

Margaret Cameron

THE HISTORY

OF

Duncan Campbell

AND HIS

Dog Oscar.

FROM HOGG'S EVENING TALES.



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DUNCAN CAMPBELL.

Duncan Campbell came from the Highlands, when six years of age, to live with an old maiden aunt in Edinburgh, and attend the school. His mother was dead: but his father had supplied her place, by marrying his housekeeper. Duncan did not trouble himself about these matters, nor indeed about any other matters, save a black foal of his father's and a large sagacious colley, named Oscar, which belonged to one of the shepherds. There being no other boy save Duncan about the house, Oscar and he were constant companions—with his garter tied round Oscar's neck, and a piece of deal tied to his busy tail, Duncan would often lead him about the green, pleased with the idea that he was conducting horse and cart. Oscar submitted to all this with great cheerfulness, but whenever Duncan mounted to ride on him, he found means instantly to unhorse him, either by galloping, or rolling himself on the green. When Duncan threatened him, he looked submissive and licked his face and hands; when he corrected him with the whip, he cowered at his feet;—matters were soon made up. Oscar would lodge no where during the night but at the door of the room where his young friend slept, and would be to the man or woman who ventured to enter it at untimely hours.

When Duncan left his native home he thought not of his father, nor any of the servants. He was fond of the ride, and some supposed that he even scarcely thought of the black foal; but when he saw Oscar standing looking him ruefully in the face, the tears immediately blinded both his eyes. He caught him around the neck, hugged and kissed him,—“Good-b'ye Oscar,” said he blubbering; “good-b'ye, G

“ Bless you, my dear Oscar;” Duncan mounted before a servant, and rode away—Oscar still followed at a distance, until he reached the top of the hill—he then sat down and howled; Duncan cried till his little heart was like to burst.—“ What ails you?” said the servant. “ I will never see my poor honest Oscar again,” said Duncan, “ an’ my heart canna bide it.”

Duncan staid a year in Edinburgh. but he did not make great progress in learning. He did not approve highly of attending the school. and his aunt was too indulgent to compel his attendance. She grew extremely ill one day—the maids kept constantly by her, and never regarded Duncan. He was an additional charge to them, and they never loved him. but used him harshly. It was now with great difficulty that he could obtain either meat or drink. In a few days after his aunt was taken ill she died.—All was in confusion, and poor Duncan was like to perish with hunger;—he could find no person in the house; but hearing a noise in his aunt’s chamber, he went in, and beheld them dressing the corpse of his kind relation;—it was enough.—Duncan was horrified beyond what mortal breast was able to endure;—he hasted down the stair, and ran along the High Street, and South Bridge, as fast as his feet could carry him, crying incessantly all the way. He would not have entered that house again, if the world had been offered him as a reward. Some people stopped him, in order to ask what was the matter, but he could only answer them by exclaiming, “ Oh, dear! Oh, dear!” and, struggling till he got free, held on his course, careless whither he went, provided he got far enough from the horrid scene he had so lately witnessed. Some have supposed; and I believe Duncan has been heard to confess, that he then imagined he was running for the Highlands, but mistook the direction. However that was, he continued his course until he came to a place

where two ways met, a little south of Grange Toll. Here he sat down, and his frenzied passion subsided into a soft melancholy;—he cried no more, but sobbed excessively; fixed his eyes on the ground, and made some strokes in the dust with his finger.

A sight just then appeared, which somewhat cheered, or at least interested, his heavy and forlorn heart—; was a large drove of Highland cattle. They were the only creatures like acquaintances that Duncan had seen for a twelvemonth, and a tender feeling of joy, mixed with regret, thrilled his heart at the sight of their white horns and broad dew-laps. As the van passed him, he thought their looks were particularly gruff and sulien; he soon perceived the cause, they were all in the hands of Englishmen;—poor exiles like himself;—going far away to be killed and eaten, and would never see the Highland hills again!

