen, when his uncle chose to send him to college, but not before he had strictly warned him against extravagance. Hitherto he had been tolerably prudent, though many youths, with an equally liberal allowance, would have lain by something handsome during the last four years; and he reminded him "that a penny saved," &c. &c. still he did not blame him, as he believed young men must be more expensive than they were in his youth, and he had made such excellent use of his time, he did not care about a few pounds.

Charles sincerely deplored his having removed him from under his father's pro-

tection; but as he was resolved not to afford John, in particular, an opportunity of triumphing over him, should he return home in disgrace, and also knew that even his kind mother could make but a very slender future provision for him, he promised to be very economical in his expenditure, and very attentive to his studies, and was, in consequence, entered at Cambridge, where he began his career with so very small an allowance, he was effectually kept out of temptation, since he had firmly resolved never to run in debt. He was, however, fortunate enough to obtain several of the first prizes, which so pleased the old miser, he never failed to send him a small pecuniary present upon these occasions, and lady Franklin often privately sent him small sums, which she accompanied by excellent advice, as she dreaded his running riot among his less restrained companions.

He had been nearly three years at college, where his conduct had been really exemplary; during which time he had never

in my power; and he leads such an irregular life, and is such a debauchee, that I much doubt his living another twelve-month; indeed I have been assured by an eminent physician, that his lordship's liver is touched. What is that to me or to you, you may think; why, mark the sequel of my tale: he has a sister about five years younger than himself; he had several brothers and sisters, but they all died, at an early age, of a decline, as did their mother; nay, I believe the late earl was considered consumptive; of course, neither the present nor his sister are likely to be long lived; now, between ourselves, Charles, I was very lucky in a kind of similar matrimonial speculation; but your prospect is much more inviting; lady Susan Delany is a woman of birth and fashion, and my poor wife, God rest her soul, was as ignorant as the fore-horse of a team, and of very low extraction; but she had the *siller*, boy, and I think I did a very charitable action in removing her out of the way of a swarm of poor relations, who

would have got drunk with her every day, and have wheedled, or cheated her out of the property she recovered, thanks to me. Therefore, in equity, I was entitled to be her heir, and co-heir, owing to her brother's folly, likely to secure a very amiable, and a very rich wife; as lady Susan has an estate, worth at least sixty thousand pounds, secured to her by her mother's settlements, and she comes into possession at one-and twenty; she would probably be a baroness in her own right, at the death of her maternal uncle, from whom she has also great expectations; and should her brother die without issue, and I only wish I was as sure of a hundred thousand pounds to-morrow, she will inherit all the unentailed estates; the title will be extinct, but I make no doubt of having it revived in favour of her husband, and I mean, you to have that honour; as to her ladyship, she is what I call very handsome, and a poor harmless, good-tempered young creature, whom you may guide with a thread, and entirely at the disposal of her dissipated

brother, who is so prejudiced in your favour, from my report, and from what he already knows of you, that he rejoices at the idea of your being nearer related; you are to be introduced to each as by chance, and then you must ~~afford to~~ work your own way. So what think you of your old uncle you rogue? you see I have long been laying plans for your aggrandizement; but you do not seem to be elated by these brilliant prospects; at your age I should have been ready to jump over the moon, had I had an equally provident relation."

Charles had been absolutely lost in wonder and amaze, while his uncle was thus boasting of his plans in embryo; he shrank with abhorrence from treachery, under any disguise, and with difficulty forbore speaking his sentiments; but thus called upon, and not daring, situated as he was, to object to so prudent a plan, he declared himself greatly obliged by his uncle's kind intentions, adding, he should be happy to be introduced to her ladyship, as

she was certainly her own mistress, and might accept, or reject him, as she thought proper; acknowledging that he was truly sensible of the many advantages likely to accrue to him from so honourable an alliance.

“ Advantages! why, it will be the making of you, boy; the earl will bring you into parliament, free of all expence; and I repeat, the girl is a pretty-looking, delicate weed—I am sure she is in a decline—however, I hope she will live till she is of age; but be that as it may, I shall have you strike up to her without loss of time, as I foresee I shall see you a peer before I die, and you will be, as I have long wished you should, the envy of all your own family, who will all be at your beck and call; and it may be the means of your younger sisters changing their names; as for the three elder, they are doomed to die old maids, except it should rain gold, and they should feel the sole benefit of the shower; your elder brother does not care about you, and you may return the com-

pliment with interest; and as to *parson John*, I would have you remember, that you may have sons of your own, and that it is better to be father than brother to a bishop; and let Ned become a placeman, but never exert your interest in his behalf; charity begins at home, and strangers are grateful, whereas relations think people have merely done their duty when they provide for their wants; your father never did me a favour—he knows best whether he even did me justice—so do you follow his example. I have returned good for evil, as I have taken charge of you, and am bent upon making your fortune.”

Hearing the watchman while speaking, “God bless me,” he cried, “I did not think it had been so late; so good-night, boy; go and dream of your good fortune; we will renew the subject the first opportunity.”

Charles very readily broke up the conference, and retired to his closet, for such his bedroom was, if not to dream, at least to reflect upon his good fortune.

CHAP. V.

No sooner was our hero alone, than he, as may be supposed, reverted to the preceding conversation. His uncle had never stood very high in his good graces, nor in his opinion, as a moral character, but he had never before supposed he was really so depraved a being as he seemed to glory in declaring himself.

“Avarice! cursed, destructive avarice!
That everlasting foe to love and honour;
What will not this vile passion turn to traffic?”

He repeated, “Surely such an inordinate thirst for gain may be truly styled ‘the root of all evil,’ as it renders men both wicked and miserable; for when avarice gets thorough possession of the heart, it shuts out every good principle, at least it seems to have done so with my uncle.”

Such was his mental soliloquy, after repeating the lines before mentioned.

The earl of Kinmare had left Eton soon after he (Charles) had been taken under Mr. Franklin's protection, and college just as he was entered there: he therefore knew but little of him; he had heard that he had lost vast sums at Newmarket, and that he had had recourse to Jew money-lenders; little supposing his uncle had supplied his wants, perhaps, at first, under cover of some of those advertizing gentry, who have seldom any money of their own, but are the jackals of such men as Mr. Franklin, as they do the dirty work, and can make harder bargains than even he dared openly to seem to sanction: and now, it seemed, lady Susan Delany was to be sold, to support her brother's extravagance; to be sure, the world might never know how the match was brought about, and if he should be heir to his uncle's hoards, she would have no reason to complain of his poverty; and as his father was a baronet,

and his mother a woman of family, he was, in that respect, no very improper match for her ; yet he much doubted his realizing the old man's sapient plans.

He had often heard his father relate who and when his brother married, and how soon he had buried his wife ; but as he knew he was very poor when he parted with his liberty, and had, as he boasted, asserted his wife's rights, he had never blamed him for having secured her fortune to himself, though he felt assured that he should never have allied himself to a vulgar, low-born, ignorant woman, even to make his fortune ; but this he was not required to do, since lady Susan Delany must have received a very good education, and have the manneis of a woman of fashion ; well, he should be better able to decide how to act, after he had seen her ladyship ; he therefore composed himself to sleep, and was happy to find his uncle was too much immersed in calculations, at breakfast, to revert to his advancement : he was going to Garraway's, therefore Charles strolled out

alone, and took a ramble in the Park, where he continued to meditate upon his uncle's proposal, when he was interrupted by a smart rap on the shoulder, and, "How are you, Charles? what knotty point are you unravelling? or are you composing an ode, to secure the next medal?"

Our hero instantly accepted the proffered hand of a dashing young baronet, who had also been an Etonian, and his fellow-collegian, during the first year he spent at Cambridge, and who was reputed to be the most intimate friend of the earl of Kinmare. Having exchanged a few general inquiries, the baronet asked, with a knowing look, "Was lady Susan Delany the object of your thoughts, Charles, when I broke in upon your reverie?"

Charles's rising colour induced him to continue:—"Come, come, be honest; I am in the family secrets; the earl and I are as intimate as ever; his estates are dipped rather deeper than mine, but we have both

reason to remember, if not to bless, the name of *Charles Franklin*: by the way, I dare not speak so plain to every body, for the old gentleman is rather tenacious of his character, and he might foreclose rather *mal-à-propos*.

“Positively, sir John, I am at a loss to understand you, since I give you my honour my uncle never mentions his private concerns to me.”

“I dare say he does not, therefore I will give you a peep behind the curtain, if you will give me your honour not to blab, for I know you are to be depended upon.”

“I hope I am, sir John, though there is little merit in not being a scoundrel.”

“Agreed; but you positively are ignorant of old Cent. per Cent.’s arrangement with the earl of Kinmare?”

“If you allude to my uncle by that usurious *sobriquet*, I think your question is answered, since, if he deserves the compliment, he is not likely to divulge his private transactions of such a nature.”

“ True ; but remember I mean no offence to you, Charles ; you cannot help the old fellow being a rogue ; though I admit he keeps within the pale of the law ; be that as it may, he has got a firm hold of Kinmare, who, to induce him to advance the last twenty thousand, was obliged to promise to bring about a match between you, his reputed heir, and lady Susan ; and I dare say my poor friend was not sparing of promises, as he was very hard pressed ; so, thinking you were acquainted with his deep-laid plans, I supposed you were studying your part in the wily scheme.”

“ Pray, is not lady Susan Delany absolutely her own mistress ?”

“ She will be so, of course, when she is of age ; at present she is a minor ; her brother, and her maternal uncle, lord Marchmont, are her guardians.”

“ Then I think I stand very little chance of profiting either by my uncle’s cunning, or her brother’s imprudence, since it rests solely with her to accept or refuse my offers ; but pray what sort of a woman is she ?”

“ You seem to think I am quizzing you, Charles; but upon my soul I have related facts, and I know the earl stands pledged to bring about the match; he entered into every detail to me, the other night; we had been drinking rather freely, and wine, you know, unlocks the heart; so make your old uncle drunk, and he will let you into all his secrets.”

“ But as you can do so without my having recourse to that stratagem, I shall feel the more obliged.”

“ Oh, I like to spring a mine, my boy, and to disconcert the wise ones; not that I suppose you would object to such an alliance.”

“ I don't conceive that the objections will rest with me, sir John; meanwhile, I can assure you, that I will never come into any plans which I think derogatory to my honour; nor am I an absolute passive machine in the hands of my uncle.”

“ You were always a lad of spirit; but are you not wholly dependant upon the old hunks?”

“ I have very little to expect from my own family; I agree, but that will not induce me to profit by his bargains, or to barter my own happiness and peace of mind to oblige him. I do not conceive that even a father has a right to command obedience in a similar case. But this is wandering strangely from the point; I asked you to give me your opinion of lady Susan Delany.”

“ Then I have no fault to find with her outside, if that will content you; and I do not think her a fool; but I know she is very ill-calculated to render a reasonable man happy. She is proud of her rank—extravagant in her notions—and as to temper, even I have seen proofs of her *spirit* that have steeled me against her charms.

“ Then I cannot suppose *her spirit* will fail her when she most needs it; of course she will reject the *miser's nephew*.”

“ Who can answer for the caprice of her sex? for, to describe her in the words of one of our poets,

‘ Join to a slender shape a syren’s head,
Two eyes of basilisks, a serpent’s tongue,
The heart and whining of a crocodilé,
The dazzling of the sun, the moon’s inconstancy;
To this odd compound give but hands and feet,
And cover all with a soft skin!

you have lady Susan Delany, in *propria*
persona.”

“ A most alluring picture, I confess,
sir John.”

“ Mere water-colours—but remember,
you are to be as secret as the grave; nay,
do not even mention our rencounter, as it
might lead to suspicions, and your uncle
might injure me very materially; since his
soul is in his bags, and his heart is set upon
this match; so God bless you! I must run,
or I shall be after my time;” and thus they
parted.

Charles was soon lost in meditation, and
certainly did not feel much pride in his
uncle’s riches; as to the proposed match, he
hoped and expected lady Susan would give
the death-blow to his expectations in that
quarter; and if she despised the uncle, she
would hardly wed the nephew. Sincerely

and our hero deplore the not having studied ~~for any~~ particular profession, and still more the having been selected by his uncle, as he well knew that the slightest opposition to any of his plans would induce him to discard him penniless. Well, and admitting he did, the world would be before him; he was not, however, inclined to meet trouble half-way, nor did he absolutely depend upon sir John's veracity, whose friendship towards him he much doubted; he would therefore let the matter take its course; it would be time enough to object after he had seen the lady. His uncle must have made great offers to have induced the earl to listen to his proposals, who probably knew, by experience, that he was immensely rich; indeed, from various hints the old man now and then let fall, respecting his speculations, Charles conceived that he could not be in receipt of much less than thirty thousand a-year, as every day added to his hoards, and rendered him more parsimonious.

“ Was his money likely to prosper ! ” Charles had often asked himself; and of what use was it to his uncle, since the richer he grew, the less he enjoyed himself; therefore his avarice brought its own punishment, and led him to set character almost at nought to gratify it.

