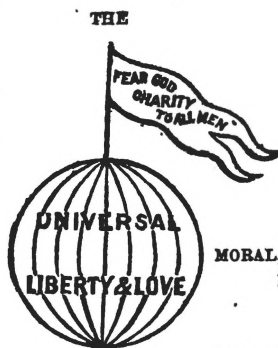


COMMUNITY'S

Or, Standard

A PERIODICAL DEVOTED TO THE POLITICAL,
CONDITIONS OF MEN; CONTAINING
AND DOMESTIC



JOURNAL; Of Truth.

MORAL, SPIRITUAL, RELIGIOUS, AND PHYSICAL
HISTORY, SCIENCE, ARTS, FOREIGN
INTELLIGENCE, ETC.

PART 4.—VOL. 1]

For the week ending Saturday, July 11th, 1857.

[PRICE 1d.]

A NEW HISTORICAL TALE.

THE HUT ON THE HEATH;

OR,

THE OUTLAWED GANG OF THE DEVIL'S
DITCH AND THE HERDSMAN'S
DAUGHTER.

ON the afternoon preceding the evening upon which our narrative takes its date, two men of somewhat gipsy-like appearance were seen wending their way through the furze, in the direction of the thicket on the bank before described. The person who was watching their manœuvres was a man known in the neighbourhood as Bill, the herdsman, who was employed by the resident squire of the district to look after his cattle which grazed upon the heath. Bill was a man about forty-five years of age, proportionately built, though with a pleasing yet somewhat peculiar expression of countenance; his complexion dark, his hair long and hanging upon his shoulders, and his body rather stooped, from the custom of getting through the heath, and stooping to avoid the branches. In the centre of the heath, at that part lying between the Dullingham and London road, stood a somewhat peculiar hut or cottage, which was occupied by Bill the herdsman, his wife, and only daughter, nearly up to the period of the opening of our narrative. A short time prior to which his wife died, so that, at the period named, Bill the herdsman and his daughter were the only occupants of the hut, which has long since passed away, and upon the ground on which it stood there is now standing a handsome cottage, or, rather, a farm on a small scale, of recent origin, and which is the residence of the game-keeper, who overlooks the game in the district, even to this very day, and the cottage remains on that spot as if to commemorate the existence of the old hut, which will be hereafter described, and, in the mean time, we will return to Bill the herdsman, who felt determined to know something more about the mysterious habitation in the thicket on the Devil's Ditch. On the afternoon in question, he had visited a farm yard about two miles distance from the hut, and beyond the limits of the heath, where the cattle under his charge were placed during the winter. And, as he returned, he observed the two men before alluded to, and resolved, if possible, to watch, or at any rate to speak to them. He accordingly, being well accustomed to the heath, plunged amongst the furze, and in a few

minutes found himself at the thicket, where he paused to listen, for he had arrived by a nearer way before the two men had reached it. They soon, however, appeared at a short distance from where the herdsman was standing, who, at first sight, was somewhat awe-stricken at their repulsive appearance. But, being a man who possessed a degree of courage, he resolved to speak with them, and moved towards them for that purpose, saying, as he did so, "Good day, neighbours, you appear strangers in these parts. Its very cold," he continued, as if he scarcely knew how to address himself. "Yes," said one of the strangers, "it is very cold I will allow, but how did you know we were neighbours?" "Why," said Bill, speaking in his own country dialect, "you see we call everybody neighbours about here, and, as I lives on the heath, and often sees smoke out of them there trees, I thought as how I had neighbours living there, and seeing you coming this way, I thought you might be them."

The two men knew very well that he was the herdsman who lived at the hut, and as he had not hitherto in any way interfered with them, and seeing by his cunning expression of countenance that he was a person who might be either very useful to them, or otherwise cause them much trouble, they resolved at once to treat him kindly, so as to be enabled to elicit information from him, they themselves being comparative strangers in the locality. They accordingly said, "We are glad to find we have a neighbour who will condescend to speak with us, and if you have no objections you can follow us and partake of something that will drive out the cold and assist you back to your residence."

The herdsman did not hesitate for a moment, it was the very thing he wanted, and, thanking them kindly, they at once entered the thicket, Bill following them close in the rear. The two strangers were men apparently from thirty-five to forty years of age, well built, active in their gait, and attired in the garb of gipsies, peculiar to that remote period, though, on a closer examination, symptoms of more daring, mingled with refinement and politeness in their manners, could be traced.

They soon reached the foot of the embankment, where it was evident from the freshness of the frozen soil and fresh cut brushwood, that much labour had been done. For, in the embankment, immediately between two huge thorns, there was an entrance which had been carved in in the chalky embankment, and extended some twelve feet inwards and about twice that breadth. The two men and Bill the herdsman at once entered, where, to

his no little astonishment, a huge fire of wood was burning, the smoke rising through the hole made for that purpose. The reflection of the fire displayed to the herdsman a scene somewhat striking, and calculated to impress the mind with fear; for, hanging upon the sides of the cave, on rude pegs, could be seen several carbines, pistols, and swords; whilst, at one end of the cave, upon a heap of dried stubble, lay several men, wrapped in horse-rugs, apparently asleep; while seated on a rude projection by the side of the fire sat a man, armed to the very teeth, smoking, and eyeing the herdsman suspiciously. Almost as soon as they entered, one of the men who had conducted the herdsman to the cave, addressed the man who was seated by the fire, in a loud voice, so as the others, if awake, might hear him, saying, "I have brought you a neighbour, who, like ourselves, leads a solitary life upon the heath, and our acquaintance may be profitable both to him and ourselves, if rightly cultivated, and the only way to insure good neighbours and gain their esteem and respect is, to treat them well, so what say you, comrades, to a horn a-piece, and drink the stranger's health, with long friendship and lasting acquaintance?" All in the cave, eight in number, including the herdsman, responded to the proposition, and preparations were at once made to carry out its projects. And, leaving the herdsman to enjoy himself with his new neighbours and acquaintances, we will return to the heath and the herdsman's daughter.

CHAPTER III.

The Hut on the Heath—the Herdsman and his Daughter.

This lonesome hut a lovely maiden's home,
No wonder she for other pleasures roam.

IN our last chapter we described the locality of the hut, as being in the centre of the heath, surrounded by thorns and furze, but which chiefly has long since disappeared, though near the spot on which the hut stood, there are symptoms of its ancient and original appearance; for furze and thorns are still standing, though the hut itself has disappeared, and the place whereon it stood, now bears the appearance of a small farm, and is to this day occupied by a game-keeper, and much of the land on each side is now cleared and cultivated, some within the last few years. But, at the time of which we are writing, viz., the beginning of the sixteenth century, the heath had the appearance of an immense forest, consisting of thorns, oaks, and furze, and almost impregnable, except for game and small cattle. The hut itself was of singular appearance and construction. Its low thatched roof, and its white clay walls gave it, internally, an appearance of comfort; its furniture, though scanty, was clean and neatly arranged, consisting only of articles of sheer necessity. The external appearance was somewhat rude, for the clay walls were protected from the ground to the eaves by dried furze, whose sharp thorns protected it against all injury from the cattle rubbing against it. There was no enclosure or fence of any kind surrounding it, but a small patch immediately in front of the only window which per-

