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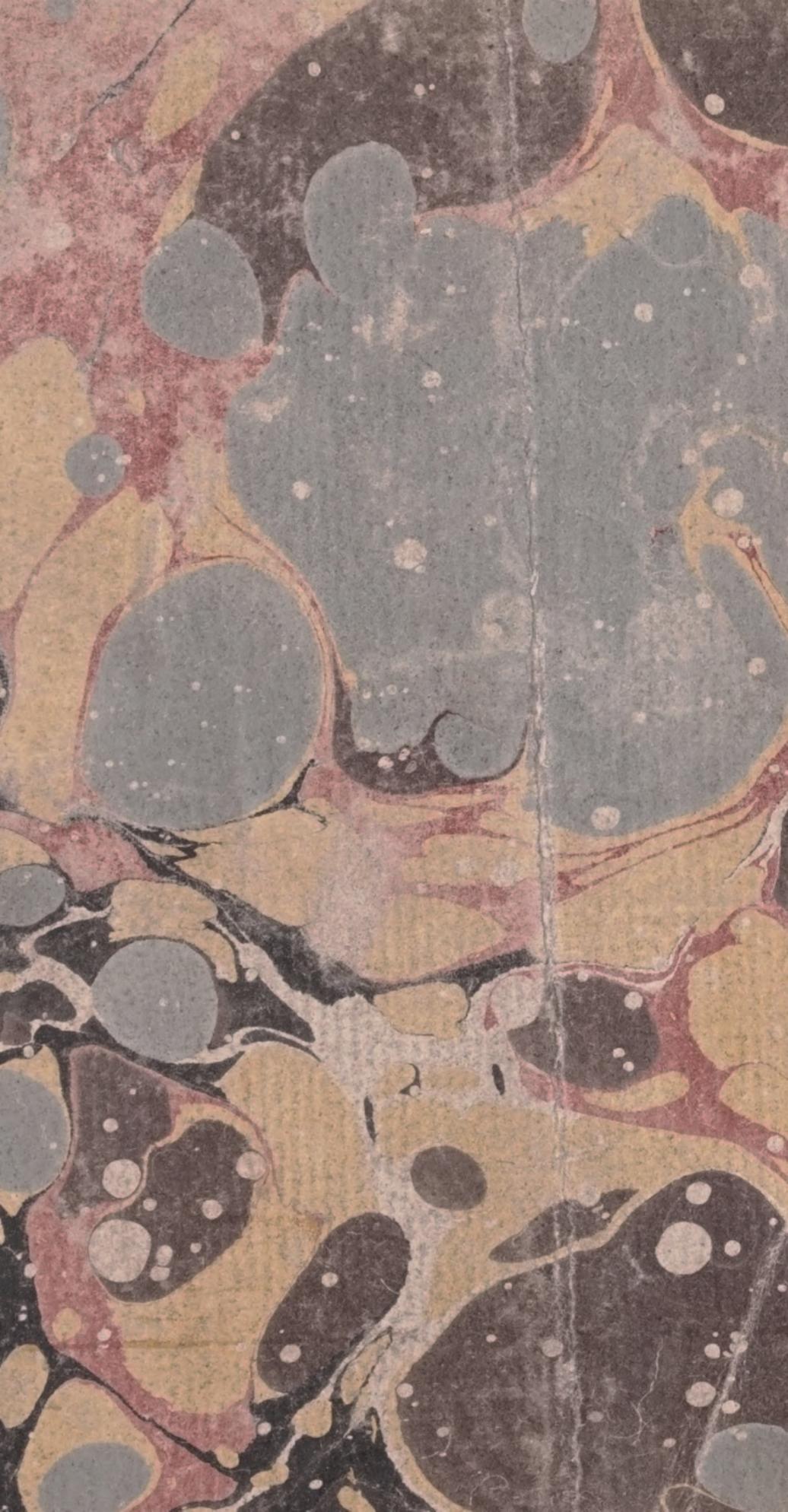
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LIFE AND
ADVENTURES OF
PETER WILKINS









W. L. G. W. L. G.



Peter's journey to the Land of Flight.—Chap. xxv.

THE
LIFE AND ADVENTURES
OF
PETER WILKINS.



BOSTON:
PUBLISHED BY J. SHAW & J. Q. ADAMS.
1835.

Course of the ship
from this
day

THE
LIFE AND ADVENTURES

last
and
scarcely

OF

PETER WILKINS;

Robert Paltoek

CONTAINING AN ACCOUNT OF HIS VISIT TO THE FLYING
ISLANDERS, TAKEN FROM HIS OWN MOUTH, IN
HIS PASSAGE TO ENGLAND, FROM OFF
CAPE HORN, IN AMERICA, IN
THE SHIP HECTOR.

BY R. S.
A PASSENGER IN THE HECTOR.

Paltoek, Robert

IMPROVED EDITION.

BOSTON :
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1835.

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THE

ADVENTURES

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ADVERTISEMENT.

In preparing the present edition of 'The Adventures of Peter Wilkins' for the press, the Editor has omitted certain gross passages, which however tolerable at the period when the work was first published, are by no means suited to the present improved state of public sentiment and taste.

He has also ventured to omit several of the minute and uninteresting details, and the long dialogues and soliloquies in which the author is rather too apt to indulge; retaining only such parts of this beautiful and highly imaginative romance as are calculated to interest the general reader, and carefully excluding whatever might offend the chastest mind.

INTRODUCTION.

It might be looked upon as impertinent in me, who am about to give the life of another, to trouble the reader with any of my own concerns, or the affairs that led me into the South Seas. Therefore, I shall only acquaint him, that in my return on board the *Hector*, as a passenger, round Cape Horn, for England, full late in the season, the wind and currents setting strong against us, our ship drove more southerly, by several degrees, than the usual course even to the latitude of 75 or 76; when the wind chopping about, we began to resume our intended way. It was about the middle of June, when the days are there at the shortest, on a very starry and moonlight night, that we observed at some distance a very black cloud, but seemingly of no extraordinary size or height, moving very fast towards us, and seeming to follow the ship, which then made great way. Every one on deck was very curious in observing its motions; and perceiving it frequently to divide, and presently to close again, and

not to continue long in any determined shape, our captain, who had never before been so far to the southward as he then found himself, had many conjectures what this phenomenon might portend; and every one offering his own opinion, it seemed at last to be generally agreed, that there might possibly be a storm gathering in the air, of which this was the prognostic; and by its following, and nearly keeping pace with us, we were in great fear lest it should break upon and overwhelm us, if not carefully avoided. Our commander, therefore, as it approached nearer and nearer, ordered one of the ship's guns to be fired, to try if the percussion of the air would disperse it. This was no sooner done, than we heard a prodigious flounce in the water, at but a small distance from the ship, on the weather-quarter; and after a violent noise, or cry in the air, the cloud, that upon our firing dissipated, seemed to return again, but by degrees disappeared. Whilst we were all very much surprised at this unexpected accident, I, being naturally very curious and inquisitive into the causes of all unusual incidents, begged the captain to send the boat, to see, if possible, what it was that had fallen from the cloud, and offered myself to make one in her. He was much against this at first, as it would retard his voyage, now we were going so smoothly before the

wind. But in the midst of our debate, we plainly heard a voice calling out for help, in our own tongue like a person in great distress. I then insisted on going, and not suffering a fellow-creature to perish for the sake of a trifling delay. In compliance with my resolute demand, he slackened sail; and hoisting out the boat, myself and seven others made to the cry, and soon found it to come from an elderly man, labouring for life, with his arms across several long poles, of equal size at both ends, very light, and tied to each other in a very odd manner. The sailors at first were very fearful of assisting or coming near him, crying to each other, He must be a monster! and, perhaps, might upset the boat and destroy them; but hearing him speak English, I was very angry with them for their foolish apprehensions, and caused them to clap their oars under him, and at length we got him into the boat. He had an extravagant beard, and also long blackish hair upon his head. As soon as he could speak, (for he was almost spent) he very familiarly took me by the hand, I having set myself close by him to observe him, and squeezing it, thanked me very kindly for my civility to him, and likewise thanked all the sailors. I then asked him by what possible accident he came there; but he shook his head, declining to satisfy my cu-

riosity. Hereupon reflecting that it might just then be troublesome for him to speak, and that we should have leisure enough in our voyage for him to relate, and me to hear, his story, (which, from the surprising manner of his falling amongst us, I could not but believe would contain something very remarkable) I waved any farther speech with him at that time.

We had him to the ship, and taking off his wet clothes, put him to bed in my cabin; and I having a large provision of stores on board, and no concern in the ship, grew very fond of him, and supplied him with every thing he wanted. In our frequent discourses together, he had several times dropped loose hints of his past transactions, which but the more inflamed me with impatience to hear the whole of them. About this time, having just begun to double the Cape, our captain thought of watering at the first convenient place; and finding the stranger had no money to pay his passage, and that he had been from England no less than thirty-five years, despairing of his reward for conducting him thither, he intimated to him that he must expect to be put on shore to shift for himself, when we put in for water. This entirely sunk the stranger's spirits and gave me great concern; insomuch, that I fully resolved, if the captain should really prove such a brute, to

take the payment of his passage on myself.

As we came near to the destined watering, the captain spoke the plainer of his intentions, (for I had nor yet hinted my design to him or any one else;) and one morning the stranger came into my cabin, with tears in his eyes, telling me, he verily believed the captain would be as good as his word, and set him on shore, which he very much dreaded. I did not choose to tell him immediately what I designed in his favour, but asked him if he could think of no way of satisfying the captain, or any one else who might thereupon be induced to engage for him; and farther, how he expected to live when he should get to England, a man quite forgotten and penniless. Hereupon he told me he had, ever since his being on board, considering his destitute condition, entertained a thought of having his adventures written; which, as there was something so uncommon in them, he was sure the world would be glad to know; and he had flattered himself with hopes of raising somewhat by the sale of them to put him in a way of living; but as it was plain now he should never see England without my assistance, if I would answer for his passage, and write his life, he would communicate to me a faithful narrative thereof, which he believed would pay me to the full any charge I might be at on

his account. I was very well pleased with this overture, not from the prospect of gain by the copy, but from the expectation I had of being fully satisfied in what I had so long desired to know ; so I told him I would make him easy in that respect. This quite transported him ; he caressed me and called me his deliverer, and was then going open-mouthed to the captain to tell him so. But I put a stop to that : For says I, though I insist upon hearing your story, the captain may yet relent of his purpose, and not leave you on shore ; and if that should prove the case, I shall neither part with my money for you, nor you with your interest in your adventures to me. Whereupon he agreed I was right, and desisted.

When we had taken in best part of our water, and the boat was going its last turn the captain ordered up the strange man, as they called him, and told him he must go on board the boat, which was to leave him on shore with some few provisions. I happened to hear nothing of these orders, they were so sudden, the poor man was afraid after all, he should have been hurried to land without my knowledge ; but begging very hard of the captain only for leave to speak with me before he went, I was called, (though with some reluctance, for the captain disliked me for the liberties I

frequently took with him, on account of his brutal behaviour.) I expostulated with the cruel wretch on the inhumanity of the action he was about ; telling him, if he had resolved the poor man should perish, it would have been better to have suffered him to do so when he was at the last extremity, than to expose him afresh, by this means, to a death as certain, in a more lingering and miserable way. But the savage being resolved, and nothing moved by what I said, I paid him part of the passage down, and agreed to pay the rest at our arrival in England.

Thus having reprieved the poor man, the next thing was to enter upon my new employ of amanuensis : and having a long space of time before us, we allotted two hours every morning for the purpose of writing down his life from his own mouth ; and frequently, when wind and weather kept us below, we spent some time of an afternoon in the same exercise, till we had quite completed it. But then there were some things in it so undescribable by words, that if I had not had some knowledge in drawing, our history had been very incomplete. Thus it must have been, especially in the description of the Glumms and Gawreys therein mentioned. In order to gain (that so I might communicate) a clear idea of these, I made several drawings of

them from his discourses and accounts ; and, at length, after divers trials, I made such exact delineations, that he declared they could not have been more perfect resemblances if I had drawn them from the life. Upon a survey, he confessed the very persons themselves could not have been more exact. I also drew with my pencil the figure of an aerièl engagement, which having likewise had his approbation, I have given a draught of.

Then, having finished the work to our mutual satisfaction, I locked it up, in order to peruse it at leisure, intending to have presented it to him at our arrival in England, to dispose of as he pleased, in such a way as might have conduced most to his profit ; for I resolved, notwithstanding our agreement, and the obligations he was under to me, that the whole of that should be his own. But he, having been in a declining state some time before we reached shore, died the very night we landed ; and his funeral falling upon me, I thought I had the greatest right to the manuscript, which, however, I had no design to have parted with ; but showing it to some judicious friends, I have by them been prevailed with not to conceal from the world what may prove so very entertaining, and perhaps useful.

THE
LIFE AND ADVENTURES
OF
PETER WILKINS.

CHAP. I.

I was born at Penhale, in the county of Cornwall, on the twenty-first day of December, 1685, about four months after my father, Peter Wilkins, who was a zealous protestant of the church of England, had been executed by Jefferys, in Somersetshire for joining in the design of raising the Duke of Monmouth to the British throne. I was named, after my father and grandfather, Peter, and was my father's only child by Alice his wife, the daughter of John Capert, a clergyman in a neighbouring village. My grandfather was a shopkeeper at Newport, who by great frugality, and extraordinary application, had raised a fortune of about one hundred and sixty pounds a year in land, and a considerable sum of ready money, all which at his death devolved upon my father, as his only child ; who being no

less parsimonious than my grandfather, and living upon his own estate, had much improved it in value before his marriage with my mother; but he coming to that unhappy end, my mother, after my birth, placed all her affection upon me, (her only growing hope as she called me) and used every method, in my minority, of increasing the store for my benefit.

In this manner she went on, till I grew too big, as I thought, for confinement at the apron string, being then about fourteen years of age; and having met with so much indulgence from her, for that reason, found very little or no contradiction from any body else; so I looked on myself as a person of some consequence, and began to take all opportunities of enjoying the company of my neighbours, who hinted, frequently, that the restraint I was under was too great a curb upon an inclination like mine of seeing the world; but my mother, still impatient of any little absence, by excessive fondness, and encouraging every inclination I seemed to have, when she could be a partaker with me, kept me within bounds of restraint till I arrived at my sixteenth year.

About this time I got acquainted with a country gentleman, of a small paternal estate, which had been never the better for being in his hands, and had some uneasy

demands upon it. He soon grew very fond of me, hoping, as I had reason afterwards to believe, by an union with my mother, to set himself free from his entanglements. She was then about thirty-five years old, and still continued my father's widow, out of particular regard to me, as I have all the reason in the world to believe. She was really a beautiful woman, and of a sanguine complexion, but had always carried herself with so much reserve, and given so little encouragement to any of the other sex, that she had passed her widowhood with very few solicitations to alter her way of life. This gentleman observing my mother's conduct, in order to ingratiate himself with her, had shown numberless instances of regard for me; and, as he told my mother, had observed many things in my discourse, actions, and turn of mind, that presaged wonderful expectations from me, if my genius was but properly cultivated.

This discourse, from a man of very good parts, and esteemed by every body an accomplished gentleman, by degrees wrought upon my mother, and more and more inflamed her with a desire of adding what lustre she could to my applauded abilities, and influenced her so far as to ask his advice in what manner most properly to proceed with me. My gentleman then had

his desire, for he feared not the widow could he but properly dispose of her charge ; so having desired a little time to consider of a matter of such importance, he soon after told her he thought the most useful method of establishing me, would be at an academy, kept by a very worthy and judicious gentleman, about thirty, or more, miles from us, in Somersetshire ; where, if I could but be admitted, the master taking in but a stated number of students at a time, he did not in the least doubt but I should fully answer the character he had given her of me, and outshine most of my contemporaries.

My mother, over anxious for my good, seeming to listen to this proposal, my friend (as I call him) proposed taking a journey himself to the academy, to see if any place was vacant for my reception, and learn the terms of my admission; and in three days, time returned with an engaging account of the place, the master, the regularity of the scholars, of an apartment secured for my reception, and, in short, whatever else might captivate my mother's opinion in favour of its scheme ; and, indeed, though he acted principally from another motive, as was plain afterwards, I cannot help thinking he believed it to be the best way of disposing of a lad sixteen years old, born to a pretty fortune, and who, at that

age, could but just read a chapter in the Testament: for he had before beat my mother quite out of her inclination to a grammar-school in the neighborhood, from a contempt, he said, it would bring upon me from lads much my juniors in years, by being placed in the first rudiments of learning with them.

Well, the whole concern of my mother's little family was now employed in fitting me out for my expedition; and as my friend had been so instrumental in bringing it about, he never missed a day inquiring how preparations went on; and during the process, by humouring me, ingratiated himself more and more with my mother, but without seeming in the least to aim at it. In short the hour of my departure arrived; and, though I had never been master of above sixpence at one time, unless at a fair or so, for immediate spending, my mother, thinking, to make my heart easy at our separation, (which, had it appeared otherwise, would have broke her's and spoiled all) gave me a double pistole in gold, and a little silver in my pocket to prevent my changing it.

Thus I, (the coach waiting for us at the door) having been preached into a good liking of the scheme by my friend, who now insisted upon making one of our company to introduce us, mounted the carriage

with more alacrity than could be expected for one who had never before been beyond the smoke of his mother's chimney; but the thoughts I had conceived, from my friend's discourse, of liberty in the academic way, and the weight of so much money in my pocket, as I then imagined would scarce ever be exhausted, were prevailing cordials to keep my spirits on the wing. We lay at an inn that night, near the master's house, and the next day I was initiated; and, at parting with me, my friend presented me with a guinea. When I found myself thus rich, I must say I heartily wished they were all fairly at home again, that I might have time to count my cash, and dispose of such part of it as I had already appropriated to several uses then in embryo.

The next morning left me master of my wishes, for my mother came and took her last (though she little thought it) leave of me, and smothering me with her caresses and prayers for my well-doing, in the height of her ardour put into my hand another guinea, promising to see me again quickly; and desiring me, in the mean time, to be a very good husband, and carefully use my store of money, she bid me farewell.

I shall not trouble you with the reception I met from my master, or his scholars, or

tell you how soon I made friends of all my companions, by some trifling largesses which my stock enabled me to bestow as occasion required ; but I must inform you, that, after sixteen years of idleness at home, I had but little heart to my nouns and pronouns, which now began to be crammed upon me ; and being the eldest lad in the house, I sometimes regretted the loss of the time past, and at other times despaired of ever making a scholar at my years ; and was ashamed to stand like a great lubber, declining of *hæc mulier*, a woman, whilst my school-fellows, and juniors by five years, were engaged in the stories of Ovid, or the songs of Horace. I own these thoughts almost overcame me, and threw me into a deep melancholy, of which I soon after, by letter, informed my mother ; who (by the advice, as I suppose, of my friend, by this time her suitor) sent me word to mind my studies, and I should want for nothing.

CHAPTER II.

I REMAINED at this school a whole year, without once being permitted to visit my mother, a circumstance which caused me a great deal of uneasiness. At the end of the year being in want of money, I wrote to my mother for a remittance and received the following letter from my former friend.

“ SON PETER,

“ Your mother and I are much surprised you should write for money, having so amply provided for you ; but as it is not many months to Christmas, when possibly we may send for you home, you must make yourself easy till then, as a school-boy, with all necessaries found him cannot have much occasion for money.

Your loving father,

“J. G.”

Imagine, if it is possible, my consternation at the receipt of this letter. I began to think I should be tricked out of what my father and grandfather had, with so much pains and industry, for many years been heaping up for me, and had a thousand thoughts all together jostling out each other, so could resolve on nothing.

However I was obliged to submit ; I was not sent for home at Christmas, nor for two years more ; when having gained the confidence of my preceptor, he advised me to write a very obliging letter to my new father, with my humble request, that he would please to order me home the next recess of our learning. I did so, under my master's dictation; and not long after received an answer to the following effect:—

‘SON PETER,

‘Your mother has been dead a good while; and as to your request, it will be only expensive, and of little use; for a person who must live by his studies cannot apply to them too closely.’

On showing this letter to my kind preceptor, he advised me to go home and offered to accompany me. We accordingly went, and learnt from my father-in-law that my father, just before entering into the fatal rebellion by which he lost his life, had made a deed conveying to my mother her whole estate, real and personal without any conditions, and that she had given the whole to my father-in-law by her will. I was thus cut off completely from my lawful patrimony. My father-in-law *kindly* offered to pay my board one year longer at school and said that I must then shift for myself.

CHAPTER III.

I RETURNED to school with my preceptor; but could not content myself with my studies as before. On the contrary, I was continually resolving plans for my future maintenance and conduct in life. At last I resolved to go to sea, and setting off secretly one night, I pursued the road to Bristol. After travelling two days I arrived at that place about four o'clock in the afternoon. Having refreshed myself, I went the same evening to the Kay, to inquire what ships were in the river, whither bound, and when they would depart. My business was with the sailors, of whom there were at that time great numbers there; but I could meet with no employ, though I gave out I would gladly enter myself before the mast: after I had done the best I could, but without success, I returned to the little house I had dined at and went to bed very pensive. I did not forget my prayers; but I could by no means be roused to such devotion as I sometimes had enjoyed. Next day I walked again to the Kay, asking all I met, who looked like seafaring men, for employment; but could hear of none, there being many waiting for births; and I feared my appearance (which

was not so mean as most of that sort of gentry is) would prove no small disappointment to my preferment that way. At last, being out of heart with my frequent repulses, I went to a landing place just by, and as I asked some sailors, who were putting two gentlemen on shore, if they wanted a hand on board their ship, one of the gentlemen, whom I afterwards found to be the master of a vessel bound to the coast of Africa, turned back and looked earnestly on me. Young man, says he, do you want employment on board? I immediately made him a bow, and answered, Yes, Sir. Said he, There is no talking in this weather, (for it then blew almost a storm) but step into that tavern, pointing to the place, and I will be with you presently.—I went thither, and not long after came my future master. He asked me many questions, but the first was, whether I had been at sea. I told him no; but I did not doubt soon to learn the duty of a sailor. He then looked on my hand, and shaking his head, told me it would not do, for I had too soft a hand. I told him I was determined for the sea, and that my hand and heart should go together; and I hoped that my hand would soon harden, though not my heart. He then told me it was a pity to take such a pretty young fellow before the mast; but if I understood accounts tolerably, and could write a good

hand he would make me his steward, and make it worth my while. I answered in the affirmative, joyfully accepting his offer; but on his asking me where my chest was, (For, says he, if the wind had not been so strong against me, I had fallen down the river this morning,) I looked very blank, and plainly told him I had no other stores than I carried on my back. The captain smiled. Says he, Young man, I see you are a novice; why, the meanest sailor in my ship has a chest, at least, and perhaps something in it: come, says he my lad, I like your looks; be diligent, and honest I will let you have a little money to set you out, and deduct it in your pay. He was then pulling out his purse, when I begged him, as he seemed to show me so great a kindness, that he would order somebody to buy what necessaries he knew I should want for me, or I should be under as great a difficulty to know what to get, and where to buy them, as I should have been at for want of them. He commended my prudence, and said he would buy them, and send them on board himself; so bid me trouble myself no more about them, but go to the ship, in the return of his boat, and stay there till he came; giving me a ticket to the boat's crew to take me in. When I came to the shore the boat was gone off, and at a good distance;

but I hailed them, and showing my ticket, they put back, and took me safe to the ship; heartily glad that I was entered upon my new service.

CHAPTER IV.

BEING once on board, and in pay, I thought I was a man for myself, and set about considering how to behave ; and nobody knowing, as yet, upon what footing I came on board, they took me for a passenger, as my dress did not at all bespeak me a sailor ; so every one, as I sauntered about, had something to say to me. By and by comes a pert young fellow up ; Sir, says he, your servant ; what, I see our captain has picked up a passenger at last.—Passenger? says I ; you are pleased to be merry, sir, I am no passenger.—Why, pray, says he, what may you be then ?—Sir, says I, the captain's steward.—You impertinent puppy says he, what an answer you give me ; you the captain's steward ! No, sir, that place, I can assure you is in better hands ! and away he turned.—I knew not what to think of it, but was terribly afraid I should draw myself into a scrape. By and by, others asked me, some one thing, some another, and I was very cautious what answers I made them, for fear of offence ; till a gravish sailor came and sat down by me ; and after talking of the weather, and other indifferent matters, Pray, says I, sir,

who is that gentleman that was so affronted at me soon after I came on board?—Oh, says he, a proud insignificant fellow, the captain's steward; but don't mind him, says he, he uses the captain himself as bad; they have had high words just before the captain went on shore; and had he used me as he did him, I should have made no ceremony of tipping him overboard; a rascal. Says I, you surprise me; for the captain sent me on board to be his steward, and agreed with me about it this afternoon.

—Hush, says he, I see how it will go; the captain, if that's the case, will discharge him when he comes on board; and indeed, I believe he would not have kept him so long, but we have waited for a wind, and he could not provide for himself.—The captain came on board at night; and the first thing he did was to demand the keys of Mr. Steward, which he gave to me, and ordered him on shore.

The next morning the captain went on shore himself; but the wind chopping round and standing fair about noon, he returned then with my chest, and before night we were got into sailing order, and before the wind, with a brisk gale. What happened the first fourteen days of our passage I know not, having been all that time so sick and weak, I could scarcely keep life and soul together; but after grew better and

better. We prosecuted our voyage, touching, for about a week, at the Madeiras in our way. The captain grew very fond of me, and never put me to hard duty, and I passed my time, under his favor, very pleasantly. One evening, being within sixty leagues of the Cape of Palmes, calm weather, but the little wind we had against us, one of our men spied a sail, and gave the captain notice of it. He, not suspecting danger, minded it little; and we made what way the wind would permit: but night coming on, and the calm continuing, about peep of day we perceived we were infallably fallen in with a French privateer; who, hoisting French colours, called out to us to strike. Our captain had scarce time to consider what to do, they were so near us; but as he had twenty-two men on board, and eight guns he could bring to, he called all hands upon deck, and telling them the consequence of a surrender, asked them if they would stand by him. One and all swore they would fight the ship to the bottom, rather than fall into the privateer's hands. The captain immediately gave the word for a clear deck, prepared his fire-arms, and begged them to be active, and obey orders; and perceiving the privateer out numbered our hands by abundance, he commanded all the small arms to be brought on deck loaded, and to run out as many of

the ship's guns as she could bring to on one side; and to charge them all with small shot, then stand to till he gave directions. —The privateer being a light ship, and a small breeze arising, run up close to us; first firing one gun, then another, still calling out to us to strike; but we neither returned fire nor answer, till he came almost within pistol-shot of us, and seeing us a small vessel, thought to board us directly; but then our captain ordered a broadside, and immediately all hands to come on deck; himself standing there at the time of our first fire with his fusee in his hand, and near him I stood with another. We killed eight men and wounded several others. The privateer then fired a broadside through and through us. By this time our hands were all on deck, and the privateer pushing, in hopes to grapple and board us, we gave them a volley from thence, that did good execution; and then all hands to the ship's guns again, except four who were left along with me to charge the small arms. It is incredible how soon they had fixed the great guns, and were on deck again. This last fire, being with ball raked the privateer miserably. Then we fired the small arms, and away to the ship's guns. Thus we did three times successively without the loss of a man, and I believe if we could have held it once more, and no assistance had come

to the privateer, she had sheered quite off; but our captain spying a sail at some distance behind the privateer, who lay to windward of us, and seeing by his glass it was a Frenchman, was almost dismayed; the same sight put courage into our enemies, who thereupon redoubled the attack, and the first volley of their small arms shot our captain in the breast, upon which he dropped dead without stirring. I need not say that sight shocked me exceedingly. Indeed it disconcerted the whole action; and though our mate, a man of good courage and experience, did all that a brave man could do to animate the men, they apparently drooped, and the loss of the ship became inevitable; so we struck, and the Frenchman boarded us.

During the latter part of the engagement, we had two men killed, and five wounded, who died afterwards of their wounds. We who were alive were all ordered on board the Frenchman; who, after rifling us, chained us two and two, and turned us into the hold. Our vessel was then ransacked; and the other privateer who had suffered much the day before in an engagement with an English twenty-gun ship of war, coming up, the prize was sent by her into port where she herself was to refit. In this condition did I, and fourteen of our crew, lie for six weeks; till the fetters on

our legs had almost eaten to the bone and the stench of the place had well nigh suffocated us.

The Glorieux (for that was the name of the privateer who took us) saw nothing farther in five weeks worth her notice, which very much discouraged the men; and, consulting together, it was agreed to cruize more northward, between Sierra Leon and Cape de Verde; but about noon, next day, they spied a sail, coming west-north-west, with a fresh gale. The captain thereupon ordered all to be ready, and lie by for her. But, though she discerned us, she kept her way, bearing only more southward; when the wind shifting to north east, she ran for it, full before the wind, and we after her with all the sail we could crowd; and though she was a very good sailer, we gained upon her, being laden, and before night come pretty well up with her; but, being a large ship, and the evening hazy, we did not choose to engage her till morning. The next morning we found she was slunk away; but we fetched her up, and hoisting French colours, fired a shot which she not answering, our captain run alongside of her, and fired a broadside; then slackening upon her, a hard engagement ensued; the shot thumping so against our ship, that we prisoners who had nothing to do in the action, expected death, one or

other of us, every moment. The merchantman was so heavy loaded, and drew so much water, that she was very unwieldy in action; so after a fight of two hours, when most of her rigging and masts were cut and wounded, she struck. Twelve men were sent on board her, and her captain and several officers were ordered on board us.

There were thirty-eight persons in her, including passengers; all of whom, except five, and the like number which had been killed in the action, were sent chained into the hold with us, who had lain there almost six weeks. This prize put Monsieur into good heart and determined him to return home with her. But in two days' time, his new acquisition was found to have leaked so fast near the bottom, that before they were aware of it, the water was risen some feet. Several hands were employed to find out the leak; but all asserted it was too low to be come at: and as the pumps, with all the labour the prisoners who were the persons put to it, could use, would not reduce it, but it still increased, they removed what goods they could into the privateer; and before they could unload it, the prize sunk.

The next thing they consulted upon, was what to do with the prisoners, who by the loss of the prize were now grown too nu-

merous to be trusted in the privateer ; fearing, too, as they were now so far out at sea, by the great addition of mouths, they might soon be brought to a short allowance ; it was, on both accounts, resolved to give us the prize's boat which they had saved, and turn us adrift to shift for ourselves. There were in all forty three of us ; but the privateer having lost several of their own men in the two engagements, they looked us over, and picking out two-and-twenty of us, who were the most likely fellows for their purpose, the remaining one-and-twenty were committed to the boat, with about two days' provision and a small matter of ammunition, and turned out.

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CHAPTER V.

AFTER remaining at sea three days in this destitute condition, we were taken up by a Portuguese ship bound to St. Salvador, on the coast of Africa, and a few days after arrived safely in that port.

Here being destitute of money, I engaged in an expedition into the interior and was made prisoner. I pass over my sufferings in captivity among the negroes, because I would not detain you from the more interesting part of my adventures. Among my fellow prisoners was an African by the name of Glanlipze, a fellow of great courage and enterprize. I formed an acquaintance with him and we concerted a plan for our escape, which was effected principally by his means. With him I wandered through the wilderness, passed the borders of several tribes hostile to his own, and at last arrived at his own habitation, where we found his wife and children, the former having proved faithful and constant to him during his absence for several years.

I passed my time with Glanlipze and his wife, who both really loved me, with sufficient bodily quiet for about two years: my business was chiefly, in company with my

patron to cultivate a spot of ground wherein we had planted grain and necessaries for the family ; and once or twice a week we went a fishing, and sometimes hunted and shot venison. These were our chief employments ; for as to excursions for slaves, which is a practice in many of those countries, and what the natives get money by since our own slavery, Glanlipze and I could not endure it.