“ How much happier should I have been,” mentally exclaimed our hero, “ had this miser bought me a pair of colours, and left me to carve my own fortune ! My father would have enabled me to keep up a decent appearance, and my mother’s family might have aided my promotion ; now I am restricted in my expences, debarred from enjoying the pleasures of my age, and doomed to waste the prime of my life in attendance upon a man who thinks I ought to be the slave of his temper and caprices, because he at present intends to make me his heir, and yet, ten to one but he discards me at last, and adopts John, who may flatter him more ably than I have ever done.”

Such was the soliloquy in which Charles

indulged, as he slowly retraced his steps towards his uncomfortable home, where Mr. Franklin always dined when he was his intimate; and he had, in consequence, engaged a successor in Dorothy, who spent her days at his chambers, took in letters and messages, cooked their scanty repast, and cleaned the rooms. She was very old, and probably would not have borne with her unfeeling master's humour, if she had had any other alternative, save a work-house. She was very partial to Charles, who now and then bestowed a shilling upon her, and always paid her for cleaning his boots and shoes, though Mr. Franklin had told him that was part of her engagement, and certainly took care she should fulfil it to the utmost letter of the law.

CHAP. VI.

Mr. Franklin returned home at his usual hour, but seemed in an unusual bad humour: something had gone wrong, Charles presumed; some of his speculations had probably failed; or he might have been outwitted in some bargain; be that as it may, he was very cross.

The rump-steak was over-done; a shilling fruit pie, which constituted the second course, was, he affirmed, made of rancid butter. Dame Wood was therefore ordered never to go to the same pastrycook's again, and desired to bring in some water that had boiled, as he should take a glass of brandy and water to facilitate digestion.

She did as she was ordered, and he mixed his glass, when he discovered the water had not boiled, and was, besides, smoked, appealing to Charles for his opinion, who, wishing to steer a middle course, and to

excuse poor dame Wood, who seemed to tremble, when her master gave a loose to his ill-humour, replied, "that perhaps the water had not actually boiled, still it was warm, and he really could not taste the smoke."

"Say you will not, boy; that will be coming nearer the truth."

Charles remained silent, while the old man, after muttering to himself for a minute or more, exclaimed, "I was a fool; yes, an old fool!"

"Sir!" said the surprised youth.

"I was not talking to you, boy—I have been cheated out of five hundred pounds to day, if I have lost a single farthing, merely because I had not the spirit to assert my rights."

"I am sorry to hear you have been so unfortunate, sir; but surely the loss of such a sum cannot be a very serious injury to you."

"It will not ruin me, I know that; but as I know the value of money rather better than you do, I am very sorry I was such a loser,

and I could have made that sum of my bargain before I left the Auction Mart."

"Then I presume, sir, you have not absolutely lost any money, but have been disappointed in your hope of gaining the sum you mention?"

"And pray, where is the difference, Mr. Wiseacre? I meant to have bought an estate to-day, which was knocked down at eleven thousand four hundred and ninety pounds, and I thought I was the last bidder; but the scoundrel of an auctioneer gave it against me; he did not see my nod, he pretended; and the company sided with him, and were against having it put up again, else I would have given another thousand pounds, rather than it should have fallen to the share of the fellow who has got it, and who, I saw, triumphed in my mortification. I told Mr. Auctioneer that his employer was to suffer for his obstinacy, for I know he only gave it against me to spite me; but I will stick in his skirts—I will report him—he may lose more than I should have gained by his impu-

Jence—Five hundred and ten pounds, as neat as my nail! I never was more provoked; but, as what cannot be cured must be endured, pray how have you spent your morning, Charles, not to much more advantage than I have done, though, I suppose.”

“I have certainly not been in the way of making money, sir, but then I have not spent any.”

“Then no beggar crossed your path, for you encourage all those nuisances; I think there are more frequent these avenues when you are in town; they have good noses, and easily scent a dupe; if I was at the head of the police, there should not be a beggar in the metropolis in a week; they are all thieves as well as vagabonds, yet they are suffered to continue their depredations, in spite of our boasted laws and wise regulations.”

Charles thought there was some justice in what the old man said, who would probably have reverted to lord Kinmare and his sister, if Charles's evil genius had not,

at that moment, made his appearance in the shape of a parish-officer, ~~who having~~ asked for Mr. Franklin, was ushered in by poor dame Wood, who supposed he had business with her master, since, had she known his real errand, he would not so easily have gained admittance.

The moment he was within the room, he exclaimed, addressing our hero, "I am happy I have met with you, sir; I was told where it was likely I should find you; so now the sooner you settle the business which has brought me to London, the better. I came in the Telegraph about two hours ago, but as I wanted my dinner, I did not come in search of you immediately."

"What does all this mean?" cried the surprised old man, looking first at one and then at the other; "is this a visitor of yours, Charles?"

"I am really at a loss, sir," was the reply; "I am not acquainted with the gentleman," though we must acknowledge he had guessed the purport of his visit the

moment he said he had come up in the Telegraph.

“ Oh, you are at a loss, are you, my young sir? then I am not, since I know you to be Mr. Charles Franklin, of Trinity College, Cambridge. Our parish has often been bamboozled by such young sparks as yourself, through the laziness of those in office; but I am resolved to do my duty, while I am in power; and I fancy, when you said you meant to return, it was merely a take-in. My colleague is an easy, silly, good tempered man; you were in luck I did not call upon you in his stead; so the short and long of the matter is this, do you mean to settle the business amicably, or must I proceed against you? because I am not to be made a fool of, if other folks are your dupes.”

“ And pray, sir, what brought you here?” cried the now angry miser; “ am I to be disturbed by an impudent low-bred fellow? Who and what are you?—Charles, who is this man, and to what does he allude?”

“ So then, my young spark, you have kept the old gentleman in the dark; who, I am afraid, will storm still more, when he knows my errand; for I am neither to be frightened by big words nor big looks; I am only doing my duty as a parish-officer, and he must know that I have the law on my side.”

“ You are very impudent, fellow, be you who you may,” retorted Mr. Franklin; “ and if you don’t immediately declare your business, I will send for a constable, and have you taken before a magistrate, who may chance to send you to prison, for having dared to insult me in my own house.”

This serious threat induced the officer to lower his tone.

“ I cannot say how far I may have been right, sir, in noticing your looks and words, since I agree my business is with this young gentleman: your name is Franklin also; so I thought you might be his father; but now I recollect, I believe you are only his uncle; at all events, you ought not to have

been kept in the dark, since I suppose your nephew will not deny that he is the father of the child which the girl has sworn to him; therefore all I want is, to be indemnified for the expences of her lying-in, and for the maintenance of the child—we never compound now-a-days—I must have security that neither will be burthensome to the parish.”

“So, so,” replied the miser, with a sarcastic, malicious grin, looking at our hero, who remained standing at a window, “young *Joseph!* what, you have been keeping a mistress, without having the means to support either her or her bastard?”

“I cannot plead absolutely innocent of the charge brought against me, sir, since the child is as likely to be mine as any other of my fellow-collegians: the mother has, I have been lately assured, been in the habit of receiving gentlemen of all descriptions.

“I believe she is no better than she should be,” rejoined the parish-officer;

“and it is our duty to prevent such loose baggages from peopling the place with bastards. Judith Neale has sworn you are the father of the new-born infant; I believe both she and her foolish parents would have hushed the matter up if they could, and have trusted to your generosity; but I am not so easily satisfied; I must have security that the brat will not be chargeable to the parish. I am very ready to accept yours, sir,” turning to the old man, “and I dare say your nephew will never call upon you so again; he will grow wiser in time; but we cannot put old heads upon young shoulders. Come, sir, I merely require parish pay, and my own expences—I am all fair and above board—I do not want to make a handle of the business.”

Mr. Franklin appeared resolved to hear all he had to say, but when he ceased speaking, he replied, “If I thought it worth my while, Mr. Officer, I might, perhaps, *handle* you pretty severely; but I shall not condescend to notice your insolence. To that boy you may look for the maintenance

of his bastard, as not a shilling of mine shall I expend upon his vices; let him pay the full penalty of his criminal intrigue, since he may rot in a prison, for what I care. Leave my chambers, Mr. Charles Franklin, and let me never see your face again, at least till I recall you, and when that will be, I cannot pretend to anticipate."

Charles had prepared himself for a serious quarrel, but certainly did not expect to be thus entirely discarded, and with such exulting malice and evident opprobrium. He had erred, he was ready to acknowledge; but surely his lapse was trifling; he did not deserve to be treated either so grossly or so unkindly. He had long despised his uncle, who was, even now, he well knew, more actuated by avarice than by morality; he therefore did not even attempt to deprecate his anger, but calmly reaching his hat, told the astonished parish-officer "he was ready to accompany him wherever he chose;" then turning to his uncle, he continued, "I dare say you intended to do me a fa-

your, sir, when you removed me from under my father's protection ; I have long doubted your having lain ~~the~~ under an obligation, and now I may, with justice, say, you have done me a serious injury ; still I am grateful, even for your mistaken kindness, and I sincerely wish I could repay you the money you have expended upon my education ; should that ever be in my power, you may safely trust to my honour. I wish you a good-evening, sir," leading the way to the stairs.

" Is this the thanks due to me, for having expended thousands upon you, ungrateful rascal ? but you may starve, or beg your bread, for what I care—begone ! I will adopt one of your brothers, and he shall benefit by your disgrace, and look down upon you at no very distant period."

Charles made no reply. The officer, who certainly felt for our hero, began to apologize.

" Leave my room, fellow—follow the young rascal you came in search of."

The man retreated, in silent dismay,

from the now furious miser, who followed him across the antichamber, and banged the door after him, but not before he called after Charles, "Tell your father I am now amply revenged—I never forgave his base treatment of me, and my wrath has now fallen upon you, his favourite child—may you both be as miserable as you deserve!"

Charles was absolutely shocked, both at his uncle's malice and his virulence, and almost rejoiced at being released from what he had of late felt to be truly a state of bondage; still he severely felt the disgrace of being thus unfeelingly discarded.

The officer, who had participated in the shock he had undergone, being really a good sort of man, though a true officious jack-in-office, followed him in silence, till, having reached one of the smaller courts in the Temple, Charles turned round, "Well, sir, do you mean to take me into custody? only take care how you proceed—I am under age, and certainly not inclined to shew you much favour."

"Faith, sir, you have no reason; I have

acted a very foolish part, and have unintentionally done you a very serious injury; but I thought every thing would be amicably settled, as I was told that you were very generous, but that you had not the means to act as your heart dictated. Judith Neale is a sad jade, though she wished to have screened you; but she really has put the parish to great expence, and the d—l seems to have owed you a spite; I only wish I had not been his agent; but, upon my soul, I will never trouble you again—I will trust to your honour—I—”

“Where are you in town, sir?” asked our hero, who had scarcely attended to what he said.

“I mean to sleep at the White Horse, in Fetter-lane, sir; but——”

“Then you shall either see or hear from me to morrow, Mr. Maxwell, before twelve o’clock.”

“Well, sir, pray take your own time; but remember, I shall trust entirely to your honour;” hastening away, resolving to write to this surly old uncle, in behalf

of this fine young man, and sincerely wishing he had been more cautious in his approaches.

CHAP. VII.

CHARLES, scarcely knowing what he did, or where he was going, continued to walk forward, till having rather recovered from his surprise, he began to reflect upon his situation, and to consider what steps he ought to pursue. He had never either esteemed or respected his uncle, and he had often rejoiced at not having imbibed any of his mean propensities; he therefore soon determined never to return to his chambers, at least till he could repay him every shilling he had advanced for his education, and that he very probably should never be able to do; at all events, not of many, many years. The world was certainly be-

fore him, but *he could not dig, and to beg he was ashamed.* Should he return to his father? No, that pride forbade; sir George would, of course, side with his uncle, if only out of policy; besides, he was well aware of his father's weak side, and he might conceive, nay, perhaps, with justice, that were he to countenance him, after his having been so unfeelingly discarded by the *èi-devant* counsellor, a total rupture would be the consequence, and his other children might share in his (Charles's) disgrace. His mother would, he knew, prove more indulgent; but even she must, in so delicate a matter, be guided by prudence; she must consider the interest of her other children; and to apply to her for advice, would be tantamount to applying to her for money; yet he could not starve, and he had not forty shillings in his pocket, since he had been very liberal towards Judith Neale, till he discovered that she was a second Molly Seagrim*, and he only one of

her numerous dupes ; yet, as he thought her child might be his, he had promised, and firmly resolved, to provide for it, since both she and her parents had vowed to keep his secret ; this they had not been able to do ; but Mr. Maxwell's colleague had been perfectly satisfied with his promises ; therefore he had thought himself secure, at the very moment the storm had burst over his head.

What he was now to do he could not determine ; he feared he must apply to his mother, and throw himself upon her mercy ; she had formerly hoped to interest her family in his behalf, but she now intended to recommend Edward to their notice ; and certainly his having been discarded by his uncle would not raise him in the esteem of his maternal relations. His own inclination still leant towards the army ; he might go out as a volunteer ; but where was he to raise money to equip himself, or to support him till he (should he ever be so fortunate) could procure a commission ?

He must write to his mother, as he knew of no one else to whom he could apply, except his eldest brother; but he had never been upon intimate terms with him; there was too great a difference in their ages to have rendered them confidential friends; and his uncle had, in a manner, secluded him from all his own family. He would take the night for reflection (as he did not, as a youth of a less strong mind would have done, give way to despair); surely he might turn his education to some account.