When they were all gone by, Duncan looked after them and wept anew; but his attention was suddenly called away to something that softly touched his feet;—he looked hastily about—it was a poor hungry lame dog, squatted on the ground, licking his feet, and manifesting the most extravagant joy. Gracious Heaven! it was his own beloved and faithful Oscar! starved, emaciated, and so crippled, that he was scarcely able to walk! He was now doomed to be the slave of a Yorkshire peasant, (who, it seems, had either bought or stolen him at Falkirk,) the generosity and benevolence of whose feelings were as inferior to those of Oscar, as Oscar was inferior to him in strength and power. It is impossible to conceive a more tender meeting than this was; but Duncan soon observed that hunger and misery were painted in his friend's looks, which again pierced his heart with feelings unfelt before. "I have not a crumb to give you, my poor Oscar!" said he—"I have not a crumb to eat myself, but I am not so ill as you are." The peasant

whistled aloud. Oscar well knew the sound, and clinging to the boy's bosom, leaned his head upon his thigh, and looked in his face, as if saying, "O Duncan, protect me from you ruffian." The whistle was repeated accompanied by a loud and surly call. Oscar trembled, but fearing to disobey, he limped away reluctantly after his unfeeling master, who observing him to linger and look back, imagined he wanted to effect his escape, and came running back to meet him. Oscar cowered to the earth in the most submissive and imploring manner, but the peasant laid hold of him by the ear, and uttering many imprecations, struck him with a thick staff till he lay senseless at his feet.

Every possible circumstance seemed combined to wound the feelings of poor Duncan; but this unmerited barbarity shocked him most of all. He hastened to the scene of action, weeping bitterly; and telling the man that he was a cruel brute; and that if ever he himself grew a big man he would certainly kill him. He held up his favourite's head that he might recover his breath, and the man knowing that he could do little without his dog, waited patiently to see what would be the issue. The animal recovered, and stammered away at the heels of his tyrant without daring to look behind him. Duncan stood still, but kept his eyes eagerly fixed upon Oscar, and the farther he went from him, the more strong his desire grew to follow him. He looked the other way, but all there was to him a blank — he had no desire to stand where he was, so he followed Oscar and the drove of cattle.

The cattle were weary and went slowly, and Duncan, getting a little goad in his hand, assisted the men greatly in driving them. One of the drivers gave him a penny, and another gave him twopence; and the lad who had the charge of the drove, observing how active and pliable he was, and how far he had accompanied him on the way, gave him sixpence; this was a treasure to Duncan, who being extremely hungry

bought three penny rolls as he passed through a town; one of these he ate himself, another he gave to Oscar; and the third he carried below his arm in case of farther necessity. He drove on all the day, and at night the cattle rested upon a height, which, by his description, seems to have been that between Gala Water and Middleton. Duncan went off at a side in company with Oscar, to eat his roll, and taking shelter behind an old earthen wall, they shared their dry meal most lovingly between them. Ere it was quite finished, Duncan being fatigued, dropped into a profound slumber, out of which he did not awake until the next morning was far advanced. Englishmen, cattle, and Oscar, all were gone. Duncan found himself alone on a wild height, in what country or kingdom he knew not. He sat for some time in a callous stupor, rubbing his eyes and scratching his head, but quite irresolute what was farther necessary for him to do, until he was agreeably surprised by the arrival of Oscar, who (though he had gone at his master's call in the morning) had found means to escape and seek the retreat of his young friend and benefactor. Duncan, without reflecting on the consequences, rejoiced in the event, and thought of nothing else than furthering his escape from the ruthless tyrant who now claimed him. For this purpose he thought it would be best to leave the road, and accordingly he crossed it, in order to go over a waste moor to the westward. He had not got forty paces from the road, until he beheld the enraged Englishman running towards him without his coat, and having his staff heaved over his shoulder. Duncan's heart fainted within him, knowing it was all over with Oscar, and most likely with himself. The peasant seemed not to have observed them, as he was running, and rather looking the other way; and as Duncan quickly lost sight of him in a hollow place that lay between them, he crept into a bush of heath and took Oscar in his bosom; the

the man had observed from whence the dog started in the morning, and hasted to the place, expecting to find him sleeping beyond the old earthen dike: he found the nest, but the birds were flown,—he called aloud; Oscar trembled and clung to Duncan's breast; Duncan peeped from his purple covert like a heathcock on his native waste, and again beheld the ruffian coming straight towards them, with his staff still heaved, and fury in his looks:—when he came within a few yards he bellowed out; "Oscar, yho, yho!" Oscar quaked, and crept still closer to Duncan's breast; Duncan almost sunk in the earth; "D——n him," said the Englishman, "if I had a hold of him I should make both him and the little thievish rascal dear at a small price; they cannot be far gone—I think I hear them;" he then stood listening, but at that instant a farmer came up on horseback, and having heard him call, asked him if he had lost his dog? The peasant answered in the affirmative, and added, that a black-guard boy had stolen him. The farmer said that he met a boy with a dog about a mile forward. During this dialogue, the farmer's dog came up to Duncan's den,—smelled upon him, then upon Oscar,—cocked his tail, walked round them growling, and then behaved in a very improper and uncivil manner to Duncan, who took all patiently, uncertain whether he was yet discovered. But so intent was the fellow upon the farmer's intelligence, that he took no notice of the discovery made by the dog, but ran off without looking over his shoulder.