Though I was tolerable easy in my external circumstances, yet my mind hankering after England made my life still unhappy, and that infelicity daily increased. I saw the less probability of attaining my desire. At length, hearing of some European sailors, who were under confinement for contraband trade, at a Portuguese fort about two miles from Quamis, I resolved to go to see them ; and, if any of them should be English, at least to inquire after my native country. I went and found two Dutchmen, who had been sailors in British pay several years, three Scotchmen, an Irishman, and five Englishmen but all had been long in English merchants' service. They were taken, as they told me, by a Portuguese vessel, together with their ship, as a Dutch prize, under pretence of contraband trade. The captain was known to be a Dutchman, though he spoke good English, and was then in English pay, and his ves-

sel English ; therefore they would have it that he was a Dutch trader, and so seized his ship in the harbour, with the prisoners in it. The captain, who was on shore with several of his men, was threatened to be laid in irons, if he was taken, which obliged him and his men to abscond, and fly over land to an English factory, for assistance to recover his ship and cargo, being afraid to appear and claim it, amongst so many enemies, without an additional force. They had been in confinement two months, and their ship confiscated and sold. In this miserable condition I left them, but returned once or twice a week, for a fortnight or three weeks, to visit them. These instances of regard, as they thought them, created some confidence in me, so that they conversed with me very freely. Amongst other discourse, they told me, one day, that one of their crew, who went with the captain, had been taken ill on the way, and being unable to proceed, was returned ; but as he talked good Portuguese, he was not suspected to belong to them ; and that he had been to visit them, and would be there again that day. I had a mind to see him, so staid longer than I intended, and in about an hour's time he came. After he was seated, he asked who I was, and (privately) if I might be trusted. Being satisfied I might, for that I was a Cornish man,

he began as follows, looking narrowly about to see he was not overheard: My lads, says he, be of good courage, I have hopes for you; be but men, and we shall see better days yet. I wondered to what this preface tended; when he told us, that since his return from the captain, as he spoke good Portuguese, and had sailed on board Portuguese traders several years, he mixed among that people, and particularly among the crew of the *Del Cruz*, the ship which had taken them; that that ship had partly unloaded, and was taking in other goods for a future voyage; that he had informed himself of their strength, and that very seldom more than three men and two boys lay on board; that he had hired himself to the captain, and was to go on board the very next day. Now, says he, my lads, if you can break prison any night after to-morrow, and come directly to the ship, (telling them how she lay, for says he, you cannot mistake, you will find two or three boats moored in the gut against the church) I will be ready to receive you, and we will get off with her, in lieu of our ship they have taken from us, for there is nothing ready to follow us.

The prisoners listened to this discourse very attentively; but scratched their heads, fearing the difficulty of it, and severer usage if they miscarried, and made several objec-

tions; but, at last, they all swore to attempt it the night but one following. Upon which the sailor went away, to prepare for their reception on board. After he was gone, I surveyed his scheme attentively in my own mind, and found it not so difficult as I first imagined, if the prisoners could but escape cleverly. So, before I went away, I told them I approved of their purpose; and as I was their countryman, I was resolved, with their leave, to risk my fortunes with them. At this they seemed much pleased, and all embraced me. We then fixed the peremptory night, and I was to wait at the water-side, and get the boats in readiness.

The prison they were in was a Portuguese fort, which had been deserted ever since the building of much better on the other side of the river, a gun-shot lower. It was built with walls, too thick for naked men to storm; the captives were securely locked up every night; and two soldiers, or sentinels, kept watch in an outer-room, who were relieved from the main-guard in the body of the building.

The expected night arrived; and a little before midnight, as had been concerted, one of the prisoners cried out, he was so parched up, he was on fire, he was on fire! The sentinels were both asleep; but the first that waked, called at the door, to know what was the matter.

The prisoners still crying out, I am on fire ! the rest begged the sentinel to bring a bowl of water for him, for they knew not what ailed him.

The good-natured fellow, without waking his companion, brought the water, and, having a lamp in the guard room, opened the door ; when the prisoners seizing his arms and commanded him to silence, bound his hands behind him, and his feet together, then serving the other in the same manner, who was now just awake, and taking from them their swords and muskets, they made the best of their way over the fort-wall ; which being built with buttresses on the inside, was easily surmounted. Being got out, they were not long in finding me, who had before this time made the boats ready, and was impatiently waiting for them ; so in we all got and made good speed to the ship, where we were welcomed by our companion, ready to receive us.

Under the pretence of being a new-entered sailor, he had carried some Madeira wine on board, and treated the men and boys so freely that he had thrown them into a dead sleep ; which was a wise precaution. There being now therefore no fear of disturbance or interruption, we drew up the two boats, and set all hands to work to put the ship under way ; and plied it so close-

ly the wind favouring us, that by eleven o'clock the next morning we were out of sight of land ; but we set the men and boys adrift in one of the boats, nigh the mouth of the river.

The first thing we did after we had made a long run from shore was to consult what course to steer. Now, as there was a valuable loading on board, of goods from Portugal, and others taken in since, some gave their opinion for sailing directly for India, selling the ship and cargo there, and returning by some English vessel : but that was rejected ; for we did not doubt but notice would be given of our escape along the coast, and if we should fall into the Portuguese's hands we could expect no mercy ; besides we had not people sufficient for such an enterprize. Others, again, were for sailing the directest course for England ; but I told them, as our opinions were different, and no time was to be lost, my advice was to stretch southward, till we might be quite out of fear of pursuit, and then, whatever course we took, by keeping clear of all coasts, we might hope to come safe off.

My proposal seemed to please the whole crew ; so crowding all the sail we could, we pushed southward very briskly before the wind for several days. We now went upon examining our stores and found we

had flour enough, plenty of fish, and salt provisions, but were scant of water and wood; of the first whereof there was not half a ton, and but very little of the latter. This made us very uneasy; and being none of us expert in navigation, farther than the common working of the ship, and having no chart on board that might direct us to the nearest land, we were almost at our wits end, and came to a short allowance of liquor. That we must get water if we could, was indisputable; but where to do it puzzled us, as we had determined not to get in with the African shore, on any account whatever.

In this perplexity, and under the guidance of different opinions, (for we were all captains now) we sometimes steered eastward, and sometimes westward, for about nine days; when we espied a little bluish cloud-like appearance to the south-west; this continuing, we hoped it might be land, and therefore made to it. Upon our nearer approach, we found it to be, as we judged, an island; but not knowing its name, or whether it was inhabited, we coasted round it two days to satisfy ourselves as to this last particular. Seeing no living creature on it during that time, and the shore being very broken, we came to an anchor about two miles from it, and sent ten of our crew in our best boat, with some casks to get

water and cut wood. The boat returned at night with six men, and the casks filled, having left four behind, to go on with the cutting of wood against next day. Accordingly next morning, the boat went off again and made two turns with water and wood ere night, which was repeated for two or three days after. On the sixth she went off for wood only, leaving none but me and one John Adams on board.

The boat had scarce reached the island this last turn, before the day overcast, and there arose such a storm of wind, thunder, lightning, and hail, as I had never before seen. At last our cable broke close to the anchor, and away we went with the wind, full southward by west; and not having strength to keep the ship upon a side wind, we were forced to set her head right before it, and let her drive. Our hope was, every hour, the storm would abate; but it continued with equal violence for many days; during all which time, neither Adams nor I had any rest, for one or other of us was forced, and sometimes both, to keep her right before the wind, or she would certainly have overset. When the storm abated, as it did by degrees, neither Adams nor I could tell where we were, or in what part of the world.

I was sorry I had no better a sailor with me, for neither Adams nor myself had ever

made more than one voyage till now, so that we were both unacquainted with the latitude and scarce knew the use of the compass to any purpose; and, being out of all hope of ever reaching the island to our companions, we neither knew which way to steer, nor what to do: and, indeed, had we known where we were, we two only could not have been able to navigate the ship to any part we desired, or ever to get to the island, unless such a wind as we had before would of itself have driven us thither.

Whilst we were considering, day after day, what to do, though the sea was now very calm and smooth, the ship seemed to sail at as great a rate as before, which we attributed to the velocity she had acquired by the storm, or to currents that had set that way by the violence of the winds. Contenting ourselves with this, we expected all soon to be right again, and as we had no prospect of ever seeing our companions, we kept the best look out we could, to see for any vessel coming that course, which might take us in; and resolved to rest all our hopes upon that.

When we sailed a good while after this manner, we knew not whither, Adams called out, I see land! My heart leapt within me for joy; and we hoped, the current that seemed to carry us so fast, set in for some islands or rivers that lay before us

But still we were exceedingly puzzled at the ship's making such way; and the nearer we approached the land, which was now very visible, the more speed the ship made, though there was no wind stirring. We had just time to think on this unexpected phenomenon, when we found that what we had taken for land was a rock of an extraordinary height, to which, as we advanced nearer, the ship increased its motion; and all our strength could not make her answer her rudder any other way. This put us under the apprehension of being dashed to pieces immediately; and, in less than half an hour, I verily thought my fears had not been groundless. Poor Adams told me he would try when the ship struck, if he could leap upon the rock, and ran to the head for that purpose; but I was so fearful of seeing my danger, that I ran under hatches, resolved to sink in the ship. We had no sooner parted but I felt so violent a shock, that I verily thought the ship had brought down the whole rock upon her, and been thereby dashed to pieces; so that I never more expected to see the light.

I lay under this terror for at least half an hour, waiting the ship's either filling with water, or bulging every moment. But finding neither motion in her, nor any water rise, nor the least noise whatsoever, I ventured, with an aching heart, from my re-

treat, and stole up the hatch way, as if an enemy had been on deck, peeping first one way, then another. Here nothing presented but confusion ; the rock hung over the hatch-way, at about twenty feet above my head, our foremast lay by the board, the mainmast yard-arm was down, and great part of the mainmast snapped off with it, and almost every thing upon deck was displaced. This sight shocked me extremely ; and calling for Adams, in whom I hoped to find some comfort, I was too soon convinced I had lost him.

CHAPTER VI.

AFTER I had stood awhile in the utmost confusion of thought, and my spirits began to be a little composed, I was resolved to see what damage the hull of the ship had received. Accordingly I looked narrowly, but could find none, only she was immovably fixed in a cleft of the rock, like a large arch-way, and there stuck so fast, that, though upon fathoming, I could find no bottom, she never moved in the least by the working of the water.

I now began to look upon Adams as a happy man, being delivered by an immediate death from such an inextricable scene of distress, and wished myself with him a thousand times. I had a great mind to have followed him into the other world; yet I know not how it is, there is something so abhorrent to human nature in self-murder, be one's condition what it will, that I was soon determined on the contrary side. Now again I perceived that the Almighty had given me a large field to expatiate in upon the trial of his creatures, by bringing them into imminent dangers, ready to overwhelm them, and at the same time, as it were, hanging out the flag of truce and mercy to

them. These thoughts brought me to my knees and I poured out my soul to God in a strain of humiliating resignation to his will, and earnest petitions for deliverance or support in this distress. Having finished I found myself in a more composed frame. I walked my ship, of which I was now both master and owner, and employed myself in searching how it was fastened to the rock, and where it rested ; but all to no purpose as to that particular. I then struck a light, and went into the hold, to see what I could find useful, for we had never searched the ship since we took her.

In the hold I found abundance of long iron bars which I suppose were brought out to be trafficked with the blacks. I observed they lay all with one end close to the head of the ship, which I presumed was occasioned by the violent shock they received, when she struck against the rock ; but seeing one short bar lying out beyond the rest, though touching at the end one of the long bars, I thought to take it up, and lay it on the heap with the others : but the moment I had raised the end next the other bars, it flew out of my hand with such violence, against the head of the ship, and with such a noise, as greatly surprised me and put me in fear it had broke through the plank.

I just stayed to see no harm was done

and ran upon deck, with my hair stiff on my head ; nor could I conceive less than that some subtle spirit had done this prank merely to terrify me.

It ran in my pate several days, and I durst upon no account have gone into the hold again, though my whole support had lain there ; nay, it even spoiled my rest, for fear something tragical should befall me, of which this amazing incident was an omen.

About a week after, as I was shifting myself, (for I had not taken my clothes off since I came there) and putting on a new pair of shoes which I found on board, my own being very bad, taking out my iron buckles, I laid one of them upon a broken piece of the mast that I sat upon ; when, to my astonishment, it was no sooner out of my hand but up it flew to the rock, and stuck there. I could not tell what to make of it ; but was sorry the devil had got above deck. I then held several other things, one after another, in my hand, and laid them down where I laid the buckle, but nothing stirred, till I took out the fellow of that from the shoes ; when, letting it go, away it jumped also to the rock.

I mused on these phenomena for some time, and could not forbear calling upon God to protect me from the devil ; who must, as I imagined, have a hand in such

unaccountable things as they then seemed to me. But at length reason got the better of these foolish apprehensions, and I began to think there might be some natural cause of them, and next to be very desirous of finding it out. In order to this, I set about making experiments, to try what would run to the rock, and what would not. I went into the captain's cabin, and opening a cupboard, of which the key was in the door, I took out a pipe, a bottle, a pocket-book, a silver spoon, a teacup, &c. and laid them successively near the rock; when none of them answered: but the key which I had brought out of the cupboard on my finger, dropping off while I was thus employed, no sooner it was disengaged, but away it went to it. After that I tried several other pieces of iron-ware, with the like success. Upon this, and the needle of my compass standing stiff to the rock, I concluded that this same rock contained a great quantity of load-stone, or was itself one vast magnet, and that our lading of iron was the cause of the ship's violent course thereto, which I mentioned before.

This quite satisfied me, as to my notion of spirits, and gave me a more undisturbed night's rest than I had had before; so that now, having nothing to affright me, I passed the time tolerable well in my solitude, as it grew by degrees familiar to me.

CHAPTER VII.

I WANTED to see the other side of the rock, and at last resolved to try if I could not coast it quite round; for as I reasoned with myself, I might possibly find some landing places, and perhaps a convenient habitation on shore. But as I was very uncertain what time that might take up, I determined on having provisions, instruments of divers kinds, and necessary utensils in plenty, to guard against accidents as well as I could. I therefore took another sea chest out of the hold of the ship, and letting it into my boat, replenished it with a stock of wine, brandy, oil, bread, and the like, sufficient for a considerable voyage, I also filled a large cask with water, and took a good quantity of salt to cure what fish I should take by the way. I carried two guns, two brace of pistols, and other arms, with ammunition proportionable; also an axe or two, a saw to cut wood if I should see any, and a few other tools, which might be highly serviceable if I could land. To all these I added an old sail, to make a covering for my goods and artillery against the weather. Thus furnished and equipped, secured my hatches on board, and every

thing that might spoil by wet, I set out, with God's speed, on my expedition, committing myself once more to Providence and the main ocean, and proceeding the same way I went the first time.

I did not sail extraordinary fast, but frequently fished in proper places, and caught a great deal, salting and drying the best of what I took. For three weeks' time and more, I saw no entrance into the island, as I call it, nor any thing but the same unscalable rock. This uniform prospect gave me so little hopes of landing, that I was almost of a mind to have returned again. But, on mature deliberation, resolving to go forward a day or two more, I had not proceeded twenty-four hours, when, just as it was becoming dark, I heard a great noise as of a fall of water, whereupon I proposed to lie by and wait for day, to see what it was; but the stream insensibly drawing me on, I soon found myself in an eddy: and the boat drawing forward, beyond all my power to resist it, I was quickly sucked under a low arch, where, if I had not fallen flat in my boat, having barely light enough to see my danger, I had undoubtedly been crushed to pieces, or driven overboard. I could perceive the boat to fall with incredible violence, as I thought, down a precipice, and suddenly whirled round and round with me, the water roaring

on all sides, and dashing against the rock with a most amazing noise.

I expected every moment my poor little vessel would be staved against the rock, and I overwhelmed with the waters; and for that reason never once attempted to rise up, or look upon my peril, till after the commotion had in some measure ceased. At length, finding the perturbation of the water abate, and as if by degrees I came into a smoother stream, I took courage just to lift up my affrighted head; but guess, if you can, the horror which seized me, on finding myself in the blackest of darkness, unable to perceive the smallest glimmer of light.

However, as my boat seemed to glide easily, I roused myself, and struck a light; but if I had my terrors before, what must I have now! I was quite stupified at the tremendous view of an immense arch over my head, to which I could see no bounds; the stream itself, as I judged, was about thirty yards broad, but in some places wider, in some narrower. It was well for me I happened to have a tinder-box, or, though I had escaped hitherto, I must have at last perished; for in the narrower parts of the stream, where it ran swiftest, there were frequently such crags stood out from the rock, by reason of the turnings and windings, and such sets of the current against them, as, could I not have seen to manage

my boat, which I took great care to keep in the middle of the stream, must have thrown me on them, to my inevitable destruction.

Happy it was for me, also, I was so well victualled, and that I had taken with me two bottles of oil, (as I supposed, for I did not imagine I had any more,) or I had certainly been lost, not only through hunger, for I was, to my guess, five weeks in the vault or cavern, but for want of light, which the oil furnished, and without which all other conveniences could have been of no avail to me. I was forced to keep my lamp always burning ; so, not knowing how long my residence was to be in that place, or when I should get my discharge from it, if ever, I was obliged to husband my oil with the utmost frugality ; and notwithstanding all my caution, it grew low, and was just spent, in little above half the time I stayed there.

I had now cut a piece of my shirt, for a wick to my last drop of oil, which I twisted and lighted. I burnt the oil in my brass tobacco-box, which I had fitted pretty well to answer the purpose. Sitting down, I had many black thoughts of what must follow the loss of my light, which I considered as near expiring, and that I feared, for-

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ever. I am here, thought I, like a poor condemned criminal, who knows his execution is fixed for such a day, nay, such an hour, and dies over and over in imagination, and by the torture of his mind, till that hour comes: that hour, which he so much dreads! and yet that very hour which releases him from all farther dread! Thus do I—my last wick is kindled—my last drop of fuel is consuming!—and I am every moment apprehending the shocks of the rock, the suffocation of the water; and, in short, thinking over my dying thoughts, till the snuff of my lamp throws up its last curling, expiring flame, and then my quietus will be presently signed, and I released from my tormenting anxiety! Happy minute! come, then; I only wait for thee!

My spirits grew so low and feeble upon this, that I had recourse to my brandy bottle to raise them; but, as I was just going to take a sip, I reflected that would only increase thirst, and therefore, it were better to take a little of my white Maderia; so, putting my dram-bottle again into the chest, I held up one of Madeira, as I fancied, to my lamp, and seeing it was white, (for I had red too,) I clapped it eagerly to my mouth, when the first gulp gave me a greater refreshment, and more cheered my heart, than all the other liquors I had put together could have done; insomuch,

as I had almost leaped over the boat's side for joy. It is oil ! cried I, aloud, it is oil ! I set it down carefully, with inexpressible pleasure ; and examining the rest of the bottles I had taken for white madeira, I found two more of these to be filled with oil. Now says I, here is the counterpart of my condemned prisoner ! For let but a pardon come, though at the gallows, how soon does he forget he has been an unhappy villain ! And I, too, have scarce a notion now, how a man, in my case could feel such sorrow as I have for want of a little oil.

After my first transport, I found myself grow serious, reflecting upon the vigilance of Providence over us poor creatures, and the various instances wherein it interposes to save or relieve us, in cases of the deepest distress, where our own foresight, wisdom, and power, have utterly failed, and when, looking all around, we could discover no means of deliverance. And I saw a train of circumstances leading to the incident I have just mentioned, which obliged me to acknowledge the superintendance of Heaven over even my affairs ; and as the goodness of God had cared for me thus far, and manifested itself to me now, in rescuing me, as it were, from being swallowed up in darkness, I had ground to hope he intended a complete deliverance of me

out of that dismal abyss, and would cause me yet to praise him in the full brightness of day.

A series of these meditations brought me (at the end of five weeks, as nearly as I could compute it by my lamp) to a prodigious lake of water, bordered with a grassy down, about half a mile wide, of the finest verdure I had ever seen : this again was flanked with a wood or grove, rising like an amphitheatre, of about the same breadth; and behind, and above all, appeared the naked rock to an immense height.

CHAPTER VIII.

It is impossible to express my joy at the sight of day once more. I got on the land as soon as possible, after my dismissal from the cavern, and, kneeling on the ground, returned hearty thanks to God for my deliverance, begging, at the same time, grace to improve his mercies, and that I might continue under his protection, what ever should hereafter befall me, and at last die on my native soil.

I unloaded my vessel as well as I could, and hauled her up on shore; and, turning her upside down, made her a covering for my arms and baggage: I then sat down to contemplate the place, and eat a most delightful meal on the grass, being quite a new thing to me.

I walked over the green-sward to the wood, with my gun in my hand, a brace of pistols in my girdle, and my cutlass hanging before me; but, when I was just entering the wood, looking behind me and all around the plain, is it possible, says I, that so much art (for I did not then believe it was natural) could have been bestowed upon this place, and no inhabitant in it? Here are neither buildings, huts, castle,

nor any living creature to be seen cannot be, says I, that this place was for nothing!

I then went a considerable way into the wood, and inclined to have gone much farther, it being very beautiful, but on second thoughts, judged it best to content myself at present with only looking out a safe retreat for that night; for, however agreeable the place then seemed, darkness was at hand, when every thing about me would have more or less of horror in it.

The wood, at first entrance, was composed of the most charming flowering shrubs that can be imagined; each growing upon its own stem, at so convenient a distance from the other, that you might fairly pass between them any way without the least incommodity. Behind them grew numberless trees, somewhat taller, of the greatest variety of shapes, forms, and verdures, the eye ever beheld; each, also, so far asunder as was necessary for the spreading of their several branches, and the growth of their delicious fruits, without a brush, briar, or shrub amongst them. Behind these, and still on the higher ground, grew an infinite number of very large, tall trees, much loftier than the former, but intermixed with some underwood, which grew thicker and closer the nearer you approached the rock. I made a shift to force my way through

thus as far as the rock, which rose as perpendicular as a regular building, having only here and there some crags and unevennesses. There was, I observed, a space all the way between the underwood and the rock, wide enough to drive a cart in; and, indeed, I thought it had been left for that purpose.

I walked along this passage a good way, having tied a rag of the lining of my jacket at the place of my entrance, to know it again at my coming back, which I intended to be ere it grew dark; but I found so much pleasure in the walk, and surveying a small natural grotto which was in the rock, that the daylight forsook me unawares: whereupon I resolved to put off my return unto the boat till next morning, and to take up my lodging for that night in the cave.

I cut down a large bundle of underwood with my cutlass, sufficient to stop up the mouth of the grotto, and laying me down to rest, slept as sound as if I had been on board my ship; for I never had one hour's rest together since I shot the gulph till this, Nature, indeed, could not have supported itself thus long under much labour; but as I had nothing to do but only keep the middle stream, I began to be as used to guide myself in it with my eyes almost closed, and my senses retired, as a higgler is to drive his cart to market in sleep.

The next morning I awakened sweetly refreshed; and, by the sign of my rag, found the way again through the underwood to my boat. I raised that up a little, took out some bread and cheese, and having eat pretty heartily, laid me down to drink at the lake, which looked as clear as crystal, expecting a most delicious draught; but I had forgot it brought me from the sea, and my first gulph almost poisoned me. This was a sore disappointment, for I knew my water cask was nigh emptied; and, indeed, turning up my boat again, I drew out all that remained, and drank it, for I was much athirst.

However, I did not despair; I was now so used to God's providence, and had a sense of its operations so riveted in my mind, that though the vast lake of salt water was surrounded by an impenetrable rock or barrier of stone, I rested satisfied that I should rather find even that yield me a fresh and living stream, than that I should perish for want of it.

With this easy mind did I travel five or six miles on the side of the lake, and sometimes stepped into the wood, and walked a little there, till I had gone almost half the diameter of the lake, which lay in a circular or rather an oval figure. I had then thoughts of walking back, to be near my boat and lodging, for fear I should be again

benighted if I went much farther ; but, considering I had come past no water, and possibly I might yet find some if I went quite round the lake, I rather chose to take up with a new lodging that night, than to return ; and I did not want for a supper, having brought out with me more bread and cheese than had served for dinner, the remainder of which was in the lining of my jacket. When it grew darkish, I had some thoughts of eating ; but I considered, as I was then neither very hungry nor dry, if I should eat it would but occasion draught, and I had nothing to allay that with ; so I contented myself for that night to lay me down supperless.

In the morning I set forward again upon my water search, and hoped to compass the whole lake that day. I had gone about seven miles more, when, at a little distance before me, I perceived a small hollow or cut in the grass from the wood to the lake ; thither I hasted with all speed, and blessed God for the supply of a fine fresh rill which distilling from several small clefts in the rock, had collected itself into one stream and cut its way through the green sod to the lake.

I lay down with infinite pleasure, and swallowed a most cheering draught of the precious liquid ; and, sitting on the brink, made a good meal of what I had with me,

cask was of the utmost importance to me, and I had thoughts, sometimes, of stopping it close, and rolling it to the place; but the ascent through the wood to the grotto was so steep, that, besides the fear of staving it, which would have been an irreparable loss, I judged it impossible to accomplish it by my strength; so with a good deal of discontent, I determined to remit both that and the chests for future consideration.

CHAPTER IX

HAVING come to a full resolution of fixing my residence at the grotto, and making that my capital seat, it is proper to give you some description of it.

This grotto, then was a full mile from the lake, in the rock which encompassed the wood. The entrance was scarcely two feet wide, and about nine feet high, rising, from the height of seven feet upward, to a point in the middle. The cavity was about fifteen feet long within, and about five wide. Being obliged to lie lengthwise in it, full six feet of it were taken up at the farther end for my lodging only, as nothing could stand on the side of my bed that would leave me room to come at it. The remaining nine feet of the cave's length were taken up, by my fire place, which was the deepest side of the door-way, ranging with my bed, (which I had set close to the rock on one side) and took up near three feet in length; and my furniture and provisions, of one sort or other, so filled up the rest that I had much ado to creep between them into my bed.

In the chest which I had taken for a seat in the boat, as aforesaid, upon breaking it

open by the water side, I found a mattrass, some shirts, shoes, stockings, and several other useful things; a small case of bottles with cordials in them, some instruments of surgery, plasters and salves, all which, together with a large quantity of fish that I had salted, I carried to the grotto.

My habitation being thus already overcharged, and as I could not, however, bear the thoughts of quitting it, or having any of my goods exposed to the weather on the outside, I was naturally bent on contriving how I should increase my accommodations. As I had no prospect of enlarging the grotto itself, I could conceive no other way of effecting my desire but by the addition of an outer room. This thought pleased me very much, so that the next day I set myself to plan out the building, and trace the foundation of it.

I told you before there was about the space of a cart-way between the wood and rock clear: but this breadth, as I was building for life, (so I imagined) not appearing to me spacious enough for my new apartment, I considered how I should extend its bounds into the wood. Hereupon I set myself to observe what trees stood at a proper distance from my grotto, that might serve as they stood, with a little management of hewing and the like, to compose a noble doorway, posts, and supporters; and I found,

that upon cutting down three of the nearest trees, I should answer my purpose in this respect; and that there were several others, about twenty feet from the grotto, and running parallel with the rock, the situation of which was so happily adapted to my intention, that I could make them become as I fancied, an out-fence or wall: so I took my axe, to cut down my nearest trees; but as I was going to strike, a somewhat different scheme presented to my imagination that altered my resolution.

In conformity with this new plan, I fixed the height of my intended ceiling, and sawed off my nearest trees to that, sloping from the sides to the middle, to support cross beams for the roof to rest on, and left the trunks standing, by way of pillars, both for the use and ornament of the structure. In short, I worked hard every day upon my building for a month, in which time I had cut all my timber into proper length for my out-works and covering; but was at a great stand how to fix my side-posts, having no spade or mattock, and the ground almost as hard as flint, for to be sure it had never been stirred since the creation. I then thought I had the worst part of my job to get over; however, I went on, and having contrived, in most of my upright side quarters, to take the tops of trees, and leave on the lower parts of their cleft, where they

began to branch out and divide from the main stem, I set one of them upright against the rock, then laid one end of my long ceiling pieces upon the cleft of it, and laid the other end upon a tree on the same side, whose top I had also sawed off with a proper cleft. I then went and did the same on the other side; after this, I laid on a proper number of cross-beams, and tied all very firmly together with the bark of young trees stripped off in long thongs, which answered that purpose very well. Thus I proceeded, crossing, joining and fastening all together, till the whole roof was so strong and firm that there was no stirring any part of it: I then spread it over with small lop wood, on which I raised, a ridge of dried grass and weeds, very thick, and thatched over the whole with the leaves of a tree very much resembling those of a palm, but much thicker, and not quite so broad; the entire surface, I might say, was as smooth as a dye, and so ordered, by a gentle declivity every way, as to carry off the wet.

Having covered in my building, I was next to finish and close the walls of it; the skeleton of these was composed of sticks, crossing one another checker-wise, and tied together: to fill up the voids, I wove upon them the longest and most pliable twigs of the underwood I could find, leaving only a door way on one side, between two stems

of a tree, which dividing in the trunk, at about two feet from the ground, grew from thence, for the rest of its height, as if the branches were a couple of trees a little distance from one another, which made a sort of stileway to my room. When this was all done, I tempered up some earth by the lake side, and mixing it to a due consistency with mud, which I took from the lake, applied it as a plastering in this manner : I divided it into pieces, which I rolled up of the size of a foot ball ; these lumps I stuck close by one another on the lattice, pressing them very hard with my hands, which forced part of them quite through the small twigs, and then I smoothed both sides with the back of my saw, to about the thickness of five or six inches ; so that by this means I had a wall round my new apartment a foot thick. This plaster work cost me some time, and a great deal of labour, as I had a full mile to go to the lake for every load of stuff, and could carry but little at once it was so heavy : but there was neither water for tempering, nor proper earth to make it with, any nearer. At last, however, I completed my building in every respect but a door, and for this I was forced to use the lid of my sea chest ; which, indeed, I would have chosen not to apply that way, but I had nothing else that would do : and there was, however, this conven-

iciency, that it had hinges ready fixed thereon.

I now began to enjoy myself in my new habitation, like the absolute and sole lord of the country, for I had neither seen man nor beast since my arrival, save a few animals in the trees like our squirrels, and some water-rats about the lake ; but there were several strange kinds of birds I had never before seen, both on the lake and in the woods.

That which now troubled me most was, how to get my water nearer to me than the lake ; for I had no lesser vessel than the cask, which held above twenty gallons, and to bring that up was a fatigue intolerable. My next contrivance, therefore, was this : I told you I had taken my chest-lid to make a door for an anti-chamber, as I now began to call it ; so I resolved to apply the body of the chest also to a purpose different from that it originally answered. In order to this, I went to the lake where the body of the chest lay, and sawed it through within about three inches of the bottom. Of the two ends, having rounded them as well as I could, I made two wheels ; and with one of the sides I made two more. I burnt a hole through the middle of each ; then preparing two axle-trees, I fastened them, after setting on the wheels, to the bottom of the chest, with the nails I had drawn

out of it. Having finished this machine, on which I bestowed no small labor, I was hugely pleased with it, and only wished I had a beast, if it were but an ass, to draw it; however, that task I was satisfied to perform myself, since there was no help for it; so I made a good strong cord out of my fishing-lines, and fixed that to drag it by. When all was thus in readiness, filling my water-cask, I bound it thereon, and so brought it to the grotto, with such ease, comparatively, as quite charmed me. Having succeeded so well in the first essay, I no sooner unloaded but down went I again with my cart, or truckle rather, to the lake, and brought from thence on it my other chest, which I had left entire.

I had now nothing remaining near the lake but my boat, and had half a mind to try to bring that up too; but having so frequent occasion for her to get my water in, which I used in greater abundance now than I had done at first, a great part going to supply my domestic uses as well as for drinking, I resolved against that, and sought out for a convenient dock to stow it in, as a preservative against wind and weather which I soon after effected: for having pitched upon a swampy place, overgrown with a sort of long reeds or flags, I soon cut a trench from the lake, with a sort of spade or board that I had chopped and sharpened for use.