mitted the light to enter the hut, was carefully dug, and fenced round with lumps of chalk brought from the embankment, and in which several wild flowers were carefully pruned and cultivated. The hut was approached by several foot paths leading from different parts of the heath. The principal entrance being from the door of the hut leading to the Dullingham road. Bill the herdsman, and his wife had long occupied that lonely spot, where he went voluntarily to reside shortly after his marriage, holding the situation of herdsman to the landed proprietors. In this hut their first and only child was born, and over whose head sixteen summers had already passed at the time our story opens. Emily, the name of the maiden, was a girl about the middle stature, but slenderly and gracefully built, ruddy complexion, being somewhat darkened from continual exposure; her hair dark brown, in which she took much pride, hung gracefully upon her shoulders, and, in the summer season, when the villagers or towns-people roamed about the heath seeking pleasure and amusement, they seldom failed to call at the hut, where they were joyfully greeted by Emily, whose wild and joyous mirthfulness and gaiety, coupled with simplicity and beauty, gained for her the name of the Forest Queen. But in the winter season, no persons sought pleasure on the heath, and their visitors were consequently few, so that the situation of Emily was, at that period of the year, dreary and lonesome indeed. There were no flowers to gather or to plant, no garden to cultivate, and even the birds ceased to amuse her with their melodies. The weather being so severe, she seldom left the hut during the winter season, but during the summer months she always appeared cheerful and happy, amusing herself in selecting the beauties of nature from the forest or heath, and attending to her father's wants, whose every thought she anticipated, and whose wants she attended to with the fondness of a loving child towards its parent. Sometimes, it is true, she longed for other scenes, expressing anxious desires to reside in the town where she sometimes visited to make purchases for her father. But these thoughts, under her father's counsel would speedily pass away, and with these exceptions Emily was happy, until the period of her father's interview with the outlawed gang. Poor girl, little did she imagine what misery there was in store for her; and little did the herdsman think what misery he was plunging himself into through his forced acquaintance with the inhabitants of the cave in the thicket. How he formed his acquaintance has already been seen. But on leaving the hut to proceed to the farm, as before described, which was his usual custom, he left Emily in good spirits, who busied herself in making preparations for their evening meal, as she expected him to return by four o'clock, but when a half-hour exceeding the time had passed and he had not returned, she began to feel restless and anxious. But five o'clock came and no father arrived, and her anxiety increased every minute, until six o'clock came, and her father had not yet returned. A heavy storm had set in, the wind blew violently across the heath, the snow fell fast in large flakes, and never had she witnessed such a night on that dreary heath.

The cause of her father's absence the reader is already acquainted with, for it will be remembered that we left him with the robbers in their cave, who were making preparations to enjoy themselves, by indulging in some strong liquor with which the cave appeared plentifully stored. Several times it was passed round, and its influence speedily took effect upon the herdsman, who was unaccustomed to such beverage. But not so with the inhabitants or proprietors of the cave. Time sped rapidly, several songs were sung, and no important interrogations were put to the herdsman, who now seemed fully satisfied with his new acquaintances, promised to revisit them, and invited them in return to visit his hut. The evening was now growing late, and as it was intensely dark and the storm raging furiously, it was deemed a fitting night for the commission of depredations, and as the resources of the gang were growing low, they had already resolved to make an effort to replenish them on that particular night; hence the visit of the two men to the road side for the purpose of examining the best and most convenient place for an attack upon travellers, and from whence the herdsman had followed them across the heath.

It was now nearly eight o'clock, and the robbers were getting tired of their guest, who appeared in no hurry to depart. Accordingly, after some unobserved consultation, two of them agreed to conduct him to his hut. This proposition he accepted, and they accordingly set out and arrived at the rails by the side of the road, just as the gentleman with the horse and gig was passing, and who, on seeing them mount the rails to get into the road, supposed they meant to attack him: drove off at full speed, as described in our first chapter, the men shouting to him not to be alarmed; and it was too dark to recognise the herdsman. They however conveyed him to within a short distance of his hut, where they bade him good night, promising him to visit the hut on the next day, retraced their steps, and rejoined their companions in crime. The herdsman soon reached his cottage, where, on entering, he threw himself on a seat, and his looks terrified Emily as she gazed upon him with wonder and astonishment. For never had she seen him look so wild and yet so haggard and dejected. His limbs appeared paralysed, his speech had left him, and Emily cried over him as she vainly endeavoured to elicit an answer as to the cause of his condition. He, however, as if deaf to all her entreaties, sank from his seat to the floor, where he soon fell asleep and snored heavily, Emily anxiously watching by his side, not having the remotest idea that her father was under the influence of drink.

On the two men reaching the cave and communicating to their companions that the herdsman was safe and the course clear, they at once made preparations to leave the cave upon an adventure such as might be first thrown in their way. The snow was now thick upon the ground, and still falling heavily, so that the print of their footsteps would soon be covered. Armed to the teeth they left the cave, leaving two of their number as a guard. On reaching a secluded part of the road, where several thorns were clustered together, they stationed themselves under their shade, resolving to attack

whatever might pass in either directions. The Norwich coach they knew was due at Newmarket at nine o'clock, and, if nothing else offered itself, they resolved to attack it, feeling certain there would be but few outside-passengers on such a fearful night. After waiting for a considerable time, during which no sound could be heard except the howling of the storm, they at length saw coming down the road the two lights, which they at once supposed to be the lamps of the stage. A word from one of them, addressed in a firm voice, commanding them how to act, was instantly followed by assent in low murmurs, pistols were examined and their knives opened. Two were ordered to seize the leaders by the head, two to cut the traces, while the other cover the head of the guard with his carbine; and as soon as the horses were liberated, the four men to proceed two to each side of the coach, and demand the property from the passengers.

Scarcely were these preparations agreed upon when the coach came into full view, and, as it approached the spot, the robbers rushed to their appointed work. The horses were seized, thrown back upon their haunches, and at the same moment the guard fired, but, missing his aim, he was instantly shot and fell heavily from his seat, he having fired at the men who seized the horses, without seeing the fifth, who had not then left his concealment. Several screams of alarm now rent the air, and two or three persons leaped from the coach, all of whom however, had their pockets rifled by the armed ruffians. Inside the coach were a lady and gentleman who were on their way to Bury St. Edmonds, and who had immense property in their possession, which, however, was all demanded with their portmanteau; all other luggage was examined and nothing left which was worth carrying off. When their booty was secured the coach was backed into the ditch, which went with a crash upon the hard frozen bank. The passengers, nearly frightened to death, retained their seats, but the coachman being a man of courage, resolved to speak with the robbers, but they instantly seized him and securely bound him to one of the front wheels. Before leaving, the robbers noticed how many persons there were, and seeing three, besides the coachman and guard, before stopping the coach, they were surprised to find three were missing. On looking about they also discovered that one of the horses had suddenly disappeared, their traces having been cut, and they now began to feel anxious to get off with safety; and though each of them was masked at the time of the attempt, some of their masks in the confusion had fallen off, and they feared lest some of the passengers might be able to recognise them; therefore, after seeing that the coachman was secure and the carriage doors fastened on the outside, they loaded themselves with their booty and set off in an opposite direction from Newmarket; for the snow was still falling fast, which would obliterate all traces of their footmarks. They, therefore, without hesitation took their route along the embankment of the Devil's Ditch towards their cave. In the meantime one of the passengers during the confusion, though only a youth, had mounted one of the horses and galloped off to Newmarket, made the communication at the "Three Old Brewers," as before described, and, shortly after the

robbers had disappeared, the other two passengers, who had concealed themselves among the furze, came forth, released the coachman and the other passengers, placed the dead body of the guard across one of the other horses, and the little cavalcade set out, assisting the lady through the snow, who was terrified beyond description, towards the posting-house, where they arrived as before described, and where also the party, headed by the constable, left to go in search of the missing stage.