Duncan felt this a deliverance so great that all his other distresses vanished; and as soon as the man was out of his sight, he arose from his covert, and ran over the moor, and ere it was long came to a shepherd's house, where he got some whey and bread for his breakfast, which he thought the best meat he had ever tasted, yet shared it with Oscar.

Though I had his history from his own mouth, yet

there is a space here which it is impossible to relate with any degree of distinctness or interest. He was a vagabond boy, without any fixed habitation, and wandered about Herriot Moor; from one farm-house to another, for the space of a year; staying from one to twenty nights in each house, according as he found the people kind to him. He seldom resented any indignity offered to himself, but whoever insulted Oscar, or offered any observations on the impropriety of their friendship, lost Duncan's company next morning. He staid several months at a place called Dewar, which he said was haunted by the ghost of a piper;—that piper had been murdered there many years before, in a manner somewhat mysterious, or at least unaccountable; and there was scarcely a night on which he was supposed either to be seen or heard about the house. Duncan slept in the cow-house, and was terribly harassed by the piper; he often heard him scratching about the rafters, and sometimes he would groan like a man dying, or a cow that was choaked in the band; but at length he saw him at his side one night, which so discomposed him, that he was obliged to leave the place, after being ill for many days. I shall give this story in Duncan's own words, which I have often heard him repeat without any variation.

“I had been driving some young cattle to the heights of Willensléc—it grew late before I got home.—I was thinking, and thinking, how cruel it was to kill the poor piper! to cut out his tongue, and stab him in the back. I thought it was no wonder that his ghost took it extremely ill; when, all on a sudden, I perceived a light before me;—I thought the wand in my hand was all on fire, and threw it away, but I perceived the light glide slowly by my right foot, and burn behind me;—I was nothing afraid, and turned about to look at the light, and there I saw the piper, who was standing hard at my back, and when I turned round, he looked me in the face.” “What was he

like, Duncan?" "He was like a dead body! but I got a short view of him; for that moment all around me grew dark as a pit!—I tried to run, but sunk powerless to the earth, and lay in a kind of dream; I do not know how long; when I came to myself, I got up, and endeavoured to run, but fell to the ground every two steps. I was not a hundred yards from the house, and I am sure I fell upwards of a hundred times. Next day I was in a high fever; the servants made me a little bed in the kitchen, to which I was confined by illness many days, during which time I suffered the most dreadful agonies by night, always imagining the piper to be standing over me on the one side or the other. As soon as I was able to walk, I left Dewar; and for a long time durst neither sleep alone during the night, nor stay by myself in the day-time."

The superstitious ideas impressed upon Duncan's mind by this unfortunate encounter with the ghost of the piper, seem never to have been eradicated; a strong instance of the power of early impressions, and a warning how much caution is necessary in modelling the conceptions of the young and tender mind, for, of all men I ever knew, he is the most afraid of meeting with apparitions. So deeply is his imagination tainted with this startling illusion, that even the calm disquisitions of reason have proved quite inadequate to the task of dispelling it. Whenever it wears late, he is always on the look-out for these ideal beings, keeping a jealous eye upon every bush and brake, in case they should be lurking behind them, ready to fly out and surprise him every moment; and the approach of a person in the dark, or any sudden noise, always deprives him of the power of speech for some time.

After leaving Dewar, he again wandered about for a few weeks; and it appears that his youth, beauty, and peculiarly destitute situation, together with his friendship for his faithful Oscar, had interested the

most part of the country people in his behalf, for he was generally treated with kindness. He knew his father's name and the name of his house; but as none of the people he visited had ever before heard of either the one or the other, they gave themselves no trouble about the matter.

He staid nearly two years in a place he called Cow-haur, till a wretch with whom he slept, struck and abused him one day. Duncan, in a rage, flew to the loft and cut all his Sunday hat, shoes, and coat, in pieces; and, not daring to abide the consequences, decamped that night.