Thus having stowed my boat, and looked

over all my goods, and sorted them, and taken a survey of my provisions, I found I must soon be in want of the last if I did not forthwith procure a supply : for though I had victualled so well at setting out, and had been very sparing ever since, yet, had it not been for a great quantity of fish I took and salted in my passage to the gulph, I had been to seek for food much sooner. Hereupon, I thought it highly prudent to look out before I really wanted.

With this resolution I accoutred myself, as in my first walk with my instruments and arms ; but instead of travelling the lake-side, I went along the wood, and therein found great plenty of divers kinds of fruits ; though I could scarce persuade myself to taste or try the effects of them, being so much unlike our own, or any I had seen elsewhere. I observed amongst the shrubs abundance of a fruit, or whatever else you may call it, which grew like a ram's horn ; sharp at the point next the twig it was fastned to, and circling round and round, one fold upon another, which gradually increased to the size of my wrist in the middle, and then as gradually decreased till it terminated in a point at the contrary extreme ; all which spiral, if it were fairly extended in length, might be a yard or an ell long. I surveyed this

strange vegetable very attentively; it had a rind, or crust, which I could not break with my hand, but taking my knife, and making an opening therewith in the shell, there issued out a sort of milky liquor in great quantity, to at least a pint and half, which having tasted, I found as sweet as honey, and very pleasant; however, I could not persuade myself any more than just to taste it. I then found on the large trees several kinds of fruits, like pears or quinces, but most of them exceeding hard and rough, and quite disagreeable; so I quitted my hopes of them.

About three miles from my grotto I met with a large space of ground full of a low plant, growing only with a single woody stalk half a foot high, and from thence issued a round head, about a foot or 10 inches in diameter, but quite flat, about three quarters of an inch thick, and just like a cream cheese, standing upon its edge; these grew so close together, that upon the least wind stirring, their heads rattled against each other very musically; for though the stalks were so very strong that they would not easily either bend or break, yet the fanning of the wind upon the broad heads twisting the stalks, so as to let the heads strike each other, they made a most agreeable sound.

I stood some time admiring this shrub, and then cutting up one of them, I found

it weighed about two pounds: they had a tough, green rind or covering, very smooth, and the inside full of a stringy pulp, quite white. In short, I made divers other trials of berries, roots, herbs, and what else I could find, but received little satisfaction from any of them, for fear of bad qualities. I returned back ruminating on what things I had seen, resolving to take my cart the next walk, and bring it home loaded with different kinds of them, in order to make my trials thereof at leisure: but my cart being too flat, and wanting sides, I considered it would carry very little, and that what it would otherwise bear on that account, must tumble and roll off; so I made a fire, and turned smith; for with a great deal to do, breaking off the wards of a large key I had, and making it red-hot, I by degrees fashioned it into a kind of spindle, and therewith making holes quite round the bottom of my cart, in them I stuck up sticks, about two feet high, that I had tapered at the end to fit them.

Having thus qualified my cart for a load I proceeded with it to the wood, and cutting a small quantity of each species of green, berry, fruit and flower, that I could find, and packing them severally in parcels, I returned at night heavy laden, and held a counsel with myself what use they could most properly be applied to.

I had amongst my goods, as I said, a copper-kettle, which held about a gallon; this I set over my fire, and boiled something, by turns, of every sort in it, watching all the while, and with a stick stirring and raising up one thing and then another, and to feel when they were boiled tender: but of upwards of twenty greens which I thus dressed, only one proved eatable, all the rest becoming more stringy, tough, and insipid, for the cooking. The one I have excepted, was a round, thick, woolly leaved plant, which boiled tender, and tasted as well as spinage; I therefore preserved some leaves of this, to know it again by; and, for distinction, called it by the name of that herb.

I then began upon my fruits of the pear and quince kind, at least eight different sorts; but I found I could make nothing of them for they were most of them as rough and crabbed after stewing as before, so I laid them all aside. Lastly I boiled my ram's horn and cream-cheese, as I called them, together. Upon tasting the latter of these, it was become so watery and insipid, I laid it aside as useless. I then cut the other, and tasted the juice, which proved so exceeding pleasant, that I took a large gulph or two of it, and tossed it into the kettle again.

Having now gone through the several

kinds of my exotics, I had a mind to re-examine them after cooling ; but could make nothing of any of my greens but the spinage. I tried several berries and nuts too; but, save a few sorts of nuts, they were all very tasteless. Then I began to review the fruits, and could find but two sorts that I had any the least hopes from. I then laid the best by, and threw the others away. After this process, which took me up near a whole day, and clearing my house of good-for-nothings, I returned to re-examine my cheese, that was grown cold, and was now so dry and hard I could not get my teeth into it; upon which I was going to skim it away out of my grotto, saying, Go, thou worthless! (for I always spoke aloud my thoughts to myself) I say, I was just despatching it, when I checked my hands, and, as I could make no impression with my teeth, had a mind to try what my knife could do. Accordingly I began at the edge of the quarter, for I had boiled but a quarter of it; but the rind was grown so hard and brittle that my knife slipping, and raking along the cut-edge of it, scratched off some powder as white as possible; I then scraped it backward and forward some time, till I found it would all scrape away in this powder, except the rind; upon which I laid it aside again for farther experiment.

During this review, my kettle and ram's horn had been boiling, till hearing it blubber very loud, and seeing there was but little liquor in it, I whipped it off the fire, for fear of burning its bottom, but took no farther notice of it till about two hours after; when returning to the grotto, I went to wash out my kettle, but could scarce get my ram's horn from the bottom; and when I did, it brought up with it a sort of pitchy substance, though not so black, and several grummy threads hanging to it, drawn out to a great length. I wondered at this, and thought the shell of the ram's horn had melted, or some such thing; till venturing to put a little of the stuff on my tongue, it proved to my thinking as good treacle as I had ever tasted.

This new discovery pleased me very much. I scraped all the sweet thing up, and laid it near my grotto, in a large leaf of one of the trees, (about two feet long, and broad in proportion) to prevent its running about. In getting this curiosity out of my kettle, I found in it a small piece of my cheese, which I suppose had been broke off in stirring; and biting it, (for it was soft enough) I think it was the most lucious and delicate morsel I ever put into my lips. This unexpected good fortune put me on trying the best of my pears again; so, setting on my kettle, with very little water,

and putting some of my treacle into it, and two of the best pears quartered, I found, upon a little boiling, they also became an excellent dainty.

Having succeeded so well, I was quite ripe for another journey with my cart, which I accordingly undertook, taking my rout over the stone-bridge, to see what the other side of the lake produced. In travelling through the trees, I met, amongst other things, with abundance of large gourds, which, climbing the trees, displayed their fruit to the height of twenty or thirty feet above the ground. I cut a great many of these, and some very large ones of different hues and forms; which of themselves making a great load, with some few new sorts of berries and greens, were the gathering of that day. But I must tell you, I was almost foiled in getting them home; for coming to my stone-bridge, it rose so steep, and was so much ruggeded than the grass or wood-ground, that I was at a set upon the first entrance, and terribly afraid I should either break my wheels, or pull off my axle-trees. Hereupon I was forced to unload and carry my cargo over in my arms to the other side of the bridge; whither having then, with less fear but much caution, drawn my cart, I loaded again, and got safe home.

I was mightily pleased with the acquisi-

tions of this journey; for now, thought I, I shall have several convenient family utensils; so spent the next day or two in scooping my gourds and cleaning away the pulp. When I had done this, finding the rinds to be very weak and yielding, I made a good fire, and setting them round it at a moderate distance to dry, I went about something else without doors; but, alas! my hopes were ill-founded; for coming home to turn my gourds, and see how dry they were, I found them all warped, and turned into a variety of uncoath shapes. This put me to a stand; but, however, I recovered some pieces of them for use, as the bottom parts of most of them, after paring away the sides, would hold something, though they by no means answered my first purpose.

Well, thought I, what if I have lost my gourds, I have gained experience. I will dry them next time with the guts in, and having stiffened their rinds in their proper dimensions, then try to cleanse them. So, next morning, (for I was very eager at it,) I set out with my cart for another load; and having handed them over the bridge, got safe with them to the grotto. These by proper management proved exceedingly valuable to me; answering in one way or other, the several uses of plates, bottles, pans and divers other vessels.

I now got a large quantity of the vegeta-

ble ram's-horn, and filled a great many of my gourds with the treacle it yielded; I also boiled and dried a large parcel of my cheeses, and hung them up for use, for I had now for some time made all my bread of the latter, scraping and bruising the flour and mixing it with my treacle and water; and this, indeed, made such a sweet and nourishing bread, that I could even have lived wholly upon it: but I afterwards very much improved it by putting the milky juice of the ram's-horn, unboiled, to my flour, in a small quantity, and then baking it on the hearth, covered over with embers.

This detracted nothing from the sweetness and mellowness of my bread, but made it much lighter than the treacle alone would have done.

Finding there was no fear of starving, but so far from it, that from day to day I found out something new to add to my repast, either in substantials or by way of desert, I set me down very well contented with my condition. I had nothing to do but to lay up store against sickness and the dark weather; which last I expected would soon be upon me, as the days were now exceeding short. Indeed, though I had now been here six months, I had never seen the sun since I first entered the gulph; and though there was very little rain, and

but few clouds, yet the brightest day-light never exceeded that of half an hour after sunset in the summer time in England, and little more than just reddened the sky. For the first part of my time here, there was but little if any difference between day and night; but afterwards, what I might call the night, or lesser degree of light, took up more hours than the greater, and went on gradually increasing as the time, so that I perceived total darkness approached, such as I had on board my ship the year before.

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CHAPTER X.

I HAD now well stored my grotto with all sorts of winter provisions; and feeling the weather grow very cold, I expected, and waited patiently for, the total darkness. I went little abroad, and employed myself within doors, endeavoring to fence against the approaching extremity of the cold. For this purpose, I prepared a quantity of rushes; which being very dry, I spread them smoothly on the floor of my bed-chamber a good thickness, and over them laid my mattress. Then I made a double sheet of the boat's awning, or sail that I had brought to cover my goods; and having skewered together several of the jackets and clothes I found in the chest, of them I made a coverlid; so that I lay very commodiously, and made very long nights of it now the dark season was set in.

As I lay awake one night or day, I know not which, I very plainly heard the sound of several human voices, and sometimes very loud; but though I could easily distinguish the articulation, I could not understand the least word that was said; nor did the voices seem at all to me like such as I had any where heard before, but much

softer and more musical. This startled me, and I rose immediately, slipping on my clothes, and taking my gun in my hand, (which I always kept charged, being my constant travelling companion) and my cutlass. Thus equipped, I walked into my anti-chamber, where I heard the voices much plainer, till, after some little time, they by degrees died quite away. After watching here, and harkening a good while, hearing nothing, I walked back into the grotto and laid me down again on my bed. I was inclined to open the door of my anti-chamber, but I own I was afraid; besides, I considered that if I did, I could discover nothing at a distance, by reason of the thick and gloomy wood that enclosed me.

I had a thousand different surmises about the meaning of this odd incident; and could not conceive how any human creatures should be in my kingdom (as I called it) but myself and I never yet see them, or any trace of their habitation. But then again I reflected, that though I had surrounded the whole lake, yet I had not traced the out-bounds of the wood next the rock, where there might be innumerable grottos like mine; nay, perhaps, some as spacious as that I had sailed through to the lake; and that though I had not perceived it, yet this beautiful spot might be very well peopled. But, says I again, if there

be any such beings as I am fancying here, surely they don't skulk in their dens, like savage beasts, by daylight, and only patrol for prey by night! if so, I shall probably become a delicious morsel for them ere long, if they meet with me. This kept me still more within doors than before, and I hardly ever stirred out but for water or firing. At length, hearing no more voices, nor seeing any one, I began to be more composed in my mind, and at last grew persuaded that it was all a mere delusion and only a fancy of mine, without any real foundation; and sometimes, though I was sure I was fully awake when I heard them, I persuaded myself I had rose in my sleep, upon a dream of voices, and recollected with myself the various stories I had heard when a boy, of walking in one's sleep, and the surprising effects of it; so the whole notion was now blown over.

I had not enjoyed my tranquillity above a week, before my fears were roused afresh, hearing the same sound of voices twice the same night, but not many minutes at a time. What gave me the most pain was, that they were at such a distance, as I judged by the languor of the sound, that if I had opened my door, I could not have seen the utterers through the trees, and I was resolved not to venture out; but then I determined, if they should come again any thing near

my grotto, to open the door, see who they were, and stand upon my defence, whatever came of it ; for, says I, my entrance is so narrow and high, that more than one cannot come at a time ; and I can with ease despatch twenty of them before they can secure me, if they should be savages ; but if they prove sensible human creatures, it will be a great benefit to me to join myself to their society. Thus had I formed my scheme, but I heard no more of them for a great while ; so that at length, beginning to grow ashamed of my fears, I became tranquil again.

The day now returning, and with it my labors, I applied to my usual callings ; but my mind ran strangely upon viewing the rock quite round, that is, the whole circuit of my dominions ; for, thinks I, there may possibly be an outlet through the rock into some other country, from whence the persons I heard may come. As soon therefore as the days grew towards the longest I prepared for my progress. Having lived so well at home since my settlement, I did not care to trust only to what I could pick up in the woods for my subsistence during this journey, which would not only take up time in procuring, but perhaps not agree with me ; so I resolved to carry a supply with me, proportionate to the length of my perambulation. Hereupon considering, that

though my walk round the lake was finished in two days, yet as I now intended to go round by the rock, the way would be much longer, and perhaps more troublesome than that was; I resolved to load the cart with a variety of food, bread and fruit especially, and draw that with me.

Thus provided, I sallied forth with great cheerfulness, and proceeded in the main easily; though in some places I was forced to make way with my hatchet, the ground was so over-run with underwood. I very narrowly viewed the rock as I went, bottom and sides, all the way, but could see nothing like a passage through it, or indeed any more than one opening, or inlet, which I entered for about thirty yards, but it was not above three feet wide, and terminated in the solid rock.

After some days travel, (making all the observations I could on the several plants, shrubs, and trees, which I met with, particularly where any of these occurred to me entirely new,) finding myself a little faintish, I had amind for a sup of ram's-horn juice; so I cut me one, but upon opening it found therein only a pithy pulp, and no ways fit to taste. I supposed by this I was too early for the milk, it being three months later the last year when I cut them. Hereon, seeing one upon another shrub, which by its rusty color, I judged might

have hung all the winter, I opened that, and found it full of milk ; but putting some of it into my mouth, it was as sour as any vinegar I ever tasted in my life. So, thinks I, (and said so too; for, as I told you before I always spoke out,) here's sauce for something when I want it; and this gave me a hint to store myself with these gourds, to hang by for vinegar the next winter.

By this time I had come almost to my rill when I entered upon a large plat of ground miserably over-run with weeds, matted together very thick. These choaked up my wheels in such manner that I could neither free them with my hands, nor get either backwards or forwards, they binding my cart down like so many cords ; so that I was obliged to cut my way back again with my hatchet, and take a sweep round in the wood on the outside of these weeds.

In all my life I never saw any thing of its size, for it was no thicker than a whip cord, so strong as this weed; and what raised my wonder was the length of it, for I drew out pieces of it near fifty feet long, and even they were broken at the end, so that it might be as long again for ought I know, for it was so matted and twisted together, that it was a great trial of patience to untangle it ; but that which was dryest, and to me looked the rottenest and weakest, I found to be much the strongest. Upon ex-

animation of its parts, I discovered it to be composed of an infinite number of small threads, spirally overlaying and infolding one another.

As I saw but few things that I could not find a use for, so this I perceived would serve all the common purposes of pack-thread a thing I was often in want of.

This inclined me to take a load of it home with me. Indeed the difficulty of getting a quantity in the condition I desired it, puzzled me a little ; for, says I, if I cut up a good deal of it with my hatchet, as I first designed, I shall only have small lengths good for little, and to get it in pieces of any considerable length, so as to be of service, will require much time and labor. But reflecting how much I needed it, and of what benefit it would be, I resolved to make a trial of what I could do ; so, without more hesitation, I went to work, and cutting a fibre close to its root, I extracted that thread from all its windings, just as one does an entangled whipcord. When I had thus disengaged a sufficient length, I cut that off ; and repeating the like operation, in about three hours' time, but with no little toil, I made up my load of different lengths just to my liking. Having finished this task, I filled the gourd, brought for that purpose, for water ; and having first viewed the whole remaining part of the

rock returned over the stone bridge home again.

This journey, though it took me up several days, and was attended with some fatigue had yet given me great satisfaction ; for now I was persuaded I could not have one rival or enemy, to fear in my whole dominions. And from the impossibility, as I supposed of there being any, or of the ingress of any, unless by the same passage I entered at, and by which I was well assured they could never return, I grew contented, and blamed myself for the folly of my imaginary voices, as I called them then, and took it for a distemper of the fancy only.

The next day I looked over my load of matweed, having given it that name, and separated the different lengths from each other. I then found I had several pieces between forty and fifty feet long, of which I resolved to get a good number more, to make me a drag-net, that I might try for some fish in the lake. A day or two after, therefore, I brought home another load of it. Then I picked out a smooth level spot upon the green-sward, and having prepared a great number of short wooden pegs, I strained a line of the matweed about ten feet long, tying it at each end to a peg, and stuck a row of pegs along by that line, about two inches asunder; I next strained anothe-

er line of the same length, parallel to that, at the distance of forty feet from it, and stuck pegs thereby, corresponding to the former row; and from each peg on one side to the opposite peg on the other, I tied a like length of my mat-line, quite through the whole number of pegs; when the work looked like the inside of a harpsichord. I afterwards drove pegs in like manner along the whole length of the two outermost longer lines, and tied shorter lines to them, so that the whole affair then represented the squares of a racket; the corners of each of which squares I tied very tight with smaller pieces of the line, till I had formed a complete net of forty feet long and ten wide.

When I had finished my net, as I thought, I wrapped several stones in rags, and fastened them to the bottom to sink it, and some of the smallest unscooped dry gourds to the top, to keep that part buoyant. I now longed to begin my new trade, and carried the net to my boat with that intention; but after two or three hauls I found it would not answer for want of length; (though by chance I caught a blackish fish without scales, a little bigger than whiting, but much longer, which stuck by the gills in it;) so I left the net in the boat, resolving to make an addition to it with all speed; and returning to my grotto, I supped on the

fish I had taken, and considered how to pursue my enterprize with better effect.

I provided me with another large parcel of line; and having brought two more lengths to perfection, I joined all together, and fixed one end on shore, by a pole I had cut for that purpose, I launched my boat, with the other end in it, taking a sweep the length of my net round to my stick again, and getting on shore, hauled up my net by both ends together. I now found I had mended my instrument, and taken a proper way of applying it: for by this means, in five hauls, I caught about sixteen fish of three or four different sorts, and one shell-fish, almost like a lobster, but without great claws, and with a very small short tail; which made me think, as the body was thrice as long as a lobster's in proportion, that it did not swim backwards, like that creature, but only crawled forwards, (it having lobster-like legs, but much shorter and stronger) and that the legs all standing so forward, its tail was by its motion, to keep the hinder part of the body from dragging upon the ground, as I observed it did when the creature walked on land, it then frequently flapping its short tail.

These fish made me rich in provisions. Some of them I eat fresh, and the remainder I salted down. But of all the kinds,

my lobster was the most delicious food, and made me almost three meals.

Thus finding there were fish to be had, though my present tackle seemed suitable enough to my family, yet I could not rest, till I had improved my fishery by enlarging my net; for as it was, even with my late addition, I must either sweep little or no compass of ground, or it would have no bag behind me. Upon this I set to work, and shortly doubled the dimensions of it, I had then a mind to try it at the mouth of my rill; so taking it with me the next time I crossed the lake for water, and fastening it to my pole, close by the right side of the rill, I swept a long compass round to the left, and closing the ends, attempted to draw it up in the hollow cut of the rill. But by the time I had gathered up two thirds of the net, I felt a resistance that quite amazed me. In short, I was not able to stand the force I felt. Whereupon, sitting down in the rill, and clapping my feet to the two sides of it, I exerted all my strength, till finally I became conqueror, and brought up so shocking a monster, that I was just rising to run for my life on the sight of it. But recollecting that the creature was hampered, and could not make so much resistance on the land as in the water, I returned to drag the net up as far from the rill as my strength and breath would permit me; and then run-

ning to the boat for my gun, I returned to the net, to examine my prize. Indeed, I had not instantly resolution enough to survey it: and when at length I assumed courage enough to do so, I could not perfectly distinguish the parts, they were so discomposed; but taking hold of one end of the net, I endeavoured to disentangle the thing, and then drawing the net away, a most surprizing sight presented itself; the creature reared upright, about three feet high covered all over with long black shaggy hair, like a bear, which hung down from his head and neck quite along his back and sides. He had two fins, very broad and large which as he stood erect, looked like arms, and those he waved and whirled about with incredible velocity; and though I wondered at first at it, I found afterwards it was the motion of these fins that kept him upright; for I perceived when they ceased their motion he fell flat on his belly. He had two very large feet, which he stood upon but could not run, and but barely walk on them, which made me in the less haste to despatch him; and after he had stood upon his feet about four minutes, clapping his fins to his sides, he fell upon his belly.

When I found he could not attack me, I was moving closer to him; but, upon sight of my stirring, up he rose again, and whirl-

ed his fins about as before so long as he stood. And now, I viewed him round, and found he had no tail at all, and that his hinder fins, or feet, very much resembled a large frog's, but were at least ten inches broad, and eighteen long, from heel to toe; and his legs were so short that when he stood upright his breech bore upon the ground. His belly, which he kept towards me, was of an ash color, and very broad, as was also his breast. His eyes were small and blue, with a large black sight in the middle, and rather of an oval than round make. He had a long snout like a boar, and vast teeth. Thus having surveyed him near half an hour living, I made him rise up once more and shot him in the breast. He fell, and giving a loud howl, or groan, expired.

I had then time to see what else I had caught; and turning over the net, found a few of the same fish I had taken before, and some others of a flattish make, and one little lump of flesh unformed; which last, by all I could make of it, seemed to be either a spawn or young one of that I had shot.

The great creature was so heavy, I was afraid I must have cut him in pieces to get him to the boat; but with much ado, having stowed the rest, I tumbled him on board. I then filled my water-cask, and rowed

homewards. Being got to land, I was obliged to bring down my cart, to carry my great beast-fish, as I termed him, up to the grotto. When I had got him thither, I had a notion of first tasting, and then, if I liked his flesh, of salting him down, and drying him; so having flayed him, and taken out the guts and entrails, I broiled a piece of him; but it made such a blaze, that most of the fat ran into the fire, and the flesh proved so dry and rank that I could no ways endure it.

I then began to be sorry I had taken so much pains for no profit, and had endangered my net into the bargain, (for that had got a crack or two in the scuffle) and I was thinking to throw away my large but worthless acquisition.

However, as I was now prone to weighing all things, before I threw it away, I resolved to consider a little; whereupon I changed my mind. Says I, here is a good warm skin, which, when dry, will make me a rare cushion. Again, I have for a long while had no light besides that of the day; but now, as this beast's fat makes such a blaze in the fire, and issues in so great a quantity from such a small piece as I broiled, why may not I boil a good tallow or oil out of it? and if I can I have not made so bad a hand of my time as I thought for.

In short I went immediately to work

upon this subject, (for I never let a project cool after I had once started it) and boiled as much of the flesh as the kettle would hold, and letting it stand to cool, I found it turned out a very good oil for burning ;— though, I confess, I thought it would rather have made tallow. This success quickened my industry ; and I repeated the operation till I got about ten quarts of this stuff, which very well rewarded my labor. After I had extracted as much oil as I could from the beast-fish, the creature having strongly impressed my imagination, I conceived a new fancy in relation to it ; and that was, having heard him make a deep howling groan at his death, I endeavored to persuade myself, and at last verily believed, that the voices I had so often heard, in the dark weather, proceeded from numbers of these creatures, diverting themselves in the lake, or sporting together on the shore ; and this thought, in its turn, contributed to ease my apprehensions in that respect.

CHAPTER XI.

ONE night I heard the voices again, I determined to go forth and face the beings from whom they proceeded at all risks, but I had scarce got my gun in my hand, to pursue my resolution of showing myself to those who uttered them, when I felt such a thump upon the roof of my ante-chamber, as shook the whole fabric, and set me all over into a tremour; I then heard a sort of shriek, and a rustle near the door of my apartment; all which together seemed very terrible. But I, having before determined to see what and who it was, resolutely opened my door and leaped out. I saw nobody; all was quite silent, and nothing that I could perceive but my own fears a moving. I went then softly to the corner of the building, and there looking down by the glimmer of my lamp, which stood in the window, I saw something in human shape lying at my feet. I gave the word, Who is there? Still no one answered. My heart was ready to force a way through my side. I was for a while fixed to the earth like a statue. At length, recovering, I stepped in, fetched my lamp, and returning, saw a most beautiful female lying apparently in

a state of insensibility on the ground. Upon viewing her other parts, (for I had never yet removed my eyes from her face) I found she had a sort of brown chaplet, like lace, round her head, under and about which her hair was tucked up and twined; and she seemed to me to be clothed in a thin hair-coloured silk garment, which upon trying to raise her, I found to be quite warm, and therefore hoped there was life in the body it contained. I then took her into my arms, and treading a step backwards with her, I put out my lamp; however, having her in my arms, I conveyed her through the door-way in the dark into my grotto; here I laid her upon my bed, and then ran out for my lamp.

I re-entered my grotto, shut my door, and lighted my lamp, when going to the fair being, I thought I saw her eyes stir a little. I then set the lamp further off, for fear of offending them if she should look up; and warming the last glass I had reserved of my madeira, I carried it to her, but she never stirred. I now supposed the fall had absolutely killed her and was prodigiously grieved; when, laying my hand on her breast I perceived the fountain of life had some motion. This gave me infinite pleasure; so, not despairing, I dipped my finger in the wine, and moistened her lips with it two or three times, and imagined they opened a

little. Upon this I bethought me, and taking a tea-spoon, I gently poured a few drops of the wine by that means into her mouth. Finding she swallowed it, I poured in another spoonful, and another till I brought her to herself so well as to be able to sit up. All this I did by a glimmering light, which the lamp afforded from a distant part of the room, where I had placed it, as I have said, out of her sight.

I then spoke to her, and asked divers questions; in return of which, she uttered a language I had no idea of, though in the most musical tone, and with the sweetest accent I ever heard. It grieved me I could not understand her. However, thinking she might like to be on her feet, I went to lift her off the bed, when she felt to my touch in the oddest manner imaginable; for, while in one respect, it was as though she had been cased up in whalebone, it was at the same time as soft and warm as if she had been naked.

I then took her in my arms and carried her into my ante-chamber again, where I would fain have entered into conversation, but found she and I could make nothing of it together unless we could understand one another's speech.

You may imagine we stared heartily at each other, and I doubted not but she wondered as much as I by what means we

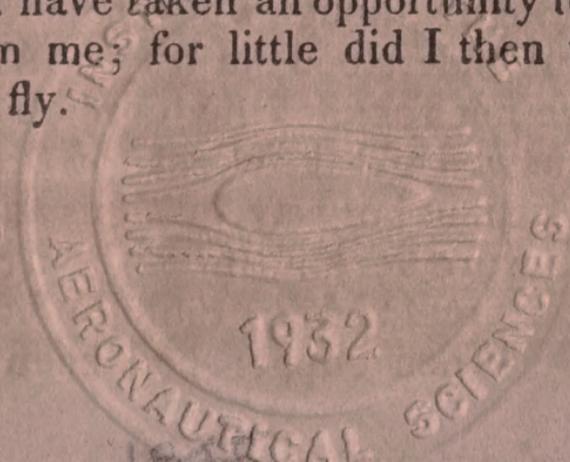
came so near each other. I offered her every thing in my grotto, which I thought might please her; some of which she gratefully received, as appeared by her looks and behavior. But she avoided my lamp, and always placed her back toward it. I observing that, and ascribing it to her modesty in my company, let her have her will, and took care to set it in such a position myself as seemed agreeable to her, though it deprived me of a prospect I very much admired.

After we had sat a good while, now and then, I may say, chattering to one another, she got up, and took a turn or two about the room. When I saw her in that attitude, her grace and motion perfectly charmed me, and her shape was incomparable; but the strangeness of her dress put me to my trumps to conceive either what it was, or how it was put on.

Well, we supped together, and I set the best of every thing I had before her, nor could either of us forbear speaking in our own tongue, though we were sensible neither of us understood the other. After supper I gave her some of my cordials, for which she showed great tokens of thankfulness, and often, in her way, by signs and gestures, which were very far from being insignificant, expressed her gratitude for my kindness. When supper had been some time

over, I showed her my bed, and made signs for her to go to it; but she seemed very shy of that till I showed her where I meant to lie myself, by pointing to myself, then to my bed. When at length, I had made this matter intelligible to her, she lay down very composedly; and after I had taken care of my fire, and set the things I had been using for supper in their places, I laid myself down too; for I could have no suspicious thoughts, or fear of danger, from a form so excellent.

I treated her for some time with all the respect imaginable, and never suffered her to do the least part of my work. It was very inconvenient to both of us only to know each other's meaning by signs; but I could not be otherwise than pleased to see, that she endeavored all in her power to learn to talk like me. Indeed I was not behind-hand with her in that respect, striving all I could to imitate her. What I all the while wondered at was, she never showed the least disquiet at her confinement; for I kept my door shut at first, through fear of losing her, thinking she would have taken an opportunity to run away from me; for little did I then think she could fly.



CHAPTER XII.

AFTER my new love had been with me a fortnight, finding my water run low, I was greatly troubled at the thought of quitting her at any time to go for more; and having hinted it to her, with seeming uneasiness, she could not for a while fathom my meaning but when she saw me much confused, she came at length, by the many signs I made to imagine it was my concern for her which made me so; whereupon she expressively enough signified I might be easy, for she did not fear any thing happening to her in my absence. On this, as well as I could declare my meaning, I entreated her not to go away before my return. As soon as she understood what I signified to her, by actions, she sat down, with her arms across, leaning her head against the wall, to assure me she would not stir. However, as I had before nailed a cord to the out side of the door, I tied that for caution's sake to the tree, for fear of the worst: but I believe she had not the least design of removing.

I took my boat, net, and water-cask, as usual, desirous of bringing her home a fresh fish dinner, and succeeded so well as to

catch enough for several good meals and to spare. What remained I salted, and found she liked better than the fresh, after a few days salting; though she did not so well approve of that I had formerly pickled and dried. As my salt grew very low, though I had been as sparing of it as possible, I now resolved to try making some; and the next summer I effected it.

Thus we spent the remainder of the winter together, till the days began to be light enough for me to walk abroad a little in the middle of them; for I was now under no apprehensions of her leaving me, as she had so many opportunities of doing so, but never once attempted it.

I must here make one reflection upon our conduct, which you will almost think incredible, viz. that we two, of different sexes, not wanting our peculiar desires, fully inflamed with love to each other, and no outward obstacle to prevent our wishes, should have been together, under the same roof, alone for five months, conversing together from morning to night, (for by this time she pretty well understood English, and I her language) and yet I should never have clasped her in my arms, or have shewn any farther amorous desires to her, than what deference I had all along paid her could give her room to surmise. Nay, I can affirm, that I did not even then know

that the covering she wore was not the work of art, but the work of nature, for I really took it for silk ; though it must be premised that I had never seen it by any other light than of my lamp. Indeed, the modesty of her carriage, and sweetness of her behaviour to me, had struck into me such a dread of offending her, that though nothing upon earth could be more capable of exciting passion than her charms, I could have died rather than have attempted only to salute her without actual invitation.