CHAPTER IV.

The arrival of the Constable and Party on the Heath; their search in vain, and their return to the Inn.

The snow which fell so fast upon the earth,
A time thwarts the vengeance of God's wrath.

As Mr. Howard and his assistant proceeded at the head of the party in the direction of the heath, the storm still raging with all its fury, the wind blew fiercely from the north-east, so that the cold was intensely severe. Few words were spoken on the way until they reached the skirts of the heath when Mr. Howard halted them to make known his plans. One of the party remarked, "Its no use a stopping here a planning things, let's go on at once and try and catch 'em, for it's freezing one alive to stand here a night like this." "Don't dictate to me," said Mr. Howard, "for I am an officer of the crown, and I have charged ye all to obey my orders, so do not interfere with me in the execution of my duty!" Accordingly, ordering the party to move forward, he again placed himself at their head. They soon arrived at the place where the robbery had been committed, and found the coach covered with snow in the ditch and broken; but no traces of anything could be found, for the snow was deep and still falling, and the wind rough, so that even the print of a footprint could not be traced. Mr. Howard, however, would have the heath searched, and a considerable time was spent in hunting amongst the bushes but in vain. They then returned to the coach, and with difficulty succeeded in getting it out of the ditch upon the road. The wheels were uninjured, but one of the springs was broken and the back part of the coach knocked in. The constable and his party accordingly took possession of the coach, and with difficulty drew it through the snow in the direction of the town, where, on descending the hill on the approach to the inn, it went with ease and at a brisk rate, the men shouting and hallooing as though a great feat or victory had been accomplished. It was now growing late, but, notwithstanding, a number of persons had collected, and Mr. Symonds had not done so much business as on that occasion for a considerable time; and no person appeared to have any thoughts of leaving the house, but appeared anxious for daylight, that they might see the body and hear the steps the authorities of the town would propose.

(To be continued in our next.)

GENERAL INTELLIGENCE.

An Indian Difficulty.—A Paris letter in the *Independence of Brussels*, says:—"The following is a fact, the correctness of which I can guarantee. Lord Palmerston two days ago had a long conversation with Count de Persigny, when the English minister pointed out to the French ambassador that the situation of the affairs in India was such that a considerable display of force had become necessary. His lordship added that it would be impossible for England to send fresh reinforcements to China, and demanded for this latter war, in case it should continue, the active co-operation of France. Count de Persigny promised to transmit Lord Palmerston's request without delay to the Emperor. Will the British cabinet succeed in obtaining the aid for which it asks? That I cannot say. What leads to the belief that every thing that the Imperial government can possibly do will be done in the constantly increasing good understanding between the two governments."

The attack on the King of Naples.—A letter from Naples of the 18th of June says:—"Yesterday, the 17th, in the fortress of Gaeta, whilst King Ferdinand followed by a numerous staff on horseback, was proceeding to a review of the garrison of Gaeta, His Majesty received in audience four soldiers, one of whom in taking out of his breast his petition, presented a double-barrelled pistol, and discharged one of the barrels at the King; but did him no further harm than burning the skin of the right temple and the hair. The soldier thereupon discharged the second barrel in his own ear, saying,—*'Vi sono ancora compagni di Gesilao; ma non mi prenderete.'* (There are still companions of Gesilao (Milano) but you shall not take me), and immediately expired. The government is doing all in its power to prevent this attempt upon His Majesty's life being divulged; causing it to be circulated that a soldier, whilst in the act of presenting a petition to the King, fell dead in a fit of apoplexy; but now that it is midnight, some one has been able to ascertain the truth. The soldier on the preceding day requested his commanding officer's permission to go to confession, and to take the sacrament, on the plea that he was not well."

America.—A New York paper says:—"Colonel Cummings will receive this week a commission from the President as successor to Brigham Young, in the government of the Mormon Territory. General Harney is already moving troops across the plains to support the governor in taking possession of his new office, should it be necessary, and vindicate the authority of the federal government." The *St. Louis Republican* says:—"Active preparations are making here and elsewhere for a military expedition to Utah. The current opinion seems to be that a force of about 2,500 men is to be sent to that territory, and some despatches even specify the regiments which are to be sent thither; but we doubt whether this number of men can be obtained from them."

China—An Attempt to blow up the "Acorn," a sloop of War.—An attempt was made by the Chinese to blow up the *Acorn* about four o'clock on the morning of

the 3rd of May, by means of a large iron tank filled with gunpowder, that exploded close to the sloop of war, off Hamilton Creek, and the concussion of which was felt on board the *Encounter* and *Elk*, two miles off—so strongly indeed that the crews of these vessels imagined that it had occurred close to them. The tank is supposed to have been the boiler of the unfortunate steamer, *Queen*; and the mode in which the Chinese attempted to carry out their project of destroying the *Acorn* was most ingenious. They first made a rope fast to one of the stakes at the barrier, then a man must have floated down with the tide a distance of 800 yards, and fastened it upon the ship's cable. To this rope the tank was attached by bamboo rings to make it slide easily, and thus allow it to drop down with certainty upon the vessel; and another line was carried from the tank to the shore, worked by means of a pulley, so as to guide the tank in any direction required. Very fortunately, however, the distance had been slightly miscalculated, and the explosion took place some seven or eight yards only from her bows. A similar 'infernal machine' was detected lately close to the *Hornet*."

EDITORIAL CORRESPONDENCE.

EXPERIENCE IN IMMORTALITY.

(CONTINUED).

To the Editor of the Community's Journal.

Sir—In compliance with my letter of last week, I herewith forward to you an account of the second sitting, as described in my last, and which I beg you to insert in your columns, as it may prove of importance and interest to your readers. It is as follows:—"I am now commanded to declare as a guide to the people of the earth, that, though the dread of a futurity in mortal life is dreadful to apprehend, its terrors are doubly so in immortality; for it is always fleeting before the mind, and terrible is the sensation experienced by the terrific nature of the thoughts upon the future state. But, after the interment of my body, I hovered around the ancient monster-pile of worldly vanity months, at intervals flying with the swiftness of the wind to the most distant parts visited by me in life, hurrying from place to place with the velocity of lightning, viewing with horror and dismay the devastation I had witnessed while on earth,—depopulated lands, homes, hearts, parents, and children,—forced themselves upon my gaze, taunting me with the wrongs I had done them, and heaping upon me, with distorting features and gestures, the injuries they had received from me. These were present at all times to my view. Again I visited my stately worldly residence; familiar friends were revealed to my view without the power of being able to manifest myself unto them by word or deed. The homes of old friends I visited in like manner with the same results; and again and again to the last resting place of my body. In this condition I continued exposed to, and experienced every specie of, what the world calls remorse of conscience, with a few gleams at intervals of imperfect happiness; but still the dread of the future is always present to the mind. Finding my