Having insensibly wandered forward, the evening was fast closing in, when he reached the Green Park, which was his favourite walk; but as the weather was very fine, there were many pedestrians, and the buzz broke in upon his reflections; he was therefore undecided, when he reached Buckingham house, whether to proceed to Chelsea, or to ascend Constitution-hill, when two young men, who were walking arm-in-arm, ran full against him, and roused him from his reverie. They turned to apologize, having been driven out of their path

by a party of low bucks, who seemed bent upon annoying all those they either met or passed, when, to our hero's great surprise, he recognised his most intimate friend, while at Eton, in the person who addressed him, and who had, he understood, gone into the army, when he left school.

They were not in habits of correspondence, but James Frazer as instantly recollected his juvenile favourite, and seizing his hand, exclaimed, "My dear Charles, well met—how glad I am to see you! and how much I feel obliged to that rude party, since we might else have passed each other, without renewing our acquaintance! This is my brother Robert, whom you have heard me often mention; he is to be a Nelson—I mean to keep our brave Wellington in my eye; but allow me to introduce you to each other—Robert, this is my favourite Charles Franklin, who has saved me from many a flagellation, by doing my themes for me, and I believe I should once have been expelled the school if he had not stood my friend."

“ You are resolved to prove yourself mine,” rejoined Charles, “ and I am truly happy dame Fortune has proved so kind to me, since I thought, about an hour ago, that she owed me an old grudge.”

“ Indeed—but where are you? do you continue to reside with your uncle? who, by the way, was never a favourite of mine.”

“ I dined with him in the Temple, yet I think it very probable we may not meet again for some time, since we did not part excellent friends.”

The young officer, guessing Charles would not like to enter into any details before his brother, said, “ As I have so unexpectedly met my old friend, Robert, I should like to have a little chat with him; therefore I wish you would proceed whither we were going—I shall certainly be at home to supper.”

Robert, who greatly resembled his brother, instantly bid them adieu, merely saying, “ I consider James’s friends as mine,

Mr. Franklin, so I hope to improve this meeting into an intimacy."

The friends were no sooner by themselves, than Frazer requested Charles would tell him what had occurred between him and his uncle.

Our hero, who was well acquainted with the excellence of his heart and disposition, and who really wanted the advice of some disinterested friend, readily recapitulated the events of the afternoon.

"Confound the old miser! what a wretch he must be! Surely you never mean to return to him?"

"I am by no means inclined to do so; nay, of the two evils, I had rather return home; I only wish I could join my brave countrymen in the Peninsula, as a volunteer, and I hope my mother will enable me to do so; and then I may either obtain a commission, or a French bullet may give me my quietus, in which case I shall not want one."

"Do you really wish to join the army in Portugal?"

“ I positively do, and I mean to write to my mother——”

“ That you may do, but you have no need to ask her assistance to enable you to gratify so patriotic a wish. My colonel, who is one of the bravest among our brave officers, will, I am sure, at my request, admit you to join our regiment as a volunteer; nay, I will be answerable for his taking you under his protection; he likes young men should be military Quixotes; and you must allow me to become your banker for the present, to be repaid when you are the richest of the two. I can make a bargain as well as old Skinflint, and I think you will come in for his hoards at last.”

“ I have no such expectations, my dear James; therefore pray do not fancy I consulted you with a view upon your purse; my mother——”

“ Is a very good woman, I have often heard you say; but if you have the regard for me you formerly professed, you will allow me to provide for your pre-

sent wants; you must advance a small sum, according to your promise, to that officious Maxwell, though I believe, by your account, the silly fellow repents having carried the joke so far; be that as it may, what you promised the girl's parents they shall have, as the brat must not suffer for its mother's frailties."

"Certainly not, my kind friend; but I cannot bear the idea——"

"Now do not be silly, Charles; when at school, you every day proved yourself my friend, and I have not forgotten your having appropriated the first money you received from your precious uncle, to my use, to pay my debts, which were rising in judgment against me. I am your senior by a whole year, and when I came of age, my father gave me five thousand pounds to begin the world with, and raised me from an *ancient* to a lieutenant, by purchase. I have placed his present in the funds, and till some of your *speculations* turn out as well as your uncle's, you must

and shall share my income ; then, for *our* immediate wants, my grandmother, bless her heart, gave me five hundred pounds yesterday ; it could not have come more *apropos* : the half of that will equip you very decently, to drub the *Invincibles* ; so if you love me, give me your hand upon it, and accept my offer without any ceremony."

Charles was really unable to speak, but he cordially pressed his friend's hand, who was overjoyed at his having come into his plans.

" We are upon the wing, remember—colonel Davers sups with my father to-night—leave me alone to broach the subject nearest my heart, since I never felt so happy as at this moment. I would have you write to your good mother to-morrow—she must approve of your plans—as to old *Saveall*, leave him to brood over his hoards—remember, I prophesy he will make you his heir ; the less such people are courted, the more likely they are to distinguish their real friends. By the way,

I wish lady Franklin would keep him in ignorance of your plans—but here is the Gloucester coffeehouse; a dish of tea will do us both good; and you may as well sleep here; to-morrow I will introduce you to my father and to colonel Davers. To the latter I shall be perfectly unreserved, money concerns excepted; but there can be no need to enter into such details to my father, though he is not a rigid censor, but he might wish to make up matters between you and your uncle.”

“And that would really not be doing me a favour, for mine has been worse than Egyptian bondage; and as I must continue a dependant, I had much rather be obliged to you than to my sordid relative.”

“Nobly resolved—Waiter, bring us some tea.”

This was said as they turned into the coffeehouse, and while drinking it, the friends conversed in a low voice. Lieutenant Frazer promised to breakfast with him the next morning, at an early hour, and

to accompany him to the White Horse, to settle with Mr. Maxwell; and as Charles found he was really in earnest in all his offers, and as he felt assured that his mother would enable him to repay what his friend was so eager to advance, he promised to be wholly guided by him for the present; and when the generous young officer left him, he wrote a long explanatory letter to his mother, respecting his quarrel with his uncle, but did not, as he had promised Frazer, detail his future plans, merely promising to write again when they were arranged, as he neither chose to return home, nor to apply to his father at present, for fear that should be making him a party in the dispute between him and his uncle, who now seemed inclined to take one of his brothers in his place, and who would doubtless highly resent their noticing him.

The writing this letter was not the work of a minute; and when he had finished, he took a slight repast, and retired to rest,

after returning his thanks to him who had raised him up such a kind friend, at a moment of such need.

CHAP. VIII.

WHILE Charles is taking his repose in Piccadilly, we will return to the Temple, as we are not inclined to lose sight of Mr. Franklin, who, for about a quarter of an hour after Charles's departure, gloried in having discarded him, and exultingly anticipated sir George's mortification. He had truly punished the child for the sins of the father, and this afforded him no small satisfaction for the space of time mentioned.

“What will the boy do?” was his next mental soliloquy; “will he persuade his father to make matters up, for I have now the ball completely at my foot, or will he

return and sue for a pardon for himself? —I will not forgive him—I will humble both him and my titled brother—if ever I do make the matter up, it shall be upon my own terms, and I will keep the young libertine in subjection and dependance at least another year.”

Ringing the bell most furiously, “I am not at home to any body this evening; and do not, at your peril, admit Charles Franklin—do not let him cross the threshold—he shall never sleep under this roof again—I will not see him, let him sue ever so humbly—I have done with him.”

“You will not see him, sir, and I must shut the door in his face! in the name of God, what has the dear young gentleman done to make you so angry?”

“That does not concern you; I may shut my doors against my nephew, I suppose, without giving you my reasons for so doing?”

“Certainly, sir, and you may shut me out after him, if you please; since I cannot be worse off in a workhouse, in point

of living, and there I may chance to please my superiors now and then."

"Leave the room, or I may take you at your word."

"That will not grieve me, I assure you, sir," leaving the room, and banging to the door as he had done after the overseer.

"There's insolence," cried the provoked old man; "no one but me would put up with such treatment."

And had he not recollected that he must wait upon himself if he turned the dame off, he probably would have desired her to follow Charles, towards whom his thoughts again reverted. He would write him his excuses probably, since he would certainly endeavour to make matters up before he applied to his father—well, he should not refuse to read his letter—the *dog* was clever, and he might make out a pretty plausible story; yet he should like to humble his brother: then, again, he had himself adopted Charles; he was the flower of the family; the future baronet bid fair

to tread in his father's steps ; John, he had heard, had run riot at Oxford, and had not yet taken orders, and he was a fawning, cunning hypocrite, he persuaded himself ; and Edward was yet a child ; therefore Charles alone would do honour to the name ; and how could he get forward but through his means ? therefore, as the boy was no fool, he would certainly make very ample concessions, and he would tie him down pretty strictly ; he should not form any other loose connexions ; and as to money, he would curtail his allowance, though he might settle this bastard business ; but the doing so would enable him to stint his nephew, whom he should, besides, have more than ever at his mercy."

Thus was he resolving to tyrannize over the offending culprit, as his was not a mind to derive pleasure from having something to forgive, when dame Wood brought him in a letter from Mr. Maxwell, who, following the dictates of his heart, addressed him in favour of our hero ; and certainly the poor man was earnest in his petition, and

made use of every likely argument to soften his resentment.

“Judith Neale was a vile slut, and he made no doubt of her having been the seducer—the child might not live, and if it did, he should only require parish pay, in the event of its becoming troublesome.”

We do not pretend to say that the epistle was either elegant, well-worded, or correct; but the sentiments came from the heart; and even the miser was flattered. Of course, Charles had desired this fellow to write, and meant to make his excuses in person, and it might lead him into farther errors were he to prove inexorable: he had humbled the mettlesome spark; that was enough; and if he did not conform to all his caprices, he should have a very strong pull upon him; so he once more rung the bell.

“Who brought this letter?”

“The person who called after dinner, sir.”

“Did he leave no message?”

“ No, sir ; I held no parley with him, a mischief-making fellow.”

“ How dare you call any body names ?—but you may let Charles in when he returns.—I will hear what he has to say.”

The dame made no reply, but closed the door after her very gently.

“ I am not worthy of an answer, I suppose,” cried her provoked master ; “ but she had best take care I do not send her to the workhouse at last.”

Again he conned over what he should say to the offender, and settled how he should receive him ; but the evening closed in, and no Charles made his appearance. Again he rung : “ Bring in a light, and make me a cup of strong coffee ; my dinner does not digest.”

“ Very well, sir.”

“ It is not very well, you fool, since I am indisposed.”

“ When people give way to passion, sir, they are apt to put the bile in motion, but I never heard of coffee doing them good.”

“ You never heard—who supposed you knew any thing, ignoramus? go, and make me some, and let me have it immediately.”

“ Very well, sir.”

“ You would provoke a saint, with your very wells, you stupid owl.”

The old woman retired, but soon returned with the desired remedy.

“ Have you neither seen nor heard any thing of Charles?”

“ No, sir.”

“ That letter led me to expect he would soon follow it; he had best not make it late; I shall not sit up a minute longer than usual.”

“ I am sure, sir, you have never done so upon his account, during any of his visits.”

“ You are like many more, cannot see any faults in him; I wish I was equally blind.”

“ I am sure so do I, sir, with all my heart.”

“ What! wish me blind, and this to my face?”

“ I merely joined in your own wish, sir ; as to faults, I never discovered any in Mr. Charles, though I have benefited by his virtues.”

“ You have benefited by his folly, you mean—he virtuous, indeed !”

“ Yes, sir, I say he is a very good young man ; as to his having had a natural child (for I could not avoid hearing what that fellow accused him of), what of that, pray ? he is not a young lady, so his character would not suffer in the eyes of the world.”

“ Why, you sorry jade, would you dare to say he has not committed a very great sin ?”

While speaking, he overset the cup and saucer, and the coffee fell upon his legs. He roared out, swearing he was scalded to death through her folly.

The old woman hurried out of the room, declaring “ it was a judgment upon him ; when people gave way to such tempers, no wonder they met with misfortunes.”

She soon returned with a cloth, and

having wiped up the slop, inquired "whether she should get him any thing to take the burn out?"

But, as in fact he had received no injury, he made light of the accident, and sat ruminating and planning till his usual bedtime; still no Charles returned to seek his forgiveness; and as he was now perfectly cool, he began to fear all those who knew, he had adopted the boy would blame him for having turned him out to starve—but, of course, he would return—the overseer's letter was a proof of that; perhaps he wished to afford him time for reflection; at all events, he had better go to bed; which he did at last, and rose at an unusual early hour, more anxious than the overnight to see his nephew, who had neither called nor sent; perhaps Maxwell expected he would answer his letter—he dated from Fetter-lane—possibly, nay, most likely, Charles had spent the evening with him, and had also slept there—where else could he have gone? He had certainly many college friends, but he was not likely, in

such a frame of mind, to have sought any of them out; he might, to be sure, have set out for Claverton Hall; but no, as Maxwell had written, if not in his name, in his behalf, to him he would apply.

Dame Wood was therefore dispatched into Fetter-lane; she was to ask for Mr. Maxwell, and desire him to wait upon her master—the sooner the better; and she was to keep a sharp look-out for Charles, and she might, as of herself, urge his return.