When the weather cleared up a little, by the lengthening of day-light, I took courage one afternoon to invite her to walk with me to the lake ; but she sweetly excused herself from it, whilst there was such a frightful glare of light, as she said ; but, looking out at the door, told me, if I would not go out of the wood, she would accompany me : so we agreed to take a turn only there. I first went myself over the stile of the door, and thinking it rather too high for her, I took her in my arms and lifted her over. But even when I had her in this manner, I knew not what to make of her clothing, it sat so true and close ; but seeing her by a steadier and truer light in the grove, though a heavy, gloomy one, than my lamp had afforded, I begged she would let me know of what silk or other

composition her garment was made. She smiled, and asked me if mine was not the same under my jacket.—No lady, says I, I have nothing but my skin under my clothes.—Why, what do you mean? replies she somewhat tartly; but, indeed, I was afraid something was the matter, by that nasty covering you wear, that you might not be seen. Are not you a glumm?—Yes, says I, fair creature. (Here though you may conceive she spoke part English, part her own tongue, and I the same, as we best understood each other, yet I shall give you our discourse, word for word, in plain English.) Then, says she, I am afraid you must have been a very bad man and have been crashee, which I should be very sorry to hear.—I told her I believed we were none of us so good as we might be, but I hoped my faults had not at most exceeded other men's; but I had suffered abundance of hardships in my time; and at last Providence having settled me in this spot, from whence I had no prospect of ever departing, it was none of the least of its mercies to bring to my knowledge and company the most exquisite piece of all his works in her, which I should acknowledge as long as I lived.—She was surprised at this discourse, and asked me, (if I did not mean to impose upon her, and was indeed incrashee glumm)

why I should tell her I had no prospect of departing from hence. Have not you, says she, the same prospect that I or any other person has of departing? Sir, added she, you don't do well, and really I fear you are slit, or you would not wear this nasty cumbersome coat, (taking hold of my jacket-sleeve,) if you were not afraid of showing the signs of a bad life upon your natural clothing.

I could not for my heart imagine what way there was to get out of my dominions. But certainly, thought I, there must be some or other, or she would not be so peremptory. And as to my jacket, and showing myself in my natural clothing, I profess she made me blush; and, but for shame, I would have stripped to my skin to have satisfied her. But, madam, says I, pray pardon me, for you are really mistaken; I have examined every nook and corner of this new world, in which we now are, and can find no possible outlet; nay even by the same way I came in, I am sure it is impossible to get out again.—Why, says she, what outlets have you searched for, or what way can you expect to get out, but by the way you came in? And why is that impossible to return by again; If you are not slit, is not the air open to you? Will not the sky admit you to patrol in it, as well

as other people? I tell you, sir, I fear you have been slit for your crimes; and though you have been so good to me, that I can't help loving of you heartily for it, yet if I thought you had been slit, I would not, nay, could not, stay a moment longer with you; no, though it should break my heart to leave you.

I found myself now in a strange quandary, longing to know what she meant by being slit; and had a hundred strange notions in my head whether I was slit or not; for though I knew what the word naturally signified well enough, yet in what manner, or by what figure of speech she applied it to me I had no idea of. But seeing her look a little angrily upon me, Pray, madam, says I, don't be offended, if I take the liberty to ask you what you mean by the word *crashee*, so often repeated by you; for I am an utter stranger to what you mean by it. Sir, says she, pray answer me first, how you came here? Madam, replied I, if you will please to take a walk to the verge of the wood, I will show you the very passage. Sir, says she, I perfectly know the range of the rocks all round, and by the least description without going to see them, can tell from which you descended. In truth, said I, most charming lady, I descended from no rock at all; nor would I for a thousand worlds attempt what could

not be accomplished but by my destruction. Sir, say she, in some anger, it is false, and you impose upon me. I declare to you, says I, madam, what I tell you is strictly true; I never was near the summit of any of the surrounding rocks or any thing like it; but as you are not far from the verge of the wood, be so good as to step a little further, and I will show you my entrance in hither. Well, says she, now this odious dazzle of light is lessened, I don't care if I do go with you.

When we came far enough to see the bridge, There, madam, said I, there is my entrance, where the sea pours into this lake from yonder cavern. It is not possible says she; this is another untruth; and as I see you would deceive me, and are not to be believed, farewell; I must be gone. But, hold, says she, let me ask you one thing more; that is by what means did you come through that cavern? You could not have used to have come over the rock?—Bless me, madam! says I, do you think I and my boat could fly! Come over the rock? did you say. No, madam; I sailed from the great sea, and main ocean, in my boat, through that cavern into this very lake here. What do you mean by your boat? says she. You seem to make two things of your boat you say you sailed with and yourself. I do so, replied I; for,

madam, I take myself to be good flesh and blood, but my boat is made of wood and other materials. Is it so? says she. And pray, where is this boat that is made of wood and other materials? under your jacket? Lord, madam! says I, you put me in fear that you was angry; but now I hope you only joke with me. What, put a boat under my jacket! No, madam, my boat is in the lake. What more untruths! says she. No, madam, I replied: if you would be satisfied of what I say, (every word of which is as true as that my boat now is in the lake) pray walk with me thither, and make your own eyes judges what sincerity I speak with. To this she agreed, it growing dusky; but assured me if I did not give her good satisfaction, I should see her no more.

We arrived at the lake; and going to my wet-dock, Now, madam, says I, pray satisfy yourself whether I speak true or no.—She looked at my boat, but could not yet frame a proper notion of it. Says I, madam in this very boat I sailed from the main ocean through that cavern into this lake; and shall at last think myself the happiest of all men if you continue with me, love me, and credit me; and I'll promise you I'll never deceive you, but think my life happily spent in your service. I found she was hardly content yet to believe what I told

her of my oar to be true ; till I stepped into it, and pushed from the shore, took my oars in my hand, and sailed along the lake by her, as she walked on the shore. At last, she seemed so well reconciled to me and my boat, that she desired I would take her in. I immediately did so, and we sailed a good way ; and as we returned to my dock, I described to her how I procured the water we drank, and brought it to shore in that vessel.

Well, says she, I have sailed, as you call it, many a mile in my life time, but never in such a thing as this. I own it will serve very well where one has a great many things to carry from place to place ; but to be laboring thus at an oar, when one intends pleasure in sailing, is, in my mind, a most ridiculous piece of slavery. Why, pray, madam, how would you have me sail ? for getting into the boat only, will not carry us this way or that without using some force. But, says she, pray where did you get this boat, as you call it ? O, madam ! says I, that is too long and fatal a story to begin upon now ; this boat was made many thousand miles from hence, among a people coal-black, a quite different sort from us ; and when I first had it, I little thought of seeing this country ; but I will make a faithful relation of all to you when we come home. Indeed, I began to

wish heartily we were there, for it grew into the night ; and having strolled so far without my gun, I was afraid of what I had before seen and heard, and hinted our return ; but I found my motion was disagreeable to her, and so I dropped it.

I now perceived, and wondered at it, that the later it grew, the more agreeable it seemed to her ; and as I had now brought her into good humor again, by seeing and sailing in my boat, I was not willing to prevent its increase. I told her if she pleased, we would land, and when I had docked my boat, I would accompany her where and as long as she liked. As we talked and walked by the lake, she made a little run before me, and sprung into it. Perceiving this, I cried out ; whereupon she merrily called on me to follow her. The light was then so dim, as prevented my having more than a confined sight of her when she jumped in ; and looking earnestly after her, I could discern nothing more than a small boat in the water, which skimmed along at so great a rate that I almost lost sight of it presently ; but running along the shore for fear of losing her, I met her gravely walking to meet me ; and then had entirely lost sight of the boat upon the lake. This, says she, accosting me with a smile, is my way of sailing, which I perceive, by the fright you were in, you are altogether

unacquainted with ; and as you tell me you came from so many thousand miles off, it is impossible you may be made differently from me : but, surely, we are the part of creation which has had more care bestowed upon it ; and I suspect, from all your discourse, to which I have been very attentive, it is possible you may no more be able to fly than to sail as I do. No, charming creature, says I that I cannot, I'll assure you. She then stepping to the edge of the lake, for the advantage of a descent before her, sprung up into the air, and away she went, farther than my eyes could follow her.

I was quite astonished. So, says I then, all is over ! all a delusion which I have so long been in ! a mere phantom ! Better had it been to me never to have seen her, than thus to lose her again ! But what could I expect had she staid ? For it is plain she is no human composition. But, says I, she felt like flesh, too, when I lifted her out at the door ! I had but very little time for reflection ; for, in about ten minutes after she had left me in this mixture of grief and amazement, she alighted just by me on her feet.

Her return, as she plainly saw, filled me with a transport not to be concealed ; and which, as she afterwards told me, was very agreeable to her. Indeed, I was some mo-

ments in such an agitation of mind from these unparalleled incidents, that I was like one thunder-struck; but coming presently to myself, and clasping her in my arms with as much love and passion as I was capable of expressing, and for the first time with any desire, Are you returned again, kind angel, said I, to bless a wretch who can only be happy in adoring you! Can it be that you, who have so many advantages over me, should quit all the pleasures that nature has formed you for, and all your friends and relations to take an asylum in my arms? But I here make you a tender of all I am able to bestow—my love and constancy. Come, come, says she, no more raptures; I find you are a worthier man than I thought I had reason to take you for, and I beg your pardon for my distrust, whilst I was ignorant of your imperfections; but now I verily believe all you have said is true; and I promise you, as you have seemed so much to delight in me, I will never quit you till death, or other as fatal accident shall part us: But we will now, if you choose, go home; for I know you have been some time uneasy in this gloom, though agreeable to me: for giving my eyes the pleasure of looking eagerly on you, it conceals my blushes from your sight.

In this manner, exchanging mutual en-

dearments and soft speeches, hand in hand, we arrived at the grotto, where we that night consummated our nuptials, without farther ceremony than mutual solemn engagements to each other, which are, in truth, the essence of marriage, and all that was there and then in our power.

NOTE.—For the explanation of the terms Glumm, Crashee, and other similar ones which recur in the course of the narrative, the reader is referred to the glossary at the end of the volume.—Ed.

CHAPTER XIII.

YOUWARKEE and I having no other company than one another's, we walked together almost from morn till night, in order to learn each other's dialect. But how com- pliable soever, she was in all other respects, I could not persuade her to go out with me to fetch water, or to the lake in the day time. It being now the light season, I wanted her to be more abroad; but she excused herself, telling me her people never came into these luminous parts of the coun- try during the false glare as they called it, but kept altogether at home, where their light was more moderate and steadier; and that the place where I resided was not fre- quented by them for half the year and other times only upon parties of pleasure, it not being worth while to settle habitations where they could not abide always. She said, Normnbdsgrsutt was the finest region in the world, where her king's court was, and a vast kingdom. I asked her twice or thrice more to name the country to me, but not all the art we could use, hers in dicta- ting, and mine in endeavoring to pronounce it, would render me conqueror of that her monosyllable, (for as such it sounded from

her sweet lips;) so I relinquished the name to her telling her whenever she had any more occasion to mention the place, I desired it might be under the style of Doorpt Swongianti, which she promised; but wondered, as she could speak the other so glibly, as she called it, I could not do so too.

I told her, that the light of my native country was far stronger than any I had seen since my arrival at graundevolet, (for that, I found by her, was the name my dominions went by;) and that we had a sun, or a ball of fire which rolled over our heads every day with such a light and such a heat, that it would sometimes almost scorch one it was so hot, and was of such brightness that the eye could not look at it without danger of blindness. She was heartily glad, she said, she was not born in so wretched a land; and did not believe there was any other so good as her own. I thought no benefit could arise from my combatting these innocent prejudices, so I let them alone.

She had often lamented to me the difference of our eyesight, and the trouble it was to her that she could not at all times go about with me, till it gave me a good deal of uneasiness to see her concern.— At last I told her, that though I believed it would be impossible to reduce my sight to the standard of hers, yet I was persuaded I could bring hers, to bear the strongest

light I had ever seen in this country. She was mightily pleased with the thought of that, and said she wished I might, for she was sensible of no grief like being obliged to stay at home when I went abroad on my business and was resolved to try my experiment if I pleased, and in the mean time should heartily pray for the success. I hit on the following invention.

I rummaged over all my old things, and by good luck found an old crape hatband. With this crape, some felt and some pieces of the rind of the ram's-horn fruit, I contrived to form a pair of spectacles which enabled my wife to bear the strongest light of the country.

CHAPTER XIV.

THE next summer brought me a yacom as fair as alabaster. My wife was delivered without the usual assistance, and had as favorable a labor as could be. When Yeuwarkee had gathered strength again, she proved an excellent nurse to my Pedro, (for that was the name I give him) so that he soon grew a charming child, able to go in his twelvemonth, and speak in his twentieth. This and two other lovely boys I had by her in three years; every one of which she brought up with the breast, and they thrived delicately.

As my boy Pedro grew up, though, he had the graundee, yet it was of less dimensions than it ought to have been to be useful to him, so that it was visible he could scarce meet before, whereas it ought to have reached from side to side both ways.

I turned over my board, but could find nothing that would do; or, at least, that we knew how to fit him with. I had described my own country vest for lads to Youwarkee, and she formed a tolerable idea of it, but we had no tackle to alter anything with. O, my dear, says I, had I but been born with the graundee, I need not be

now raking my brains to get my child clothes. What do you mean by this ? says she.—Why, says I, I would have flown to my ship, (for I had long before related to her all my sea adventures, till the vessel's coming to the magnetical rock) and have brought some such things from thence, as you, now wanting them in this country, can have no notion of. She seemed mighty inquisitive to understand how a ship was made, but it was most likely to, how a person who never saw one might know it only by the description, and how one might get into it ; with abundance of the like questions. She then inquired what sort of things those needles and several other utensils were, which I had at times been speaking of ; and in what part of a ship they usually kept such articles. And I, to gratify her curiosity, as I perceived she took a pleasure in hearing me, answered all her questions to a scruple ; not then conceiving the secret purpose of all this inquisitiveness.

About two days after this, having been out two or three hours in the morning, to cut wood, at coming home I found Pedro crying, ready to break his heart, and his little brother Tommy hanging to him, and crawling about the floor after him ; the youngest pretty baby was fast asleep upon one of the beast-fish skins, in a corner of the room. I asked Pedro for his mother ;

but the poor infant had nothing further to say to the matter, than Mamma run away, I cry ! I admired where she was gone, never before missing her from our habitation. However, I waited patiently till bed-time, but no wife. I grew very uneasy then ; yet, as my children were tired and sleepy, I thought I had best go to bed with them, and make quiet ; so, giving all three their suppers, we lay down together. They slept ; but my mind was too full to permit the close of my eyes. A thousand different chimeras swam in my imagination relating to my wife. One while I fancied her carried away by her kinsfolks ; then that, she was gone of her own accord to make peace with her father. But that thought would not fix, being put aside by her constant tenderness to her children, and regard to me ; whom I was sure she would not have left without notice. But alas ! says I, she may even now be near me, but taken so ill she cannot get home, or she may have died suddenly in the wood. I lay tumbling and tossing in great anxiety, not able to find out any excusable occasion she could have of so long absence. And then, thinks I, if she should either be dead, or have quite left me, which will be of equally bad consequence to me, what can I do with three poor helpless infants ? If they were a little more

grown up, they might be helpful to me, and to each other; but at their age, how shall I ever rear them without the tenderness of a mother? And to see them pine away before my face, and not know how to help them will distract me.

Finding I could neither sleep nor lie still, I rose, intending to search all the woods about and call to her, that if any accident had prevented sight of her, she might at least hear me. But upon opening the door, and just stepping out, how agreeably was I surprised to meet her coming in, with something on her arm. My dear Youwarkee, says I, where have you been? What has befallen you to keep you out so long? The poor children have been at their wits end to find you, and I, my dear, have been inconsolable, and was now, almost distracted, coming in search of you. Youwarkee looked very blank, to think what concern she had given me and the children. My dearest Peter, says she, kissing me, pray forgive me the only thing I have ever done to offend you, and the last cause you shall ever have, by my good will, to complain of me; but walk within doors, and I will give you a farther account of my absence. Don't you remember what delight I took the other day to hear you talk of your ship. Yes, says I, you did so; but what of that?—Nay, pray, says she, forgive me,

for I have been to see it. That's impossible, says I; and truly this was the first time I ever thought she went about to deceive me. I do assure you, says she, I have; and a wonderful thing it is! But if you distrust me, and what I say, I have brought proof of it; step out with me to the verge of the wood, and satisfy yourself. But pray, says I, who presented you with this upon your arm? I vow, says she, I had forgot this; yes, this will, I believe, confirm to you what I have said. I turned it over and over; and looking wistfully upon her, says I, this waistcoat, indeed, is the very fellow to one that lay in the captain's locker in the cabin. Say not the very fellow, says she, but rather say the very same, for I'll assure you it is so; and had you been with me, we might have got so many things for ourselves and the children, we should never have wanted more, though we had lived these hundred years; but as it is, I have left something without the wood for you to bring up. When we had our talk out, she, hearing the children stir, took them up, and was going, as she always did, to get their breakfasts. Hold, says I, this journey must have fatigued you too much already, lay yourself to rest, and leave every thing else to me. My dear, says she, you seem to think this flight tiresome, but you are mistaken; I am more weary with walking to

the lake and back again, than with all the rest. Oh, says she, if you had but the graundee, flying would rest you, after the greatest labor; for the parts which are moved with exercise on the earth, are all at rest in flight; as on the contrary, the parts used in flight are when on earthly travel. The whole trouble in flight is in mounting from the plain ground; but when once you are upon the graundee, at a proper height, all the rest is play, a mere trifle; you need only think of your way, and incline to it, your graundee directs you as readily as your feet obey you on the ground, without thinking of every step you take; it does not require labor, as your boat does, to keep you a going.

After we had composed ourselves, we walked to the verge of the wood, to see what cargo my wife had brought from the ship. I was astonished at the bulk of it; and seeing, by the outside, it consisted of clothes, I took it with much ado upon my shoulders, and carried it home. But upon opening it, I found far more treasure than I could have imagined; for there was a hammer, a great many spikes and nails, three spoons, about five plates of pewter, four knives and a fork, a small china punch bowl, two chocolate cups, a paper of needles, and several of pins, a parcel of coarse thread, a pair of shoes, and abundance of

such other things as she had heard me wish for and describe; besides as much linnen and woolen of one sort or other, as made a good package for all the other things; with a great tin porridge-pot, of about two gallons, tied to the out side; and all these as nicely stowed as if she had been bred a packer.

When I had viewed the bundle, and poised the weight, how was it possible, my dear Youwarkee, said I, for you to bring all this? You could never carry them in your hands. No, no, replied she, I carried them on my back. Is it possible, says I, for your graundee to bear yourself and all this weight too in the air, and to such an height as the top of these rocks? You will always, replies she, make the height a part of the difficulty in flying; but you are deceived, for as the first stroke (I have heard you say often) in fighting is half the battle, so it is in flying; get but once fairly on the wind, nothing can hurt you afterward. My method, let me tell you, was this; I climbed to the highest part of the ship, where I could stand clear, having first put up my burthen, which you have there; and then getting that on my back near my shoulders, I took the two cords you see hang loose to it in my two hands, and, extending my graundee, leaped off flatwise with my face towards the water; when instantly playing

two or three good strokes with my graundee, I was out of danger ; now, if I had found the bundle too heavy to make my first strokes with, I should directly have turned on my back, dropped my bundle, and floated in my graundee to the ship again, as you once saw me float on the lake. Says I, you must have flown a prodigious distance to the lake, for I was several days sailing, I believe three weeks, from my ship, before I reached the gulph ; and after that could be little less than five weeks (as I accounted for it,) and at a great rate of sailing too under the rock, before I reached the lake ; so that the ship must be a monstrous way off. No, no, says she, your ship lies but over yon cliff, that rises as it were with two points ; and as to the rock itself, it is not broader than our lake is long ; but what made you so tedious in your passage was, many of the windings and turnings in the cavern returning into themselves again ; so that you might have gone round and round till this time, if the tide had not luckily struck you into the direct passage ; this, says she, I have heard from some of my countrymen, who have flown up it, but could never get quite through.

I wish with all my heart, says I, fortune had brought me first to light in this country ; or (but for your sake I could almost say) had never brought me into it at all ; for

to be a creature of the least significancy, of the whole race but one, is a melancholy circumstance. Fear not, says she, my love, for you have a wife that will hazard all for you, though you are restrained ; and as my inclinations and affections are so much yours, that I need but know your desires to execute them as far as my power extends, surely you, who can act by another, may be content to forego the trouble of your own performance. I perceived, indeed, continued she, you want mightily to go to your ship, and are more uneasy now you know it is safe, than you was before ; but that being past my skill to assist you in, if you will command your deputy to go backwards and forwards in your stead, I am ready to obey you.

Thus ended our conversation about the ship for that time. But it left not my mind so soon ; for a stronger hankering after it pursued me now than ever since my wife's flight, but to no purpose.

We sat us down, and sorted out our cargo, piece by piece ; and having found several things proper for the children, my wife longed to enter upon some piece of work towards clothing Pedro in the manner she had heard me talk of, and laid hard at me to show her the use of the needles, thread, and other things she had brought. Indeed, I must say she proved very tractible ; and from the little instruction I was able to give

her, soon outwrought my knowledge ; for I could only show her that the thread went through the needle, and both through the cloth to hold it together ; but for any thing else I was as ignorant as she. In much less time than I could have imagined, she had clothed my son Pedro, and had made a sort of mantle for the youngest. But now seeing us so smart (for I took upon me sometimes to wear the green waistcoat she had brought under my dirty jacket) she began to be ashamed of herself, as she said, in our fine company ; and afterwards (as I shall soon acquaint you) got into our fashion.

Seeing the advantages of her flight to the ship ; and that so many conveniences arose from it, she was frequently at me to let her go again. I should as much have wished for another return of goods as she, but I could by no means think of parting with my factor ; for I knew her eagerness to please me, and that she would stick at nothing to perform it. And, thinks I, should any accident happen to her, by over-loading, or otherwise, and I should lose her, all the other commodities of the whole world put together would not compensate her loss. But as she so earnestly desired it, and assured me she would run no hazards, I was prevailed on at length, by her incessant importunities, to let her go ; though under certain restrictions which she promised

me to comply with. At first, I insisted upon it that she should take a tour quite round the rock, setting out the same way I had last gone with my boat ; and, if possible, find out the gulph, which I told her she could not mistake, by reason of the noise the fall of the water made ; and desired her to remark the place, so as I might know within-side where it was without. And then I told her she might review and search every hole in the ship as she pleased ; and if there were any small things she had a mind to bring from it, she was welcome, provided the bundle she would make up was not above a fourth part either of the bulk or weight of the last. All which she having engaged punctually to observe, she bid me not expect her till I saw her, and she would return her as soon as possible. I then went with her to the confines of the wood, (for I told her I desired to see her mount) and she, after we had embraced, bidding me to stand behind her, took her flight.

CHAPTER XV.

I HAD ever since our marriage, been desirous of seeing Youwarkee fly, but this was the first opportunity I had of it; and indeed the sight was worthy of all the attention I paid it; for I desired her slowly to put herself in proper order for it, that I might make my observation the more accurately; and shall now give you an account of the whole apparatus, though several parts of the description were taken from subsequent views; for it would have been impossible to have made just remarks of every thing at that once, especially as I only viewed her back parts then.

I told you before, I had seen her graundee, open, and quite extended, as low as her middle; but that being in the grotto by lamp light, I could not take so just a survey as now, when the sort of light we ever had was at the brightest.

She first threw up two long branches or ribs of the whale-bone, as I called it before, (and indeed for several of its properties, as toughness, elasticity, and pliability, nothing I have ever seen can so justly be compared to it) which were jointed behind to the upper bone of the spine, and which

when not extended, lie bent over the shoulders on each side of the neck forwards from whence by nearer and nearer approaches, they just meet at the lower rim of the belly in a sort of point; but when extended, they stand their whole length above the shoulders, not perpendicularly, but spreading outwards, with a web of the softest and most pliable and springy membrane that can be imagined, in the interstice between them, reaching from their root or joint on the back up above the hinder part of the head, and near half way their own length; but when closed the membrane falls down in the middle upon the neck, like an handkerchief. There are also two other ribs rising as it were from the same root, which, when open, run horizontally, but not so long as the others. These are filled up in the interstice between them and the upper ones with the same membrane; and on the lower side of this is also a deep flap of the membrane, so that the arms can be either above or below it in flight, and are always above it when closed. This last rib, when shut, flaps under the upper one, and also falls down with it before the waist, but is not joined to the ribs below. Along the whole spine-bone runs a strong, flat, broad, gristly cartilage to which are joined several other of these ribs; all which open horizontally, and are filled up in the interstices with the

above membrane, and are jointed to the ribs of the person just where the plane of the back begins to turn towards the breast and belly; and, when shut, wrap the body round to the joints on the contrary side, folding neatly one side over the other. At the lower spine are two more ribs, extended horizontally when open, jointed again to the hips, and long enough to meet the joint on the contrary side cross the belly; and from the hip-joint, which is on the outermost edge of the hip-bone, runs a pliable cartilage quite down the outside of the thigh and leg to the ancle; from which there branch out diverse other ribs horizontally also when open, but when closed, they encompass the whole thigh and leg, rolling inwards cross the back of the leg and thigh, till they reach and just cover the cartilage. The interstices of these are also filled up with the same membrane. From the two ribs which join to the lower spine-bone, there hangs down a sort of short apron, very full of plaits, from hip-joint to hip-joint, and reaches below the buttocks, half way or more to the hams. This has also several smaller ribs in it. Just upon the lower spine-joint, and above the apron, as I call it, there are two or three long branches, which, when close, extend upon the back from the point they join at below from the shoulders, where each rib has a clasper, which reach-

ing over the shoulders, just under the fold of the uppermost branch or ribs, hold up the two ribs flat to the back like a V, the interstices of which are also filled up with the aforesaid membrane. This last piece, in flight, falls down almost to the ancles, where the two clasps clapping under each leg within-side, hold it very fast; and then also the short apron is drawn up, by the strength of the ribs in it, between the thighs forward, and covers as far as the rim of the belly. The whole arms are covered also from the shoulders to the wrist with the same delicate membrane, fastened to ribs of proportionable dimensions, and jointed to a cartilage on the outside in the same manner as on the legs.

It is very surprising to feel the difference of these ribs when open and when closed; for closed, they are as pliable as the finest whalebone, or more so, but when extended, are as strong and stiff as a bone. They are tapering from the roots, and are broader or narrower, as best suits the places they occupy, and the stress they are put to, up to their points, which are almost as small as a hair. The membrane between them is the most elastic thing, I ever met with, occupying no more space, when the ribs are closed than just from rib to rib, as flat and smooth as possible; but when extended in some postures, will dilate itself surprisingly.

This will be better comprehended by the plates, where you will see several glumms and gawreys in different attitudes, than expressed by words.*

As soon as my wife had expanded the whole graundee, being upon plain ground, she stooped forward, moving with a heavy wriggling motion at first, which put me into some pain for her ; but after a few strokes, beginning to rise a little, she cut through the air like lightning, and was soon over the edge of the rock, and out of my sight.

It is the most amazing thing in the world to observe the large expansion of this graundee, when open ; and, when closed, (as it all is in a moment upon the party's descent) to see it sit so close and compact to the body, as no tailor can come up to it ; and then the several ribs lie so justly disposed in the several parts, that instead of being, as one would imagine, a disadvantage to the shape, they make the body and limbs look extremely elegant ; and by the different adjustment of their lines on the body and limbs, the whole, to my fancy, somewhat resembles the dress of the old Roman warriors in their buskins ; and, to appearance, seems much more noble than

* We have thought it proper to retain the words of the original edition although the plan of the present work excludes many plates.

any fictitious garb I ever saw, or can frame a notion of to myself.

Though these people, in height, shape, and limb, very much resemble the Europeans, there is yet this difference, that, their bodies are rather broader and flatter, and their limbs, though as long and well shaped, are seldom so thick as ours : And this I observed generally in all I saw of them during a long time among them afterwards ; but their skin, for beauty and fairness, exceeds ours very much.

My wife having now taken her second flight, I went home, and never left my children till her return : this was three days after our parting. I was in bed with my little ones when she knocked at the door. I soon let her in, and we received each other with a glowing welcome. The news she brought me was very agreeable. She told me she first went and pried into every nook in the ship, where she had seen such things, could we get at them, as would make us very happy. Then she set out the way I told her to go, in order to find the gulph. She was much afraid she should not have discovered it, though she flew very slow, that she might be sure to hear the waterfall, and not overshoot it. It was long ere she came at it ; but when she did, she perceived she might have spared most of her trouble, had she set out the other way ; for,

after she had flown almost round the island, and not before, she began to hear the fall, and upon coming up to it, found it to be not above six minutes' flight from the ship. She said the entrance was very narrow, and she thought, lower than I represented it; for she could scarce discern any space between the surface of the water and the arch-way of the rock. I told her that might happen from the rise or fall of the sea itself. But I was glad to hear the ship was no farther from the gulph; for my head was never free from the thoughts of my ship and cargo. She then told me she had left a small bundle for me without the wood, and went to look after her children. I brought up the bundle; and though it was not near so large as the other, I found several useful things in it, wrapped up in four or five yards of dark blue woollen cloth, which I knew no name for, but which was thin and light, and about a yard wide. I asked her where she met with this stuff: she answered, where there was more of it, under a thing like our bed, in a cloth like our sheet, which she cut open, and took it out of. Well, says I, and what will you do with this? Why, I will make me a coat, like yours, says she, for I don't like to look different from my dear husband and children. No, Youwarkee, replied I, you must not do so! if you make such a jacket as

mine, there will be no distinction between glumm and gawrey ; the gowren praave, in my country would not on any account go dressed like a glumm ; for they wear a fine flowing garment, called a gown, that sits tight about the waist, and hangs down from thence in folds, like your barras, almost to the ground, so that you can hardly discern their feet, and no other part of their body but their hands and face, and about as much of their necks and breasts as you see in your graundee.

Youwarkee seemed highly delighted with this new-fancied dress, and worked day and night at it against the cold weather. Whilst she employed herself thus, I was busied in providing my winter stores, which I was forced to do all alone now, herself and children taking up all my wife's time. About a fortnight after she had begun mantua-making, she presented herself to me one day as I came from work in her new gown: and, truly, considering the scanty description I had given her of such a garment, it appeared a good comely dress. Though it had not one plait about the body, it sat very tight thereto, and yet hung down full enough for a countess ; for she would have put it all in (all the stuff she had) had there been as much more of it. I could see no opening before, so asked her how she got it on. She told me she had laid along on the

ground, and crept through the plaits at the bottom, and sewed the body round her after she had got her hands and arms through the sleeves. I wondered at her contrivance; and smiling, showed her how she should put it on, and also how to pin it before; and after she had done that, and I had turned up about half a yard of sleeve, which then hung down to her fingers ends, I kissed her, and called her my countrywoman; of which, and her new gown, she was very proud for a long time.

CHAPTER XIII.

I HAD now lived here almost fourteen years, and besides the three sons before mentioned, had three girls and one boy.— Pedro, my eldest, had the graundee, but too small to be useful; my second son Tommy had it complete, so had my three daughters, but Jemmy and David, the youngest sons, none at all. My eldest daughter I named Patty, because I always fancied that

name as it was the name of a young lady in England for whom I had entertained a very great regard in my younger days.— My second daughter my wife desired might be called by her sister's name Hallycarnie; and my youngest I named Sarah, after my mother. I put you to the trouble of writing down the names, for as I shall hereafter have frequent occasion to mention the children severally, it will be pleasanter for myself and you to call them by their several names of distinction, than to call them my second son, or my eldest daughter, and so forth.

My wife now took great delight in exercising Tommy and Patty (who were big enough to be trusted) in flight, and would often skim round the whole island with them before I could walk half through the wood. And she would teach them also to swim or sail, I knew not which to call it, for sometimes you would see them dart out of the air as if they would fall on their faces into the lake, when coming near the surface they would stretch their legs in a horizontal posture, and in an instant turn on their backs and then you could see nothing from the bank, to all appearance, but a boat sailing along, the graundee rising at their head, feet, and sides, so like the sides and ends of a boat, that you could not discern the face or any part of the body I own

I often envied them this exercise, which they seemed to perform with more ease than I could only shake my leg or stir an arm.