sufferings increased, I feared each successive moment's revelation. Passing round the whole expanse of earth and sea, without permission to hold commune or to reveal myself to any other spirit, but compelled to remain and endure the taunts and reproaches of those who are living in various parts of the earth. So pointed were their assertions, as though aware of my presence, and they upbraided me for sufferings which they knew I had power to prevent. From this state I again found myself enveloped in the most loathsome darkness, where I listened with horror and dismay at the terrible and tumultuous discordant sounds, the yells of which shocked me beyond description. The darkness gradually cleared, and displayed unto me the most inconceivable and indescribable horror and confusion; thousands of persons flying with the greatest rapidity in every direction—screaming, howling, taunting, and pointing at each other—every one being accused, and every one accusing. The tyrants and oppressors, the murderer, the murdered, the false-swearer, the hypocrite, and every specie of worldly vice appeared to reign pre-eminent over the other—each one suffering the most acute anguish from those whom they compelled to suffer whilst on earth, and who had departed before and after them. To my horror I then discovered my exact position, and familiar faces of all classes and grades who had suffered at my merciless hands and under my iron rule. I was then torn through the groups of wretched beings whose whole occupation appeared to be inflicting misery and torment on each other. Alas! I found myself the object of revengeful taunts, and buffeted with the execrations and reproaches of hundreds who were known and unknown to myself in this and other nations. But few there were on whom I had power to retaliate; and thus the sufferings of all appear to vie in magnitude with each other; therefore, all is indescribable misery, and all are driven through the atmospheric regions, as it were, with fury, but are at times allowed to visit the scenes of their mortal existence, and are permitted in some instances to reveal themselves to the friends left on earth, and empowered to impart warnings; but, in this state, there are none permitted to know the exact period of their continuation, but, in all cases, it exceeds double the period of their material existence. Therefore take warning, he who lives without injuring his fellow man by thought, word, or deed, will experience but little of what I have been commanded to describe; but he whose life is spent in oppressing and depriving his fellow creatures of their worldly comforts, and withholds from them that forgiveness which all flesh needs; and he whose hypocrisy hides from the world the deadly rancour of selfish worldly interest to the detriment of his fellow creatures in any way, will suffer in accordance with his deeds, in a manner which no spirit has power to describe, and which human imagination cannot comprehend or conceive; and this suffering shall arise from the reproaches of those whom he has injured in mortal life. This is to the extent of the description I have power to give; but be assured that my condition is yet horrible, with the terrible dread of the future before me, for no spirit can reveal anything beyond its sphere. Therefore make these assertions known, that mankind may forbear oppressing one another, and thus avoid participating in the horrible sufferings I have faintly described. My mission to the earth is complete. Farewell to all."

Sir—As the above concludes the description of the sensation of death, and the sufferings of the spirit in the first sphere of immortality, as described by a spirit who is classed amongst the tyrants, and who has experienced the same, I beg of your readers to calmly study over the important matter contained therein, and to leave no means untried to investigate the truths of spiritual manifestations; while, at the same time, I refer all persons who may feel interested in this important subject to Mr. Brown's "Spiritual Message," where further particulars of a most beautiful and diversified character on experience after death, may be seen; and hope next week to be enabled to lay before the public in these columns matter of the greatest importance sent forth as warnings to the people to prepare their minds for coming events.

Sincerely thanking you for the space thus granted,

I remain, dear sir,

Yours very respectfully,

W. W.

Birmingham, July 6, 1857.

To the Editor of the Community's Journal.

Sir—Seeing that your journal is devoted to the diffusion of useful knowledge and instruction to the masses, and learning by your notice that you are willing to insert letters on any subject of importance when space admits, and feeling desirous of benefiting my fellow creatures by a rational knowledge of the things connected with the past, present, and future; and knowing also that there is much ignorance existing in this as well as other nations, in reference to the ancient scriptures, which appear, in their present form, mysterious and fabulous, and calculated to lead persons whose desire is truth and justice, into error and delusion. I therefore solicit a small space in your columns for the purpose of laying before your readers and the public generally facts connected with the present and future history of mankind which cannot be denied, notwithstanding the exertion of our rulers and teachers to keep the people in ignorance of the same. The subject which I therefore lay before you and your numerous readers is as follows:—

THE UNIVERSAL KINGDOM OF CHRIST;

OR,

THE MILLENNIUM ERA.

"The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever."

THE subject before us is of vital importance to mankind in general, inasmuch that the happiness of the rising generations of man hang on this fact. Many there are in the present day who do not believe in the universal reign of Christ, or that the era of universal happiness, peace, and love, will ever be realized on this earth, and when we consider the absurdities introduced into the sacred Scriptures, for they are still sacred, inasmuch as they contain the words of Jehovah, addressed to fallen man: yet man has dared to endeavour to alter the decrees of Him who ruleth all things, for the sake of gain and

ambition, and introduced doctrines which are an abomination to that God who reigns supreme over all the universe, and has introduced into the scriptures a being who divides his power, yea, is said to be the God of this world. How presumptuous must that being or monster be, who is represented as setting at defiance the almighty power of God; and though he is said to have rebelled against him, and been turned out of heaven and cast into a lake of fire and brimstone, yet he is said to have the power to thwart God's holy decrees and to go about seeking the destruction of mankind? With a being like this going about with such almighty power, how is the peaceful reign of Christ to be established, while a being with power to overthrow or set at nought the power of God, is said to reign triumphantly as the God of this world? But, to get out of this dilemma, we are told that the said devil will be chained for a thousand years, and then let loose for a little season, and yet the words we started with declare that Christ shall reign for ever and ever. If we look at the world's past history, we can see but little to sanction such a conclusion, for generation after generation has passed away, and at every period known to us through history, the world has been sunk in depravity and crime; and, if we trace every nation from its rise to its fall, sin and wickedness has abounded. If we look at the christian era, we still see crime, hypocrisy, blasphemy, murder, and drunkenness, abound to an awful extent, and though millions of money have been spent to try to stop the progress of sin, chapels and churches abound, the bible has been introduced into the lands that surround us, and into the most distant parts of the earth, and, in England, almost into every family, and yet, in spite of this, crime continues to go on unchecked. It is high time that the teachers of the present day sought earnestly for the cause of this, and try to find out the foundation of this crying evil, since they and their forefathers have taught the people generation after generation, and have not accomplished one tithe of the good that might or ought to have been accomplished. And why? Because they do not follow out the example which Christ and his apostles set them. Instead of going from house to house teaching and preaching, they have erected costly edifices, spent the people's hard earnings in rearing monster piles of wood and stone; and to keep up the repairs of these structures of pride and ambition, and to uphold men in wealth and idleness they are compelled to tax the very seats on which the people sit, and yet will tell the people that the gospel is free, without money and without price. If the people had been taught to make their home their church, instead of teaching them to worship men, wood and stone, or the workmanship of men's hands, they would not have departed from the primitive state of the early Christians; and, until they return to its primitive state again, the glorious millenium will never be brought about. Then let every person make his house his church, and remember that the promise is made that, wherever two or three are gathered together in the Redeemer's name, there will he be in the midst of them. Oh, that we could put our trust in the promises of God, and never show the smallness of our faith by being led to believe that God will only be wor-

shipped in palaces of pride! He says, "To that man will I look that is humble and of a contrite heart." Oh then, brethren of the great human family, allow one who feels for your interests spiritually and temporally, to warn you to resist the delusive doctrines inculcated by the teachers of the present day, or the time will be delayed, spoken of in scripture, "When we shall not have to say to our neighbour know ye the Lord; but when all shall know him from the least even to the greatest." And remember the words of Solomon, at the dedication of the temple, "God dwells not in houses made with hands." But learn those beautiful words which Christ taught his disciples, "Our Father," &c., and remember what he said to his disciples, "When thou prayest, enter into thy closet and shut to thy door, and thy father which seeth in secret will reward thee openly." Then remember that God is an omnipresent being, and does not require at your hands the worship of one day out of seven, but the seven days' worship, the worship of the heart, and not the outward profession, for hypocrisy he will assuredly punish.