Away went the delighted dame Wood, hoping this unpleasant business would now be finally and amicably settled. Every minute seemed an age to her master during her absence, who had determined to give Maxwell the security he had required, but felt half inclined to prosecute Judith Neale for perjury; but that was, on after consideration, and perhaps it might be better to hush the matter up, wishing the man in office had taken, like him, time for reflection, before he had disturbed the harmony of his family.

At last the dame made her appearance—
“Well, have you seen Charles?—be quick—do not keep me in suspense.”

“I have not seen Mr. Charles, sir, and Mr. Maxwell was engaged with a gentleman in a private room; but when he heard I came from you, I was had in, and I desired him to call upon you as soon as he could make it convenient, and asked if he could direct me to Mr. Charles? He had not seen him since they parted in Devereux-court, but he had heard from him, and he would call upon you before he left town.”

“Very well; but are you sure the person who was with him was not Charles?”

“Why, sure, sir, I know Mr. Franklin; this was a gentleman nearly of his age; a very smart-looking man, but not my Mr. Charles.”

Thus was our lawyer's patience again put to the trial, and for two hours or more he sat in momentary expectation of either Charles or Maxwell, as he now found that he could not so easily banish the former

from his heart; since he now recollected the many pleasing hours he had spent in his society, and he thought that few young men had made better use of their time, both at school and college; he would, as he had prognosticated, prove an honour to the family; and he was resolved to gratify his own ambition, and his pique against his brother, by marrying him to the earl of Kinmare's sister, bringing him into parliament, and enabling him to look down even upon his father. This was a mere venial trespass, still he should read him a severe lecture, and was conning over what he should say to him, when dame Wood introduced Mr. Maxwell, who thus began: "Well, sir, I hope you are in rather a better temper than you were yesterday?—I own I was very much to blame—still I think you were much more so."

"That gives me very little concern, sir; I sent for you in consequence of your letter, to settle the unpleasant business which brought you to town; I am willing, upon mature reflection, to allow you parish

run—pr
dog?”

“ I really cannot inform you, sir ;
had I any right to inquire ; he——”

“ You seem to be the prince of fools,”
interrupted the angry miser.

“ Better so than to be the *king of misers*,
sir ; so I wish you a good-morning ; and I
wish you may not live to repent having so
cruelly discarded your nephew—you had
better try to lure him back, before it is too
late.”

“ Leave the room, scoundrel ; did you
come merely to insult me ?”

“ I came in consequence of your mes-
sage, sir, and I leave you to comfort your-
self with your money-bags, which you
have been spared untying,” making his
exit as soon as he had ceased speaking.

“ Insolent rascal !” exclaimed the now
enraged Franklin ; “ you are in a league
with the undutiful boy ; I will leave my
money to charitable purposes ; I will hum-
ble the young gentleman—I will teach

Thus did this miser, who had never before felt a wish but to increase his hoards, nor had ever grieved but at a bad security, and who seldom left home but to make a bargain, vex himself respecting a youth whom he had lately so peremptorily banished, and whom he was now much more anxious to recall.



CHAP. IX.

CHARLES had not slept much in the early part of the night, therefore he did not rise till a late hour, and had but just entered the coffee-room, when his friend, who had evidently been walking very fast, came in.

“ Here I am, my dear Charles, as hungry as a hunter—but, Waiter, could not

this gentleman and me have a private room, as we have some business to settle? we will pay accordingly."

This hint procured them the wished-for accommodation, and breakfast being brought in, they dismissed the attendant; when Frazer thus began:—"I hardly slept a wink, as I had such scope for my favourite amusement of castle-building, *since, to begin at the beginning*, as count Antony Hamilton recommends, colonel Davers supped at my father's, and he hardly allowed me to open my embassy; before he closed with my proposals; no thanks to my eloquence, I fear, as he told me he was distantly related to you, on your mother's side, and he is anxious to be introduced to you, so I have engaged you to dine with him to-day. Do not interrupt me—as I did not conceive that you had any thing very particular to say to Maxwell, I have taken the liberty to settle that business in your name, and upon your own terms; and I really found the poor man quite in the dumps at having done you

such an injury. He had written to your uncle, he told me, which was certainly well meant, though, perhaps, like his journey, rather officious; but as a *bonne bouche*, I must tell you, that I am convinced it wholly rests with yourself to return or not to Mr. Franklin, and I wish you to be guided solely by your own feelings;" relating dame Wood's visit to Maxwell, and forcibly dwelling upon her artless communications. "So now, my dear fellow, it remains with you to decide: Glory extends her hand on the one side, in the shape of colonel Davers, and riches court your acceptance——"

"In the shape of a miser," gaily interrupted Charles; "therefore they do not tempt me: no, my generous friend, I will henceforth rise superior to a state of mean dependence, which has obliged me to comply with a thousand caprices, and to concur in as many mean actions; the spirit and vigour of liberty was fast giving way to a servile fear of displeasing a man whom I despised. Thank Heaven and

you, the spell is broken; and I may, ~~should~~ I deserve the protection of colonel Davers, yet be able to command a mutton chop, a clean shirt, and a truss of straw, and when I die, some kind friend will bury me."

"Bravo, my military Quixote; you have only answered my expectations; so, as I said before, leave your worthy uncle to the workings of his own conscience. Colonel Davers is a man of honour; he will fulfil every promise he may make you; and your father and mother must applaud your spirit; we must leave town in three days, so I will accompany you to the different tradesmen I employ, where you can give your own orders: here is the half of my grandmother's present—not a word, if you love me—you shall repay me with interest when you are a general; and this two hundred and fifty pounds will set you a-going; let Skinflint give your wardrobe away, or, what is more likely, sell it to some Jew."

Charles said but little, but the few words

he did utter were truly expressive of his gratitude. He readily accompanied his friend to make the necessary purchases, and provided himself with an immediate change of linen, &c. and at the appointed hour accompanied him to the hotel where colonel Davers resided, who received the friends as the children of his affection, and exactly answered the idea Charles had formed of an officer and a gentleman; nor was the colonel less pleased with the exterior of our hero, whose person was graceful and commanding, and whose face was the perfection of manly beauty.

“Frazer,” said the colonel, “I feel myself greatly indebted to you for having introduced me to my young relative, and as he is anxious to enlist under the banners of Mars, I will ensure him the first vacant pair of colours that fall to my disposal; at present, my brave fellow, you must content yourself with being a volunteer in a noble cause; but always bear in mind that you are pursuing a single and a great object; and as you are a young soldier, you

will do well, in the duties of your profession, to make your friend here your model."

Charles felt himself transported into another world, as he soon found that his colonel's observations were advantageous to him.

Frazer kindly led to subjects likely to draw his friend out, and dwelt with enthusiasm on his, what he termed, voluntary sacrifice of riches at the shrine of liberty and honour.

Charles acknowledged that he had always been very deficient in policy, and entered into a short history of himself, which highly gratified his patron, who gaily observed, "that he did not exactly know the degree of their relationship, but he believed they were cousins, and as such, he felt himself bound to provide for the wants of his young friend, to whom, at parting, he made a very handsome pecuniary present, and fain would our hero have induced his friend Frazer to receive the notes in part of payment. He would not

hear of it; as a volunteer, he would have very few pecuniary resources, and he must and should share his small patrimony.

As Charles wished to keep not only his uncle, but his family in ignorance of his future plans, he declined being introduced to Mr. Frazer senior, who was a gentleman of large fortune, a member of the Lower House, and the father of four sons and two daughters. James was the second, and, like our hero, the favourite of his parents, and had been, as such, recommended to colonel Davers, with whom he and our hero left town for Plymouth, the fourth day after they had so opportunely met in the Park.

Charles had not dispatched his letter to his mother so soon as he intended, but did so previous to his leaving town, and addressed her again from Plymouth, merely stating that he was going out a volunteer, and that he would either secure an independence, or fall by a French bullet; adding, that he had met with two very kind friends, who had promised to assist his exertions;

and as his heart was in the cause, he hoped to rise by his merit.

CHAP. X.

WHILE our hero was busily preparing for what his uncle would certainly have deemed his *Quixote* expedition, the old gentleman continued in daily, nay, hourly expectation of either seeing or hearing from him; "since he had not sent for his wardrobe, he must have gone home, and he should see or hear from sir George."

Such were his reflections when he took up his newspaper, while at breakfast, on the very morning our hero had left London, and it actually fell from his hand, callous as his nature was, upon reading the following paragraph:—

"Yesterday afternoon a young gentleman was found drowned in the Serpentine River."

He turned sick, and with difficulty rang his bell.

“In the name of fortune, sir,” cried the alarmed dame Wood, “what ails you? why, you look as pale as death?”

“I was seized with a sort of spasm in my stomach,” he faintly articulated; “I never was so strangely taken before.”

“What can I get you, sir? shall I fetch a doctor?”

“No; pick up that paper.”

She did so; when, pointing to the lines which had so alarmed him, he said, “Read that paragraph to me—I hope in God it is not Charles.”

Putting on her spectacles she began, but stopped short at “*was found drowned.*”

“Oh Lord, sir, pray read it yourself—I am all of a shake—you might well be taken ill—oh Lord! oh Lord! what will you have to answer for, to turn a poor young gentleman out to starve, in a manner?—no wonder he gave way to despair—why, you will never sleep easy in your bed, I am sure.”

“Woman, do not provoke me; read the paragraph; I yet hope my poor boy has not been guilty of so rash an action.”

“The Lord keep and preserve him, say I; so let us hope——”

Resuming her lecture, ‘He appeared to be about four or five-and-twenty’—“He might look older when dead”—‘he was dressed in a dark blue frock’—“Oh Lord! oh Lord! so he was, poor dear soul”—‘a fancy waistcoat’—“it was certainly him”—‘grey pantaloons’—“No, his were drab; but that may be a mistake”—‘and in his pocket-book there were two one pound notes, and in his waistcoat pocket a dollar and three shillings in silver; but as there were no memorandums to lead to a discovery as to who he was, the body has been removed to the —— public-house, at Brompton, to be owned: he does not appear to have lain many hours in the water.”

She ceased reading, and the old man resumed: “I hope it is not my dear boy;

indeed I see no reason to suppose it was him, the colour of his coat excepted, and blue is so generally worn, that leads to nothing: go, set out immediately, for my mind will be upon the rack till my fears are removed."

"No wonder, sir; I would not have the sweet young gentleman's life to answer for all your riches."

"Then make haste, and set both our minds at ease."

"Yes, sir, it is fine talking; but I don't think my poor legs will carry me so far; I am sure I am all of a shake."

"Here, here, take a coach, only make haste," throwing down a dollar.

The amazed old woman seized the money, and made the best of her way to the first stand of coaches, and having ascended the first, she soon reached Brompton, where she was immediately ushered into the room which contained the corpse. One glimpse sufficed to set her mind at ease, and she very naturally exclaimed,

THE SPANISH CAMPAIGN.

The Lord be praised it is not my young master!—I should not have cared if it had been my old one."

This induced the landlady to ask a few questions, but the dame was not inclined to gratify her curiosity, therefore returned home in the coach which had taken her to Brompton.

Mr. Franklin was sitting with the breakfast-things before him, just as she had left him, and he dared not make a single inquiry when she entered; putting down eighteen-pence, she said, "There is your change, sir, and bless God it is not master Charles."

"I thought as much; I wonder how I could be such a fool as to alarm myself so easily; I ought to have known, by the description, it was not him—what, have you spent four shillings in coach-hire?"

"Yes, sir, and I think you ought to rejoice that it cost you no more—you would not have minded the money if I had brought you word that the poor dear soul had drowned himself; but the person I saw

was not at all like him; he was short and stout; still it was an awful sight: possibly love, or some unnatural relation brought him to such an end."

"What care I about a total stranger—so take away the breakfast-things—I ought to have known Charles Franklin better; he possesses too much strength of mind to give way to despair—I wish he would please to find his way home again."

"What signifies wishing, sir? why don't you set about looking for him in good earnest? since, though this person was not him, who can tell what may have befallen him?"

"Befallen him indeed! why, he is gone home to his father's, else he would have returned hither; but they will do well not to keep me much longer in suspense."

Dame Wood retreated with the tea-things, and her master felt all his anger against Charles revive. The more he had been alarmed, the more provoked he felt at being thus kept in suspense; though he resolved not to stir a step in search of

him, nor to make any inquiries respecting him. He might starve, hang, or drown himself, he should never again feel any degree of alarm upon his account. Surely the hope of being his heir might have induced the young fellow to sue for pardon ; he would immediately make his will, and convince him that he had entirely forfeited his regard—nay, he felt half inclined to marry, but that he considered might be only increasing his vexations.

Thus did he suffer a week to elapse, expecting each day to hear from, or to see his nephew, and vowing every night never to forgive such shameful neglect, and such abominable ingratitude, when, on the very day week Mr. Maxwell had intruded, uninvited, upon his privacy, dame Wood ushered in sir George Franklin ; of course, he was come to plead his son's cause ; he would not listen to his extenuation of his error ; but before we enter upon the scene, it may be as well to account for the baronet's appearance.