Though we had perpetually sweangeans about us, and the voices, as I used to call them, I could never once prevail on my wife to show herself, or to claim any acquaintance with her country folks. And what is very remarkable in my children is, that my three daughters and Tommy, who had the full graundee, had exactly their mother's sight, Jimmy and David had just my sight, and Pedro's sight was between both, though he was never much effected with any light; but I was obliged to make spectacles for Tommy and all my daughters when they came to go abroad.

At this period Youwarkee proposed to visit her father's country, to which proposal having had such full experience of her tenderness and fidelity, I made no objection, and accordingly she set off accompanied by Tomany, Patty, and Hallycarnie.

During her absence I employed myself in instructing my other children and my usual routine of employment. I was reflecting with some uneasiness on the length of time, since I had been separated from my wife and the helpless condition my remaining children would be left in if she should never return, and endeavoring to solace myself by committing them to the care of Providence.

One day I was sitting by myself in my tent upon one of the trees I had turned into benches, when I heard a musical voice call, Peter! Peter! I started. What's this? says I. It is not Youwarkee's voice! What can this mean! Listening, I heard it again, but at so great a distance I could but just perceive the sound. Be it where it will, says I, I will face it! Thus speaking, I went out of the tent, and hearkening very attentively, but could hear nothing. I then ran for my gun, and walked through the wood as fast as I could to the plain; but still I neither saw nor heard any thing. I was then in hopes of seeing somebody on the lake but no one appeared; for I was fully determined to make myself known to whomsoever I should meet; and, if possible, to gain some intelligence of my wife.— But after so much fruitless pains, my hopes being at an end, I was returning, when I heard, Peter! Peter! again at a great distance, the sound coming from a different quarter, than at first. Upon this I stopped, and heard it repeated; and it was as if the speaker approached nearer and nearer.— Hereupon I stepped out of the wood, (for I had just re-entered it upon my return home) when I saw two persons upon the swangean just over my head. I cried out, Who's that? And they immediately called again, Peter! Peter!—*Ors clam gee*, says I.

that is, here am I. On this they directly took a small sweep round, (for they had overshot me before they heard me) and alighted just by me; when I perceived them to be my wife's countrymen, being dressed like her, with only broader chaplets about their heads, as she had told me the glumms all wore. After a short obeisance, they asked me if I was the glumm Peter, barkatt to Youwarkee. I answered; I was. They then told me they came with a message from Pendlehamby, colamb of Arndrumstake, my goppa, and from Youwarkee his daughter. I was vastly rejoiced to see them, and to hear only the name of my wife. But though I longed to know their message, I trembled to think of their mentioning it, as one of them was just going to do, for fear of hearing something very displeasing; so I begged them to go through the wood with me to the grotto, where we should have more leisure and convenience for talk, and where, at the same time, they might take some refreshment. But though I had thus put off their message, I could not forbear inquiring by the way after the health of my goppa, and my wife and children, how they got to Arndrumstake, and how they found their relations and friends. They told me all were well; and that Youwarkee, as she did on me, desired I would think on her with true

affection. I found this was the phrase of the country. As for the rest, I hoped it would turn out well at last, though I dreaded to hear it.

Being arrived at the grotto, I desired my guests to sit down and take such refreshments as I could prepare them. When they were seated, I went to work in order to provide them a repast. Seeing my fire piled up very high and burning fierce, and the children about it, they wondered where they had got, and who they had come to, and turned their faces from it; but I setting some chairs, so that the light might not strike on their eyes, they liked the warmth well enough; though, I remarked, the light did not affect them so much as it had done Youwarkee.

Whilst I was cooking, the poor children got all up in a corner, and stared at the strangers, not being able to conceive where they came from; and by degrees crept all backwards into the bed-chamber, and hid themselves; for they had never before seen any body but my own family.

I observed that one of my guests paid more than ordinary respect to the other; and though their graundees made no distinction between them, yet there was something I thought much more noble in the address and behaviour of the latter; and taking notice that he was also the chief spokes-

man, I judged it proper to pay my respects to him in a somewhat more distinguishing manner, though so as not to offend the other if I should happen to be mistaken.

I first presented a cann of my Madeira, and took care, as if by accident, to give it to Mr. Uppermost, as I thought him, who drank half of it, and would have given the remainder to his companion, but I begged him to drink it all up, and his friend should be served with some presently : he did so, and thanked me by lifting his hand to his chin. I then gave the other a cann of the same liquor, which he drank, and returned thanks as his companion had before. I then took a cann myself ; and telling them I begged leave to use the ceremony of my own country to them ; I drank, wishing their own health, and that of all relations at Arndrumstake. He that I took for a superior fell a laughing heartily : Ha, ha, ha ; says he, this is the very way my sister does every day at Arndrumstake. Your sister, sir ! says I, pray has she ever been in Europe or England ? Well ! says he, I have plainly discovered myself, which I did not intend to do yet ; but, truly, brother Peter, I mean none other than your own wife Youwarkee.

The moment I knew who he was, I rose up, and taking him by the right hand, lifted it to my lips and kissed it. He likewise immediately stood up, and we embraced

each other with great tenderness : I then begged him, as I had so worthy and near a relation of my wife's with me, that he would not delay the happiness I hoped for, in a narrative from his mouth, how it fared with my father, wife, and children, and all their kinsfolks and friends, whom I had so often heard mentioned by my dearest Youwarkee, and so earnestly desired to see.

My brother Quangrollart (for that he told me was his name) was preparing to gratify my impatience ; but seeing I had set the entertainment on the table, which consisted chiefly of bread, several sorts of pickles and preserves, with some cold salted fish, he said that eating would but interrupt the thread of his discourse ; and therefore, with my leave he would defer the relating of what I desired for a little while ; which we all thinking most proper, I desired him and his friend (who might be another brother for ought I knew) to refresh themselves with the poor modicum I was able to provide them. Whilst my brother Quongrollart was looking upon and handling his plate, being what he had never before seen, his friend had got the handle of one of the knives in his mouth, biting it with all his force ; but finding he could make nothing of that end, he tried the other, and got championing the blade. Perceiving what he was at, though I could not help laughing, I rose,

and begging pardon, took the knife from him; telling him I believed he was not acquainted with the use of that instrument; which was one of my country implements; and that the design of it, which was called a knife, and of that other, (pointing to it) called a fork, was the one to reduce the food into pieces proper for chewing, and the other to convey it to the mouth without daubing the fingers, which must happen in handling the food itself; and I then showed him what use I put them to by helping each of them therewith to somewhat, and by cutting a piece for myself, and putting it to my mouth with the fork.

They both smiled, and looked very well pleased, and when I told them that the plate was the only thing that need be daubed and when that was taken away the table remained clean. So after I had helped each of them for the first time, I told them to help themselves where they liked best; and to say the truth they did so more dexterously than I could have expected.

During our repast we had many sketches of the observations they made in their flight, and of the places where they rested, and I could plainly perceive that neither of them had been at this arkoë before, by hinting that if they had not taken such a course they had missed me.

I took particular notice which part of my

entertainment they ate most of, in order to bring a fresh supply of that when wanted ; and I found that though they ate heartily of my bread and preserves, and tasted almost every thing else, they never once touched the fish; which put me upon desiring I might help them to some. At this they looked at each other, which I readily knew the meaning of, and excused themselves, and expressing great satisfaction in what they had gotten. I took, however, a piece of fish on my own plate, and eating very heartily of it, my brother desired me to give him a bit of it; I did so, and took care to cut it free from bones as I could, and for a greater security cautioning him, in case there should be any, to pick them out and not swallow them. He no sooner put a piece to his mouth, but, Rosig, says he to his friend, this is padsi. I thought, indeed, I had puzzled my brother when I gave him the fish, but by what he said of it, he puzzled me; for I knew not what he meant by padsi, my wife having told me they had no fish, or else I should have taken that word for their name of it. However, I cut Rosig a slice ; and he agreeing it was padsi, they both eat heartily of it.

While we were at dinner, my brother told me he thought he saw some of my children just now; for his sister had informed him she had five more at home; and asked

me why they did not appear and eat with us. I excused their coming, fearing they would only be troublesome ; and said, when we had done they should have some meat. But he would not be put off, and entreated me to admit them. So I called them by their names, and they came, all but Dicky, who was asleep in his hammock. I told them that the gentleman, pointing to Quanggrollart, was their uncle, their mother's brother, and ordered them to pay their obeisance to him, which they severally did. I then made them salute Rosig. This last would have had them sit down at table, but I positively forbade them, and giving each of them something, they carried it to their chests and eat it.

When we had done, the children helped me to clear the table, and were retiring out of the room ; but then I recalled them and desired their uncle to excuse their stay, for as he had promised me news of their mammy and her family, it would be the height of pleasure to them to hear him. He was much pleased with this motion, desiring by all means they might be present while he told his story. Whereupon I ordered them to their chests, while he delivered his narrative.

CHAPTER XV.

HAVING set on the table some brandy and Madeira, and each of us having taken one glass, I showed by the attentiveness of my aspect and posture, how desirous I was he should proceed to what he had promised. Observing this, he went on in the following manner: brother Peter, says he, my sister Youwarkee, as I don't doubt you will be glad to hear of her first arrived safely at Arndrumnstake, the third day after she left you, and after a very severe flight to the dear little Hallycarnie, who was a full day and a night on her graundee; and at last would not have been able to have reached Battringdrigg but for my sister's assistance, who taking her sometimes on her back for a short flight, by those refreshments enabled her to perform it; but from Battringdrigg, after some hours rest, they came to the White Mountains, from whence alter a short stay, they arrived at Arndrumnstake.

They alighted at our coovett, but were opposed at their entrance by the guards, to whom they did not choose to discover themselves, till notice was given to my father; who upon hearing that some strangers de-

sired admittance to him, sent me to bring them if they were proper persons, or else give orders for such other reception as was suitable to them.

When I came to the guard I found three gawreys and a glumboss, whose appearance and behaviour, I must own, prejudiced me very much in their favor. I then asked from whence they came, and their business with the colomb. Youwarkee told me they came not about business of public concern, relating to the colomb's office, but out of a dutiful regard, as relations, to kiss his knees. My father, said I, shall know it immediately ; but first, pray inform me of your name ? Your father ! replied Youwarkee ; are you my brother Quangrollart ? my name is so, says I, but I have only one sister, now with my father, and how I can be your brother I am unable to guess.— Have you never had another sister ? says she. Yes, says I, but she is long since dead ; her name was Youwarkee. At my mentioning her name, she fell on my neck in tears, crying, my dear brother, I am that dear sister Youwarkee, and those with me are some of my children, for I have five more ; but pray, how does my father and sister ? I started back at this declaration, to view her and the children, fearing it was some gross imposition, not the least knowing or remembering any thing of her face,

after so long an absence ; but I desired them to walk in till I told my father.

The guard observing the several passages between us, were amazed to think who it could be had so familiarly embraced me, especially as they saw I only played a passive part.

When I went in, I did not think proper directly to inform my father what had happened ; but calling my sister Hallycarnie, I let her into the circumstances of this odd affair, and desired her advice what to do ; for, says I, surely this must be some impostor ; and as my father has scarce subdued his sorrow for his sister's loss, if this gawrey should prove a deceiver, it will only revive his affliction, and may prove at this time extremely dangerous to him ; therefore let us consider what had best be done in the matter.

Hallycarnie, who had attentively weighed all I had said, seemed to think it was some cheat, as well as I did ; for we could neither of us conceive that any thing but death, or being slit, could have kept Youwarkee so long from the knowledge of her relations ; and that neither of them could be the case was plain, if this person was Youwarkee. Besides, says Hallycarnie, she cannot surely be so much altered in fifteen years, but you must have known her ; and yet, now I think, it is possible,

you being so much younger may have forgotten her ; whilst we have been talking of her, I have so well recollected her, that I think I could hardly be imposed upon by any deceiver.

I then desired her to go with me to the strangers, and see if she could make any discovery. She did so, and had no sooner entered the room, but Youwarkee called out, My dear sister Hallycarnie ! and she as readily recollecting Youwarkee, they in transport embraced each other ; and then your wife presenting to us her three children, it proved the tenderest scene, except the following, I ever saw.

My father having kept his chamber for some time with a fever, and though he was pretty well recovered, having not yet been out of it, we consulted how we might introduce our sister and children to him with as little surprise as might be, for fear of a relapse by too great a hurry of his spirits. At length we concluded I should go tell him that some strangers had arrived, desiring to see him ; but on inquiry, finding their business was too trifling to trouble him upon, I had despatched them ; I was then to say, how like one of them was to my sister Youwarkee ; and whilst I was speaking, Hallycarnie was to enter, and keep up the discourse, till we should find a proper opportunity of discovery. I went in, there-

fore, as had been agreed; and upon mentioning the name of Youwarkee, my father fetched a deep sigh and turned away from me in tears. At that instant Hallycarnie came in as if by accident. Sir, says she, what makes you so sad? Are you worse to-day? O, says he, I have heard a name that will never be out of my heart, till I am hoximo. What, I suppose my sister?—'Tis true, replied he, it is the same. Says she, I fancied so, for I have just seen a stranger as like her as two doors could be, and would have sworn it was she, if it had been possible. I thought my brother had been so imprudent as to mention her to you; and I think he did not do well to rip up an old sore he knew was almost healed, and make it break out afresh. Ah! no child, says my father, that sore never has, nor can be healed. O Great image! why can't I, by some means, ascertain to what end she came to!

Sir, says my sister, I think you are much to blame for these exclamations, after so long an absence; for, if she be dead, what use are they of? and if she be not, all may be well, and you may still see her again.—O never, never, says my father; but could I be sure she was alive, I would take a swangean, and never close my graundee, till I found her, or dropt dead in the search. And suppose you should meet with her, sir,

says I, the very sight would overcome you, and be dangerous.—No, believe me, boy, says he, I should then be fully easy and composed; and were she to come in this moment, I should suffer no surprise, but pleasure.—No surprise sir, says I. Not if she were alive and well, says he. Then sir, says Hallicarnie, will you excuse me if I introduce her, and went out directly without staying for an answer.

When she was gone, Quangrollart, says my father, sternly, what is the meaning of you and your sister's playing thus upon my weakness? It is what I can upon no account forgive. It looks as if you were weary of me, and wanted to break my heart. To what purpose is all this prelude of yours, to introduce to me somebody who, by her likeness to my daughter, may expose me to your scoff and raillery? This is a disobedience I never expected from either of you.

The Great Image attend me ! says I, sir, you have much mistaken me; but I will not leave you in doubt, even till Hallicarnie's return. You shall see Youwarkee with her; for all our discourse, I'll assure you has but been concerted to prepare you for her reception, with three of her children. And am I then, say he, in a transport, still to be blessed? You are, sir, says I, assure yourself you are.

By this time we heard them coming, but

my poor father had not power to go to meet them; and upon Youwarkee's nearer approach, to fall at his knees, his limbs failing him, he sunk, and without speaking a word, fell backwards on a couch, which stood behind him; and being quite motionless, we concluded him to be stone-dead. The women became entirely helpless, screaming only, and wringing their hands in extravagant postures. But I, having a little more presence of mind, called for the cal- lenter; who, by holding his nose, pinching his feet, and other applications, in a little time brought him to his senses again.

You may more easily conceive than I describe the confusion we were all in during my father's disorder, and the congratulations upon his recovery; so, as I can give but a defective account of these, I shall pass them by, and come to our more serious discourse, after my father and your wife had, without speaking a word, wept themselves quite dry on each other's necks.

My father then looking upon the three children, (who were also crying to see their mammy cry) And who are these? says he. These, sir, says Youwarkee, are three of eight of your grand-children. And where is your barkatt? says he. At home with the rest, sir, replied she, who are some of them too small to come so far; but says she, pray excuse my answering you any

more questions, till you are recovered from the commotion I perceive my presence has brought upon your spirits; and as rest, the callenter says, will be exceedingly proper, I will retire with my sister till you are better able to bear company. My father was with much difficulty prevailed with to part with her out of his sight; but the callenter pressing it, we were all dismissed, and he laid down to rest.

My brother would have gone on; but I told him it grew near time to repose, and he and Rosig must needs be fatigued with so long a flight, if they pleased, (I had already heard the most valuable part of all he could say, in that my father received my wife and children so kindly, and that he left them all well) we would defer his farther relation till the next day; which they both agreeing to, I laid them in my bed, myself sleeping in a spare hammock.

The next day my brother informed me that my father Pendlehamby would come to visit me with my wife. I then prepared a tent for the accommodation of my father and his attendants; but was so little satisfied with it, that I almost resolved to burn it.

CHAPTER XVIII.

QUANGROLLART'S visit lasted several days, during which, I showed him the whole of my territory and made him acquainted with my manner of life, and received a particular account of the manners and customs of his own country, which I have occasion hereafter to describe to you more fully from my own observation. He informed me, that our Tommy and my daughter Hallycarnie were provided for at court having been introduced by my father-in-law. He then departed with his companions, bearing many messages of love to my wife and children.

One day I was standing with my son Pedro at the door of my habitation, when I heard a monstrous sort of groan or growl in the air like thunder at a distance. What's that, Pedro? says I. I never heard the like before, daddy! says he. Look, boy, says I, do you see any thing? We heard it again. Hark! says Pedro it comes from that end of the lake. While we were listening to the third sound, says Pedro, Daddy, yonder is something black upon the rock, I did not see just now. Why it moves, says I, Pedro; here is news, good or bad. Hope

the best, daddy, says Pedro ; I wish it may be mammy. No, says I, Pedro, I don't expect her before I hear from her. Why then, says Pedro, here they come ; I can discern three of them. If brother Tommy should be there, daddy ! No, says I, Pedro, no such good news ; they tell me Tommy's provided for, and that's to suffice for the loss of my child : and yet Pedro, if I could get you settled in England in some good employ, I should consent to that : but what Tommy's to be I know not.

By this time the three persons were so near, that seeing us, they called out Peter ! and I making signs for them to alight, they settled just before me, and told me that Pendlehamby and Youwarkee would be with me by light next day.

I had no sooner heard this, but so far was I from firing my tent, that I invited them to my grotto, set the best cheer before them, and with over haste to do more than one thing at once, I even left undone what I might have done.

I asked them who came with my father ; they told me about two hundred guards : that knocked me up again, as I had but prepared for about sixty ; thinks I, my scheme is all untwisted. I then asked, what noise it was, and if they heard it just before I saw them over the rock. They told me they heard only the gripsack they

brought to distinguish them from ordinary messengers ; then one of them showed it me, for I had before taken it for a long staff in his hand : But, says he, you will hear them much louder to-morrow, and longer before they come to you.

Having entertained them to their content, I sent them to rest, not choosing to ask any questions ; for I avoided anticipating the pleasure of hearing the news from Youwarkee herself. The boys and I prepared what provisions of fowl and fish we could in the time, to be ready cold against they came, and then laid down ourselves.

CHAPTER XIX.

MY mind run all night upon settling the formality with which I should receive Pendlehamby, that I got little or no rest. In the morning I spread my table in as neat a manner as I could, and having dressed myself, Pedro, Jemmy and David, we marched to the plain ; myself carrying a chair, and each of them a stool. I was dressed in a cinnamon-colored gold-button coat, a red waist-coat, velvet breeches, white silk

stockings, the campaign-wig flowing, a gold laced hat and feather, point cravat, silver sword, and over all my cloak ; as for my sons, they had the clothes my wife made before she went.

When we heard them coming, I marshalled the children in the order they were to sit, and charged them to do as they saw me, but to keep rather a half-pace backwarder than me ; and then sitting down in my chair, I ordered Pedro to his stool on my right hand, and Jemmy to his on the left, and David to the left of Jemmy.

I then sent two of the messengers to meet them, with instructions to let Youwarkee know where I waited for them, that they might alight at a small distance before they came to me. This she having communicated to her father, the order ran through the whole corps immediately when and where to alight.

It will be impossible for me by words to raise your ideas adequate to the grandeur of the appearance this body of man made coming over the rock ; but as I perceive your curiosity is on the stretch to comprehend it, I shall faintly aim at gratifying you.

After we had heard for some time a sound as of distant rumbling thunder, or of a thousand bears in concert, serenading in their hoarsest voices, we could just perceive, by the light of dawn, gilding on the edge of

the rock, a black stream arise above the summit of it, seemingly about forty paces broad ; when the noise increasing very much, the stream rose broader and broader ; and then you might perceive rows of poles, with here and there a streamer ; and as soon as ever the main body appeared above the rock, there was such a universal shout as rent the air, and echoing from the opposite rock, returning the salute to them again. This was succeeded with a rushing sound of voices in song, which continued until they came pretty near me ; and then, the first line, consisting of all the trumpets, mounting a considerable height, still blowing, left room for the next ranks, about twenty abreast to come forward beneath them? each of which dividing in the middle, alighted in ranks at about twenty paces distant from my right and left, making a lane before me, at the farther end of which Pendlehamby and his two daughters alighted, with about twenty of his guards behind them, the remainder consisting of about twenty more, coming forward over my head, and alighting behind me ; and during this whole ceremony, the gripsacks sounded with such a din, it was astonishing.

Poor Youwarkee, who knew nothing of my dress, or of the loss of my beard, was thunder-struck when she saw me, not being able to observe any visage I had for my

great wig and hat ; but putting a good face upon the matter and not doubting but if the person she saw was not me, she should soon find her husband, for she knew the children by their clothes, she came forward at her father's right hand, I sitting as great as a lord, till they came within about thirty paces of me ; and then gravely rising I pulled off my hat and made my obeisance, and again at ten steps forwarder ; so that I made my third low bow close at the feet of Pendlehamby, the children all doing the same. I then kneeling, embraced his right knee ; who raising me up embraced me. Then retiring three steps, and coming forward again, I embraced Youwarkee some time ; during which the children observed my pattern with Pendlehamby, who took them up and kissed them.

I whispered Youwarkee to know if any more of her relations were in the train to whom I ought to pay my complements ; she told me her only sister Hallycarnie, just behind her father ; I then saluted her, and stepping forward to the old gentleman's left hand, I ushered him through the lines of guards to my chair ; where I caused him to sit down with Youwarkee and Hallycarnie on each side, and myself on the left of Hallycarnie.

After expressing the great honor done me by Pendlehamby in this visit, I told him

I had a little grotto about half a mile thro' the wood, to which if he pleased to command, we would retire; for I had only placed that seat to relieve him immediately upon his descent.

Pendlehamby rose, and all the gripsacks sounded; he leading Youwarkee in his right-hand and I Hallycarnie in mine.

At the grotto, my father being seated, taking Youwarkee in my hand, we paid our obedience to him. I would have asked his pardon for taking his daughter to wife without his leave, and was going on in a set speech I had studied for the purpose; but he refused to hear me, telling me I was mistaken, he had consented. I was replying I knew he had been so good as to pass it over, but that would not excuse—when he again interrupted me, by saying, if I approve it and esteem you, what can you desire more? so, finding the subject ungrateful, I desisted.

I then gave each of them a silver cann of Madeira and Youwarkee retired. I soon made an excuse to follow her, to learn if she was pleased with what I had done.—Says she, my dearest what has come to you? I will promise you, but for fear of surprising my father, I had disowned you for a husband. Dear Youwarkee, says I, do you approve my dress, for this is the English fashion? This Peter, says she, I perceived attracted all eyes to you, and indeed is

very showy, and I approve it in regard to those who are now to please; but you are not to imagine I esteem you more in this than your old jacket; for it is Peter I love, in this and all things else; but step in again, I shall only dress and come to you.

My wife being dressed in her English gown, just crossed the room where my father sat, to see Dicky, who was in another side-room. I was then sitting by, and talking with him. Son, says my father, I understood you had no other woman in the arkoe but my daughter; for surely you have no child so tall as that, pointing to my wife. No, sir, said I, that is a friend. Is she come to you, says he, in my daughter's absence? O, sir, says I, she is very well known to my wife.

Whilst we were talking, in comes Youwarkee, with the child in her arms, which she kept covered to the wrists with her gown-sleeve, to hide her graundee; and playing with the child, talking only in English to it. Is this your youngest son? says my father. I told him yes. Pray, madam, says I, bring the child to my father. Madam, says he, you have a fine baby in your arms; has his mother seen him since she came home? He spoke in his own tongue, and Youwarkee looking at me, as if she did not understand him, I interpreted it to her. My sister then desired to see the child, but

I was forced again to interpret there too.— In short, they both talked with my wife near half an hour, but neither of them knew her; till at last, saying in her own language, that is your grand-daddy, my dear Dicky! the old gentleman smoked her out. I'll be slit, says he, if that is not Youwarkee!—Its impossible! says Hallycarnie. Indeed, sister, says Youwarkee, you are mistaken! and my father protesting he had not the least suspicion of her, till she spoke in his tongue, rose, and kissing her and the child, desired her to appear in that habit during his stay.

I asked Pedro what provision had been made for the guards; Son, says my father, I bring not this number of people to eat you up; they have their subsistence with them; and he would by no means suffer to allow any. I then desired to know if there were any officers or others to whom he should have shown any particular marks of distinction. Son, says the old glumm, you seem to have studied punctilios; and though I should be sorry to incommode you for their sakes, if you could procure some shelter and sleep-room for about twenty of them, who are superiors, ten at a time, while the rest are on duty, I should be glad. I told him I had purposely erected a tent, which would with great ease accommodate a greater number; and as they were of

distinction, with his leave I insisted upon providing for them ; to which, with some reluctance, I procured his consent.

When Pendlehamby was refreshed, he would go with me to see the officer's quarters ; and showing him my tent, he having never seen such a thing before, was going to climb up the outside of it, taking it for earth. Hold, sir, said I, you cannot do so ! Then taking him to the front of it, I turned aside the blue cloth, and desired him to walk in ; at which he seemed wonderfully pleased, asked me how it was made. I told him in few words as I could ; but he understood so little of it, that any thing else I had said might have done as well. He mightily approved it ; and calling the chief officer, he desired he would command my house, and that provision should be supplied to his quarters daily ; at which he hesitating, I assured him I had my father's leave for what I offered ! whereupon he stroked his chin.

I then asked him if he had any clever fellows under him to serve them, and dress their provisions ; but he hoped, he said, they were ready dressed, as his men knew little of that matter ! but for any other piece of service, as many as I pleased should be at my command.

CHAPTER XX.

I APPEARED before them, in the morning, in my old jacket, and old hat with brims indented almost to the crown, a flannel nightcap and checkered shirt. How now, son ! says my father, what have we here? Sir, says I, this will show you the use of our English fashion I mentioned the other day, and the necessity of it. You see me in this different habit, because my next business requires it; but when I come back and have no farther dirty work to do, I shall then dress as near as I can, to qualify me for your company.

Are you for moving gentlemen? says my brother; I believe it is time. They then all rising, we went to the lake where getting into my boat, and telling them, that any six of them might go with me, they never having seen such a thing before, and not much liking the looks of it, all made excuses, till my brother assuring them it was very safe, and that he had sailed in it the last trip, three or four of them with my father, and Halycarnic, who was very desirous of seeing the fish, got in, and we sailed a great way up the lake, taking my gun, as usual with me.

It gave me exceeding delight to see the whole body of people then in the arkoe on the graundee ; some hovering over our heads, and talking with us ; others flying this way, others that, till I had pitched upon a spot to begin my operation ; when rowing to shore and quitting my boat, the whole body of people settled just by me, staring at me and my net, and wondering what I was doing. I then taking a sweep as usual, got some of the soldiers to assist me to the shore with it ; but when the cod of the net landed, and the fish begun to dash with their tails at the water's edge, away run all my soldiers, frightened out of their wits to think what was coming : but it being a large haul, and a shelving bank, I could not lift it to a level myself ; which my brother, who had seen the sport before, perceiving, though not one of the rest stirred, lent me a hand, and we got it up.

You cannot imagine what surprise appeared in every face upon opening the net, and seeing all the fish taken ; they drew up by degrees closer and closer, for I let the fish lie some time for their observation ; but seeing the large fish, upon handing them, flap their tails, very expeditiously retired again. I then tossed several of them into the boat ; but two of them being very large, and rough-scaled ugly fish, I did not think I could lift them myself, so

desired assistance, but nobody stirred ; I expected some of the colambs would have ordered their men to have helped me, but they were so terrified with seeing me handle them, that they could not have the conscience to order their men on so severe a duty, till a common man came to me, and taking the tail, and I the head, we tossed them both into the boat.

I went higher up the lake than usual in hopes of a beast fish to show them ; but, though I could not meet with one, I had several very great hauls, and took three or four of my lobsters very large ones. This was the second trial I had made of my net since I had altered it, and it gave me great satisfaction, for I could now take as many fish at one draught as I could before have done at ten. I had found, that though my net was very long, yet for the want of a bag, or cod, to enclose the fish, many that were included within its compass would, whilst I drew around, swim to the extremes and so get out, for want of some inlet to enter at; for which reason I sawed off the top of a tree at about ten feet from the ground, and drawing a circle of six feet diameter round the tree, on the ground, I stuck it round with small pegs, at two inches distance; then I drove the like number of nails round the top of the trunk of the tree, and strating a length of mat-line from each peg on

the ground to a correspondent nail on the tree, I tied my mat-line in circles round the strained lines from top to bottom, about two inches distance at the bottom, but at a less distance where the strained lines grew nearer to each other towards the top; and having secured all the ends, by some line twisted round them, I cut a hole in the middle of my net, and tied the large ground-end over the hole in the net, and gathered the small end up in a purse, tying it up tight; and by this means I now scarce lost any fish which once were within the sweep of my net.

Having had so good success, I had a design of returning, but thought as I could now so easily entertain a multitude I might as well take another haul or too, and make a handsome treat for the soldiery; then coming up to the rill's mouth, I fixed my implements for a draught there, and beginning to draw up, I found great resistance in the net, and got two or three to help me, but coming near shore, when the company saw the net tumble and roll, and rise and fall, they all run as if they were mad, till I called them and told the colambs it was only one of the fish whose skins I had shown them; upon which, by that time I had discharged the fish from the net, they were all round me again; but no sooner had he got loose, than up he rose, whirled

his wings, and at the same instant uttered such a groan that the whole company retreated again, thinking me somewhat more than a man, to face so dreadful an enemy. I entreated them to come and view it, but finding no arguments could bring them nearer, I got him between me and the water and shot him dead.

Upon the report of my gun, the whole field was in the air, darting and screaming, as I have often seen a flight of rooks do on the same occasion ; and I am apt to believe some of them never returned again, but went directly home.

I was a little concerned to see the confusion I had caused ; and laying down my gun, my brother, though at a distance when I shot, knowing what I was at, coming up to me it put the rest upon their consideration ; and they alighted one by one, at a distance, till they were all on a level once more.

My father and the colombs, who were the first that dared to approach, wondered what I had done, and how the fish came to be dead, and whence so much fire and smoke proceeded, for they were sure I brought none with me, and asked me abundance of questions ; but as I knew I must have occasion for answering to the same thing twenty times over, had I entered upon an explanation there, I deferred giving

them satisfaction till we came home when all at once might be capable of hearing what was said. So I told them the most necessary thing at present was to stow the fish in the boat, for it was the largest I had ever taken, and I could not wholly do it myself. I made several efforts for help, but in vain, till the same soldier who had helped me with one of the first fish, came to my relief, and, desiring my orders what to do, assisted me ; and the rest seeing the difficulty we both had to manage it, one or two more of them came up, and we shipped it on board.