The whole sum and substance of religion is brought into so small a compass by our Redeemer that a child may comprehend and grasp it, even if it hath but feeble intellect. "Love the Lord thy God with all thine heart and thy neighbour as thyself." Now, it is very plain to any thinking person, that this cannot be done under the present state of society, for the laws under which we exist are so oppressive that it is all that the great mass of the people can do to live; therefore, if they were to attempt to love their neighbour as themselves they would find they could not exist; for, if a man loves his neighbour as himself, he would not sit down to his meals while his neighbour was starving. The consequence is, that the person would soon become as poor as his neighbour, unless, indeed, God was to work a miracle on his behalf. But the time is coming, and not far distant when the righteous will be blessed with a righteous King to reign over them. When the laws shall come forth from Zion, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. Then will man cease to oppress his fellow man. When Christ shall reign from the rivers even to the ends of the earth, then will the people of the earth cry aloud, "Hallelujah, for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth. The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever." The above quotations prove, beyond all doubt, the kingdom of Christ will be universal; and, as I have before stated, that kingdom cannot be thoroughly established during the present reign of tyranny and oppression. How can a man in the present state of society sit down and take no thought for the morrow? How can a man in the present state of society sit down and calmly say, I will seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all other things will be added unto me? If a person was to attempt to follow out these doctrines, he would find himself and family in the workhouse, or himself incarcerated in a dungeon. And, why is this? It is because at least one-half of the produce of his labours has to support the rulers and teachers. This may seem, at first sight, not truthful; but, if it is sought into diligently, and all the ramifications of op-

pression sought out, it will prove, beyond all doubt, that this is a truthful statement. While ever man looks upon his fellow man as something inferior, made only to labour for others, the happy reign of Christ can never be established; it is unreasonable to expect that universal charity should exist while society is split up into class and sect, for one part looks with suspicion on the other, believing that his neighbour is against him, and, in fact, it is so. It is owing to this state of society that so much oppression and tyranny is exercised by our rulers. Their object is to keep society in this divided state, so that whatever they may propose will find a party or sect to assist them in carrying it out. It is their policy to embroil us in war, and set every man against his neighbour. But the time is fast hastening, yea, is near at hand, when all abuses of this kind shall be swept from the face of the earth, and when each shall labour for himself, and shall reap the reward of his labour, and thus, instead of man having to labour every hour which it is possible for his poor worn-out body to bear, labour will become less and less, until that labour shall become a pleasure instead of a burden. Man will then have time to cultivate his mind, teach his children, and serve and praise his maker for his goodness. Then will mankind look up to God as a Father and Friend, who watches over them and sends his bounties on the earth for all. What a contrast this will be to the present day! Then the ministers of Christ will be gifted with the power of healing the body and comforting the mind by instruction from on high, and no laws shall be suffered to exist but those which our gracious Redeemer and King shall send forth to all the nations of the earth. Thus his reign shall extend throughout the earth, so that it shall reach from sea to sea, and from the rivers unto the ends of the earth. The prophet Daniel foresaw this day, when he said, "And there was given one like the son of man, dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages should serve him. The prophetic word declares that it shall come to pass in the last days, that the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow unto it. The Apostle John, in his vision of the of the last days, says, "After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands." The kingdom of Christ will not only be universal, but it will be everlasting, without end, so that the doctrine of a devil, who is to be bound only for a season, is absurd beyond description; for, if this imagined enemy of man was unchained or let loose (to use the scripture phrase) upon society, the latter ages of the earth would be as wicked as the present. But the scripture declares that Christ's kingdom shall be an everlasting kingdom, and the happiness of man shall have no end. It is absurd to think for a moment that man, after a thousand years, should return to his wickedness again, when Christ their Redeemer rules over him, and that the new heavens and earth alluded to, should again degenerate, and that the said devil should again become the God of this world, and Christ's

kingdom be overthrown in spite of the power of Christ, or of him who ruleth all things by his almighty power.

Sheffield, July 4, 1857.

J. L. D.

DIVINE REVELATIONS, ANCIENT AND MODERN.

(*Letter of Mr. T. C. S. continued from our last.*)

rebuke strong nations afar off; and then, when the nations are rebuked, and not till then, shall they beat their swords into ploughshares and their spears into pruning-hooks: nation shall not lift up a sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more; but they shall sit every man under his vine and under his fig-tree, and none shall make them afraid: for the mouth of the Lord of Hosts hath spoken it." And in the next verse the prophet adds, "And we will walk in the name of the Lord our God for ever and ever." I would ask those who pretend to believe the Bible to be the word of God, and the prophets to be the servants of the most high God, speaking words commanded by him; I would ask if these words have been fulfilled in the history of the world; have the nations ceased to learn war; have they beat their swords into ploughshares and their spears into pruning-hooks? or, is it not the very reverse at this moment? Or why all the monster preparations of the great northern power? Why all the wars and rumours of wars by which we are, and have been, surrounded for the last few years? Why are our neighbours, a few miles across the water, increasing their army? Why are our rulers strengthening the land fortifications? And yet, in the face of all this, those who profess to believe the ancient prophets, will try to explain away and show that their words have all been fulfilled. They are not willing to believe even in the Saviour's own words, who declared, "That before the end, nation should rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, and there shall be famines and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places; all these are the beginning of sorrows." Then he says, "Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, &c. And then shall appear the sign of the Son of Man, in heaven, and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of Man coming in the clouds of heaven, with power and great glory. And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds of heaven, yea, he declared it will be as in the days of Noah, the wicked will continue to go on in their old customs and ways, until they will be suddenly surprised at his coming. Then will these words be fulfilled: "One shall be taken and the other left:" yes, the unbeliever will be taken away, and the believer left to enjoy the blessings of Christ's reign. Allow me to warn you against saying peace, peace, when there is no peace, lest sudden destruction come upon you; for, be assured, that the signs of the times point out that the day of the Lord is at hand. Oh, then, be prepared for that day, so that it may not come upon you