Charles's first letter to his mother had

not absolutely surprised her, as she had long feared such a separation would take place between Mr. Franklin and her son, as she knew Charles was too high-spirited to sink quietly into the dependent upon a peevish old man, who fancied his money gave him the privilege to tyrannize over all within his sphere, and who had lived alone till he was unable to bear the slightest contradiction—nay, the most gentle opposition was sure to enrage him, as he thought every one ought to give way to his fancies.

Charles's lapse had afforded him such an opportunity of displaying his natural temper, that she much feared the breach would never be healed, except her son made the most abject concessions; she thought it, therefore, necessary to make sir George acquainted with what had occurred. He was more hurt than she felt, till he reflected that this unlucky incident might induce his brother to make him his heir.

Lady Franklin was not so sanguine in her expectations; but if it induced him to

divide his fortune among her other children, or select another to supply Charles's place, she should not so much repine. Charles might yet make his way; she should apply to her titled relative, lord Malton; he held a post under Government, and would, at her request, place her favourite in the road to fortune. She however advised the baronet not to mention the misunderstanding for the present; the storm might blow over; at all events, their interference could not be productive of any good. But when Charles's second letter came to hand, she agreed they ought to let Mr. Franklin know what had become of his *protégé*, acknowledging that she admired the boy's spirit, still they must appear to blame his folly; and as he had wisely forborne to seek their protection, or to require their mediation, they must declare both would have been withheld till they had been favoured with Mr. Franklin's sentiments upon the business.

Sir George, who fancied himself an

adept in cunning, set out accordingly to visit his brother, who thus saluted him—

“I have done with Charles, sir George, so you may spare your lungs—I shall never forgive him—and I am not much obliged to you for not having sooner let me know where he was.”

“Upon my honour, brother, you mistake my errand; I am as angry with the young fugitive as you can possibly be; he knew I should, therefore he did not return home; no, no, I have, like you, done with him; let him carve his own fortune—I shall give him none, I can assure him; here is his first letter to his mother, and here is his second; she is no more inclined to encourage him than myself; I should expect his brothers would follow his bad example.”

Mr. Franklin made no reply to these gracious speeches, as he was reading our hero's first letter; when he had finished, “Well, I commend you, George, for having so wisely taken your cue. Charles advises you to side with me, and, as I sup-

pose, you think he knows my weak place, you are acting in conformity to his hints."

"Really, brother, you wilfully misinterpret my words and actions. Charles knew the grapes were sour, so he makes a merit of not having returned home; and he did right, for my doors would have been shut against him."

Sir George might have spared his eloquence, as his brother was reading Charles's last letter.

"So, so; he is gone to get his head broke—very well, young gentleman; he seems to have grown courageous out of mere desperation; well, he plays a sure game, for he has not much to lose; it was well worth while for me to spend a fortune upon his education, since he only wishes to be knocked on the head."

"Let us leave him to repent of his folly at leisure, my dear brother; I can only regret that your choice should have fallen upon the only one of my children who was likely to make you so ungrateful a return. George has the greatest respect for you,

and John would think himself the happiest of mortals, if you would adopt him in the place of the runaway. I did intend him for the church, but as my wife's relations have long promised to provide for one of my children, I mean to recommend him to their notice. Edward shall have the living in my gift; John has had an excellent education, and he is remarkably good-tempered."

"Spare your praises, sir George; I shall not adopt him; I shall henceforth live for myself, and not perplex myself with forming schemes for the benefit of your family. Charles has disappointed me, and I am not inclined to make trial of John, as I detest a sycophant. Charles could not bear control, and John would allow me to trample upon him; so would you, George, if that would insure you my money; but I can render it beneficial to the rising generation; and I am very much of opinion I should not be doing so were I to bestow it upon you or any of your sons; and had you been equally prudent, you might have

been spared the humiliation of paying your court to a younger brother, and one whom you know in your soul you have seriously injured."

This deserved reproach roused the latent spirit of the baronet, who declared "that he no longer wondered at his son's having withdrawn himself from his protection, since he could thus grossly insult him who came as a friend, inclined to believe him, even to the prejudice of his child. As to his boasted money, he might have reasons for wishing to leave it to charitable purposes, since he much doubted its having been obtained in the most honourable manner."

This display of spirit produced a most cutting retort: suffice it to say, that the brothers separated in greater wrath, and more irreconcilable enemies than when their father died.

Lady Franklin was sorry she had employed so captious an ambassador, but as she feared to make bad worse, she contented herself with endeavouring to provide for

her children, without having recourse to or looking forward with any expectation to the accumulated riches of the morose miser.

CHAP. XI.

CHARLES, unconscious of having again opened the merely seared-over breach between his father and uncle, was sailing with a fair wind for Lisbon. During the voyage, colonel Davers asked him "how his uncle came to adopt him in preference to his brothers?"

Charles briefly related the circumstance which had led to his being distinguished.

"I think your uncle has no right to style you ungrateful," remarked the colonel, "since he appears to have utterly forgotten, that but for you he would long since have been food for the fishes—I think he must recollect the obligation ere he dies."

This Charles rather doubted, adding, "It may be better for my father should he die without a will; then even I may come in for a share of his boards."

So thought his friend, while colonel Davers felt his attachment increase for his *protégé*.

This gentleman was distantly related, by the female side, to the Malton family, and had, early in life, distinguished the present lady Franklin; but he was, at that period, a mere soldier of fortune, and she was an heiress, guarded by the lynx eyes of her uncle, the banker, who had *weighty* reasons for wishing her to wed a rich man. She had also noticed her handsome relative, and possibly their mutual regard might have been fanned into a flame, had not the banker sent his niece due north, when he learnt lieutenant Davers was going due south.

Lady Franklin having married early, and having had a large family, had had no time to bestow upon the romance of early life. Not so the colonel, who still looked

up to her as the standard of perfection, and who, having no children of his own, resolved to adopt her son, who was very like his mother, and whose mind seemed to be the counterpart of his own.

Soon after our hero landed in Portugal, he was called into actual service; and if he did not give proofs of great skill, he did of great courage, as he never shrank even

“When the hardiest in the field
Paus’d upon the danger.”

Colonel Davers had his eye upon him, and rejoiced to find him far exceed his expectations. His friend Frazer was wounded early in the conflict, but maintaining it was a mere scratch, he kept his ground to the last, and certainly did his part towards beating the so long-styled Invincibles, who first gave way before British skill and British courage.

From this day forward Charles stood unrivalled in the esteem of colonel Davers, thanks to whom, he obtained a pair of co-

lours, before he had been three months in Portugal; but he was still more grateful for the repeated marks of confidence his veteran friend bestowed upon him, as they gratified his feelings, and rendered him almost invincible, when opposed to the enemy.

Nor was he less grateful towards his friend Frazer, with whom he continued, during the ensuing eighteen months, in the strictest bond of amity. They studied the art of war together, when at leisure to attend to the theory, while continual skirmishes enabled them to practise what they gleaned from their books; when more at leisure, they amused themselves, with many other young officers, in running races. Charles had been, from his infancy, a famous runner; and while at Cambridge, he had frequently walked to and from London in a very short space. He therefore won several running-matches with ease, and what was, perhaps, achieved with greater difficulty, he retained the regard

of those he thus beat; and, when least expected, his agility proved the means of saving him from a French prison, if not of preserving his life. From a wish to explore the country, and at times to reconnoitre the enemy, he frequently sallied forth dressed so as not to excite either notice or observation. This he did early one fine morning, and having ascended a hill, climbed a tolerably high tree, from whence he meant to take a survey of the nearest posts of the enemy, through the means of his glass, which enabled him to distinguish a small party of the enemy's cavalry, lying apparently in ambush, not more than a hundred yards from the tree from whence he was looking out, and, as he had not expected they were so near, he almost at the same instant perceived they had remarked him, as they mounted their horses; one of their scouts having also, by some signal, pointed him out to their notice.

Aware that he had not a moment to lose, our hero descended with all possible speed

from his elevated situation, and took to his heels; as the enemy had to ride round at least a couple of hundred yards to reach the road he had chosen, besides having the hill to ascend, he had therefore some advantage of ground; but, unfortunately, he was at least five miles distant from the first British post; he therefore thought his only chance of escape rested in being met by some of their patrolling or scouting parties, who might be by chance looking out, and thus discover his danger. But this was more to be hoped than expected. His only weapons of defence were a dagger and a pair of pocket-pistols, and these would not be of much use to him, he conceived, should he be overtaken; he was therefore half inclined to throw them away; but being fully aware of his agility, which he must now exert in real earnest, he resolved not to part with what might, when least expected, prove of service to him; and he prudently avoided looking behind him, though he plainly heard a number of horses following him at full speed; but

there were not many French horses that could overtake him, he felt assured, if he could but keep his present pace, which he did for two miles or more, during which time he had gained considerably upon his pursuers, one excepted, who now gained upon him every stroke his horse took; and at last he heard the rider swear in French, "He must be the d——l; but have him he would, if he burst his horse;" and the next moment he heard a ball whistle by his ear. Being nearly spent, and aware that he now ran the risk of being cut down by his pursuer's broadsword, he made a sudden halt, and turning quick as thought, before his enemy could even guess his intention, he laid him at his feet with one of his pistols, caught up his sword, which was evidently that of an officer, and in another second sprung into the saddle he had fallen from, and urged the panting horse forward at full speed; but this momentary delay enabled the pursuing party, twenty-five in number, to arrive within pistol-shot of the fugitive, and their balls

soon whistled about his ears ; but his horse, though it had been previously hard pressed, kept the lead, owing to his judicious management, and by degrees outstripped them as he had done before ; Charles being much lighter than his late rider, and encouraging rather than spurring him forward.

Thus they kept on for two miles or more, when, having reached an open plain, our hero made no doubt of being seen by the advanced guard of cavalry ; he therefore gradually slackened his pace, which gave them fresh spirits and courage, and enabled him to draw them on to within half-a-mile of where he knew he should be in safety, when they halted, prudently resolving to retrace their steps, which they did for about a mile ; but the moment they turned about, a party of English, whose horses were quite fresh, pursued them in their turn, and, as may be foreseen, brought them back in triumph to the English camp.

Colonel Davers did not fail to report this exploit to the brave commander-in-

chief, who rewarded the young pedestrian with a lieutenant's commission, then vacant, and in colonel Davers's regiment, "as a trifling return," he said, "for the many essential services he had rendered his country;" and what was still more gratifying to our hero, his name and promotion was mentioned in the commander's dispatches in the most flattering terms.

CHAP. XII.

SIR George fully participated in lady Franklin's exultation upon this honourable mention of her son, who wrote them by the same conveyance, in the most modest terms, ascribing his advancement chiefly to colonel Davers's good offices, and doing every justice to his friend Frazer, as to him he was indebted for his introduction to the colonel, his equipment, and partly for his support, till he obtained a commis-

sion, declaring that he was born a soldier, and should have been miserable as a mere gentleman, even had he inherited his uncle's fortune, which he now hoped would be much better disposed of among his other relatives.

Sir George was resolved to support the only hero in his family, he declared; therefore, henceforth he should allow Charles two hundred pounds a year: never again would he crouch to his ungenerous brother; he would apply to some of the great men in power for John; George would be amply provided for; and Edward was treading in Charles's steps at college; he had besides, since our hero had been abroad, married his fourth daughter, the belle of the family, to a rich East Indian, who wished to connect himself with some respectable family, that he might increase his parliamentary interest in the county; and colonel Moncrief had not only invited another of the Miss Franklins to take up her abode with him, but had promised to exert his interest for John.

Mr. Franklin had heard of the connection with more envy than pleasure, and certainly did not rejoice in Charles's success or promotion, as he had hoped that he would have sorely repented having taken him at his word when he forbid him his house; still he agreed, when congratulated by the few coffeehouse acquaintance he could boast, that the boy was a lad of spirit—he took after himself; but he was a fool if he either hoped or expected to make a fortune by the trade he had chosen; a soldier's life, in time of war, was one of toil and danger, and in time of peace, of hunger and ease; he should leave his money for charitable purposes—no red-coat should squander his savings.

This he also told the earl of Kinmare, whose necessities obliged him to have again recourse to his strong-box; but it was no longer at his command; nay, he even blamed himself for having advanced so much, as he might have expected something would thwart his schemes; the earl must look out for a rich wife to redeem

his estates, as his money would never center in his family.

With this certainty he finally dismissed his lordship, and devoted his whole time to reflecting how he could best dispose of his property, so as to render his name immortal, but had not decided whether he should found an hospital, almshouses, or a charity-school, or whether all three, when he was surprised by a visit from lady Franklin, who had come to town to visit her son-in-law, and to return her thanks to lord Malton, her cousin, who had procured a very lucrative situation for John in Somerset House. This she told Mr. Franklin; and as she had infinitely more sense than her husband, and was not, like him, conscious of having wronged him, she spoke much more to the purpose, since she candidly acknowledged that she rejoiced in Charles's success; agreed that he had displayed more spirit than prudence in going abroad, and thought he had been very fortunate in having acquired the regard of colonel Davers—lord Malton had also promised to

befriend him, therefore she hoped he would make his way.