He wandered about for some time longer, among the farmers of Tweed and Yarrow; but this life was now become exceedingly disagreeable to him. He durst not sleep by himself, and the servants did not always choose that a vagrant boy and his great dog should sleep with them.

It was on a rainy night, at the close of harvest, that Duncan came to my father's house. I remember all the circumstances as well as the transactions of yesterday. The whole of his clothing consisted only of one black coat, which, having been made for a full grown man, hung fairly to his heels; the hair of his head was rough, curled, and weather-beaten; but his face was ruddy and beautiful, bespeaking a healthy body, and a sensible feeling heart. Oscar was still nearly as large as himself, had the colour of a fox, with a white stripe down his face, and a ring of the same colour around his neck, and was the most beautiful colley I have ever seen. My heart was knit to Duncan at the first sight, and I wept for joy when I saw my parents so kind to him. My mother in particular, could scarcely do any thing else than converse with Duncan for several days. I was always of the party, and listened with wonder and admiration; but often have these adventures been repeated to me. My parents who soon seemed to feel the same concern for

him as if he had been their own son, clothed him in blue drugget, and bought him a smart little Highland bonnet; in which dress he looked so charming, that I would not let them have peace until I got one of the same. Indeed, all that Duncan said or did was to me a pattern, for I loved him as my own life, I was, at my own request, which he persuaded me to urge, permitted to be his bed-fellow, and many a happy night and day did I spend with Duncan and Oscar.

As far as I remember we felt no privation of any kind, and would have been completely happy, if it had not been for the fear of spirits. When the conversation chanced to turn upon the Piper of Dewar, the Maid of Plora, or the Pedlar of Thirlestane Mill, often have we lain with the bed-clothes drawn over our heads until nearly suffocated. We loved the fairies and the brownies, and even felt a little partiality for the mermaids on account of their beauty and charming songs; we were a little jealous of the water-kelpies, and always kept aloof from the frightsome pools. We hated the devil most heartily, but we were not much afraid of him; but a ghost! oh, dreadful! the names, ghost, spirit, or apparition, sounded in our ears like the knell of destruction, and our hearts sunk within us as if pierced by the cold icy shaft of death. Duncan herd my father's cows all the summer—so did I—we would not live asunder. We grew fishers so expert, that the speckled trout, with all his art, could not elude our machinations; we forced him from his watery cove, admired the beautiful shades and purple drops that were painted on his sleek sides, and forthwith added him to our number without reluctance. We assailed the habitation of the wild bee, and rifled all her accumulated sweets, though not without encountering the most determined resistance. My father's meadows bounded with hives; they were almost in every swath—in every hillock. When the swarm was large, they would beat us off, day after day. In all these despe-

rate engagements, Oscar came to our assistance, and provided that none of the enemy made a lodgement in his lower defiles, he was always the last combatant of our party on the field. I do not remember of ever being so much diverted by any scene I ever witnessed or laughing as immoderately as I have done at seeing Oscar involved in a moving cloud of wild bees, wheeling, snapping on all sides, and shaking his ears incessantly.

The sagacity which this animal possessed is almost incredible, while his undaunted spirit and generosity it would do honour to every servant of our own species to copy. Twice did he save his master's life: at one time when attacked by a furious bull, and at another time when he fell from behind my father off a horse into a flooded river. Oscar had just swimm'd across but instantly plung'd in a second time to his master's rescue. He first got hold of his bonnet, but that coming off, he quitted it, and again catching him by the coat, brought him to the side, where my father reach'd him. He wak'd Duncan at a certain hour every morning, and would frequently turn the cows of his own will, when he observed them wrong. If Duncan dropp'd his knife, or any other small article, he would fetch it along in his mouth; and if sent back for a lost thing, would infallibly find it. When sixteen years of age, after being unwell for several days, he died one night below his master's bed. On the evening before when Duncan came in from the plough, he came from his hiding-place, wagged his tail, lick'd Duncan's hand, and returned to his death-bed. Duncan and I lamented him with unfeign'd sorrow, buried him below the old rowan tree at the back of my father's garden, placing a square stone at his head, which was still standing the last time I was there. With great labour we compos'd an epitaph between us, which was once carved on that stone; the metre was good, but the stone was so hard, and the engraving so faint, that the

characters, like those of our early joys, are long ago effaced and extinct.

Often have I heard my mother relate with enthusiasm, the manner in which she and my father first discovered the dawns of goodness and facility of conception.