I then called the colombs to me, telling them I was sorry I had given such a general disturbance to them, by shooting the fish ; but as they kept at too great a distance from me to have notice of my design, and if I had followed them the fish might have escaped before my return, I was obliged to do as I did, which was without any possibility of hurting them. But as I had given them such a fright, I hoped they would this one day give me an opportunity of complimenting their guards with a fish dinner, if we could any way contrive to dress it ; as it must be done close to a fire. They all shook their heads but my brother, who told me he had in his retinue six men from Mount Alkoe, purposely retained for their strong sight, to attend him always to

Crashdoorpt, who, he believed, for the benefit of the rest would undertake the cookery. I desired him to order them to attend me, and I would instruct them at my landing place; and then I crossed over with my booty.

Finding the Mount Alkoe men waiting for my landing, I asked if they could bear the sight of fire; they told me they were used to much greater light and flame than I had ever seen, they believed. Very good, said I; then get into my boat, three of you, and hand the fish to the shore. I found they were more afraid of the fish than the fire, for no one stirred till I got in and tossed out several small ones, and taking up a large one, help me, somebody, says I, they looking a little at one another, one ventured to take it, when they all fell to work and despatched the whole lading presently. I then laid a small parcel upon my cart, for my own eating and the officers, and sending them to the grotto, I gave the cooks their charge.

Now, says I, my lads, do you serve all the rest of the fish as I do this—cutting it open at the same time, and throwing away the guts, and I will send each of you such an instrument as I use here pointing to my knife. I shall order six large heaps of wood to the level to be piled up there; when you have done the fish do you set fire

to the heaps and let them burn till the flame is over and the coals are clear ; then lay on your fish, and if any are too large to be manageable, cut them in proper pieces and with sticks that I will send you, turn them over and over, walking round the fire, and with the forked end of the stick toss the least off first, and afterwards the greater ; but be sure to throw the fish as far as ever you can, from the fire, amongst the men, that they may not be obliged to come too near it. In this manner go on, till either they have enough or the fish are gone, and then come to me at the grotto for your reward.

I then set abundance of them at work to carry wood to be laid in six heaps, two hundred paces from each other, and told them how to pile it. I then prepared six long taper sticks with forked ends, and ordered more hands to divide the fish equally to the piles. I sent others with salt and bread ; and ordered them to let me know when all was ready.

While these preparatious were making, my tent-visitors had all dined, and my cart had returned with the beast fish, which the company desired might be brought in, and every one passed his judgment upon it and a long dissertation we had on the marvellous works of Colwar. I let them go on with their show, though I could have dis-

proved most of their conclusions from the little knowledge that I had of things ; but I never was knight errant enough to oppose my sentiments to a multitude already prepossessed on the other side of the question, for this reason, because I have ever observed that where several have imbibed the same ridiculous principle in infancy, they never want arguments, though ever so ridiculous, to support it ; and, as no one of them can desert it without impeaching the judgment of the rest, they encourage each other in their obstinacy, and quite out-vote a single person ; and then the laugh beginning on the strongest side, nothing is so difficult as to get it out of their hands ; but when a single man in the wrong hears a just argument from a single antagonist, which he cannot contradict, he imbibes its force, and whilst that lasts, as nothing but a better judgment can remove it, he adopts it for his own, to oppose against his own former opinion.

In the height of our disputations on the beast fish, came news that the broil was going to begin ; and as I expected very good diversion at it, I invited the company to go see it, telling them, in my opinion, it would exceed the sport in taking them.— We passed through the wood till we came amongst the shrubs, where I placed them to be out of harm's way ; and the fire which

was now nothing but cinders, was of no inconvenience to them. They were pleased with it to perfection ; for, first, the six men who walked round the fires, by the glowing light of the embers, and the shining of their graundees, looked like men on fire ; then, to see each fire surrounded with a circle of men at the distance of near two hundred paces, as close as they could well stand, by a more distant shine of the fire, had a more pleasing effect ; but when the broilers began to throw the fish about (for each man stood with some salt and a cut of bread in his hand) to see a body of one hundred men running for it, and whilst they were stooping and scrambling for that, to see a hot fish fall on the back of one, which was whipped off by another, who scalding his mouth with it, threw it in another's face : when a fourth, fifth and sixth pulling it in pieces, ran away with it ; and to see the different postures, courses, and groupes, during this exercise and running feast, was the most agreeable farce my guests had ever seen ; and to the great saving of my liquors, kept us out in the wood for full three hours, not a soul stirring till the feast was over.

We spent best part of this evening in discourse on the passages of the day, the remarks on which not being concluded till bed-time, my adventures were put off till

the next night ; but we had first concluded upon a shooting for the next morning, for they were all extremely desirous of knowing how I did it, at a time they should have opportunity of seeing me and making remarks ; and I being unwilling they should think me a conjurer, agreed to make them masters of part of the mystery of powder and ball.

CHAPTER XXI.

THIS being the fifth morning, I cleaned up my best gun, and prepared my balls and we took a walk towards the bridge, every one admiring my gun as we went ; but I could get none of them to carry it, and we had at least five hundred questions proposed about it. I told them they need not be afraid of it, for it was only wood and iron ; but they knew nothing of iron. I then shewed them how I made it give fire, by snapping the lock ; they thought it was very strange. I then put a little powder in the pan, and made it flash, and showing them the empty pan, they would not be persuaded but I had taken away the powder

before the flash, or else, they said, it was impossible that it should be all gone upon flashing only ; for they said it was a little nut, using the same word to express both nut and seed. I then desired one of them to put in some powder and snap it himself, but having prevailed with him to try the experiment, if I had not through caution held my hand upon the barrel, the gun had been on the earth, for the moment it flashed, he let go and ran.

I had a great inclination to gain the better of their prejudices, and used abundance of arguments to prove the gun as innocent a thing as a twig I took up ; and that it was the powder, which, when set on fire, the flame thereof wanting more room than the powder itself did, forced itself and all that opposed it out of the mouth of the gun with such fury as to make the noise they heard ; and being just come to the rock, now, said I, you shalt see that what I tell you is true. They told me they desired nothing more than that I would let them understand it, for it was the strangest thing they had ever seen. Well, then, says I, observe ; I put in this much powder only, and with a rag I stop it down close. Now, says I, you see, by the length of this stick that the rag and powder take the space only of a finger's depth on the inside of the gun. They saw that plainly, they said ; but how could that

kill any thing ? Now look again says I. I put in a little more powder as I did before when I made a flash, and you see there is a little hole from this powder through the side of the gun to the powder within.— Do you observe that this communicates with that through this hole?—Yes, said they, they did. Now, says I, when I put fire to this, it sets fire to that within, which fire turning to flame, and wanting room, bursts out at the mouth of the gun ; and to show you with what force it comes out, handle this round ball (giving them a bullet to handle) you feel how heavy it is—now can any of you throw this ball as far as that rock ; for I stood a good hundred paces from it. They told me, No. And don't you think, says I, if the force of the fire made by this powder can throw a ball to that rock, that force must be very great ? They said they thought it must, but believed it to be impossible. But, says I, if, it not only throws it to the rock, but beats out a piece of the stone, must not that be much more violent ? They agreed it must. Then putting in the ball, now, says I, we will try. I then ordered one to daub part of the rock, about breast high, with some mud, and first to observe about it, if the rock was any where fresh broken or not ; who returning, reported that the rock was all of a colour and sound, but somewhat

ragged all about the mud. Did you lay the mud smooth? says I. He replied, yes. Then lifting up my gun, I perceived they were creeping off, so I took it down again, and calling, reasoned with them upon their fears. What mischief, says I, can you apprehend from this gun in my hand? should I be able to hurt you with it, are you not all my friends or relations, could I be willing to do it? If the gun of itself could hurt, would I handle it as I do? for shame, be more courageous, rouse your spirit and stand by me; I shall take care not to hurt you. It looks as if you distrust my love to you, for this gun can do nothing but what I direct.

By such like persuasions rough and smooth, I prevailed upon the major part of the colombs and officers to stand near me to see me fire, and then I shot; but though my words had engaged them to stand it, I had no sooner snapped but the graundees flew all open, though they closed again immediately; and then we fell to question and answer again. I desired them to walk to the rock; and sent the person who put up the mark before, to see and show us exactly what alteration there was; he told us there was a round hole in the mud, pointing to it, which he did not leave there, and taking away the mud, a thick sliver of the rock followed it. They then all agreed,

that the ball must have made both the hole in the mud and also splintered the rock—and stood in a maze at it, not being able to comprehend it; but by all the art I had I could not prevail with a man of them to fire the gun himself, till it had been buzzed about a good while and at last it came to my ears, that a common soldier said he should not be afraid of it, if the gentleman would show him how.

I then ordered the fellow to me, and he told me, with a composed look, that it had always been his way of thinking, that what he saw another do he could do himself and could not rest till he had tried. And, sir, says he, if this gun, as you call it, does not hurt you, why should it me? And if you can make it hit that rock, why not I, when you have told me how you manage it? Are you not the man that first helped me up with the fish yesterday? said I. He told me yes.

I was prodigiously pleased with this fellow's spirit, And, says I, my friend, if you will, and I live, you shall hit it before you have done. I then showed him the sight of the gun, and how to hold it; and being perfect in that, Now, says I, shut your left eye, and observe with your right, till this knob and that notch are exactly even with each other and the middle of that mark; and when they are so pull this bit with your

fore-finger, hold the gun tight to your shoulder. He so exactly pursued my directions, that he hit the very middle of the mud; and then without any emotion, walked up with the gun in his hand, as I had done before; and turning to me very gravely, Sir, says he it is hit. I told him the best marksman on earth could not be sure of coming so near his mark. He stroked his chin, and giving me the gun again, was walking to his place; but I stopped him, and seeing him so modest and sincere, and besides, so generous in his spirits, I asked him to which colamb he belonged. He told me to colamb Pendlehamby. To my father? Then I am sure I shall not be denied.

I took him with me to my father, who was not yet come to the rock. Sir, says I, there is a favor I will beg of you. Son, says he, what is it you can ask, that I can refuse you? Says I, this man belongs to your guard; now there is something so noble and daring in his spirit, yet so meek in his deportment, that if you will load me with obligation, it is to make him an officer; he is not deserving so ill a station as a private.

My father looking at me, son, says he, there is something to be done before he can be qualified for what you require. This, thinks I, is a put off. Pray sir, says I,

what can a man of courage, sense, and a cool temper, want to qualify him for what I ask? Something, says he, which none but myself can give; and that, at your desire, I will supply him with. Then, my father calling him, Lask Nasgig, bonyoe, says he; this is Slave Nasgig, lie down. Nasgig (for that was his name) immediately fell on his face, with his arms and hands straight by his sides; when my father, setting his left foot on Nasgig's neck, pronounced these words: Lask. I give thee life, thou art a filgay! Then Nasgig raised himself on his knees, made obeisance to my father, and standing up, stroked his chin; and my father taking him by the hand, in token of equality, the ceremony ceased.

Now, son, says my father, let me hear your request? It is only, sir, said I, preferment for the deserving, equal to his merit. My father asked him if he understood the duty of a gorpell. He did not reply yes, but beginning, gave a compendious sort of history of his whole duty; at which, all the colombs were very much surprised, for even his comrades were not apprised, or even imagined he knew more of military affairs than themselves. My father then asked him if he knew how to behave as a cluff; but he made as little difficulty of that as the other, going through the sev-

eral parts of the duty in all the different branches, in peace and war, at home and abroad. Son, says my father, it is a mystery to me, you should have found out more in an hour, than I myself could in half an age ; for this man was born in my palang, of my own lask, and has been mine and my father's these forty years. I shall be glad if you will look on the rest of my lasks, and give me your opinion; I may have more as deserving. I told him such a Nasgig were not to be met with very often; but when they were found, ought to be cherished accordingly.

Sir says I, nature works upon the same sort of materials diverse ways; on some in sport, and some in earnest ; and if the necessary qualifications of a great man are impressed on our mass, it is odds but we improve regularly into one, though it may never be publicly known, or even to ourselves till a proper occasion : for as a curious genius will be most inquisitive after, and is most in the end retentive of knowledge, so no man is less ostentatious of it. He covets knowledge, not from the prospect of gain, but merely for its own sake; the very knowing, being his recompense ; and if I may presume to give you a hint, how properly to bestow your favors, let it be on persons like this ; for the vain knowing man, who is always showing it, as he

for the most part labors for it, to show out with ; and procure his rise by it, were it not for the hopes of that, would not think knowledge worth attaining ; and as his rise is his aim, if he could invent any more expeditious method than that, he would not pretermit any ill act, that might advance him according to his lust of rising. But the man who aims at perfection, from his natural inclination, must, to attain his end, avoid all ill courses, as impediments to that perfection he lusts after ; and that by Nasgig's worth being so little known, I'll answer, it is his character. And this being true, yourself will deduce the consequence, which is the fitter man to bear place ; for with me it is a maxim, he that labors after truth for truth's sake, (and that he surely must who proposes no worldly view in it) can't arrive at his ends by false methods ; but is always the truest friend to himself and others, the truest subject to his lord, and the most faithful servant to his God.

My father then turning to me, son, says he, you have enlightened me more than ever I was before, and have put me on a new way of thinking ; for which I am to return you many thanks. And the whole company doing the same says my father, I lost a brave general officer lately, who was destined to the western wars, which are breaking out, and have been long debating in my

mind, to whom I should commit his corps ; and but for the hazard of the enterprise, I would have now given it to Nasgig ; but shall be loth to lose him so soon after I am acquainted with his worth ; so will think of some other post nearer my person for him, less dangerous, though perhaps not so honorable.

Great sir, says Nasgig, I am too sensible of the honor already done me, to think any post wherein I may continue to serve you either too mean or too hazardous for me ; and as valor is no where so conspicuous as in the greatest dangers, I shall esteem my blood spent to great advantage in any enterprise where my duty under your command leads me : I therefore rather humbly request this dangerous post, that I may either lose my life in your service, or live to see you justified in your advancement of me by the whole nation.— For what can I do or how can I demonstrate my affection to your person and pleasure, in an inactive state ?

Here the whole level rang with applause to Nasgig.

My father then giving his hand to Nasgig, in token of friendship, and his word for investiture in the command of that vacant post, the whole level again resounded with, long live Pendlehamby, and his servant Nasgig.

This being the last day of my company's stay, for they had agreed to go homewards next morning, some of them moved to return the sooner, that they might have time to hear out my story. So that our stay was very little longer.

In our return home, Nasgig singled me out, to return his acknowledgements for my favor; and, viewing my gun, told me, they had no such thing growing in his country. I told him if he had it, it would do no good without my powder. I then, at his request, described what I had heard of our method of fighting in battle in Europe; and mentioning our cannon, he said he supposed they killed every man they hit.—No, said I, not so bad as that; sometimes they hit the flesh only, and that is commonly cured; sometimes break a leg or arm, and that may in time be cured, some so well as to be useful again, and others are cut off, and healed up again; but if the balls hit the head or vitals, it is commonly mortal.—O, says he, give me the head or vitals then; no broken limbs for me.

After dinner, at their request, I went on with my story at repairing the castle, and my escape with Glanlipze, and so on; when I repeated his speech to me on a former occasion, and told them it had made such an impression upon me that I had endeavored to make it the leading thought

of my mind, and had set it down upon one of my doors at the grotto that it might the oftener be in my sight when any difficulty arose.

One of the colombs begged pardon for interrupting, but told me though he understood what Glanlipze meant, he could not tell how I could set what he said down at my grotto, or have it in my sight, and desired me to explain that. I would have told him I took it down in writing, if that would not have puzzled the cause more ; but to go the nearest way I could, I told him, we had a method in my country of conveying to a man at a great distance whatever we had a mind to say to him ; and in such a manner, that nobody but himself would know what we would have him know. And pausing here a little, to consider the easiest method of demonstrating this to their senses, they told me they had gone as far as their conjectures could carry them, but could conclude on nothing so probable as sending it by a messenger. I told them, that in part was the way ; but my messenger should not know the message he carried. That gravelled them quite, and they were unanimous that was what could not be done. By this time I had sent for a wood-coal, to write with upon my deal table ; and kneeling down to the table, I began to write, "Honored sir, I

send this to gain by your answer to it account of your arrival at Arndrumn stake.” I then called them all to me: Now, says I, suppose I want to know how my father gets back to Arndrumn stake, my way is this: I set down so many words as will express my meaning to my father, after the manner you see on this table; and make a little distance between each word, which is the same thing as you do in speaking; for there, if you run one word into another, and don't give each its proper sound, who can understand you? For though you speak what contains all the words, yet, without the proper sound and distinction, it is only confusion. Do you understand that? They told me they did. Then, says I, these are the words I would have my father know, I being at this arkoë, and he at Arndrumn stake. Honored sir, and so I read on; here, says I, you must take us to be countrymen, and that he and I understand both the same method. Now look, this word, which ends where you see the gap, stands for *honored*, and this next for *sir*, the next for *I*, and so on; and we both using the same method, and seeing each other's words, are able to open our minds at a distance. I was now in hopes I had done, and was going on with my story, But, says one of the colombs, Mr. Peter, though this is a matter that requires consideration, I

plainly see how you do it, by agreeing that all these strokes put into this form, shall stand for the word honoured, and so on, as you say, let who will make them; but have not you set down there the word Arndrumstake? Yes, says I. Why then, says he, none of your countrymen could understand what that means. No! says I, smiling; but they could. Says he, you say, you agree what stroke shall stand for one word, and what for another; but then, how could your countrymen who never knew what strokes you would set down for Arndrumstake, know that your strokes meant that very country! for that you could not have agreed upon before either of you knew there was any such a place.

I was at a loss, without speaking more words than I was willing about it, how to answer this close reasoner; and talking of syllables and letters, would only have perplexed the affair more, so I told him the readiest for despatch: that as every word consisted of one or more distinct sounds, and as some of the same sounds happened in different words, we did not agree so much upon making our strokes stand for several words, as for several sounds; and those sounds, more or less of them, added together made the particular words. As for example, says I, *Arn*, is one sound, *drum*, is another sound, and *stake*, is an-

other ; now, by our knowing how to set down these several sounds by themselves, we can couple them, and apply them to make up any word, in the manner we please ; therefore he, by seeing those three sounds together, knows I mean Arndrumn-stake, and can speak it as well, though he never heard the word spoken together, as if he heard me speak it to him. I have some little notion of what you mean, says he, but not clear enough to express myself upon it ; and so go on ! go on ! And pray what did you do about the reeds ?

I then resuming my discourse where I left off, completed my narration that night ; but I could perceive the water in my father's eyes, when I came to the account of Youwarkee's fall, and the condition I took her up in.

When I had done, they adjusted the order of their flight, for avoiding confusion, one to go so long before another, and the junior colombs to go first.

In the morning nothing was to be heard but the gripsacks ; the men were all arranged in order to go off with their respective colombs ; and after all compliments passed, the junior colombs arising, walked half way to the wood, where his gripsack standing to wait for him, preceded him to the level, the next gripsack standing ready to sound as soon as the first removed ; and

this was the signal for the second colamb to move, so that each colamb was a quarter of a mile before the other.

My father was the last but two, but I shall never forget his tenderness at parting with his daughter and grand-children, and I may say with myself too ; for by this time he had a high opinion of me. Patty went with my father, she so much resembling my wife, that my father said, he should still have his two daughters in his sight, having her with him.

At parting, I presented Nasing with a broadsword ; and showing him the use of it, with many expressions of gratitude on his part, and respect on mine, he took flight after the rest.

CHAPTER XXII.

FOR the first few days after our company left us, Youwarkee could not forbear a tear now and then for the loss of her father and sister, but I endeavored not to see it, lest I should, by persuading her to the contrary seem to oppose what I really thought

was a farther token of the sweetness of her disposition ; but it wore off by degrees, and having a clear stage again, it cost us several days to set ourselves, and put our affairs in order ; and when we had done, we blessed ourselves that we could come and go, and converse with the pleasing tenderness we had hitherto always done.

Long days began to draw near again, when one morning, I heard the gripsack. I waked Youwarkee, and told her of it ; and we both got up, and were going to the level, when we met six glumms in the wood, with a gripsack before them, coming to the grotto. The trumpeter, it seems, had been there before ; but the others, who seemed to be of a better rank, had not. We saluted them, and they us ; and Youwarkee knowing one of them, we desired them to walk to the grotto.

They told us they came express from Georigetti's palace, with an invitation to me and Youwarkee, to spend some time at his court. I let them know the misfortune I lay under in not being born with a graundee, since Providence had pleased to dispose of me in a part of the world where alone it could have been of such infinite service to me, or I should have taken it for the highest honor to have laid myself at their master's feet : and after some other discourse, one of them pressed me to return

his master my answer, for they had but a very little time to stay. I told them, they saw plainly, by baring my breast to them that I was under an absolute incapacity for such a journey, and gratifying the highest ambition I could have in the world ; for I was pinned down to my arkoe, never more to pass the barrier of that rock. One of them then asking, if I should choose to go, if it was possible to convey me thither, I told him he could scarce have the least doubt, was my ability to perform such a journey equal to my inclination to take it, that I should in the least hesitate at obeying his master. Sir, says he, you make me very happy, in the regard you show my master ; and I must beg leave to stay another day with you. I told him, they did me great honor ; but little thought what it all tended to.

We were very facetious ; and they talked of the number of visitors I had had here ; and they mentioned several facts which had happened, and, amongst the rest, that of Nasgig, who, they said, since his return had been introduced by Pendlehamby to the king, and was, for his great prudence and penetration, become Georigetti's great favourite. They told me war was upon the point of breaking out, and several other pieces of news, which as they did not concern me, I was very easy about

The next morning they desiring to walk and view what was most remarkable in my arkoe, and above all to see me fire my gun, which they had heard so much of; I gratified them at a mark, and hit the edge of it, and found them quite staunch, without the least start at the report. I paid them a compliment upon it, and told them how their countrymen had behaved, even at a second firing: But, says he, who was the chief spokesman, and knew, I found, as much as I could tell him, that second fright was from seeing death the consequence of the first; and though you had then to do mostly with soldiers, you must not think they choose death more than others, though their duty obliges them to shun it less.

The same person then desired me to show him how to fire the gun; which I did, and believe he might hit the rock somewhere or other; but he did not seem to admire the sport, and I, having but few balls left, did not recommend the gun to the rest.

A little before bed time, the strangers told me, they believed I should see Nasgig next morning. I presently thought there was something more than ordinary in his visit, but could no ways dive to the bottom of it.

Just before they went to rest, they ordered the trumpeter to be early on the rock next morning; and upon the first sight of

Nasgig's corps, to sound notice of it, for us to be ready to receive him.

CHAPTER XXIII.

WE were waked by the trumpet giving notice of Nasgig's coming ; I did not care to inquire of the strangers into the particulars of his embassy ; for be it what it will, thinks I, Nasgig is so much my friend that I can know the motives of it from him, and, or I am much deceived, he is too honest to impose upon me. But I had but little time for thought, for upon our entering the level, we found him and his train, of at least an hundred persons, just alighting before us.

We embraced, and professed the particular pleasure fortune had done us in once more meeting together. When we arrived at the grotto, he told me he was assured I had been informed of the occasion of his visit ; and that it would be the greatest honor done to his country that could be imagined. He then laid his hand on my beard, which was now of about five months growth, having never shaved it since my father went, and told me he was glad to see

that. And are you not so to see me ? says I. Yes, surely, says he, for I prize that for your sake. But, says I, pray be open with me, and tell me what you mean by my being informed of the occasion of your coming ? Why, says he, of Georigetta's message to you, as it will be of such infinite service to our country : and, says he, if you had not consented to it, the messengers had returned and stopped me. True, says I, one of the messengers told me the king would be glad to see me ; which as I, so well as he, knew it was impossible he should, in return to his compliment, I believe I might say what a happiness it would be to me if I could wait on him. But pray what is your immediate message ? for I hear you are in great favor at court, and would never have come hither with this retinue in so much ceremony on a trifling account.

My dear Peter, says Nasgig, know that your fame has reached far and near since I saw you before ; and our state, though a large and populous one, and one of mighty power and twice its present extent, by the revolt of the western part of it, who chose themselves a king, has been so miserably harrassed by wars, that the revolters, who are ever fomenting discontent and rebellion amongst us, will, by the encroachments they daily make on us, certainly reduce us at least to a province under their govern-

ment ; which render us all slaves to an usurped power, set up against our lawful sovereign. Now these things were foretold long enough before they actually begun to be transacted ; but all being then at peace, and no prospect of what has since happened, we looked not out for a remedy, till the disease became stubborn and incurable.— Pray, says I, by whom were the things you mention foretold ?—By a very ancient and grave ragan, says he. How long ago ? says I. O, above four times the age of the oldest man living, says he. And when did he say it would happen ? says I. That, says he, was not quite so clear then. But how do you know, says I, that he ever said any such thing ? Why the thing itself was so peculiar, says he, and the ragan delivered it so positively, that his successors have ever since pronounced it twelve times a year publicly, word for word, to put the people in mind of it, and from whom they must hope for relief ; and now the long expected time being come, we have no hopes but in your destruction of the tyrant usurper. I destroy him ! says I : if he is not destroyed till I do it, I fear your state is but in a bad case. My good friend Peter says he, you or nobody can do it. Pugh, says I, Nasgig, I took you for a man of more sense, notwithstanding the prejudices of education, than to think, because you have seen me kill

a beast-fish that could not come to hurt me, at the distance of twenty paces, that I can kill your usurper at the distance he is from me. No, my good friend, says Nasgig, I know you take me to have more judgment than to think so. Why, what else can I do, says I, unless he will come thither to be killed by me? Dear Peter, says he, you will not hear me out. I will, says I, say on.— You, as I said before, being the only person that can, according to our prediction, destroy this usurper, and restore peace among us, my master Georigetti, and the whole state of Normnbdsgsutt, were going to send a splendid embassy to you; but your father advising to repose the commission wholly in me, they all consented to it, and I am come to invite you over to Brandleguarp for that purpose. I know you will tell me you have not the graundee, and cannot get thither but I am assured you have what is far better; the wisdom you have will hold you to surmount that difficulty, which our whole moucheratt cannot get over. And I am sure, did you apply half the thought to accomplish it, you seem to do to invent excuses against it, you would easily overcome that. And now, dear friend, continues he, refuse me not; for as my first rise was owing to your favor, so my downfall as absolutely attends your refusal.

Dear Nasgig, says I, you know I love you, and could refuse you nothing in my

power; but for me to be mounted in the air; I know not how, over these rocks, and then drowned by a fall into the sea which is a necessary consequence of such a mad attempt; and all this in prosecution of a project founded upon an old wife's tale, in such a chimera as all men of sense would laugh at; as if there was no way of destroying me, but with a guard of an hundred men to souse me into the wide ocean. A very pretty conqueror of rebels I should prove, truly, kicking for life till the next wave sent me to the bottom.

Nasgig looked then so grave, I almost thought I should have heard no more of it; but, after a short pause, Peter, says he, I am sorry you make so light of sacred things; a thing foretold so long ago by a holy ragan, kept up by undoubted tradition ever since, in the manner I have told you, in part performed, and now waiting for concurrence for its accomplishment: but if I cannot prevail with you, though I perish at my return, I dread to think you may be forced without thanks to perform what generously to undertake will be your greatest glory. Pray, says I, Nasgig, (for now I perceive you are in earnest,) what may this famous prediction be? Ah, Peter! says Nasgig, to what purpose should I relate so sacred a prediction to one who, though the most concerned in it, makes such a jest of it?

His mentioning me as concerned in it, raised my curiosity once more to desire a relation of it. Why should I relate it, says he, if you are resolved not to fulfil it? I told him I had no resolution against anything that related to my own good or that of my friends. But the greatest question with me, says I, is, whether I am at all concerned in it. O, clearly! clearly! say he, there is no doubt of it; it must mean you or nobody. I told him I must judge by the words of it, that I was the person intended by it; and till that was apparent to my reason, it would be difficult to procure my consent to so perilous an undertaking. And, says he, will you upon hearing it, judge impartially, and go with me if you can take the application to yourself? I cannot go quite so far as that, says I; but this I'll promise you, I'll judge impartially, and if I can so apply it to myself, that it must necessarily mean me, and no other, and if you convince me I may go safely, I will go.

Nasgig was so rejoiced at this, he was at a loss how to express himself. My dear Peter, says he, you have given me new life! our state is free! our persons free! we are free! we are free! And, Peter, says he, now I have given vent to my joy, you shall hear the prediction.

You must know this holy ragan lived four ages ago; and from certain dreams

and revelations he had had, set himself to overturn our country-worship of the Great Image ; and by his sanctity of life, and sound reasonings, had almost effected it under the assistance of Begsurbeck, then our king, who had fully embraced his tenets ; but the rest of the ragans opposing him, and finding he could not advance his scheme, he withdrew from the ragans to a close retirement for several years ; and just before his death, sending for the king and all the ragans, he told them he should certainly die that day, and that he could not die at peace till he had informed them what had been revealed to him ; desiring them to take notice of it, not as a conjecture of his own, but a certain verity which should hereafter come to pass. Says he, you know you have rejected the alteration in your religion I proposed to you ; and which Begsurbeck, here present, would have advanced ; and now I must tell you what you have brought upon yourselves. As for Begsurbeck, he shall reign the longest and most prosperously of all your former and future kings ; but in twice his time out-run, the west shall be divided from the east, and bring sorrow, confusion, and slaughter, till the waters of the earth shall produce a glumm, with hair round his head, swimming and flying without the graundee ; who, with unknown fire and smoke shall destroy the traitor of the west,

settle the ancient limits of the monarchy, by common consent establish what I would have taught you, change the name of this country, introduce new laws and arts, add kingdoms to this state, and force tributes from the bowels of the earth, of such things as this kingdom shall not know till then, and shall never afterwards want ; and then shall return to the waters again. Take care, says he, you miss not the opportunity when it may be had ; for once lost, it shall never, never more return ; and then, wo, wo, wo, to my poor country ! The ragan having said this, expired.

This prediction made so great an impression on Begsurbeck, that he ordered all the ragans singly before him, and heard them repeat it ; which having done, and made himself perfect in it, he ordered it to be pronounced twelve times in the year on particular days, in the moucheratt, that the people might learn it by heart ; that they and their children being perfect in it, might not fail of applying it, when the man from the waters should appear with proper description.

Thus, Peter, says he, has this prediction been kept up in our memories as perfectly as if it had but just been pronounced to us. —'Tis very true, says I, here may have been a prediction, and it may have been, as you say, handed down very exactly from

Begsurbeck's days till now ; but how does that effect me ; how am I concerned in it? Surely, if any marks would have denoted me to be the man, some of the colombs who have so lately left me, and were so long with me, would have found them out in my person, or among the several actions of my life I recounted to them. Upon the return of the colombs from you, says Nascig, they told his majesty what they had heard and seen at Graundevolet, and the story was conveyed through the whole realm ; but every man has not the faculty of distinction. Now, one of the ragans, when he had heard of you, applying you to the prediction, and that to you, soon found our deliverer in you ; and at a public moucheratt, after first pronouncing the prediction, declared himself thereon to the following effect :

May it please your majesty—and you the honorable colombs—the reverend ragans—and the people of this state, says he, you all know that our famous king Begsurbeck, who reigned at the time of this prediction, did live sixty years after it in the greatest splendor, and died at the age of one hundred and twenty years, having reigned full ninety of them ; and herein you will all agree with me, no king before or since has done the like. You all likewise know that within two hundred years after Begsurbeck's death, that is, about twice his

reign of ninety years out-run, the rebellion in the west began, which has been carried on ever since ; and our strength diminishing as theirs increases, we are now no fair match for them, but are fearful of being undone. So far you will agree matters have tallied with the prediction : and now, to look forward to the time to come, it becomes us to lay hold of the present opportunity for our relief, for that, once slipped, will never return ; and, if I have any skill in interpretations, now is the time for our deliverance.

Our prediction foretells the past evils, their increase and continuance, till the waters of the earth shall produce a glumm.— Here I must appeal to the honorable colombs present, if the waters have not done so in the person of glumm Peter Graun-devolet, as they have received it from his own report.

All the colombs then rising, and making reverence to the king, declared it was most true.