“Did she suppose the war was to last for ever?” her auditor peevishly inquired; “he might find it a difficult matter to support the appearance of a gentleman upon half-pay, and many men of equal courage, and doubtless greater military skill, had grown grey as subalterns.”

“Very true, sir; at all events, he will not dare to complain; but I am not inclined to meet trouble half-way; so let us change the subject: will you allow John to inquire after your health now and then?—I have little to say in his praise, and less to say against him—he seems diligent, and I hope he will be prudent—he possesses none of Charles’s spirit of enterprise.”

“He may be no loser by that, madam; I have no objection to his calling upon me now and then, but I have no intention to make him my heir, tell him.”

“I had no such expectations, sir, when I made my request, nor do I think him likely to become your favourite; but mere-

ly being noticed by you may keep him out of bad company; and should he hope to benefit by the acquaintance, he must do so ultimately, as it will be a check upon his conduct."

Mr. Franklin thought she reasoned like a prudent mother, and listened with some complacency to her account of colonel Moncrief but would not promise to return her visit at that gentleman's, who resided in Portland-place, nor still less would he promise to visit Claverton again; but she departed rather pleased, at having paved the way for John's introduction, though she thought her brother-in-law seemed to be more morose, fretful, and captious, than ever; but she knew John had a hawk's eye, where his own interest was concerned, but little warmth of affection, and no elevation of sentiment; therefore he would, much more readily than Charles, comply with the old man's caprices, and might, in consequence, obtain a slice, if not the whole of his fortune.

John, who had accompanied her to town,

and whom she had settled in a respectable boarding-house, was still more sanguine in his expectations, and eagerly availed himself of the permission he had received; but all his hopes were damped during his first interview, as his uncle seemed perfectly to understand his expectations, and to despise him for his very wish to secure his regard. John therefore curtailed his visit, and assured his mother he no longer wondered at Charles's conduct, since his uncle's estate would be a dear purchase to him who was required to be his inmate.

Lady Franklin laughed at his disappointment, but gave him some prudent advice respecting his conduct to the old man; and having written a letter of thanks to colonel Davers, one of encouragement to her son, and visited all she thought worthy notice in London, she returned home, resolving to suffer Mr. Franklin to increase his hoards, and to dispose of them as his caprice directed, feeling convinced that there could not be a more unhappy con-

dition than that of dependance upon such a man, who would sacrifice to a momentary offence the best friend he could ever boast.

CHAP. XIII.

CHARLES'S letters from England, after his late promotion, were exactly calculated to induce him to persevere in his exertions. His father had touched the right chord to bend him to his will, and his remittance was the more welcome, as it enabled him to repay his generous friend the money he had so kindly advanced him in time of need; nor did Frazer object to receiving it, as he wished his favourite Charles to fancy himself free from obligation. His mother had entered into every family detail likely to interest him, and related word for word her conversation with his uncle. Colonel Daves and Frazer

were amused by her delineation of the old miser, and Charles wished he might either not make a will, or divide his hoards between his sisters, who were more in want of his money, and less likely to make their way than his brothers.

The mere military details of a campaign may, and daily do, afford proofs of British valour and heroism, but might not prove entertaining to our readers. Our hero soon secured the honours which are bestowed upon courage, as every one knew that he had voluntarily sought the post of danger; and if a man is once allowed to be brave, the world pronounce him virtuous and honourable upon trust. Charles was certainly indefatigable in the pursuit of glory, and he soon obtained marks of confidence, and instances of trust, even from officers superior in rank to his patron, colonel Davers; which raised his consequence among his equals, and led to his being considered as a sort of military phenomenon; as such, he was mentioned in the general's dispatches, and sir George

was frequently congratulated upon the glory his son was daily acquiring; nor was Mr. Franklin unreminded of his former favourite, who was fortunate enough to rescue colonel Davers from captivity, if not death, at the most serious risk, and to render various important services to many other officers, owing to his inborn courage, and a presence of mind which never forsook him, even in moments of the greatest peril.

During one of their partial actions with the French, Frazer was severely wounded, and though most affectionately nursed by his beloved Charles, who devoted every minute he could spare from the service to him, he was ordered home, as native air and quiet were pronounced necessary for his recovery.

The friends separated with mutual regret, and mutual promises of writing frequently to each other, as Frazer was not supposed to be in any danger, merely at present unfit for service; indeed, their regiment had suffered so much, that it was

in contemplation to send it home to recruit its numbers. Charles had no desire to revisit England, as he did not wish to verify his uncle's kind prognostics; and he knew, that were he to be kindly received at Claverton Hall, it would again rouse the old gentleman's ire.

Frazer wrote him a long letter, soon after his arrival in London, to inform him that Judith Neale's child was dead, and that Maxwell had proved himself an *honourable* man in the expenditure of the cash entrusted to his care, as Charles had empowered him to draw upon his agent for a farther supply, the moment he obtained a commission. Frazer then entered into various details respecting his own family, and repeated all he had been able to glean respecting our hero's. Sir George was reported to be in ill-health; John Franklin was at the university, he had heard from very good authority, spending more money than he earned, and looking forward to being Mr. Franklin's heir, which he was silly enough to anticipate in every

company; therefore his boasts would most probably reach the old gentleman's ears; at present, they might enable him to extend his credit, but he (Frazer) much doubted their procuring him the wealth he was already squandering. Of colonel Moncrief he knew nothing, and all he could learn was, that, like many more, he had made a fortune in India, and was an ostentatious follower of the fashions, yet he was allowed to possess merit.

Charles communicated this letter to his patron, who was convinced John would do him no injury in his uncle's esteem. "He must admire your spirit of independence, and may reward it when least expected."

Charles, with truth, declared he did not entertain any such hopes; nay, protested he should feel perfectly satisfied if sir George came in for his fortune.

Colonel Davers had not an equally high opinion of the baronet, but did not choose to mention him in terms of disrespect to his son, whose military career received a very serious check soon after the receipt

of his friend's letter, by his being made prisoner by the enemy.

Part of the British army were encamped upon the Portuguese frontiers of Spain, and Charles, with a small party of his men, were stationed at an advanced post, more out of form than from any apprehensions of a surprise, as it was supposed the French were at a considerable distance from their camp. This proved to be an erroneous conjecture, as Charles was roused before daybreak one morning, with the agreeable intelligence that the French were advancing in great force; and ere he could devote a moment to reflection, or even seize his sword, they were surrounded. His brave subalterns, though taken, like himself, by surprise, made a desperate resistance, and even cut their way through the enemy's ranks; but a reinforcement coming up, Charles, and five of his men, were obliged to surrender to ten times that number; the rest of the party escaped in different directions, favoured by their previous knowledge of the coun-

try, and the darkness of the morning; but the less fortunate Charles, and his five companions, were obliged to mount behind their conquerors, who made the best of their way back to the French quarters, not knowing how soon they might be pursued, and obliged, in their turn, to submit to the British.

Soon after sunrise, their dread lessened, and they slackened their pace, even to a walk, their horses were so fatigued. A young man, of a prepossessing appearance, whom our hero knew to be a captain of cavalry, now addressed him in the kindest terms, endeavouring to console him under his misfortune, by the trite adage "*c'est la fortune de la guerre*;" bestowing some very deserved encomiums upon the bravery of the British, among whom he was convinced his prisoner shone preeminent.

Charles's spirits were rather cheered by his discourse, and as French had long been as familiar to him as his mother tongue, he made a polite reply to his well-meant compliments. Captain Beaumanoir, who

was a member of the Legion of Honour, and of superior birth to many of his companions, declared he should have mistaken him for a Frenchman, in any other dress, he spoke the language so well.

Charles wished he had availed himself of the darkness to persuade him he was of Gallic origin; and as Beaumanoir was a man of parts, they seemed mutually pleased with each other, and continued to converse with great familiarity respecting the country they were traversing, the manners of the people, &c. each carefully avoiding politics, or any reference to the cause they each wished to support.

At the expiration of three hours, a fine old castle met their view: "That," said Beaumanoir, addressing his prisoner, "is for the present to be your residence; how long you will remain there, I cannot inform you; but I will, while you do stay, endeavour to make every thing as comfortable as your present circumstances will admit.

Charles made a polite return for these

promises ; adding, " I had no idea that the castle D'Aranza, as I have heard it styled, was occupied by French troops."

" We have not long been in possession of it," was the reply, while his looks denoted a mystery he was fearful of disclosing before his men ; and in a short time they rode into the court-yard ; several soldiers and workmen were apparently repairing the ramparts, though it seemed to be built for a fortress, as it stood within a walled court, to which there was but one entrance.

Captain Beaumanoir was accosted by a superior officer the moment he entered the court, to whom he gave an account of his expedition. When he had concluded, the British soldiers were led into what had once been the prison of the edifice, and Charles was conducted into a large room upon the ground-floor, which led into a small garden, where he might stretch his legs, when so inclined, said the superior officer, a general, he understood, who had taken

upon himself to shew him his place of abode.

Charles had taken a minute survey of the castle and its environs, as he advanced towards it, and had been equally observant while in the court-yard; but he had made no remarks likely to facilitate his escape; still, as his uncle had truly said, he had a very strong mind, and was always inclined to hope, rather than despair. The room allotted him was large, well furnished, and airy, and the adjoining garden was an additional indulgence; but to prevent his scaling the walls, a sentinel was stationed there, who was introduced through a small door, which led into the great or outer court-yard, and when he addressed him in French, the guard shook his head; he then spoke in Spanish; the man smiled, as much as to say, I am dumb.

In about an hour his breakfast was brought him through the door by which he had entered, which appeared to be so well secured withoutside, that he presumed it

was feared he might make his escape that way. His room had no windows but to the inclosed garden; and the walls were too high to afford him a view of the adjacent country; he was too prudent to betray even a wish for more liberty, for fear it should lead to his being more closely confined; and he reflected that

“ In struggling with misfortunes
Lies the true proof of virtue.”

He had fought bravely, and in a glorious cause; he therefore called reason to his aid, and hoped the best, as that friendly beam never forsook him; and while thus meditating, he paced his garden, and then extended himself upon a very comfortable couch. The sentinel was changed when his watch was out, and he did not address the second, as he even endeavoured to sleep off his fatigue, but could not immediately forget that he was a prisoner, and felt inclined to exclaim—

“ What is life? ’tis not to stalk, and draw fresh air
From time to time, or gaze upon the sun :

~~It is to be free.~~ When liberty is gone,
Life grows insipid, and has lost its relish."

His dinner was brought him between one and two, and he had no reason to complain either of the quantity or the quality; but just before dark, to his great joy, captain Beaumanoir entered with the soldier who brought his supper, and kindly asked his captive how he found himself, and whether he felt himself, all things considered, tolerably comfortable?

Charles assured him he had every reason to be satisfied, adding, he knew he was indebted to his kindness for many of his comforts.

The captain did not deny the charge, adding, "as I am now commander-in-chief in this Iberian fortress, and the men have all struck work for the night, I can sit half-an-hour with you, which may relieve the tedium of a prison. I detest solitude myself, therefore I have a fellow-feeling for you, since one week's solitary confinement would induce me to put a pistol to my head; but I hope you possess more

fortitude, and more resources within yourself."

"I mean to display my fortitude, and if you can but indulge me with your company for one half hour a-day, I shall beguile the rest of ~~my~~ time in pleasant anticipation of the future."

There seemed to be a similarity of disposition in the prisoner and his conqueror; which soon placed them upon the most familiar terms. Beaumanoir, talking of the Spanish ladies, vowed "there was not a decent-looking woman in the castle; merely a parcel of ancient duennas, to whom it was impossible to be civil, much less gallant. The one who brought us hither has made her escape; and between ourselves, I am not sorry, as I am not always commander here."

Now, it so happened, that our hero having once, when reconnoitring the country, remarked this castle, had inquired, when he returned to quarters, who and what family its owner had; and a Portu-

guese officer had entered into various details respecting its inhabitants, which enabled our hero to say, in answer to Beaumanoir's remark, "I presume the duke had notice of your approach, so sent his daughter away, to prevent jealousy amongst you."

As Charles laughed while speaking, Beaumanoir said, "I would lay any wager you could direct me to donna V. . . ;" appearing very anxious for a confirmation of his suspicions.

Charles, with truth, declared himself surprised at his having imbibed so mistaken an idea, protesting that he had never seen or heard of the lady; adding, in support of his assertion, "you must recollect I did not know the French were in possession of this abode. I have been told it was the property of a Spanish grandee, who had only one daughter, and that she was reckoned a great heiress; but as it was not then decided whether her father's estates would fall into the hands of the English or the French, I think she could no longer be considered so; be that as it

may, I have never seen either the duke or his daughter, nor do I believe they have any friends in the British camp."

"I never heard they had," was the reply; "and as you seem to be a man of honour—indeed your countrymen are renowned for that virtue—I will give you the *no du pay*. We took possession of this castle, or I am strangely mistaken, merely to secure this said heiress. General De Roncevalles does not acknowledge this to have been his principal motive, but I am convinced she was the magnet that drew us hither; and he declares that she must be confined at no great distance from this gloomy abode, which he has repeatedly searched, in hopes of finding her in some garret or cellar; and his wish to secure her person renders us stationary, since I do not think the post is tenable, in the event of a serious attack; but he has scouts upon every quarter, and you may thank donna Victoria for your captivity; as he persuaded himself she had sought the protection of the British."