Duncan's mind, though, I confess, dearly as I loved him, these circumstances escaped my observation. It was as my father's invariable custom to pray with the family every night before they retired to rest, to thank the Almighty for his kindness to them during the bygone day, and to beg his protection through the dark and silent watches of the night. I need not inform any of my readers, that that amiable duty, consisted in singing a few stanzas of a psalm, in which all the family joined their voices with my father's, so that the double staves of the various ages and sexes swelled to the ample concert. He then read a chapter from the Bible, going straight on from beginning to end of the scriptures. The prayer concluded the devotions of each evening, in which the downfall of Antichrist was always strenuously urged, the ministers of the Gospel remembered, nor was any friend or neighbour in distress forgot.

At one time, the year following, my father, in the course of his evening devotions, had reached the 19th chapter of the book of Judges; when he began reading it, Duncan was seated on the other side of the house, but ere it was half done, he had stolen up close to my father's elbow. "Consider of it take advice, speak your mind" said my father, and closed the book. "Go on, go on if you please, Sir," said Duncan—"go on, and let us hear what they said about it." My father looked sternly in Duncan's face, but seeing him flushed on account of his hasty breach of decency, without uttering a word, he again opened the Bible, and read the 20th chapter throughout, notwithstanding its great length. Next day Duncan was walking about with the Bible below his arm, begging of every

body to read it to him again and again. This incident produced a conversation between my parents, on the expenses and utility of education; the consequence of which was, that the week following, Duncan and I were sent to the parish school, and began at the same instant to the study of that most important and fundamental branch of literature, the A, B, C; but my sister Mary, who was older than I, was already an accurate and elegant reader.

This reminds me of another anecdote of Duncan with regard to family worship, which I have often heard related, and which I myself may well remember. My father happening to be absent over night at a fair when the usual time of worship arrived, my mother desired a lad, one of the servants, to act as chaplain for that night; the lad declined it, and slunk away to his bed. My mother testified her regret that we should all be obliged to go prayerless to our beds for that night, observing, that she did not remember the time when it had so happened before. Duncan said, that we thought we might contrive to manage it amongst us, and instantly proposed to sing the psalm and pray, Mary would read the chapter. To this my mother with some hesitation agreed, remarking that if he prayed as he could, with a pure heart, his prayer had good a chance of being accepted as some other that were *better worded*. Duncan could not then read, but having learned several psalms from Mary by rote, caused her seek out the place, and sung the 2^d Psalm from end to end, with great sweetness and decency. Mary read a chapter in the New Testament, and then (my mother having a child on her knee) we three kneeled in a row, while Duncan prayed thus:—"Lord, be thou our God, our guide, and our guard unto death, & through death" that was a sentence my father often used his in prayer; Duncan had laid hold of it, and my mother began to think that he had often prayed previous to that time.—, O Lord, thou"—continued, Duncan

matter was exhausted; a long pause ensued, which at length broke, by bursting into a loud fit of laughter. Duncan rose hastily, and, without once lifting his head, went crying to his bed; and as I continued to indulge in laughter, my mother, for my irreverend behaviour, struck me across the shoulders with the tongs; our evening devotions terminated exceedingly. I went crying to my bed after Duncan, even louder than he, and abusing him for his *useless prayer*, for which I had been nearly felled.

By the time that we were recalled from school to tend the cows next summer, we could both read the Bible with considerable facility, but Duncan far excelled me in perspicacity; and so fond was he of reading ecclesiastical history, that the reading of it was now our constant amusement. Often have Mary, and he, and I, sat under the same plaid by the side of the corn or shadow, and read chapter about on the Bible for hours together, weeping over the failings and fall of good men, and wondering at the inconceivable might of the heroes of antiquity. Never was man so delighted as Duncan was when he came to the history of Samson, afterwards of David and Goliath; he could not be satisfied until he had read it to every individual with whom he was acquainted, judging it to be as new and interesting to every one as it was to himself. I have seen him standing by the girls as they were milking the cows, reading to them the feats of Samson; and, in short, harassing every man and woman about the hamlet for audience. On Sundays, my parents accompanied us to the fields, and joined in our delightful exercise.