unawares. For God, in all ages, has warned the people when calamities were about to fall upon them, so he has given us the promise of a sign, and if we refer to the ancient prophets, we shall find the signs which are to precede his coming. The prophet Isaiah declares that the sun shall be darkened in his going forth. The prophet Joel says, "Blow ye the trumpet in Zion, and sound an alarm in my holy mountain; let all the inhabitants of the land tremble, for the day of the Lord cometh, for it is nigh at hand. A day of darkness and of gloominess, a day of clouds and of thick darkness." Again he says, "The earth shall quake before them, the heavens shall tremble; the sun and the moon shall be dark, and the stars shall withdraw their shining." In the thirtieth verse of the same chapter, he says, "And I will show wonders in the heavens and in the earth, blood, and fire, and pillars of smoke. The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the great and the terrible day of the Lord." In the fifteenth verse of the same chapter, "The sun and the moon shall be darkened, and the stars shall withdraw their shining." The prophet Amos, at the fifth chapter and twentieth verse, "Shall not the day of the Lord be darkness and not light, even very dark and no brightness in it." Again, in the eighth chapter, he alludes to the great day of God Almighty, spoken of by Ezekiel, "Shall not the land tremble for this, and every one mourn that dwelleth therein. And it shall come to pass in that day, saith the Lord, that I will cause the sun to go down at noon, and I will darken the earth in clear day." Here, then, the sign is plainly pointed out which shall precede the calamity of the earth; for a full description of which, read the thirty-eighth and thirty-ninth chapters of Ezekiel, which point out the wars, devastation, pestilence, and famine, which shall ravage the earth, prior to the universal reign of Christ. To those who are anxiously waiting and watching for his coming, I would say, brethren be of good cheer, for the day of your deliverance draweth nigh; be not deceived by those whose interests it is to keep you in ignorance of God's eternal will, but turn a deaf ear to all their persuasions, and warn those who would endeavour to lead you astray, to flee from the wrath to come, by enrolling themselves amongst the chosen people of God, so that they may be sheltered under the banners of his victorious hosts during the calamitous devastation that is close at hand; for a full description of the above, read the tenth and eleventh numbers of the "Scriptural Magazine," where the evils that are about to fall on the earth are plainly and explicitly pointed out, giving the names and places of the greatest struggles that have ever taken place, or ever will, as after the last great day spoken of by the prophet Ezekiel, or the last great day of God Almighty, when all the oppressors of men are gathered together and swept from the earth by the wrath of that God who has promised by the mouth of his prophets, that the law shall go forth from Zion. Then will the words of the ancient prophets be fulfilled. "When men shall build houses and inhabit them, plant vineyards and eat the fruits of them;" and not build houses and others inhabit them, nor plant vineyards and others eat the fruits thereof. Then will that happy time come when we shall not have

to say to our neighbour, know ye the Lord? but all shall know him, from the least even to the greatest.

But first the tyrants' yoke must fall,
Ere he will set his people free;
His herald-minstrels then shall call
All nations to the jubilee.

MODERN PROPHECY.

Many persons who profess to believe the Scriptures appear to be entirely ignorant of them, or are prejudiced against modern prophecy, so much so, that they are not willing to search the Scriptures with an unprejudiced mind, and will declare, that since the coming of Christ no other prophecy or revelation was necessary. Now I would ask, How is it that the gospel of Christ has made so little progress? It has now been preached upwards of eighteen hundred years, and yet not one hundredth part, nay, I may safely say, not one thousandth part of the inhabitants of the earth have been brought to believe in Christ. What have the present and past teachers of the people accomplished? They have split society up into sects and parties, and taught one part of the people to believe one thing necessary to salvation, and another part of the people to believe that other things are necessary. Yea, in past ages, they have shed each other's blood under

T. C. S.

To be continued.

The Community's Journal;

OR,

STANDARD OF TRUTH.

Saturday, July 11, 1857.

ARE WE AS A NATION DEGENERATING?

OR,

WHAT ARE ENGLAND'S FUTURE PROSPECTS?

Can it be possible that England, that great and mighty nation, who has so long boasted of her power, skill and enterprize, is stooping from that eminence which has for ages reared itself above all other nations, and is now standing on the brink of despair? For an answer to this interrogation let the British people glance carefully around at the political horizon, and they will see that the atmosphere is clouded with national events, and that a political storm is on the eve of bursting forth upon the nations of the earth, which are now slumbering, as it were, on a volcano; and no sooner will the first crash of the storm manifest itself, than the volcano will explode

and war and bloodshed will be the order of the day. In France oppression is wielded with so much force, producing so much discontent, that frequent attacks are made upon the life of the despot by whom the enterprising French people are governed. In Naples frequent similar occurrences are taking place, from the same causes. In Austria oppression and cruelty rages with the greatest possible effect upon the masses. In Belgium symptoms of riot and revolution are prevalent; and, in fact, all Europe is convulsed more or less through the oppression of its rulers, and England, the once flourishing and prosperous nation, who held up her head above all other nations of the earth, is now, as it were, tottering beneath the groans of her oppressed people, while her colonies stagger beneath the weight of oppression received at her hands. And that immense empire in the Eastern world, won by this nation by a thousand conquests and millions of lives and treasure, has likewise felt the keen and jagged edge of the British yoke, until its peaceable inhabitants have aroused from their lethargy, and can now see that the only gratitude offered to them by that nation who has plundered them of their rights and privileges is grinding oppression, fiendish torture, wretched misery, taxation and starvation; and learning from the sworn enemies of England that she has lost her prestige, and is now little more than a third rate power, they have raised the cry of revolt, and the native troops, armed, clothed, and equipped at England's expense, are in open rebellion against the English authorities, have massacred European residents, captured the principal city, and set up a king, whom they proclaim shall reign over India. With this difficulty, coupled with the unprovoked war with China, England finds herself inadequate to grapple with so great a task, and is therefore at length, notwithstanding her boasted military and naval prowess, compelled to stoop to solicit assistance from that man whom, only a few years since, they treated as an outcast and a vagabond. Will the required assistance be obtained in time to save England's honor; or will the treachery of continental powers combine their influence with the natives of India, and let their gold secretly but

plentifully fly for the purpose of overthrowing British power in India? The sequel must prove the result of this enquiry, but let the people of England watch the progress of events, and a few years hence may prove that England's climax of renown has been reached, and that she has already made a retrograde movement, and is fast slipping down the scale of national degeneration.

SPIRITUAL MANIFESTATIONS.

We beg leave to lay before our readers a few select poems which we have extracted from a work entitled, "The Warning Message," which is entirely devoted to spiritual manifestations; and each poem being fraught with so much beauty and eloquence expressive of the several subjects to which it relates, we deem them fit for the public eye, and therefore insert them in our columns.

SELECTION FIRST.

The veil of myst'ry, when aside is drawn,
Will show to what end all mankind were born;
Who, even as a blade of grass doth grow,
They pass by progress through each stage below,
And when the spirits leave their coils of clay
And enter on their dark mysterious way,
They, for their sins committed in the flesh,
Are purified and from their evils washed:
And thus they progress thro' each sphere above,
And lastly reach eternal realms of love,
Where thro' the Great Redeemer's precious blood,
Are ever singing praises unto God.

SELECTION SECOND.

I am commanded from the skies
These myst'ries to unfold
In vision, to a mortal's eyes,
That he may thus behold

The spirits of humanity,
Who have for ages flown,
From life to immortality,
Into a world unknown.

Which through ambition men are kept
In ignorance so drear;
In which for ages they have slept
In superstitious fear,

Of devils, hell, and wild torments
In everlasting flame;
Which I'm commanded to denounce
In God's eternal name.

SELECTION THIRD.

Be to each other kind and true
As you would have men be to you.
Heed not the scoffs and jeers of men,
Nor raise your voice to rail again;

But strive to lead a virtuous life,
Avoid all broils and sinful strife;
And love thy neighbour, lend him aid,
Thou'lt be rewarded God hath said:
And when thou leav'st this world of fate,
And enter'st through the mystic gate,
Amidst thy sorrows thou wilt sing
Praise to the Great Eternal King,
The God of Earth and Lord of Skies,
Ever loving, just, and wise.