“ Why, he could not suppose she would have remained at an out-post with a man of my age: but where is the duke? has he also escaped?”

“ No, he was taken by surprise; and if he does not reveal where his daughter is concealed, he may suffer for his obstinacy, since De Roncevalles is not of a forgiving disposition.”

“ Is the duke confined here?”

“ No, he was removed yesterday afternoon, and he may be in Heaven, for aught I know, by this time.”

“ Did the general mean to make the heiress his wife?”

“ A wife is a serious incumbrance to a soldier. My dear fellow, we are not so indulgent to our men in that respect as you are; you know no women follow our army; and a superior officer must not break through the established rules.”

“ Agreed; but I thought her estates might have led the general to seek her hand. She seems to have been better in-

formed, and to have made her escape just in time."

"Yes, she seems to have some obsolete notions of virtue and honour, which have not of late been much tolerated in France. My family were of the old regime; therefore, some of those exploded ideas have descended to me by inheritance. Most of my relations became victims of the revolution. A brother of my mother's, a dignified member of the church, sought refuge in England, and there he still resides. I have received a few letters from him, by stealth, in a manner, which have given me a very high opinion of your nation; in the event of a peace, I mean to visit my uncle, and to gratify my own curiosity."

"Then I hope we shall one day meet in my native land, though I have little hope of being exchanged till a peace."

"Who knows; chance may yet befriend you—I wish I could, consistently with honour, liberate you; that not being the case, the less I say upon the subject the better; I had not been many hours here

before I, was sent upon the expedition which terminated in your captivity, and I know Roncevalles was more actuated by a hope to surprise donna Victoria, than by the expectation of reaping any material advantage from our attempt; though it may, as he gave out, alarm your brave general, and induce him to suppose us advancing; the fact is, that, independent of his wish to secure the donna, as *we* have taken possession of the castle, *we* were obliged to make a little shew of having some other object in view."

This was said half jest, half earnest, and was a proof of the levity of his disposition.

"Do you suppose you shall make any long stay here?"

"That, in some measure, depends upon Roncevalles's success; this I know, that were the British to advance, I should fall back, and as you would keep me company in my retreat, I am not afraid of your letting your commander know my intentions. We are certainly putting the ramparts in re-

pair, but we shall never render the place impregnable."

"Surely I was told the duke D'Aranza was a wellwisher to the French cause?"

"Mere stage-trick; we are not the dupe of such pretended friends; he was a deep politician, and endeavoured to keep in with both parties; but that never answers in the long run, since both grow suspicious, as both prefer an avowed to a concealed enemy. Had your party advanced first, I dare say the duke would have declared himself a patriot, and you might have trusted to his sincerity."

"We have been often deceived, I make no doubt; yet it seems so natural for a Spaniard to be a patriot, that I should readily have believed such an assertion. But I have heard that the duke was very infirm, and that he seldom or ever left home; therefore if he did not prove himself an active friend, he must have been an inoffensive enemy."

"He was rich, and of high rank; need I say more? He was long in the ministry, I

understand, but about eight years ago he had a paralytic stroke, which deprived him of the use of his limbs, and, for a time, of his faculties; they returned by degrees; but, having just before lost his wife, who was an Englishwoman, I have heard he secluded himself in his ~~old~~ castle, as soon as he was sufficiently recovered to leave Madrid; and here he might have died in peace, had he not been known to be very rich, and to have a very handsome daughter, in her nineteenth year, whom, report says, is highly accomplished, and most probably but for the troubles, she would ere this have been married to some brother grandee. Roncevalles had learnt the family history from very good authority, and having a wish to see donna Victoria, he paid the old gentleman a visit, under pretence of taking him and his castle under his protection, and thus he obtained sight of the heiress, as the duke dared not refuse his request to see her. He declares he loved her from the first moment, and as he was never able to see her again, his passion must have been of

sudden growth ; since, though he continually repeated his visits, she was either unwell, or at her devotions, or not at home ; so it was finally resolved to declare the old man to be a suspicious character, that the general might ~~assume~~ the merit of protecting his daughter. The duke being in consequence proclaimed a patriot, we paid him an early visit yesterday morning, placed seals upon all his treasures, seized his papers, and finally carried him off to our headquarters, where of course he will be found guilty. The young lady has hitherto eluded our vigilance—the duke refuses to tell where she is ; she has left the castle, he does not acknowledge ; but this Roncevalles almost doubts, as she was known to be at home the day before. Should she really have sought concealment in the old building, she will be starved out ; had the duke given up her retreat, I do not think he would have been removed ; but now every thing will be seized, and ere long the place will perhaps be blown up, to prevent the English from making it a military station or a

depôt for stores ; such are the blessed fruits of war, so God grant us a speedy and a permanent peace !”

“ Amen !” rejoined our hero ; “ though as I am a soldier of fortune, I had hoped to have fought my way to preferment ; but now——”

“ Well, now you are out of danger, and you fought bravely.”

But as it grew late, the captain retired, promising to pay his prisoner frequent visits, as he felt much interested in his fate, and very anxious to preserve him from *ennui*.

CHAP. XIV.

CHARLES had no reason to complain of his bed, and fatigue closed his eyes soon after the watch had been relieved at midnight, nor did he wake till the sun shone full up-

on his window. Thanks to the captain, he had been allowed to keep his watch, which he now consulted; and found it was not yet seven, and though he felt no inclination to sleep any more, he was in no haste to rise, as he foresaw ~~his time~~ would hang very heavy upon his hands; yet, considering his situation, he was very well off; but he did not suppose he should long remain so near the British camp; and since his only hope of emancipation arose from the probability of his countrymen attacking the castle, in return for the French having surprised him and his party, as he did not foresee any likelihood of his making his escape, except he could do so during his removal, by taking to his heels; but this was a matter which required serious consideration, and must at last depend wholly upon circumstances.

When the sentinel was relieved at noon, Beaumanoir paid him another visit, which quite cheered his spirits. After the usual salutations, the captain said—"I have been offering a frightful old duenna a very

tempting bribe to discover the retreat of donna Victoria—neither more nor less than a *kiss*; but she was proof against all my blandishments, and either is, or affects to be, as ignorant as myself."

Charles laughed at the idea of kissing the old duenna, while Beaumanoir resumed—
"This room is very warm; suppose we adjourn to the veranda in the court; these Spanish houses are all built in the Moorish style, and therefore suited to the climate."

Charles made no objection to the proposal, as this veranda formed a sort of pavilion, and was fitted up with a bench, calculated to hold half a dozen people.

Having taken their seats, they agreed they were much more comfortably off than in the room; presumed the duke or his daughter had fitted it up, to indulge in their afternoon's siesta. Charles next wished he had a book to beguile time; his friend feared he should not be able to procure him one, as the library doors were locked and sealed, and the two or three old fe-

males who still haunted the abode, (for they looked like so many ghosts) had probably only a mass-book to offer him.

“Even that might improve him in the Spanish tongue,” Charles observed; “and as he seemed likely to visit the interior, it might be to his advantage.”

The manners of Spain were next discussed—the women then came under their consideration. Beaumanoir wished to persuade our hero that he had not found them pruders; declaring that he should delight in discovering the retreat of donna Victoria, and if she proved kind, he would allow her to bend her course whither she chose, though it might prove his ruin, should his general ever learn he had been so indulgent, since he was moving heaven and earth to find the poor soul, and required him to send him continual messengers, if only to tell him she did not appear to be in the castle.

Charles thought she must have left it; she might have arranged her plans long before, and was probably many miles distant

ere this ; as she had money, she might pay for secrecy. He next inquired after his men, and was happy to hear they had only, like himself, to complain of the want of liberty.

Beaumanoir wished there might be a speedy exchange of prisoners, then he, Charles, would return to England; giving him his uncle's address, and requesting he would pay the old gentleman an early visit.

“I only wish I may have it in my power to tell him how much I am indebted to his nephew, and I will endeavour to repay present favours by future attention to this worthy uncle.”

They shook hands, unperceived by the sentinel, upon this assurance; and as Beaumanoir was fearful his general might disapprove of his paying his prisoner such long and frequent visits, he took his leave, promising to seek a book for him.

Charles, whose thoughts, owing to the turn the conversation had taken, had reverted to England, stretched himself out

upon the bench, and fell into a sort of reverie, while watching the sentinel, who kept pacing backwards and forwards from his room door to the one by which he had entered, when he was rather startled by a sort of noise resembling the movement of some animal, which seemed to proceed from beneath where he reclined. He listened till he felt convinced that it was a rat ranging beneath the pavement, as this shady retreat was paved with small square tiles, and the noise evidently proceeded from beneath the floor. As it continued at short intervals, he looked under the railed seat as he lay, resolving to frighten it away, when, to his infinite surprise, he perceived one of the tiles gently removed, and the next instant a beautiful white hand appeared through the opening, holding a small piece of paper, which he silently seized, and as his sentinel could not see what he did; owing to his recumbent posture, he opened the mysterious billet. Something like the truth had almost immediately flashed across his mind, and his sus-

picious were confirmed by the contents of his letter; it was written in English, and with a pencil, and run as follows:—

“ A man of honour may always be trusted—and such I consider every British officer. What I have just overheard has shocked and alarmed me beyond measure; my life is therefore in your hands, as I could not survive my disgrace. You are a Briton, and a prisoner like myself; perhaps I can liberate you, and you may in turn liberate me. Do not be surprised should you hear a little noise in your room at midnight, when the guard is being relieved; you must previously close your shutters, but not in any way likely to excite suspicion. If you are inclined to favour my wishes, take three turns up and down the walk facing you, or, on the contrary, remain where you are; since it will require some courage, and it may be attended with some danger, to enter into my views: if, therefore, you shrink from the undertaking, merely remain quiet; and if you do not wish to have my death to an-

swer for, keep my secret, and destroy this paper."

Charles read this unexpected letter twice over; the paper had evidently been torn out of a book. Again he looked at the place from whence it came; the tiles were all in their places, and appeared quite secure. Starting up, he did not allow himself a moment for reflection, so eager was he to set the fair recluse's mind at ease, as he guessed what her feelings must be while she continued in suspense. He took the three prescribed turns, and then resumed his seat. The paper he had thrust into his bosom, as to him it was more valuable than any relic Spain, or even Rome could have produced. His spirits revived, and he felt that, like the knights of old, he could perform impossibilities in such a cause. Again he paced his little garden, and addressed his sentinel in his own language; he made no reply.—“ Well,” he rejoined, in a gay tone, “ I thought all Frenchmen were fond of talking, but I am doomed to reside among the deaf and dumb, and am de-

prived of books, and every other means of amusement. A Frenchman would die of *ennui*, and some of my countrymen would shoot, hang, or drown themselves. I can do neither, having neither pistols, water, nor a halter; so I will endeavour to sing myself to sleep." He saw the soldier was amused, and that was all he hoped to achieve; when, having extended himself upon his couch, he sang, wishing to evince his detestation of Roncevalles, two verses in Constance de Beverley's celebrated song, which must be understood by the fair captive, and interpreted as he could wish.

"Where shall the traitor rest,
 He the deceiver,
 Who could win fair maiden's breast,
 Ruin and leave her?
 In the lost battle,
 Borne down by the flying,
 Where mingles war's rattle
 With groans of the dying,

CHORUS.

Elea loro, &c. there shall he be lying.

Her wing shall the eagle flap
 O'er the false-hearted;

His warm blood the wolf shall lap,
 Ere life be parted ;
 Shame and dishonour sit
 By his grave ever ;
 Blessing shall hallow it—
 Never, oh never.

CHORUS.

Never, oh never.

The guard paused, and seemed delighted, and having, he hoped, quieted the captive's fear, Charles returned to his room, where his dinner was brought him, with a bottle of excellent wine, which certainly contributed to keep up his spirits, and to induce him to set danger at defiance ; he spent the afternoon under the veranda, and took several turns upon the walk ; but he neither saw nor heard any thing more from his fellow-prisoner ; nor did captain Beaumanoir pay him an evening visit, which did not grieve him, as he could not have conversed with ease upon mere indifferent subjects. At dusk he closed his shutters, and waited with no small degree of impatience for midnight, wondering how this certainly novel adventure could terminate,

and had some thoughts of fastening his door; but this might excite suspicion, and it had not been mentioned in the letter he received. With truth he could have said—

“With what a leaden and retarding weight
Does expectation load the wing of time,”

from eleven to twelve!

At last he heard the small door unlocked and unbarred to admit the sentinel, and while they were pacing backwards and forwards upon the pavement, relieving the guard, he heard a sort of creaking noise, which appeared to proceed from the chimney. During the afternoon he had strictly examined every corner of his room, and had convinced himself that there were no sliding pannels, nor any secret doors concealed behind the tapestry hangings; he therefore presumed some part of the floor opened by some private spring, which he was unable to discover. He now advanced towards the chimney; there was barely a sufficient glimmering of light to enable him to discern if any thing moved, and

upon a near approach he perceived a hand stretched forth, which he instantly seized, and felt himself gently pulled forward at the moment the guards were retiring, while a female voice whispered—"Take care; you can only pass the aperture by stepping down backwards, when you will find some stairs, which you must descend."