Time passed away, and so also did our youthful delights! but other cares and other pleasures awaited us. As we advanced in years and strength, we quitted the plough, and bore a hand in the labours of the farm. My sister, too, was often our assistant. She and Duncan were nearly of an age—he was tall, comely, and affable;

and if Mary was not the prettiest girl in the parish, least Duncan and I believed her to be so, which, with us, amounted to the same thing. We often compared the other girls in the parish with one another as to their beauty and accomplishments, but to think of comparing any of them with Mary, was entirely out of the question. She was, indeed, the emblem of truth, simplicity, and innocence, and if there were more beautiful, there were still fewer so good and amiable; but still, as she advanced in years, she grew fonder and fonder of being near Duncan; and by the time she was nineteen, was so deeply in love, that it affected her manner, her spirits, and her health. One time she was gay and frisky as a kitten; would dance, sing, and laugh violently at the most trivial incidents. At other times she was silent and sad, while a languishing softness overspread her features, and added greatly to her charms. The passion was undoubtedly mutual between them; but Duncan never declared himself farther on the subject, than to give the most respectful attention, and tender assiduity.

About forty years ago, the flocks of southern sheep, which have since that period inundated the Highlands, had not found their way over the Grampian mountains, and the native flocks of that sequestered country were so scanty, that it was found necessary to transport small quantities of wool annually to the north, to furnish materials for clothing the inhabitants. During two months of each summer, the hill countries of the Lowlands were inundated by hundreds of women from the Highlands, who bartered small articles of domestic import, for wool: these were known by the appellation of *norlen netties*; and few were passed, during the wool season, that some of them were not lodged at my father's house. It was one of these that Duncan learned one day who he was; that he was the laird of Glenelg.

son and heir, and that a large sum had been offered to any person that could discover him. My father certainly rejoiced in Duncan's good fortune, but they were disconsolate at parting with him; for he had long ago become as a son of their own; and I can truly believe, that from the day they first met, to the day in which the two *norlan' netties* came to our house, they never once entertained the idea of parting. For my part, I wished that the netties had never been born, or that they had staid at their own home; for my thoughts of being separated from my dear friend made me sick at heart. All our feelings were, however, nothing, when compar'd with those of my sister

On the day at dinner, after a long and sullen pause, my mother said, "I hope you do not intend to leave us very soon, Duncan?" "I am thinking of going to-morrow, Sir," said Duncan. The knife fell from my mother's hand; she looked him steadily in the face for the space of a minute. "Duncan," said my mother, her voice faultering, and the tears dropping from her eye,—“Duncan, I never durst ask you to go, but I hope you will not leave us altogether?” Duncan thrust the plate from before him into the middle of the table—took up a book that lay on the table, and looked over the pages—Mary left the room. No answer was returned, nor any further conversation made! and our little party broke up in silence.

When we met again in the evening, we were still in the same sullen mood. My father said, "You will soon forget Duncan; but there are some among us who will never soon forget you." Mary again left the room, and a silence ensued, until the family were called together for evening worship.

The next morning, after a restless night, Duncan early, put on his best suit, and packed up some articles to carry with him. I lay panting and

trembling, but pretended to be fast asleep. When was ready to depart, he took his bundle below his arm, came up to the side of the bed, and listened if I was sleeping. He then stood long hesitating, looking wistfully to the door, and then to me, alternately; and I saw him three or four times wipe his eyes. At length he shook me gently by the shoulder, and asked if I was awake. I feigned to start, and answered as if I were asleep. "I must bid you farewell," said he, grasping to get hold of my hand. "Will you not break bread with us, Duncan?" said I. "No," said he, "I am thinking that it is best to steal away, for it will break my heart to take leave of your parents, and"— "Who, Duncan?" said I. "And you," said he. "I would deed, but it is not best, Duncan," said I: "we will breakfast together for the last time, and then take formal and kind leave of each other." We did breakfast together, and as the conversation turned on former days it became highly interesting to us all. When my father had returned thanks to Heaven for our recovery, we knew what was coming, and began to look at each other. Duncan rose, and after we had all loaded with our blessings and warmest wishes, he embraced my parents and me.—He turned about.—His eyes plainly, there is somebody still wanting, but his heart was so full he could not speak. "What is become of Mary?" said my father;—Mary was gone.—I searched the house, the garden, and the houses of the cottagers, but she was nowhere to be found. Poor lovelorn forsaken Mary! She had hid herself behind the ancient yew that grows in front of the old house, that she might see her lover depart, without her being seen, and might indulge in all the luxury of

I must pass over Duncan's journey to the Highlands for want of room, but on the evening of the sixth day after leaving my father's house, he reached the mansion-house of Glenelich, which stands in a little beautiful woody strath, commanding a view

Deu-Caledonian Sea, and part of the Hebrides; every avenue, tree, and rock, was yet familiar to Duncan's recollection; and the feelings of his sensible heart like his own. He had, without discovering himself, learned from a peasant that his father was still alive, but that he had never overcome the loss of his son for whom he lamented every day; that his wife and daughter lorded it over him, holding his pleasure in contempt, and rendering his age extremely unhappy; they had expelled all his old farmers and vassals, and introduced the lady's vulgar presumptuous relations, who neither paid him rents, honour, nor obedience.