SELECTION FOURTH.

The mystic seal is broken,
The work of God displays
Unto the world a token,
In these the latter days,
When ev'ry generation
Shall learn that Christ the Lord,
Has purchased their salvation
With His precious blood.
But still mankind must suffer
For all their worldly vice,
While they, through the atmosphere,
Pass to eternal bliss;
Where with the Great Redeemer,
They evermore will sing
Their praise to the Creator,
And Great Eternal King.

The above poems are given as they were revealed by the spirits, and of their merits we will leave our readers to judge for themselves, observing however that the work from which they are extracted, even to the unbelievers in spiritualism, is interesting and worth reading on account of its diversified character, and we confidentially recommend its pages to the perusal of our readers. (See advertisements on the last page).

Destitution of the Poor in the British Capital.—In no city in the world is there more wealth and affluence displayed, and in no city is there more extreme poverty and destitution. It is officially reported that every night in London there exceeds a quarter of a million of souls who sleep, or rather shelter themselves, in the twopenny or common lodging-houses; and if the authorities who printed this report would give themselves the trouble, there is no doubt that half, or more than half that number, could be found without shelter at all.

THE OUTCAST FAMILY; OR, THE VICTIMS OF TREACHERY; (Continued from our last).

CHAPTER V.

Drunken Dick's visit to B Green—the carouse—the robbery, and the arrest.

DICK, the butcher, true to his compact made with farmer C. on the preceding Saturday, set off with his pony and cart in the direction of B. Green. But, on his arrival

at a village some two miles nearer, a sudden thought struck him, that, to avoid complicity, he must alter his plans of operation; not that he feared farmer C. would deceive him, for that person had promised to keep all witnesses who would rise in the favour of Smith and Seargent, out of the way, and would provide private rooms at his own expense from the landlord of whatever house he might choose, if required. Still Dick thought it best not to be seen in the village with his pony and cart, and accordingly resolved to drive on to the village of Brinkley, which parish joins that of B. Green, and can be easily reached by a foot road across the fields from either place. Dick was well known at Brinkley, as well as most of the other villages in the district, and, putting up his pony and cart at the principal alehouse, with the keepers of which he was very familiar, he at once entered the bar, called for brandy and water, and conversed freely for a considerable time. It was late in the afternoon when he arrived at Brinkley, and when it was quite dark he, without mentioning to the landlord where he was going, set out across the fields in the direction of B. Green, where he arrived in a very short space of time, unobserved, and at once proceeded to Smith's cottage, where, as he expected at that time of the evening, he found Seargent and Smith together. They were quite familiar with each other, and though he had never visited Smith's house, yet they had frequently drank together, and they knew that he was aware they were poachers, so that his errand did not appear suspicious, as they had sold him game on other occasions. As soon as opportunity offered, he told them that he wanted a good hare for a friend, as soon as possible, throwing down the usual price as he said so. They objected to the money, telling him they had not got on by them. But he said he was not afraid to trust them, and turned to leave the house, saying he was going to the White Hart, if they thought well they might go and drink with him. They however did not leave the house then, but promised to be there in a while, and he accordingly proceeded to the White Hart at once, where it was evident, from the manner of the landlord, he had expected him, and at once showed him into a back room, where a brisk fire was burning, saying, "Will they come?" Dick perceived by this that farmer C. had made him acquainted with some of their proceedings, and said, "Is it all right; can I trust you?" "Don't be alarmed," said the landlord, "it will be to my interest for you to succeed," and after receiving orders for a bottle of brandy, he left the room.

It was yet early in the evening, and no visitors had entered, and in a quarter of an hour Smith and Seargent arrived, and were at once shown into the apartment, and informed that Dick J. had ordered that they should be sent to him. As soon as they entered, Dick rose and handed them a full bumper each of clear brandy, saying, "Drink that my lads, I am devilish lonely, and I want to put some life into you, so that you may stop and keep my company and help me drink." "I have no objections to that," said Sam, "but who will find the money? We can't keep on this tack long or we shall soon be on the floor." "Well, anything you like," said Dick, "and never mind the cost, I have money, and you

are welcome to anything you like, but better have something to eat, I feel hungry myself, and that will prevent the drink from unmanning us." Seargent and Smith at once assented, the bell was rung, and, on the entrance of the landlord, supper was ordered, which was immediately supplied, consisting of cold meat, bread, and cheese, of which they all ate heartily, drinking frequently and freely at intervals.

When supper was over, fresh brandy, hot water, and sugar, with pipes and tobacco, were ordered, and the brandy was freely circulated, and by nine o'clock Seargent and Smith were sufficiently elated to be enabled to go through anything which might perchance fall in their way. Dick, though unnoticed, drank sparingly himself, and when he saw that sufficient had been drunk to stimulate the two men to accept his propositions, he looked at them hard in the face, saying, "I want a friend, and I have just thought of a plan, will you serve me?" In anything that is possible," they both said in a breath, and we won't stick at trifles either." "Well, it's only a trifle I want," said Dick, "and that trifle I will pay for, and help you too, without hesitation," he continued, eyeing them keenly, to see what effect his words took upon them. "Well, you are a trump," said Smith, "and I don't mind running a bit of risk to serve you, so as we can do it safely."

Dick then looked at the clock, it was nearly ten, and it was time to be up and stirring, and rising upon his feet threw two sovereigns upon the table, saying, "If you like to accept them and assist me, take them between you; but if you do not like it when I have told you, I shall do it myself, and do not betray me." "Well, what is it?" said the two men, looking round cautiously, fearful lest they might be overheard. Dick looking them full in the face, saying, "I am a drunken fellow, I know, and I am in difficulties, and with a little exertion I can free myself, but I should like assistance. If I can get a sheep safe home to-night, I could have it dressed and in Cambridge, sold by Monday night, and no one the wiser." "And do you wish us to turn sheep-stealers?" said Smith, doggedly. "I will go with you and share the danger, should there be any," said Dick, "but I don't know where to go to, and you chaps know whose fold is nearest and readiest." "Well, that alters the case," said Seargent, "but how you can afford two pounds to throw away when the price of a sheep would save you, I am at a loss," said Sam. "I cannot afford it," said Dick, "but I thought it would induce you to assist me, and I am half frantic and scarcely know how to turn myself." "Then we will assist you without it," said Sam, "so put your money in your pocket."

The villainous plotter took the money off the table, replaced it in his pocket saying, as he did so, "Well! I will make it right when the affair has blown over, and will be your friend another time." Little did the unsuspecting warm-hearted men think of the pit they were assisting this fiendish tool of ambitious revenge to dig for themselves.

When Dick had finished speaking, Seargent turned to Smith and said, "What say you Jim, shall we assist this poor devil," alluding to Dick, "out of his trouble?" "With all my heart," said Jim, "but how is it to be

done? "Where is the handiest place?" enquired Dick, with a knowing and significant glance at the two men. "I have just thought of it," said Sam. "Farmer C.'s fold is in the College Field by the side of the road, and not twenty yards from the gate." The field alluded to bore the name of the College Field, in consequence of circumstances which can be found minutely detailed in the ancient history of that locality, and retains its name to this day.