The next part, says the ragan, is, he is to be hairy round his head ; and how his person, in this respect agrees with the prediction, I beg leave to be informed by the colombs.

The colombs then rising, declared, that having seen and conversed with him, they could not observe any hair on the fore-part of his head ; but I answered, that when I

left you, I well remember your having short stubs of hair upon your cheeks and chin ; which I had no sooner mentioned, than your father rose and told the assembly, that though he did not mind it whilst he was with you, yet he remembered that his daughter, a year before, had told him that you had hair on your face before, as long as that behind.

This again putting new life into the ragan, he proceeded—Then let this, says he, be put to the trial by an embassy, to glumm Peter, and if it answers, there will be no room to doubt the rest. Then, says the ragan, it is plain by the report of the colombs that glumm Peter has not the graun-dee.

As to the next point, he is to swim and fly. Now I am informed he swims daily in a thing he calls a boat. To which the colombs all agreed. And now, says he, that he flies too, that must be fulfilled ; for every word must have a meaning, and that indeed he must do if ever he comes hither. I therefore advise that a contrivance be somehow found out for conveying glumm Peter through the air to us, and then we shall answer that part of the prediction ; and I think, and do not doubt, but that may be done.

Now, says he, let us see the benefit predicted to us upon the arrival of glumm Peter. Our words are : Who, with unknown fire

and smoke, shall destroy the traitor of the west. What can be plainer than this ? For I again appeal to the colombs for his making unknown fire and smoke.

Thus far, says the ragan, we have succeeded happily towards a discovery of the person ; but it ends not here with the death of the traitor : but such other benefits are to accrue as are mentioned in the following part of the prediction : they are blessings yet to come and who knows the end of them.

I hope, says the ragan, I have given satisfaction in what I have said, and shall now leave it to the care of those whose business it is to provide, that none of those woes pronounced against us may happen, by missing the time, which when gone, will never return.

The assembly were coming to a resolution of sending you a pompous embassy, but your father prevailed for sending me only ; For, says he, my son thinks better of him than of the rest of our whole race. So this important affair was committed to me, with orders to prepare a conveyance for you, which I cannot attempt to do ; but shall refer myself to your more solid judgment in the contrivance of it.

I had sat very attentive to Nasgig, and from what he had declared, could not say but there was a very great resemblance between myself and the person predicted of ; But

then, says I, they are idolators : Providence would not interpose in this affair, when all the glory of its success must redound to an idol. But, says I, has not the same thing often happened from ocular presages, where the glory must redound to the false deity ; But, what if, as is predicted, their religion is to be changed to the old ragan's plan, and that will be to the abolition of idolatry ? I know not what to say ; but if I thought my going would gain a single soul to the eternal truth, I would not scruple to hazard my life in the attempt.

I then called in Youwarkee, told her the whole affair of the prediction, which she had often heard, I found, and could have repeated. I told her that the king and states had pitched on me as the person intended by their prediction, and that Nasgig was sent to fetch me over : And, indeed, says I, Youwarkee, if this be a true prediction, it seems very applicable to me, as far as I can see.—Yes, truly, says she, so it does, now I consider it in the light you say the ragan puts it. Why, says I, prophecies and predictions are never so plain as to mention names ; but yet, upon the solution, they become as intelligible as if they did, the circumstances tallying so exactly. But what would you have me do ? Shall I, or shall I not, go ? Go ! says she, how can you go ?—O, says I, never fear that. If this is from above, means

will soon be found ; Providence never directs effects without means.

Youwarkee, whose head ran only on the dangers of the undertaking, had a violent conflict with herself ; the love of me, of her children, of her country, divided her so, she was not capable of advising. I pressed her opinion again, when she told me to follow the dictates of my own reason ; And, but for the dread of losing you, and for my children's sakes, says she, I should have no choice to make when my country is at stake ; but you know best.

I told Youwarkee that I really found the prediction the plainer the more I thought of it ; and that, above all, the change of the religion was uppermost ; for if I can reduce a state from the misery and bondage of idolatry, to a true sense of the Supreme Being, and seemingly by his own direction, shall I fear to risk my own life for it ; or, will he suffer me to perish till somewhat at least is done towards it ? And how do I know but the whole tendency of my life has been by impulse hither for this very purpose ? My dear Youwarkee, says I, fear not, I will go.

I called Nasgig, and told him my resolution, and that he had nothing now to do but prepare a means of conveying me. He said he begged to refer that to me, for my own thoughts would suggest to me both the safest and easiest means.

I wanted to venture on the back of some strong glumm ; when Nasgig told me, no one could endure my weight so long a flight. But what charmed me most was, the lovely Youwarkee offered to carry me herself if she could ; And if I can't hold out, says she, my dear, we can but at least drop both together. I kissed the charming creature with tears in my eyes, but declined the experiment.

I told Nasgig I wanted to divide my weight between two or four glumms, which I believed I could easily do ; and asked if each could hold out with a fourth part of my weight. He told me there was no doubt of that ; but he was afraid I should drop between their graundees, he imagining I intended to lie along on their backs, part of me on each of them, or should bear so much on them as to prevent their flight. I told him I did not purpose to dispose of myself in the manner he presumed, but if two or four could undoubtedly bear my weight so long a flight, I would order myself without any other inconvenience to my bearers than their burden. He made light of my weight between four, as a trifle, and said, he would be one with all his heart. Nay, says I, if four cannot hold out, can eight ? He plainly told me, as he knew not what I meant, he could say nothing to it, nor could imagine how I could divide so small a body as mine into

eight different weights, for it seemed impossible, said he, to him ; but if I would show him my method, he would then give me his opinion.

I then, leaving him, took out my tools: I pitched upon a strong board my wife had sent me from the ship, about twelve feet long, and a foot and a half broad ; upon the middle of which I nailed down one of my chairs ; then I took one cord of about thirty four feet long, making hand-loops at each end, and nailed it down in the middle to the under side of my board, as near as I could to the fore-end of it ; and I took another cord of the same length and make, and this I nailed within three feet of the farther end of the board. I then took a cord of about twenty feet long, and nailed about three feet before the foremost, and a fourth of the same length at the farther end of my board ; by which means, the first and third ropes being the longest, and at such a distance from the short ropes, the glumms who held them, would fly so much higher and forwarder than the short rope ones, that they and their ropes would be quite out of the others' way, which would not have happened if either the ropes had been all of one length, or nearer to or farther from one another : and then considering that if I should receive a sudden jerk or twitch, I might possibly be shook off my chair, I took a smaller rope to tie

myself with fast to the chair, and then I was sure, if I fell into the sea, I should at least have the board and chair with me which might possibly buoy me up till the glumms could descend to my assistance.

Having carried the machine down to the level, with the help of two of Nasgig's men, he being out on a walk, and having never seen it, I ordered one of the men to sit upon the chair, and eight more to hold by the loops and rise with him ; but, as I found it difficult at their first rising, not being able to mount all equally, to carry the board up even, and the back part rising first, the front pitched against the ground, and threw the fellow out of the chair: I therefore bade them stop, and ordering eight others to me, said I, Hold each of you one of these ropes as high as you can over your heads ; then, says I, to the eight bearers, mount on your graundees, and come round behind him in the chair gently, two and two, and take each of you a loop, and hover with it till you are all ready, and then rise together, keeping your eye on the board that it rises neither higher at one end or one side than the other; and see you all feel your weight alike ; then fly across the lake and back again. They did so, and with as much ease, they told me, as if they had nothing in their hands ; and the man rode with so much state and composure, he said, that I longed to try

it myself; so, shifting places with the glumm, I mounted the chair, and tying myself round I asked if any one knew which way Nasgig walked. One of them pointing to where he saw him just before in the wood, I ordered them to take me up as before, and go that way.

Upon coming to the place where I expected Nasgig was, I hallooed and called him; who knowing my voice, ran to the skirt of the wood; and seeing me mounted in my flying chair, I jokingly told him I was going, if he had any commands; but he mounting immediately came up to me, and viewing me round, and seeing the pleasure the men seemed to carry me with, says he, Are you all sure you can carry him safe to Battrin-drigg? They all replied, Yes, with ease. This, then, says he, is your doom: If you perform it not, every one shall be slit; but if you carry the deliverer safe, you are fil-gays every man of you! he verily thinking I was then going off; but I undeceived him, by ordering them to turn about and set me down where I was taken up.

Nasgig alighting, and viewing my contrivance, This, Peter, says he, is but a very plain thing. It is so, says I, but it is as far as my ingenuity could reach. Ah, Peter! says he, say not so, for if the greatest difficulties as I and all my nation thought it would be to convey you to them, are so

plain and easy to you, what must lesser things be? No, Peter, I did not call it plain because it might be easily done when it was seen, but in respect to the head that formed it; for the nearest way to attain one's end is always the best, and attended for the most part with fewest inconveniences; and I verily think, Peter, though we believe the rise or fall of our state wholly depends on you, you must have stayed at Graundevolet but for your own ingenuity. Well, and when shall we set out? says he. I told him it would take up some time to settle the affairs of my family, and to consider what I had best take with me; and required at least three days, being as little as I could have told him for that purpose.

Nasgig, who as he was an honest man, and for making the best for his patrons, was sorry it was so long, though he, imagining at the same time it was short enough for one who was to go on such an enterprise, was glad it was no longer; and immediately despatched a trumpet express with notice, that on the fourth day he should be at the height of Battrindrigg, and that having myself formed a machine for that purpose, I would accompany him.

I began next to consider what part I had to act at Doorpt Swangeanti, (for I neither could nor would call it by any other name when I came thither,) and what it was they

expected from me. I am, says I, to kill a traitor ; good, that may be, but then I must take a gun and ammunition ; and why not some pistols and cutlasses ? If I cannot use them all, I can teach others who may : I will take several of them, and all my guns but two, and I will leave a pair of pistols ; I may return and want them. I will take my two best suits of clothes, and other things suitable ; for, if I am to perform things according to this prediction, it may be a long time before I get back again. Thinks I, Youwarkee shall stay here with the children and if I like my settlement I can send for her at any time. I then began to see the necessity of making at least one more machine to carry my goods on : And says I, as they will be very weighty, I must have more lasks to shift in carrying them, for I will retain sixteen for my own body-machine, in order to relieve each other ; and as the distance is so great, I will not be stinted for want of fresh hands.

Being come to this resolution, I called Naggig, and ordered eight fresh lasks to attend my baggage ; these he soon singled out ; so, having settled all matters with my wife, and taken leave of her and the children, I charged them not to stir out of the grotto till I was gone ; and leaving them all in tears, I set out with a heavy heart for the level, where the whole convoy and my two machines waited for me.

CHAPTER XXIV.

WHEN we came to the level, I desired Nasgig to draw all his men into a circle as near as they could stand; I then asked them who would undertake to carry me; when not a man but proffered his service, and desired to have the post of honor, as they called it. I told them my question was only in case of necessity to know whom I might depend upon, for my bearers were provided, saving accidents. But, my friends, says I, as you are equally deserving for the offered service, as if you were accepted, are any of you desirous of being filgays? They all answered together, I, I, I!—Nasgig, says I, you and I must come to a capitulation before I go, and your honor must be pledged for performance of articles.

I began with telling them what an enemy I was to slavery; And, says I, to Nasgig, as I am about to undertake what no man upon earth ever did before; to quit my country, my family, my every conveniency for life, for I know not what, I know not where, and from whence I may never return; I must be indulged, if I am ever so fortunate as to arrive safe in your country, in the satisfaction of seeing all these my fel-

low travellers, as happy as myself ; for which reason, I must insist upon every man present alighting with me in safety ; being made free the moment we touch the ground : and unless you will engage your honor for this, I will not stir a step farther.

Nasgig paused for an answer, for though my bearers were his own lasks, and he could dispose of them at pleasure, yet as the rest were the king's, he knew not how far he might venture to promise for them ; but being desirous to get me over the rock fearing I might still retract my purpose, he engaged to procure their freedom of the king. And this, I thought, would make the men more zealous in my service.

I then permitting them to take me up, we were over the rock as quick as thought : and when I had a little experienced the flight, I perceived I had nothing to fear ; for they were so dexterous on the graundee, that I received not the least shock all the way, or scarce a wry position, though every quarter of an inch at hand made a considerable deflection from the perpendicular. We shifted but twice till we came to Battrindrigg ; the manner of which I directed as I sat in my chair : for I ordered the new men to hover over him he was to relieve, and reaching down his hand to meet the others which were held up with a rope, the old bearer sunk beneath the chair, and the re-

liever took his course. This we did one by one till all were changed ; but there was one, a stout young fellow, at the first short rope on my right hand, who observing me to eye him more than the rest, in a brava-do would not be relieved before we arrived at Battrindrigg arkeo ; and I afterwards took him into my family.

As it was now somewhat advanced into the light season, I had hopes of a tolerable good prospect ; but had it been quite light, I should have never been the better for it. I had been upon very high mountains in the inland parts of Africa ; but was never too high to see what was below me before, though very much contracted ; but here, in the highest of our flight, you could not distinguish the globe of the earth but by a sort of mist, for every way looked alike to me ; when sometimes on a cue given, from an inexpressible height my bearers would dart as it were sloping like a shooting star, for an incredible distance, almost to the very surface of the sea, still keeping me as upright as a Spaniard on my seat. I asked them the reason of their so vast descent, when I perceived the labor they had afterwards to attain the same height again.— They told me they not only eased their graundees by that descent, but could fly half as far again in a day, as by a direct (they meant horizontal) flight, for though

it seemed laborious to mount so excessively high, yet they went on at the same time at a great rate ; but when they came to descend again, there was no comparison in their speed. And on my conscience, I believe they spoke true, for in their descents I think no arrow could have reached us.

In about sixteen hours, for I took my watch with me, we alighted on the height of Battrindrigg ; when I thought I had returned to my own arkoë, it was so like it, but much larger. Here we rested four hours ; I opened my chest, and gave each of my bearers a drop of brandy. Nasgig and I also just wetted our mouths, and eat a piece of preserve to moisten us ; the rest of the lasks sitting down, and feeding upon what they had brought with them in their colapets ; for their method is, when they take long flights, to carry a number of hard round fruits, flat like my cream-cheeses, but much less, which containing a sort of flour they eat dry ; then drinking, which swells, and fills them as much as a good meal of anything else would. Here we met with abundance of delightful pools of water on the vast flat of the rocks. They told me, in that arkoë the young glumms and gawreys came in vast flights separately to divert themselves on the fine lakes of water, and from thence went sometimes as

far as my arkoe, for that purpose ; but that was but seldom.

When we had sufficiently rested, they shut their colapets, which sometimes hung down from their necks, and were sometimes swung round to their backs, and crossing the arkoe and another large sea, but nothing comparable to the first, we arrived in about six hours more to the height of the White Mountains, which Nasgig told me were the confines of Georigetta's territories ; But thinks I, it may belong to whom it will for the value of it ; for nothing could be more barren than all the top of it was ; but the inside of it made amends for that, by the prodigious tall and large trees it abounded with, full of the strangest kinds of fruits I had ever seen ; and these trees most of them seemed to grow out of the very stone itself, not a peck of dirt being to be collected near them. Without-side of these mountains, it was scarce darker than at my arkoe ; for I made all the observation my time would allow me to ; when spying at a vast distance several lights, which were unusual things to me in that country, they told me the largest was the burning mountain Alkoe ; this I remembered to have heard the name of, upon some former occasion, though I could not recollect what ; and that the rest were of the same sort, but smaller. I asked if they were in Georiget-

ti's territories. They said no, they belonged to another king formerly, whose subjects were as fond of fire as Georigetti's were of avoiding it ; and that many of them worked with it always before them, and made an insufferable noise by it.

At hearing the above relation, an impression struck my fancy, that they might be a sort of smiths or workers in iron, or other metals ; and I wished myself with them, for I had a mighty notion of that work, having been frequently at a neighboring forge when a boy, and knew all their tools, and resolved to get all the information I could of that country some other time ; for our company drawing to their posts, and preparing to set forward again, I could have no more talk now ; and you must know, I had observed so many idle rascals before I left England, who could neither strike a stroke, nor stir a foot, whilst you talk with them, that I feared if I asked questions by the way, they should in answering me neglect their duty, and let me drop.

When we came near our journey's end, Nasgig asked me where I would like to alight. I told him I thought at my father's ; for though I came on a visit to the king, it would not show respect to go before him just off a journey. But I might have spared me the trouble of settling that point ; for we were not gone far from the Black Moun-

tain, it going by that name within side, though it is called the White without, before we heard the gripsacks, and a sort of squeaking or screaming music, very loud. Nasgig told me the king was in flight. I asked him how he knew that, for I could see nobody. He knew it, he said, by the gripsack and the other music, which never played but on that occasion ; and, presently after, I thought the whole kingdom were on the graundee, and was going to order my bearers back to the mountain, for fear of the concourse. Thinks I, they will jostle me down out of my civility, and I shall break my neck to gratify their curiosity. So I told Nasgig, if he did not somehow stop the multitude, I would turn back for the mountain, for I would never venture into that crowd of people.

Nasgig sprung away to the king, and informed him ; but the king fearing the people should be disgusted at his sending them back, gave orders for the whole body to file off to the right and left, and talking a vast sweep each way, to fall in behind me ; but upon no account to come near me, for fear of mischief. This was no sooner said than done, and all spreading into two vast semicircles, met in a train just behind my chair.

Nasgig had also persuaded the king to retreat back to the palace, telling him it was not with me as with them, who could help

themselves in case of accident ; but as I was under the guidance of others, and on a foundation he should scarce, in my condition, have ventured upon, he was sure I should be better satisfied with his intended respect only, than to receive it there : But, says he, that your majesty may see his contrivance, I will cause him to alight in the palace garden, where you may have the pleasure of viewing him in his machine.

The king returning, ordered all the colombs, who waited my arrival, to assemble in council again ; and as I went over the city, I was surprised to see all the rocks of which it consisted quite covered with people, besides prodigious numbers in the air, all shouting out peals of welcome to me ; and as we were then but little above their heads, every one had something to say of me ; one wondering what I had got on ; another swearing he saw hair on my face as long as his arm ; and in general, every one calling on the image for my safety.

The king was present when I alighted in the garden ; and himself taking me from my chair, I bent on one knee to kiss his hand : but he took me in his arms, called me his father, and told me he hoped I would make his days equal in glory to his great ancestor Begsurbeck. We complimented some time, before he took me into a small refectory in the garden, and gave me some

of his sort of wine ; which I found was loaded with rams-horn, and some dried and moist sweetmeats. He then told me I had a piece of ceremony to go through, after which he hoped to have me to himself. I told him whatever forms of state were customary, they become necessary, and I should obey him.

His majesty then called one of the persons in waiting, and telling him he was going to the room of audience, ordered him to conduct me thither forthwith.

Following my guide, after a long walk through a sort of piazza, we entered under a stately arch, curiously carved, into a very spacious room, lighted with infinite number of globe lamps ; where he desired me to sit down on a round stone pedestal covered with leaves, and all round the sides were running foliages exquisitely wrought ; on the walls were carved figures of glumms in several actions, but chiefly in battle, or other warlike exercises, in alto-relievo, very bold ; with other devices interspersed. I sat down, having first paid my submission to the throne, and to the several colombs who sat on the king's right and left, down the sides of the room.

The person then who introduced me, going into the middle of the room, spoke to this effect : Mighty king—and you honorable lords his colombs—here is present the

glumm Peter of Graundevolet ; I wait your commands where to dispose him.

Then the king and all the colombs arising, another person stepped forth, and looking at me, for I was standing, Glumm Peter of Graundevolet, says he, I am to signify to you that the mighty king Georigetti, and all his honorable colombs, congratulate your arrival in Normnbdsgrsutt, and have commanded me to give you rank according to your merit. Then the king and colombs sat down, and I was led to the king's right hand, and placed on the same stone with, but at some small distance from, his majesty.

The king then told me the great pleasure I had done him and the colombs, in my so speedy arrival upon their message ; but said, he would give me no further trouble now, than to know how I chose to be served ; and desired me to give orders to a bash he would send to me, for whatever I wanted ; and then giving orders to a bash to show me my lodgings, I was permitted to retire to refresh myself.

I was then conducted to my apartment, up a sloping flight of stone, very long, with a vast arch over my head ; I believed it might be fifty paces long at least, but being a very broad easy ascent, and smooth, it was not in the least fatiguing. All the way I went were the same sorts of globe lights

as in the audience-room. The stair-case, if I may call it so, it answering the same purpose, was most beautifully carved, both sides and top ; at length I came into a very large gallery, at least four score paces long, and about twenty broad ; on each side of which hung the same globes. At the further end of this gallery I entered by an arch, very narrow, but most neatly wrought, into an oval room ; in the middle of this room, on the right hand, was another small neat arch-way ; entering through which about ten paces, there were two smaller arches to the right and left, and within them, with an easy ascent of about three paces, you come to a flat trough of stone, six or seven feet long, and about the same width ; these, I understood by my bash, were the beds to lie on. I asked him if they were used to lie on the bare stone. He told me some did ; but he had orders to lay me on doffee ; and presently up came four fellows with great matts, as I took them for by my globe-light, full of something, which by their so easily carrying so great bulk, I perceived was very light. They pitched it down upon my stone bedstead, and first with great sticks, and then with small switches having beat it soundly, retired.

Whilst I was looking about at the oddity of the place, I found my bash was gone too. So, says I, all gone ! I suppose they intend

I shall now go to bed. I then went into my bed-chamber, for there was globe-lights there too, and observing my bed lay full four feet above the stone, and sloping higher to the sides and head, I went to feel what it was ; but laying my hand upon it, it was so soft I could feel no resistance till I had pressed it some way ; and it lay so light, that a fly must have sunk upon it.— Well, thinks I, what if I never lay thus before, I believe I have lain as bad!

I then took a turn into my oval room again, and observed the floor, sides, and all was stone, as smooth as possible, but not polished ; and the walls and ceiling, and in short every place, where they could be ornamented, were as well adorned with carvings as can be conceived.

Though nobody came near me yet I did not care to be too inquisitive all at once, but I longed to know what they burnt in the globes, which gave so steady a light, and yet seemed to be enclosed quite round, top and sides, without any vent-hole for the smoke to evaporate. Surely, thinks I, they are a dullish glass, for they hung almost above my touch, and must be exceeding hot with the fire so enclosed, and have some small vent-hole, though I can't see it. Then standing on tiptoe to feel, it struck quite cold to my finger ; but I could only reach to touch that, or any of the rest, being all of one height.

Whilst I was musing thus, I heard the sound of voices coming along the gallery ; and presently came a train of servants with as much victuals as an hundred men could eat, and wines proportionable ; they sat it down at the upper end of the oval room, on a flat of stone, which on making the room had been left in the upper bend of the oval quite across it, about table high, for that purpose. These eatables, such as were liquid, or had sauces to them, were served up in a sort of grey stone bowls ; but the dry were brought in neat wooden baskets of twig-work.

The servants all retired into the gallery, except my bash. I asked him if any body was to eat with me : he told me no. I wonder, says I, they should send me so much, then. He replied it was the allowance of my apartment by his majesty's orders which silenced me.

I believe there were twenty different things on the table ; insomuch that I did not know where to begin, and heartily wished for an excuse to get rid of my bash, who stood close at my elbow, that I might have smelt and tasted before I helped myself to any thing ; for I knew not what any one thing was.

In this perplexity, I asked my bash, what post he was in under his majesty. He said one of the fifty bashes appointed to be near

the king's favorites when at court. And pray, said I, are you the person to attend me? He was, he said, the principal to wait on my person; but there were at least sixty others, who had different offices in this apartment. I would be glad, said I, to know your name, that I may the more readily speak to you. He told me his name was Quilly. Then pray, Quilly, says I, do you know what has become of my baggage and my chair? I found, though he guessed at my baggage, he was puzzled at the name of chair; my seat, says I. O, I understand you, says he. Then, pray, will you go bring me word of them, and see them brought safe up into the gallery. He tripped away on my errand. So, thinks I, now I am fairly rid of you! but I had scarce turned any of my viands over, before I found he had but stepped into the gallery, to send some of the idle fellows in waiting there; and this putting me to a nonplus, Quilly, says I, you know I am a stranger here; and as different countries have different ways and customs as well of dressing their eatables as other things, and these dishes being dressed contrary to my custom, I shall be glad if you will name some of them to me, that I may know them when I see them again.

Quilly began with this, and run on to that, which was a fine dish; and the other few

but the king have at their table : And here, says he, is a dish of padsi ; and there—— Hold, Hold, says I, Quilly ! let's try these first before you proceed ; for I remembered at my grotto, they all eat my fish for padsi, and I cut a slice of it, (for I always carried my clasp knife in my pocket, and they had no such thing there) and laying it on a round cake I took for my trencher, I tasted it, and found it so, to my apprehension, in the palate ; but it did not look or flake like fish as I observed by the slices they had cut it into ; for all the victuals were in long slices ready to bite at. I asked him if these things were not all cut, and with what ; (for I understand they had no knives, showing him mine : he said the cook cut it with a sharp stone. I then asked him the names of several other things, and at last he came to crullmott ; which having heard of before, I now tasted, and could have sworn it had been a hashed fowl. I asked him if scrullmotts were very common ; he told me yes, towards the bottom of the mountains there were abundance of crullmott-trees. No, no, says I, not trees ; I mean fowls, birds. I don't know what they are, said he ; but these crullmotts grow on very large trees. Indeed I did not know yet what I was at ; But, says I, if your fowls do, sure your fish don't grow on trees too ! We have none of them, says he, in

this country. Why, says I, it is but this moment I tasted one. I don't know, said he, where the cook got it. Why, here says I, what you call padsi I call fish.—Ay, padsi, says he, grows upon a bush in the same woods. Well done, says I, this is the first country I was ever in where the fish and fowl grew on trees : it is ten to one but I meet with an ox growing on some tree by the tail before I leave you.

I had by this time, out of these two and some other picking, made up a very good meal ; and putting my knife into my pocket desired something to drink. My bash asked me what I pleased to have ; I told him any thing to take a good draught of. Then he filled me a butt of wine, very well tasted, though too sweet for meals ; but putting some water to it, it did very well.

My messengers being returned, and having set all my things in the gallery, I desired Quilly to let the victuals be taken away ; upon which there came more servants than dishes, who took all at once, but some wine and water I desired might remain.

I told Quilly I saw there were two beds ; Who are they for ? says I. One for you and one for me, says he ; for we bashes never leave the king's favorites. Pray, Quilly, says I, what is the meaning that to the several rooms I have been in, there is never a door ? Door ! says he, I don't

know that. What ; says I, don't you shut your rooms at night ? No, no ! shut at night ! I never heard of that !—I believe, says I, Quilly, it is almost bed-time, is it not ?—No, no ! says Quilly, the gripsack has not sounded. How do you know, says I, in this country, when you shall lie down, and when arise ? for my wife has told me you have no clocks. No ! no clocks ! says he. Then, says I, does every one rise and lie down when they please ? or do you all lie down and rise together about the same time ? O, says Quilly, you will hear the gripsack presently ; there are several glumms who take it by turns to sound it for the rest, and then we know it is time to lie down ; and when they sound it again, we know it is time to rise. And afterwards I found these people guessed the time (being twelve hours between sound and sound) so well, that there were but few minutes variation at any time between them and my watch ; and I set my watch to go from their soundings at six o'clock.

I found myself pretty much fatigued after my journey ; for though I had only to sit still, yet the excessive velocity of such an unusual motion strained every muscle as much as the hardest labor ; for you may imagine, I could not at first be without my fears upon ever so small a variation of my chair ; which, though I could not possibly

by my own inclination one way or other rectify, yet a natural propensity to a perpendicular station involuntarily biases one to incline this or that way in order to preserve it : and then, at first, my breath being ready to fail me in proportion to the celerity of the flight, and to my own apprehensions, and being upon that exercise near thirty hours, and without sleep for almost forty, you may judge I wanted rest : so I told Quilly I would lie down, and ordered him not to disturb me till I waked of myself.

I could not prevent the officiousness of my valet to put me to bed, and cover me with the down, or whatever it was ; for having no sheets, I pulled off nothing but my coat, wig, and shoes, and putting on my flannel nightcap, I laid me down.

CHAPTER XXV.

I HAVE known some travellers so peculiar in their taste, as not to be able to sleep in a strange lodging ; but thanks to my kind stars, that did not prove my case ; for having looked on my watch when I went to bed, as I called it, and finding it was down, I wound it up, and observed it began to go at about three o'clock, whether day or night, matters not : and when I waked it was past nine ; so that I knew I had slept eighteen hours and finding that a very reasonable refreshment, and myself very hungry, I called Quilly to get me my breakfast.

Quilly told me his majesty had been to visit me, but would not have me disturbed. I begged him to despatch my breakfast as soon as possible, and let me have some water for my hands ; he ordered the gallery-waiters, and every thing came immediately.

My breakfast was a brown liquid, with a sort of seeds or grain in it, very sweet and good ; but the fear of the king's return before I was ready for him, prevented my inquiring into what it was : so having finished it, and washed my hands, Quilly presented me a towel, which looked like an unbleached coarse linen, but was very soft and spon-

gy; and I found afterwards was made of threads of bark stripped from some tree. I put on my brown suit, sword, and long wig, and sent Quilly to know when it was his majesty's pleasure I should wait upon him.

I had been so much used to lamp-light in my grotto, that the lights of this gloomy mansion did not seem so unusual a thing to me as they would have been to a stranger. The king sent me word he would admit me immediately, and Quilly was my conductor to his majesty's apartment.

We passed through the gallery, at the further end of which was a very beautiful arch even with the stair-case, through which Quilly led me into a large guard-room wherein were above an hundred glumms posted in ranks with their pikes in hand, some headed with sharp-pointed stones, others with multangular stones, and others with stone globes. Passing through these we entered another gallery as long as that to my apartment: then under another arch we came into a small square room, carved exceedingly fine; on the right and left of which were two other archways leading into most noble rooms; but we only saw them, passing quite across the little room, through an arch that fronted us into a small gallery of prodigious height; at the further end of which Quilly turning aside a matt, introduced and left me in the most beautiful

place in the universe ; where neither seeing nor hearing any body stir, I employed myself in examining the magnificence of the place, and could, as I then thought, have feasted my eyes with variety for a twelve-month. I paced it over one hundred and thirty of my paces long, and ninety-six broad : there were arches in the middle of each side, and in the middle of each end ; the arch ceiling could not be less than the breadth of the room, and covered with the most delightful carvings, from whence hung globe-lights innumerable, but seemingly without order, which I thought appeared the more beautiful on that account. In the centre of the room hung a prodigious cluster of the same lights, so disposed as to represent one vast light ; and there were several rows of the same lights hung round the room : one row above another at proper distances : these lights represented to me the stars, with the moon in the middle of them ; and after I came to be better acquainted with the country, I perceived the lights were to represent the southern constellations. The arch-ways were carved with the finest devices imaginable, gigantic glumms supporting on each side of the pediments. At every ten paces, all along the sides and ends, arose columns, each upon a broad square base, admirably carved ; these reached to the cornice or base of the

arched ceiling quite round the room. On the pannels between each column, were carved the different battles and most remarkable achievements of Begsurbeck himself. Over the arch I entered at, was the statue of Begsurbeck, and over the opposite arch the old prophetic ragan. In the middle of the room stood a long stone-table lengthwise, most exquisitely carved, almost the length of the room, except where it was divided in the middle about the breadth of the arch-ways, in order for a passage from one arch to the other. In short, to describe this one room particularly, would make a volume of itself.

I staid here a full hour and half, wondering why nobody came to me; at length turning myself about, I saw two glumms coming towards me, and having received their compliments, they desired me to walk in to the king. We passed through another middling room, and taking up a matt at the further side of it, I was conducted in where his majesty was sitting with another glumm. They both rose at my entrance, and calling me their father, and leading me, one by each hand, obliged me to sit down between them.