Old Glenelich was taking his evening walk on the path by which Duncan descended the stath to his dwelling. He was pondering on his own misfortunes, and did not even deign to lift his eyes as the stranger approached, but seemed counting the number of marks which the horses' hoofs had made on the way. "Good evening to you, Sir," said Duncan;—the old man started and stared him in the face, but with a look so unsteady and harrassed, that he seemed incapable of distinguishing any lineament or feature of it. "Good evening," said he, wiping his brow with his arm, and passing by.—What there was in the voice that struck him forcibly it is hard to say.—Nature is powerful.—Duncan could not think of ought to detain him; and being desirous of seeing how matters went on about the house, thought it best to remain some days *incog.* He went into the fore-kitchen, conversed freely with the servants, and soon saw his stepmother and sister appear. The former had all the insolence and arrogant pride of vulgarity raised to wealth and eminence; the other seemed naturally of an amiable disposition, but was entirely ruled by her mother, who taught her to disdain her father, all his relations, and whomsoever he loved. On that same evening he went into the kitchen, where she then was chatting

with Duncan, to whom she seemed attached at first sight. "Lexy, my dear," said he, "did you see my spectacles?" "Yes," said she, "I think I saw them on your nose to-day at breakfast." "Well, but have lost them since," said he. "You may take the next you find then, Sir," said she.—The servant laughed. "I might well have known what information I would get of you," said he, regretfully. "How can you speak in such a style to your father, my dear lady?" said Duncan.—"If I were he I would place you where you should learn better manners. It ill becomes so pretty a young lady to address an old father thus." "He!" said she, "who minds him? He's a dotard, an old whining, complaining, superannuated being, worse than a child." "But consider his years," said Duncan; "and besides, he may have met with crosses and losses sufficient to sour the temper of a younger man.—You should at all events pay a reverence, but never despise your father." The lady now joined them. "You have yet heard nothing, young man," said the old laird, "if you see how my heart is sometimes wrung.—Yes, I have had losses indeed." "You losses!" said his spouse. "No; you never had any losses that did not in the end turn out a vast profit."—"Do you then consider the loss of a loving wife and a son nothing?" said she—"but have you not got a loving wife and a daughter in their room?" returned she; "the one will waste your fortune as a prodigal son would have done, and the other will take care of both you and that, where you can no longer do either—the loss of your son indeed! it was the greatest blessing you could have received!" "Unfeeling woman," said he; "but Heaven may yet restore that son to protect your gray hairs of his old father, and lay his bones in an honoured grave." The old man's spouse were quite gone—he cried like a child, and his lady mimicked him—and at this, his daughter

and the servants raised a laugh. "Inhuman
 nes," said Duncan, starting up, and pushing them
 "thus to mock the feelings of an old man, even
 gh he were not the lord and master of you
 ut take notice---the individual among you all
 cares to offer such another insult to him, I'll
 on that fire." The old man clung to him, and
 d him ruefully in the face. "You impudent,
 rly vagabond!" said the lady, "do you know
 om you speak?---servants turn that wretch out
 e house, and hunt him with all the dogs in the
 l." "Softly, softly, good lady," said Dun-
 'take care that I do not turn you out of the
 "---"Alas! good youth" said the old laird,
 little know what you are about; for mercy's
 orbear; you are brewing vengeance both for
 lf and me." "Fear not," said Duncan, "I will
 t you with my life." "Pray, may I ask you
 is your name?" said the old man still looking
 tly at him---"That you may," replied Duncan,
 an has so good a right to ask any thing of me
 have---I am Duncan Campbell, your own son."
 m-my son!" exclaimed the old man, and sunk
 on a seat with a convulsive moan. Duncan
 im in his arms--he soon recovered, and asked
 incoherent questions--looked at the two moles
 right leg--kissed him, and then wept on his
 for joy. "O God of heaven," said he, "it is
 nce I could thank thee heartily for any thing;
 do thank thee indeed, for I have found my se-
 ar and only son!"

trary to what might have been expected, Dun-
 pretty only sister Alexia rejoiced most of all
 discovery. She was almost wild with joy at
 such a brother.--The old lady, her mother,
 id to have wept bitterly in private, but knowing
 Duncan would be her master, she behaved to
 ith civility and respect. Every thing was com-
 to his management, and he soon discovered,

that besides a good clear estate, his father had personal funds to a great amount. The halls and cottages of Glesselich were filled with feasting, joy, and gladness.