Charles in a few seconds crept through the opening, which was barely large enough to admit of his so doing; he then descended nine steps or stairs, his companion guiding his foot each time, when, having reached the bottom, he perceived, upon looking to the left, a glimmering light, at no great distance.

"Wait here a moment, sir," said his trembling guide, "while I close the opening through which you left your room."

Charles stood perfectly still, and all around seemed equally quiet, except now and then, when the sentinel approached the building, a distant footstep was heard, but which died away as he retreated, and *donna Victoria* seized that moment to close the

aperture, which she did with the least possible noise ; she then returned to our expecting hero, saying in a tremulous voice —“ Now I believe we are safe ; pray follow me.”

Charles required no pressing, and having entered a small room, she closed the door, and then removed a shade from before a lamp, which afforded him a full view of her agitated countenance.

Charles approached her with modest diffidence, and taking her trembling hand, he solemnly swore to protect her at every risk, requesting she would consider him as a brother, who was eager and ready to assist her in any way she wished. “ Treat me with confidence,” he continued, “ and trust to my honour, which is as unsullied as your own, and as dear to me. Are you not *doña Victoria d’Aranza*, for whom such strict search has been, and is still making ?”

She burst into tears, and at last acknowledged he was right in his conjectures, adding —“ Can you tell me whither my father

has been removed? for I heard you mention his name to the French officer, this morning, in accents of pity."

"I certainly did, and do grieve at his having fallen into the hands of Roncevalles; all I know is, that he is at the headquarters of the French in this neighbourhood. The officer with whom you heard me conversing this morning is left in command of the troops stationed here; he is a captain of cavalry, and seems a well-meaning, rash, and rather imprudent young man; to me he has been very indulgent; you heard what he said respecting yourself, therefore I shall make no comments upon his speeches. He told me the duke's crime was the having a beautiful daughter, with whom general Roncevalles had fallen in love; and as his grace did not seem inclined to favour his passion, he declared him a patriot, seized his castle by force, and removed him and his papers to the head-quarters, and he now hopes to seize and secure your person."

“I know he does, sir; but had my father been poor, I dare say we might have remained in peace; though I agree general Roncevalles spoke pretty plainly during his repeated visits to the duke, who will, I am sure, suffer martyrdom, rather than disclose my retreat; yet I have placed myself at the mercy of a total stranger.”

“But that stranger, lady, is a British soldier, a man of honour, and one who would treat even his foes with kindness, and rather suffer, than commit a wrong.”

“Excuse me, sir; I hardly know either what I said, or what I meant. I am convinced that I shall never repent having sought your protection: indeed I have a sort of prescriptive claim to it, as my mother was an Englishwoman.”

“That accounts for your speaking our language so well, madam.”

“She was my instructor, sir; had she lived, I should probably ere this have been in England: but pray take a seat; we have much to discuss; and if we speak low, we

cannot be overheard, even at this still hour."

Charles took a chair, and again regarded his companion; he had heard so much in praise of her beauty, that he felt rather disappointed, though he reflected that he saw her to a great disadvantage; she was a very fine figure of a woman, was neatly dressed in the Spanish costume, and had an air of dignity which did not detract from her graces.

The room, or rather dungeon, they were in, was not more than twelve feet square, and this space was considerably diminished by the chests upon chests with which it was surrounded; there was also a sort of couch, or truckle bed, and a few necessary articles of furniture.

"You perceive, sir, that my habitation cannot boast of many comforts, and I can suppose my billet, which I this morning, at every risk, offered to your notice, rather surprised you; but I cannot live here.

much longer, and Heaven only knows when these odious French will evacuate the castle. But it may be proper to account to you for my being thus secluded, though the fact speaks for itself. The building, as you may have observed, is of a very ancient date, and probably when it was erected, the Moors were as formidable enemies to the loyal Spaniards, as the French now are. This was always used as a strong room, and considered, as it has proved to be, a very safe retreat. My father alone knew of the secret entrance to it, which was revealed to him by my grandfather, and he put me into his confidence when he began to fear I might be compelled to have recourse to this retreat; and he also shewed me a secret outlet, by which I think I can leave the castle, I deem it safe or prudent to venture upon such a step, as there is an arched passage nearly parallel with this room, which runs under ground for a quarter of a mile, or more, and which leads to an entrance I

think known only to myself and my father; still there may be danger in venturing out this way: but I have recently examined the passage, which is too low to admit of your walking upright, and I think you might depart undiscovered."

"Then do not let us lose a moment, my amiable young friend," said Charles; "the hour—every thing seems propitious."

"Agreed, sir; but ought I, for my father's sake, to abandon the money, plate, and jewels, which those chests contain, and which have been concealed here ever since the French entered Spain? and were we to leave them behind, it will be next to impossible to return in search of them. However, better the whole were to be buried here for ever, than for any part to fall into the hands of the wretches who have removed my father."

Charles was quite of her opinion, and he was so anxiously devising plans to secure both herself and her treasures, that he did not attend to a detailed account she

gave him of her separation from her father; till perceiving he was entirely lost in thought, she paused, convinced that he did not hear what she was saying. Her silence recalled his wandering ideas, and he candidly acknowledged that he had been fully engaged in laying plans for the future, and thus continued—"In a very few hours it will be discovered that I am missing; of course every crevice in the room above will be minutely inspected; fortunately I did not fasten my room door, therefore it may be suspected that I have eluded the vigilance of the sentinel, and scaled the walls."

"That is the most probable conjecture that can be formed, as I think they will never discover the aperture by which you made your retreat. If you ever remarked the hearth within the chimney, there appears to be some half-burnt brands and ashes, lying close to the iron back, which is painted, to favour the deception, and some loose ashes and similar brands were

always left, and now remain upon the hearth. Now this iron back is placed in a frame, and there is a row of brick-work behind it, therefore a fire may be kindled in the room with the greatest safety. But this said back can, by means of a secret spring, be opened on either side, by those who know where to seek it, and when shut, it may bid defiance to the strictest scrutiny."

"I dare say it may," rejoined Charles, "as it evaded all my researches; but my footsteps will be discerned among the ashes, that must lead to suspicions."

"I have guarded against that; for when I opened the pannel, I took care to have a coarse cloth which lies there, which I spread over the hearth before you stepped upon it; and when I returned to close the opening, I contrived to draw it in such a manner, that it must have effaced the marks your feet may have left; and even were any to be discerned, I am convinced they will sooner suspect you ascended the chimney."

ney, than that you made your exit through the back stock."

"You seem to have guarded against every thing, my kind friend; but pray how have you contrived to exist, deprived as you have been of air? and what have you done for provisions?"

"I had laid in a sufficient stock of the latter, at various times, to last me some time, since even wine and biscuits will support nature; and with respect to air, you know that one of the tiles under the pavillion is moveable; it was of course made so when this recess was planned, and surely I have reason to bless Providence for the precaution, since it enabled me to interest you in my behalf."

"That you have done most completely; but now let us settle the mode of our escape; whither does the arched passage lead?"

"I need not tell you that the castle stands upon a hill, having so lately ascended it; but you may not know that there is a river

which runs at the back of the demesne. But pray which road did you come when you were brought hither?"

Charles entered into every necessary explanation, detailing how he had been surprised, and all he had learnt respecting her father and the present inmates of the castle.

"Poor Beatrice; I dare say she is very anxious about me; and I am much obliged by your minute recapitulation, in which I felt greatly interested; so to return to our escape, which is a subject still nearer our hearts. The river I mentioned, and which you have not seen, runs without the wall at the bottom of the gardens or pleasure-grounds, behind the castle, and upon the banks is a Moorish pavillion, not very unlike the one above our heads, where you so opportunely sought a retreat from the sun; at no great distance is a door leading into the gardens, which is, of course, secured withinside, but through that my fa-

ther or myself used to let ourselves out, when we wished to enjoy the diversion of fishing, as there is a sort of wooden balcony, or rather long plank, affixed to the front of the little building, guarded by a slight rail, which was very convenient for that purpose, but which may also, by touching a spring, that moves a lever, be transformed into a temporary bridge over the stream, which is very narrow in this particular place, and the arched passage leads to a staircase, which terminates in a trap-door, very artfully concealed under the moveable bench of this said retreat; the bridge, when sent back with a proper degree of strength, falls into its place again, and becomes stationary as before, therefore no one unacquainted with the mechanism by which it moves could be aware of its utility. There is a very good footpath on the other side, which must take you a shorter cut to where the British army is encamped, though it leaves the village where you were surprised to the left;

but now you perceive that the means of escape are in our power."

Charles was all attention to these details; he knew he was not more than eighteen miles from head-quarters, and he was all anxiety to be upon the road; still he could not resolve to leave donna Victoria, whom he had sworn to protect; and were he to make her the partner of his flight, the attempt would, as she observed, be very hazardous, since the enemy might have a patrol on the other side of the river, which alone he might be able to elude, but with her it would be impossible. But suddenly recalling his wandering thoughts, he asked donna Victoria "if she were at all aware how the French soldiers then in the castle were disposed of?"

She could not exactly tell, but she should suppose in the offices which ran on one side of the court by which he had entered, as the only time she had seen general Roncevalles, he had observed that the castle would, if required, afford accom-

modations for a hundred and fifty of their cavalry, and twice as many infantry, which would be sufficient to defend it, upon a case of emergency."

"Do these domestic offices communicate with the interior of the castle?" asked Charles.

"No, they are totally detached, as the lower buildings are stables and coach-houses, the upper rooms are dormitories for the inferior servants, to which they ascend by wooden staircases, on the outside of the buildings; there are also many other out-houses, which may have been turned into barracks."

"Which is the nearest way to them from my late prison?"

"Through the small door by which your sentinels were introduced; but as it is not much farther about to go through the house, the inner door in the room you have just vacated leads into a passage, one extremity of which opens into the outer court. May I inquire why you are thus curious?"

“I merely wish to learn how our enemies are disposed of during the night, as I have formed a plan, which, should it succeed, might terminate in their discomfiture.”

“Heaven send it may! I only wish I could afford you any effectual assistance.”

“Then were I to depart alone, could you fancy yourself perfectly secure till to-morrow night at this hour? if so, lead me immediately to the friendly aperture, and if you can enable me to cross the river by means of the bridge, it will facilitate my evasion, else I can easily swim across; but if all remains in *statu quo* at the castle, and you will have the bridge ready, I think I may venture to promise to return by midnight, with a sufficient number of men to secure your retreat, enable you to carry off your property, and to make your enemies prisoners to the British.”

Donna Victoria turned pale at the bare idea of being again left alone, as she could not help fearing this fine young soldier

might not, even were he so inclined, be able to return as he promised.

Charles, who guessed what was passing in her mind, resumed—"If I thought you were able to undertake a walk of at least eighteen miles, I would request you to accompany me; but should we fall in even with a small number of the enemy, unarmed as I am, I should be unable to protect you, and you must besides leave all your property behind. I might, I agree, be able to return in search of it, should we reach the British quarters in safety; but I might not prove successful, since, were we to suffer the bridge to remain across the river, we should discover the mode of our retreat; and though I might swim back again——"

"Say no more, my kind friend; I blush at having displayed such puerile fears. I will patiently await your promised return, since I feel convinced that you will not leave me to my fate."

“You may depend upon my honour and my punctuality; do not think me impatient, but time wears, and the sooner I go, the better I shall be able to arrange matters for my return, yet, believe me, I grieve to leave you behind.”

His looks accorded so strictly with his words, that she was convinced of his sincerity; and as a proof of her entire confidence, instantly took down her lamp, having previously lit another, in the event of its going out, and led the way to the arched or-vaulted passage, already mentioned, to which they descended a few steps, and then slowly and cautiously, in a bending posture, pursued their way, till they reached the stairs leading to the trap-door, through which they were to pass. Charles, by her directions, moved the spring, having previously ascertained that all was quiet without: the trap being opened, she next pointed out two springs which held the seat, by which it was concealed in its place, which could only be removed by means of this mechanism; it was now looser, and

our prisoners emerged from the vaulted cavern.

“What a heavenly night!” she exclaimed; “and how refreshing is this pure air!”

“The weather seems indeed to favour our enterprise; but shall you be able to make all secure again when you return, and to re-open the trap, and remove the seat unassisted, to re-admit me when I return?”

“The mechanism is so simple, and so well-contrived, that it merely requires dexterity; strength is unnecessary; when I have secured the trap, this pulley will again fasten the seat; and depend upon my being upon the watch for you to-night from eleven till you come: so now let me loosen the bridge.” This was as easily done as the seat had been removed, and with very little effort, the plank or balcony swung across the river, and formed an excellent bridge, which the railing on one side rendered very secure.

“Now fare-you-well, my friend,” cried

the apparently undaunted Victoria; "and depend upon my being in readiness to receive you at eleven to-night; this pavilion must be your guide, and let your watchword be, honour and patriotism."

Charles seized her hand, and swore to deliver her, or to perish in the attempt; and she having very clearly pointed out his road, he flew rather than ran across the bridge, which he instantly forced back into its place, saw his fair friend secure it, and return to her prison, while he, with silent and cautious speed, proceeded on his journey:

END OF VOL. I.

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