After some compliments about my journey, and accommodation since, the king told me I had not waited so long without, but he had some urgent despatches to make;

and as he chose to have me in private with him, he imagined, he said, I would be able to divert myself in the boskee. I declared I had never seen any thing like it for grandeur and magnificence before; but the beauty of the sculpture, and disposition of the lights, were most exquisite.

All this while I felt the other glumm handling my long wig, and feeling whether it grew to my head, or what it was; for he had by this time got his fingers under the caul; and was pulling my hair down; when I turning about my head, Glumm Peter, says the king, don't be uneasy, the ragan will do you no hurt, it is only to satisfy his curiosity; and I chose to have the ragan here, that we may more leisurely advise with you what course to take in the present exigencies of my state. I have fully heard the story of your travels from my colombs, and we have returned thanks to the Great Image for bringing you, after so many hazards and deliverances, safe to my dominions for our defence.

The ragan desired to know whether all that hair (meaning my wig) grew upon my head or not. I told him no, it was a covering only, to put on occasionally; but that hair did grow on my head, and pulling off my wig I showed them. The ragan then asked me if I had hair of my own growing under that too, (meaning my beard, which

he then had in his hand, for their glumms have no beards ; but I told him that grew there of itself. O parly Pulyl, says the ragan, rising up, and smiting his hands together, It is he ! It is he !

Pray, says I, ragan, who is this Puly you speak of ? It is the Image, says he, of the great Collwar. Who is that ? says I.—Why, he that made the world, says he.—And, pray, says I, what did his image make ? O, says he, we made the image.—And, pray, says I, can't you break it again ? Yes, said he, if we had a mind to be struck dead, we might : for that would be the immediate consequence of such an attempt ; nay, of but holding up a finger against it in contempt. Pray, says I, did ever any body die that way ; No, says he, no one ever durst presume to do it. Then, perhaps, said I, upon trial, the punishment you speak of might not be the consequence of such an attempt. Pray, says I, what makes Collwar have such a kindness for that image ? Because, says he, it is his very likeness, and he gives him all he asks for us ; for we only ask him. Why, says he, it is the image that has brought you amongst us.

I did not then think it a proper time to advance the contrary to the person I then had to do with, so I was sure it would have done no good ; for a priest is only to be con-

vinced by the strongest party ; so I deferred my argument on that head to a fitter opportunity.

Most admirable Peter, says the king, you are the glumm we depend upon to fulfil an ancient prediction delivered by a venerable ragan. If you will, Ragan I. O. shall repeat it to you, and therein you will be able to discern yourself plainly described, in not only similar, but the express words I myself, from your story, shall describe you in.

In good earnest, I had from divers circumstances concluded that I might be the person ; and resolved, as I thought I had the best handle in the world for it from the prediction, to do what I could in the affair of religion, by fair means or stratagem, (for I was sensible my own single force would not do it) before I began to show myself in their cause or else to desert them ; and having had a small hint from Nasgig of what the old ragan's design was in part, and which I approved of, I purposed to add what else was necessary as part of his design, if his proposals had been approved of.

I told the king I would excuse the ragan the repetition of the prediction, as I had partly been informed of it by Nasgig ; and that conceiving myself, as he did, to be the person predicted of by the ragan, I had the more readily set out on this expedition, which nothing but the hopes of performing so great a good could have prevailed with

me to undertake ; and I did not doubt, with God's blessing, to accomplish it. The king grew exceeding joyous at what I said, and told me he would call a moucheratt at which all his colombs should attend, to have their advice, and then we would proceed to action ; and ordered the ragan to let it be for the sixth day, and in the mean time that he and his brethren should, day and night, implore the image to guide their deliberations.

Nasgig then coming in, I told him he was now under my command, and must take six hundred glumms with him to Graundevolet ; tell Youwarkee to show him my ship, and then he must bring me the things I had described to her by the name of cannon ; he must bring them by ropes, as I was brought ; and bring powder, which she would direct him to, and the heavy balls, which lay in the room with the powder. I told him if he thought he should not have men enough, he must take more ; and must be as expeditious as was consistent with safety. I desired him to tell Youwarkee I hoped in a short time to send for her, and all the family over to me. And now, Nasgig, says I, my orders are finished. Then I took my leave of him, and he set out for Graundevolet.

CHAPTER XXVI.

THE tenth day Nasgig arrived, whilst I happened to be in the king's garden ; and hearing the trumpet coming before, I called out to him to give Nasgig notice where I was, and to desire him to alight there.

I then introduced Nasgig to the king as the person to whose conduct the safe arrival of my cannon was owing. His majesty embraced him, told him the service he had done him was so great, and his management of it so prudent, he should from thenceforth take him into his peculiar confidence and esteem.

Nasgig thanked his majesty for his acceptance of that act of his duty, and desired to know when he pleased the operations for the campaign should begin. Ask my father, says the king ; do you conduct the war, and let him conduct you.

Then Nasgig desired to know what number of troops would be requisite. I asked him what number the enemy had : he said, about thirty thousand. Then, says I, take you six only, besides the bearers of me and the artillery ; and pick me out fifty of the best men you have, as a guard for my person and send them to me.

I showed these men my cutlasses and pistols, and showed them the use and management of them: and, says I, as our enemies fight with pikes, keep you at a distance first and when you would assault, toss by the pike with your hand, and closing in have at the graundee; and this edge, (showing them the sharpness of it) will strip it down from shoulder to heel; you need strike but once for it, but be sure to come near enough; or, says I, if you find it difficult to turn aside the pike, give it one smart stroke with this, it will cut it in two, and then the point being gone, it will be useless.

These instructions, says I, if rightly observed, will make us conquerors.

The next thing was to settle the order of my march, which I did in the following manner; and, taking leave of the king, I set out.

First, Ten companies of one hundred men, including officers with each a gripsack, in ten double lines, fifty abreast.

Secondly, Four hundred bearers of the cannon, with two hundred to the right, the like to left, as relays.

Thirdly, Two hundred men with the ammunition, stores, hatchets, and other implements.

Fourthly, Fifty body-guards, in two lines.

Fifthly, Myself, borne by eight, with

twelve on the right, and as many on the left, as relays.

Sixthly, two thousand men in columns, on each side the cannon and me, fifty in a line, double lines.

Seventhly, one thousand men in the rear, fifty in a line, double lines.

I consulted with Nasgig, how the rebel General Harlokin's army lay, that I might avoid the revolted towns, rather choosing to take them in my return; for my design was to encounter Harlokin first, and I did not doubt if I conquered him, but the towns would surrender of course.

When we arrived within a small flight of his army, I caused a halt at a proper place for my cannon, and having pitched them, which I did by several flat stones, one on another, to a proper elevation, I loaded them, also and my small arms, consisting of six muskets, and three brace of pistols, and placing my army, two thousand just behind me, two thousand to my right, and the same number to my left; I gave a strict command for none of them to stir forward without orders, which Nasgig, who stood just behind me, was to give. I then sent a defiance to Harlokin by a gripsack, who sent me word he fought for a kingdom, and would accept it; and, as I heard afterwards, he was glad I did; for since the intelligence I had scattered in his army, they

had in great numbers deserted him, and he was afraid it would have proved general. I then putting the end of a match into a pistol pan with a little powder, by flashing, lighted it ; and this I put under my chair, for I sat in that, with my muskets three on each side, a pistol in my right hand, and five more in my girdle. In this manner I waited Harlokin's coming, and in about an hour we saw the van of his army, consisting of about five thousand men, who flew in five layers, one over another. I had not loaded my cannon with ball, but small sized stones, about sixty in each ; and seeing the length of their line, I spread my cannon's mouths somewhat wider than their breeches, and then taking my observation by a bright star, for there was a clear dawn all around the horison, I observed, as I retired to my chair, how that star answered to the elevation of my cannon ; and when the foremost ranks, who not seeing my men stir, were approaching almost over me to fall on them, and had come to my pitch, I fired two pieces of my ordnance at once, and so mauled them, that there dropped about ninety upon the first discharge, together with their commander ; the rest, being in flight, and so close together, not being able to turn fast enough to fly, being stopped by those behind them, not only hindered those behind from turning about, but clogged up their

own passage. Seeing them in such a prodigious cluster, I so successfully fired two more pieces, that I brought down double the number of the first shot ; and then giving the word to fall on, my cutlass-guard and the pikemen did prodigious execution. But fearing the main body should advance before we had got in order again, I commanded them to fall back to their former stations, and to let the remainder of the enemy go off.

This did me more good in the event, than if I had killed twice as many ; for they not only never returned themselves, but flying some to the right, some to the left, and passing by the two wings of their own army, consisting of six thousand men each, they severally reported, that they were all that was left of the whole van of the army ; and that the prediction would certainly be fulfilled, for that their companions had died by fire and smoke. This report struck such terror into each wing, that every one shifted for himself and never appeared more.

The main body consisted of about ten thousand men, knowing nothing of what had happened to the wings, (for Harlokin had ordered the wings to take a great compass round to enclose us) hearing we were but a handful, advanced boldly ; and as I had ordered my men not to mount too high, the enemy sunk to their pitch. When they,

came nearer, I asked Naskig who led them, if it was Harlokin. He told me no, his general, but that he was behind ; and Naskig, begging me to let him try his skill with the general, I consented, they not being yet come to the pitch of my cannon. Naskig immediately took the graundee, and advancing singly with one of my cutlasses in his hand, challenged the general in single combat. He, like a man of honour, accepting it, ordered a halt and to it they went, each emulous of glory, and of taking all the advantage he could, so that they suddenly did not strike or push ; but sometimes one, then the other, was uppermost, and whirling expeditiously round, met almost breast to breast ; when the general, who had not a pike, but pike staff, headed with a large stone, gave Naskig such a stroke on his head, that he reeled and sunk considerably ; and I began to be in pain for him, the general lowering after him. But Naskig springing forward beneath him, and rising light as air behind the general, had gained his height again, before the general could turn about to discern him, and then plunging forward, and receiving a stroke across his left arm, at the same time he gave the general such a blow near the outside of the shoulder, as slit the graundee almost down to his hip, and took away part of the flesh of the left arm, upon which the general fell fluttering down in vast pain

very near me ; but not before Nasgig, in his fall, descending had taken another severe cut at him.

Immediately upon this defeat Nasgig again took his place behind me, our army shouting to the skies ; but no sooner had the general dropt, but on came Harlokin, with majesty and terror mixt in his looks ; and seeming to disdain the air he rode on, waved his men to the attack with his hand. When he came near enough to hear me, I called him vile traitor, to oppose the army of his lawful sovereign, telling him, if he would submit, he should be received to mercy. Base creeping insect ! says Harlokin, if thou hast aught to say to me worth hearing, meet me in the air.—This hand shall show thee soon who'll most want mercy : and though I scorn to stoop to thee myself, this messenger shall satisfy the world thou art an imposter, and send thee lifeless back to the fond king that sent thee hither.—With that he hurled a javelin pointed with flint, sharp as a needle, at me ; but I avoiding it, This, then, says I, if words will not do, shall justify the truth of our prediction. And then, levelling a musket at him, I shot him through the very heart, that he fell dead within twenty paces of me ; but perceiving another to take his room, notwithstanding the confusion my musket made amongst them, I ran to my

match, and giving fire to two more pieces of ordnance at the same time, they fell so thick about me, that I had enough to do to escape being crushed to death by them ; and the living remainder separating, fled quite away, and put an end to the war. I waited in the field three days, to see if they would make head again ; but they were so far from it, that before I could return, as I found afterwards, most of the revolting provinces had sent their deputies, who themselves carried the first news of the defeat, to beg to be received into mercy : all of whom were detained there till my return with Harlokin's head.

At my return to Brandleguarp, I was met by the king, the colombs, and almost the whole body of the people ; every man, woman and child, with two sweecoe lights in their hands ; which unusual sight in the air gave me great alarm, till I inquired of Naggig what it meant, who told me it must certainly be a sweencoan, or he knew not what it was. I asked again what he meant by that, he told me it was a particular method of rejoicing he had heard of, but never seen ; wherein, if the king goes in triumph, all the people of the Brandleguarp, from fifteen to sixty, are obliged to attend him with sweecoos. He said, it was reported amongst them that in Begsurbeck's time there were two of them, but there had been none since.

When we met them, I perceived they had opened into two lines or ranks of a prodigious length ; at the farther end of which was the king with innumerable lights about him ; the whole looking like a prodigious avenue or vista of lights, bounded at the farther end, where the king was, with a pyramid light. This had the most solemn and magnificent effect on the eye, that any thing of light could possibly have ; but as we passed through the ranks, each of the spectators having two lights, one was given to each soldier of the whole army. And then to look backwards, as well as forward, the beauty of the scene was inexpressible. We marched all the way amid the shouts of the people, and the sounds of the gripsacks, going very slowly between the ranks ; and at length arriving at the pyramid, where the king was, I heard abundance of sweet voices, chaunting my actions in triumphal songs ; but I could take little notice of these, or of my son with his flagelet amongst them, for the extravagant appearance of the pyramid, which seemed to reach the very sky. For, first, there was a long line of a full half mile, which hovered at even height with the two side ranks ; in the centre of that, and over it, was the king single ; over him, another line, shorter than the first, and again over that, shorter and shorter lines ; till at a prodigious height, it

ended in one single light. These all hovering, kept their stations; while the king darted a little space forward to meet me, and congratulate my success; then turning, and preceding me, the whole pyramid turned, and marched before us, singing all the way to the city; the pyramid changing several times into divers forms, as into squares, half moons, with the horns sometimes erect, and again reversed, and various other figures; and yet amongst this infinite number of globes, there was not the least glaring or offensive light; but only what was agreeable to the people themselves. As the rear of the army entered the lines, they closed upon it and followed us into Brandleguarp. While we passed the city to the palace, the whole body of the people kept hovering, till the king and myself were alighted; and then every one alighted where he best could. All the streets and avenues to the palace were blocked up with people, crowding to receive the king's beneficence; for he had proclaimed a feast, and open house-keeping to the people for six days. The king, the colombs, ragans, and great officers of state, with myself, had a magnificent entertainment prepared up in Begsurbeck's great room; and his majesty, after supper, being very impatient to know how the battle went, I told him, the only valorous exploit was performed by my friend Nasgig, who

opened the way to victory, by the slaughter of Harlokin's general. Nascig then rose, desiring only that so much might be attributed to him, as fortune had accidentally thrown into his scale; for it might have been equally his fate, as the general's, to have fallen; But except that skirmish, says he, and some flying cuts at the van, we have had no engagement at all, nor have we lost a single man; Peter only sitting in his chair, and commanding victory: he spake aloud but thrice, and whispered once to them; but so powerfully, that having at the two first words laid above three hundred of the enemy at their lengths, and brought Harlokin to his feet, with a whisper, at the third word he concluded the war. The whole time, from the first sight of the enemy to their total defeat, took not up more space than one might fairly spend in traversing his majesty's garden. In short, sir, says Nascig, your majesty needs no other defence against public or private enemies, as I can see, than Peter; and my profession, whilst he is with us, can be of little use, to the state.

After these compliments from Nascig, and separate ones from the king, and the rest, I told them, it was the highest felicity to me to be made an instrument by the great Collwar, in freeing so mighty a kingdom and considerable a people from the misery of a tyrannical

power. You live, says I, so happily under the mild government of Georigetti, that it is shocking but to think into what a distressed state you must have fallen under the power of an usurper, who, claiming all as his own by way of conquest, would have reduced you to a miserable servitude. But, says I, there is, and I am sorry to see it, still amongst you, an evil that you great ones feel not, and yet it cries for redress. Are we not all, from the king to the meanest wretch amongst us, formed with the same members? Do we not all breathe the same air? inhabit the same earth? Are we not all subject to the same disorders? and do we not all feel pain and oppression alike? Have we not all the same senses, the same faculties? and in short, are we not all equally creatures of, and servants to the same master, the great Collwar? Would not the king have been a slave, but for the accident of being begotten by one who was a king? and would not the poorest creature amongst you have been the king had he been so begotten? Did you great men, by any superior merit before your births, procure a title to the high stations in which you are placed? No, you did not. Therefore give me leave to tell you what I would have done. As every man has equal right to the protection of Collwar, why, when you have no enemy to distress you, will you distress one

another? Consider, you great ones, and act upon this disinterested principle; do to another, what you, in his place, would have him do to you: dismiss your slaves, let all men be what Collwar made them, free. But if this unequal distinction amongst you, of man and man, is still retained, though you are at present free from the late disaster, it shall be succeeded with more, and heavier. And now, that you may know I would not have every man a lord, nor every one a beggar, remember, I would only have every serving-man at liberty to choose his own master, and every master his own man: for he that has property and benefits to bestow will never want dependants, for the sake of those benefits to serve him, as he that has them not must serve for the sake of obtaining them. But then let it be done with free-will; he that then serves you will have an interest in it, and do it, for his own sake, with a willing mind; and you, who are served, will be tenderer and kinder to a good servant, as knowing by a contrary usage you shall lose him. I desire this may now be declared to be so, or your reasons, if any there are, against it.

One of the ragans said, he thought I spoke what was very just, and would be highly acceptable to Collwar.

Then two of the colombs rose to speak together, and after a short compliment who

should begin, they both declared they only arose to testify their consents.

The king referring it to me, and the colombs consenting, I ordered freedom to be proclaimed through the city ; so that every one appeared at their usual duties, to serve their own masters for a month, and then to be at liberty to come to a fresh agreement with them, or who else they pleased.

This, sir, says I to the king, will now be a day of joy indeed, to those poor hearts who would have been in no fear of losing before, let who would have reigned ; for can any man believe a slave cares who is uppermost ? he is but a slave still. But now, says I those who were so before, may by industry gain property ; and then their own interest engages them to defend the state.

There is but one thing more I will trouble you with now--and that, says I to the raggans, is, that we all meet at the mouch tomorrow, to render Collwar thanks for the late, and implore future favour. And this passed without any contradiction.

We spent the sixth-day feast in every gaiety imaginable, and especially in dancing, of which they were very fond, in their way ; but it was not so agreeable to me as in my own country way, there being too much antic in it. New deputies daily arrived from the revolted towns ; and several little republics, not claimed by Georigetti before, beg-

ged to be taken under his protection ; so that in one week, the king saw himself, not only released from the dread of being driven from his throne, but courted by some, submitted to by others, and almost at the summit of glory a sovereign can attain to.

When this great victory had been obtained, and the kingdom was now settled, my next care was to bring my wife to Georigetti's court. The king accordingly at my desire sent messengers after her and we were soon established in great peace and prosperity, honoured, and patronized by the king, and our society sought by the first people of the country.

CHAPTER XXVII

AFTER this I lived at Brandleguarp ten years, and my children were all provided for by the king but Dickey, as fast as they were qualified for employn ent, and such as were fit for it were married off to the best alliances in the country ; so that I had only to sit down, and see every thing I had put my hand to prosper, and not an evil eye in the three kingdoms cast at me : but about my eleventh or twelfth year, my wife falling into a lingering disorder, at the end of two years it carried her off. This was the first real affliction I had suffered for many years, and so soured my temper, that I became fit for nothing, and it was painful for me even to think of business.

The king's marriage had produced four children, three son's and a daughter, which he would frequently tell me were mine.

My melancholy for the death of my wife, which I hoped time would wear off, rather gained ground upon me ; and though I was as much regarded as ever by the whole court, yet it grew troublesome to me even to be asked my advice ; and it not only surprised those about me, but even myself, to see the same genius, without any visible natural decay, in so short a time, from the most

sprightly and enterprizing, become the most phlegmatic and inactive.

My longings after my native country, ever since my wife's death, redoubled upon me, and I had formed several schemes of getting thither.

At length, being tired and uneasy, I resolved, as I was accustomed to flight and loved it, I would take a turn for some days ; carry me where it would, I should certainly light on some land, whence at worst I could but come back again. I then went to see if my chair board, and ropes, were sound, for I had not used them for several years past ; but I found them all so crazy, I durst not venture in them, which disappointment put off my journey for some time. However, as I had still the thought of remaining, it put me on seeking some other method to put it in practice ; so I contrived the poles from which you took me, being a sort of hollow cane the Swangiantines make their spears of, but exceeding strong and springy, which, interwoven with small cords, were my seat, and were much lighter than my chair ; and these buoyed me up when your goodness relieved me. I had taken Mount Alkoe bearers, as I knew I must come to a country of more light ; and I now find, if I had not fallen, I must soon have reached land, if we could have held out, for we were come too far to think of returning, without a resting-place ; and what

will become of my poor bearers, I dread to think ; if they attempted to return, they must have dropped, for they had complained all the last day and night, and had shifted very often. If in your history you think fit to carry down the life of a poor old man any farther, you will as well know what to say of me as I can tell you ; and I hope what I have hitherto said, will in some measure recompense both your expense and labour.

EXPLANATION

Of Names and things mentioned in this work, translated from the language of the flying Islanders.

A

Abb, a room.

Arndrumstake, Pendlehamby's colambat.

Arkoe, water surrounded with wood.

B

Barkat, a husband.

Barras, a leather apron, or flap behind.

Bash, a valet de chambre.

Battringdrigg, the name of an arkoe.

Begserbeck, an old king of Saas Doorpt
Swangeanti.

Born Isles, islands to the right hand.

Boskee, a very grand room, or saloon.

Bott, a gourd.

Bougee, lie down.

Brandleguarp, chief city of Saas Doorpt
Swangeanti.

C.

Collentar, a doctor, or surgeon.

Cluff, a captain.

Colamb, a governor.

Colapet, a bag for provision.

Collwar, God.

Coovett, a mansion-house or seat.

Crashdoorpt, Quangrollart's colambat, or country of the slit.

Crashee, slit.

Crullmot, a fruit tasting like a fowl.

D.

David, Peter's fourth son.

Doorpt Swangeanti, the land of flight.

Doors, a sort of apples.

Dossee, a soft thing.

E.

Emina, a rock.

F.

Felbanko, Oniwheskie's nephew.

Filgay, a freeman.

Filis, a rib of the graundee.

G.

Gadsi, governor of Mount Alkoe.

Gauingrunt, a revolted town in the west.

Gawrey, a flying woman.

Georigetti, king of Saas Doorpt Swangeanti.

Glanlipze, an African who escaped with Peter.

Glumm, a flying man.

- Glumm Boss, a young man.
 Goppa, a father-in-law.
 Gorpell, an ensign.
 Gowren, women.
 Graundee, the glumm's wings and dress.
 Gripsack, a trumpet.
 Graundevolet, Peter's arkoe.
 Gume, the leather between the filuses of the graundee.

H.

- Hallycarnie, Youwarkee's sister, also her second daughter.
 Harlokin, prince of the rebels.
 Hoximo, a place to bury the dead.
 Hunkum, marriage.

I.

- I. O., the chief regan.

J.

- Jahamel, the king's sister.
 Jemmy, Peter's second son.

L.

- Lallio, first king of Saas Doorpt Swangeanti.
 Lask, a slave.
 Laskmett, slavery.
 Lasmeel, Peter's scholar.

M.

- Maleck, Peter's man from Mount Alkoe.
 Mindrack, the devil.
 Mouch, a church.
 Moucheratt, an assembly of the states.

Mount Alkoe, a kingdom taking name from a burning mountain.

N.

Nasgig, a common soldier, made a general at the request of Peter.

Normbdsgrsutt, ancient name of Youwar-kee's country.

O.

Ors clamm gee, here am I.

P.

Padsi, a fruit tasting like fish.

Palang, a town.

Parky, sweet.

Patty, Peter's eldest daughter.

Pedro, Peter's eldest son.

Peter, the author.

Pendlehamby, Yourwarkee's father, the colamb of Arndrumstake.

Puly, an image.

Praave, modest.

Q.

Quangrollart, Youwarkee's brother, colamb of Crashdoorpt.

Quilly, Peter's bash.

R.

Ragan, a priest.

Razy, mighty.

Richard, Peter's fifth son.

Roppin, marmalade.

Rosig, Quangrollart's companion.

S.

Sary, Peter's youngest daughter.

Sass Doorpt Swangeanti, Peter's new name given to Georigetti's dominions.

Slip the graundee, drawing the graundee tight to the body, by a running noose on a line.

Stapps, minutes.

Stygee, Oniwheske's daughter.

Sweecoe, an insect giving a strong light in the dark,

Sweecoan, a flight with sweecoos,

Swanzean, flight.

T.

Tommy, Peter's second son.

Y.

Yacom, a man child.

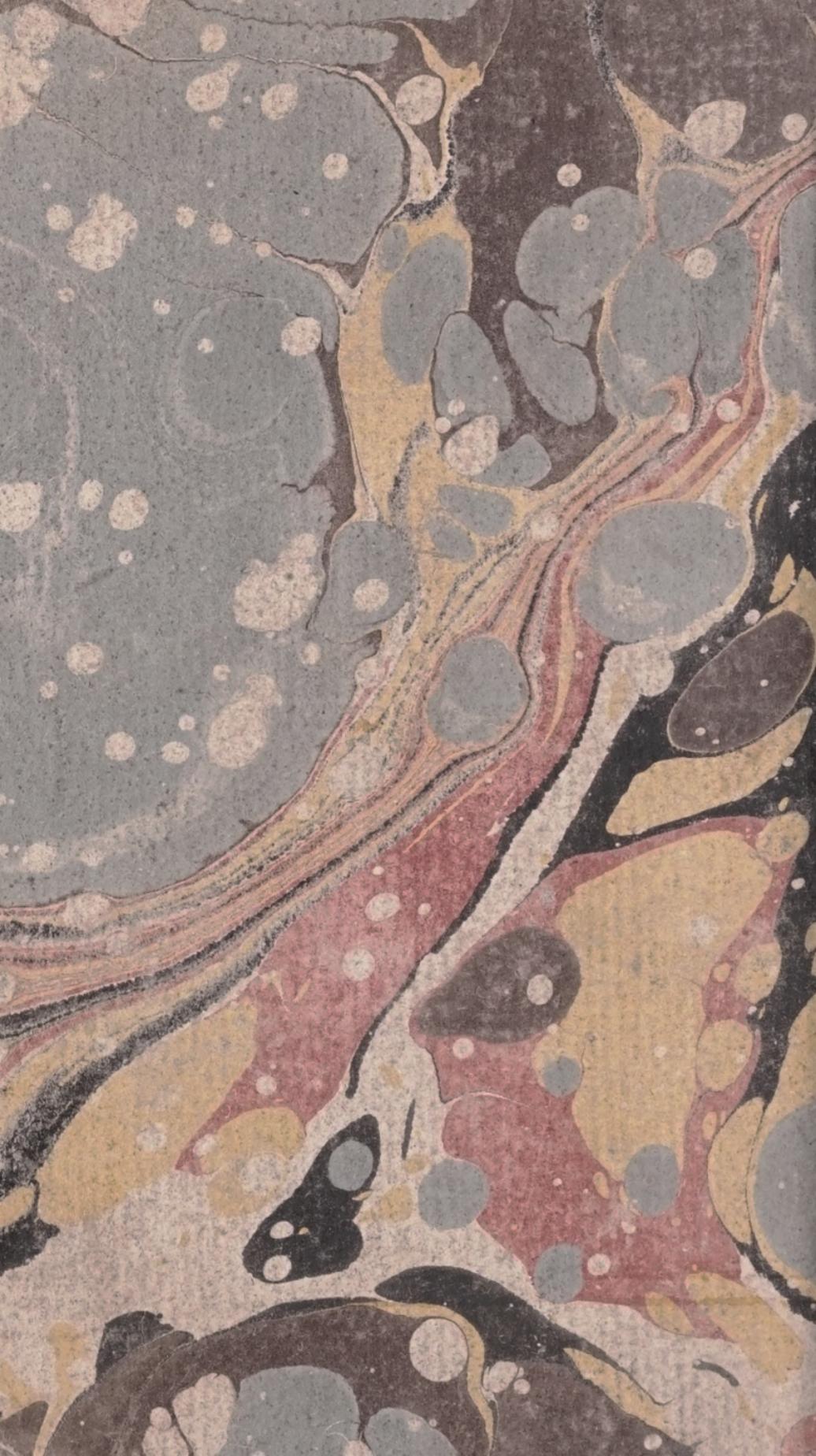
Youk, capital of the west.

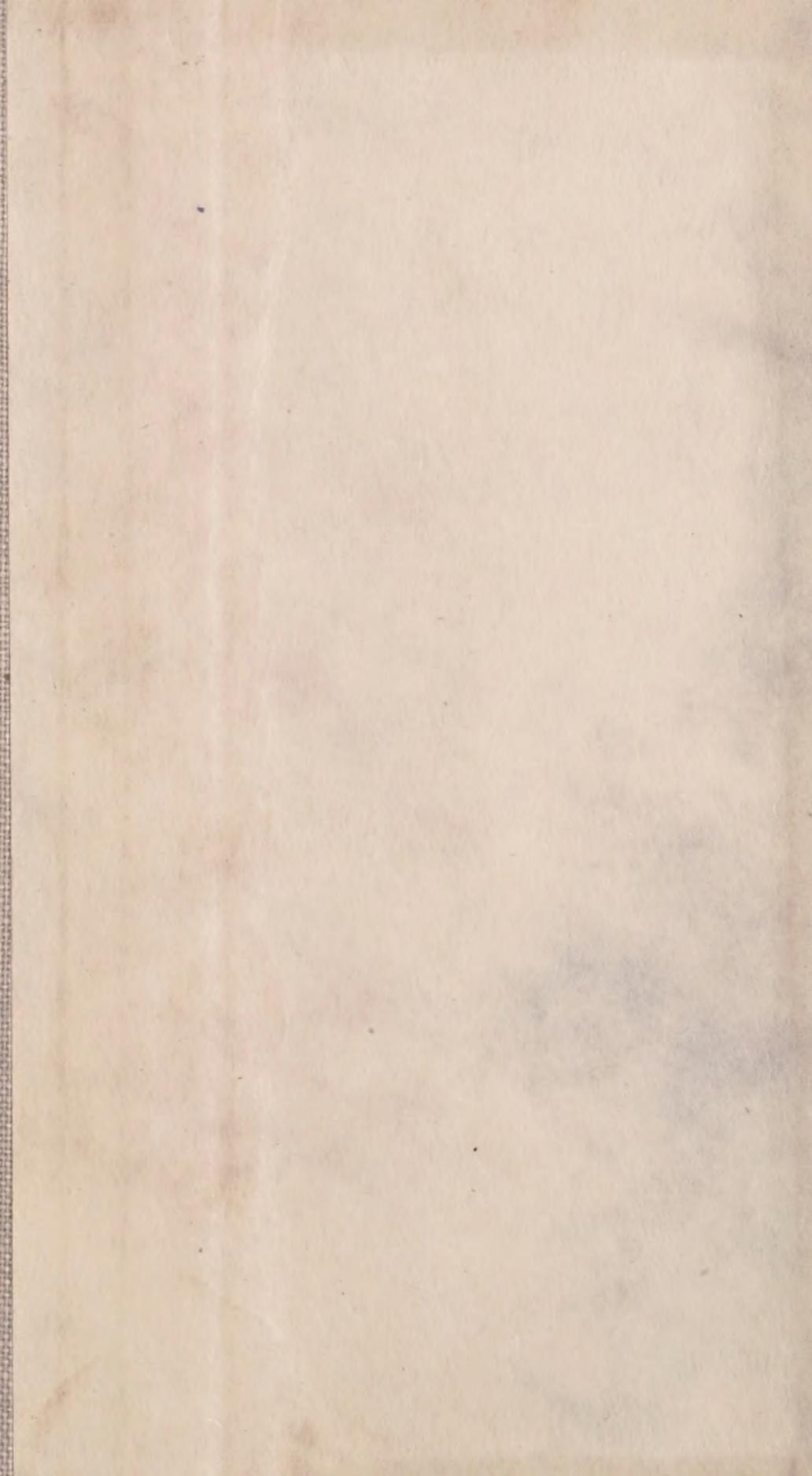
Youwarkee, Peter's wife.

Z.

Zaps, lords.

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