It was not so at my father's house. Misfortunes seldom come singly. Scarcely had our feelings overcome the shock which they received by the loss of our beloved Duncan, when a more terrible misfortune overtook us. My father, by the monstrous ingratitude of a friend whom he trusted, lost at once the greater part of his hard-earned fortune. The blow became unexpectedly, and distracted his personal affairs to such a degree, that an arrangement seemed almost totally impracticable. He struggled on with securities for several months; but perceiving that this was drawing his real friends into danger, by the signing of bonds which he might never be able to redeem, he lost heart entirely, and yielded to the tyrant's rent. Mary's mind seemed to gain fresh energy every day. The activity and diligence which she evinced in managing the affairs of the farm, and even in giving advice with regard to other matters, is quite credible;—often have I thought what a treasure to an inestimable girl would have been to an industrious man whom she loved. All our efforts availed nothing; my father received letters of horning on bills for a large amount, and we expected every day that they would be taken from us and dragged to a prison.

We were all sitting in our little room one day, consulting what was best to be done—we could decide upon nothing, for our case was desperate—we were fallen into a kind of stupor, but the window being open, a sight appeared that quickly thrilled every heart with the keenest sensations of anguish. Two men came riding sharply up by the back of the old schoolhouse. “Yonder are the officers of justice now,” said my mother, “what shall we do?” We hurried to the window, and all of us soon discerned that they were no other than some attorney, accompanied

sheriff's officer. My mother entreated of my father to escape and hide himself until this first storm over-blown, but he would in nowise consent, assuring us that he had done nothing of which he was ashamed and was determined to meet every one face to face, let them do their worst; so finding all our entreaties and we could do nothing but sit down and weep. At length we heard the noise of their horses at the door.

"You had better take the men's horses," said my father, "as there is no other man at home." "We will stay till they rap, if you please," said I.

The cautious officer did not however rap, but was afraid lest his debtor should make his escape, and jumped lightly from his horse, and hastened into the room. When we heard him open the outer door, and his footsteps approaching along the entry, our hearts faintcd within us—he opened the door and stepped into the room—it was Duncan! our own dearly beloved Duncan. The women uttered an involuntary scream of surprise, but my father ran and took hold of one hand and I of the other—my mother soon had him in her arms, but our embrace was not long; for his eyes fixed on Mary, who stood trembling with joy and wonder in a corner of the room, changing her colour every moment—he snatched her in his arms and kissed her lips, and ere ever she was aware, her arms had encircled his neck. "O dear Mary," said he, "my heart has been ill at ease since I left you, but I durst not then tell you a word of my mind, for I little knew how I was to find you in the place where I was going; but ah! you are the elusive rogue, you owe me another for the one you cheated me out of then;" so saying, he pressed his lips again to her cheek, and then led her to a seat. Duncan then recounted all his adventures to us, with every circumstance of his good fortune—our hearts were uplifted almost past bearing—all our cares and sorrows were now forgotten, and we were once more

the happiest little group that ever perhaps sat together. Before the cloth was laid for dinner, Mary ran out to put on her white gown, and comb her yellow hair, but was surprised at meeting with a smart young gentleman in the kitchen, with a scarlet neck on his coat, and a gold-laced hat. Mary, having never seen so fine a gentleman, made him a low courtesy, and offered to conduct him to the room, but he smiled, and told her he was the squire's servant. We had all of us forgot to ask for the gentleman that came with Duncan.

Duncan and Mary walked for two hours in the garden that evening--we did not know what passed between them, but the next day he asked her for her hand in marriage, and never will I forget the supreme happiness and gratitude that beamed on every face on that happy occasion. I need not tell my readers that my father's affairs were soon retrieved, or that I accompanied my dear Mary a bride to the Highlands, and had the satisfaction of saluting her as Mrs. Campbell, and Lady of Glenelich.

Finis.