In reply to Seargent's remarks, Smith said, "We cannot carry a sheep far, either dead or alive." "You will not have to carry it a yard," said Dick, "only tell me in what direction it is, and I will be there with my pony and cart in less than an hour from the time you start." "Why where is your pony and cart?" said Sam, "They're at Brinkley," replied Dick, "and a quarter of an hour, or less, will take me there, and another half hour's drive will bring me to the very spot, where it can be lifted in, and we can drive off unobserved."

This plan was immediately agreed upon, and after emptying their glasses, Dick left the house by a side door, hurried across the fields to Brinkley, and after settling with the landlord, proceeded at a brisk rate through the village of Brinkley in the direction of Thurlow, which is in a direct line from Cambridge. And it being market day there, he passed late at night without being recognized or noticed. A short time was sufficient to bring him to the place appointed, where the two men were already waiting his arrival, they having left the public-house shortly after Dick, and proceeded thither by different routes. The road is somewhat secluded and unfrequented, and at that particular part it was some distance from the road-side to the hedge, a green-sward intervening between, the hedge high and thick, so that the pony and cart could not have been perceived at a few yards distance. The pony and cart was accordingly placed close to the hedge, and without delay the three men entered the field and advanced towards the fold, which contained the flock of between five and six hundred sheep. Smith and Seargent at once entered, and soon selected one, as well as the darkness would admit, dragged it through the hurdles, tied up its mouth tight, and conveyed it to the cart, where Dick assisted them in lifting it in, fastened its legs together with a cord, covered it over with sacks, and the three mounting the cart, drove at a rapid pace. They soon passed through the village of B. Green, which was then all in darkness, and no one observed them; thence to Dullingham. And, as the pony was strong and used to the road, a very short time brought them to Newmarket, where, on their arrival at Dick's shop, the horse was taken out, and the sheep conveyed into the shop adjoining the house, and placed in a room at the back used for slaughtering pigs and sheep. As soon as they had entered and made the door secure, Smith and Seargent were conducted into the house and told to be seated. It was then past eleven o'clock, and the public houses in the town were not closed, and Dick said he would fetch some beer, and desired them to wait.

It must here be observed that, after Dick had arranged with farmer C., he visited the constable, a Mr. K., with whom he was familiar, and whom he knew, for

a little ready money, would swear any thing, and thus two pounds out of the seven received from farmer C., purchased the constable, body and soul. He lived close by, and was instructed to be in readiness at a moment's notice, at any time after eleven o'clock on Saturday night, so that when Dick went out under pretence of fetching the beer, he went direct to old K. the constable, and told him that the birds were safely caged. "But, mark you," he said, "they have stolen the sheep, brought it for me to purchase, and I knowing it to have been stolen, give them into your custody for the same." "All right," said K., "the job is settled; but I may want help, and I must have assistance." And, taking down an old heavy horse-pistol, he put it into his pocket, and following Dick, they again entered the street, where they met a stable-man who was well known to the constable, and he at once charged him in the king's name to accompany him. They accordingly proceeded to Dick's house. Dick entered first, opening the door wide, but keeping it in his hand while the two men entered, when he closed it, locked it, and put the key in his pocket. The constable then stepped up, placing his hand on Seargent's shoulder, and said in a cool, calm tone of voice, "You are my prisoner," and turning to the man whom he had brought with him, said, "here, Tom, I charge you in the king's name to take care of him." He then arrested Smith in the same way, and before a word could be spoken on either side, he had taken out of his pocket a huge pair of hand-cuffs and coupled them together by the wrists. The two men looked panic-stricken and bewildered; first looking at Dick, then at the constable, and then at each other, as if unable to comprehend what it all meant. Sometimes they smiled, as though a joke was being played off upon them. At length Seargent said, "What does all this mean, Mr. J." addressing Dick, "it feels too much like reality, as if it was in earnest like, these things," holding up his wrist and looking wistfully at the loathsome hand-cuffs. "It's no use," said Dick, calmly and deliberately, "I dare not buy it, it would get me into trouble, therefore I thought it best to behave right in the sight of the law, which must now take its course." These words fell like molten lead upon the hearts of the two unfortunate men, and Smith exclaimed, "Good God, we are betrayed, we are betrayed, and that villain has entrapped us." He was about to rush upon him when the constable interposed, saying, "This will only make things worse, you are safe enough now, and may as well be quiet." "I tell you," said Smith, "it is that villain who has allured us to this; fed us, and would have paid us, and who even assisted us, but we rejected his money thinking he was in distress; and now he has betrayed us and will deny his own guilt, and we shall suffer, if there is no justice but earthly justice." "I have nothing whatever to do with the affair," said the constable, "but it is all very well of you to try to make your own case good! such chaps as you mostly do. But then I have seen the sheep, with W. C. B. G. branded upon it in black letters, and how came it here? It could not come itself, and you would not come for nothing; but the less you say the better, so come along with me." They left the house of Dick in charge of the constable and his assist-

ant, and proceeded to the constable's house. It was now raining heavily, and continued to rain all night, so that the constable did not take them to the cage, which was at the far end of the town, as was their usual custom in cases of arrest.

CHAPTER VI.

The examination—treachery prevails—the prisoner's committal.

AT an early hour on the Sunday morning, Mr. H. made known the arrest, and a message was at once dispatched to B. Green to inform the authorities of that village whom they had got in custody at Newmarket, with the letters branded upon the sheep, which was soon discovered to be the property of farmer C., whom the reader is aware was the fiendish instigator of this diabolical plot.

[To be continued in our next.]

A DANGEROUS ADVENTURE.

A young officer of extraordinary daring and courage belonging to the 19th regiment, when lying at Demerara, in the West Indies, was extremely fond of hunting amongst the bush, in which he was usually very successful. On one occasion he shot a fine male spotted tiger, with several other animals of inferior size. One day he selected a party of his own men, with two or three negroes, who well knew the course of the country, to accompany him upon an excursion. They accordingly set out in the direction of the river, which flows through the bush, and extends for an immense distance into the interior, Demerara forming a part of the American continent. Some of them proceeded on foot, having arms with them, while the officer and two negroes, with a soldier, went up the river in a boat. They had proceeded several miles, meeting with nothing excepting a few animals which are called Goanahs—a specie of the lizard kind, but as large in the body as a common sized dog, and lives upon the trees, are excellent eating, and considered a great luxury even at the English officers' mess table. Two or three of these animals were captured as the party proceeded, till at length the opposite side of the river appeared marshy and crowded with overgrown reeds, flags, &c., peculiar to the climate. This appeared to be abruptly separated from higher and more sandy soil, which bore nothing but what appeared like moss or short grass. Not more than twenty yards from the bank of the river, on the rising ground, a short distance from where the marshy portion ended, a flight

of large and handsome birds, something of the parrot kind, was pecking amongst the moss, and apparently taking but little notice of the party. The officer, however, caused the negroes to cease running, and, standing up, took aim and fired at the birds, two of which were seen fluttering upon the ground. He then ordered the boat to be pushed to the side for the purpose of landing, when one of the negroes said, "Massa must no land; dem reeds der," pointing to the marsh, he said, "are full of dem long-nosed rascals ob aligators and crocodiles, and dem can run quick, so Massa had better stop in de boat." But the officer took no notice of what the negro said, but sprang upon the bank and ran in the direction of the birds. Scarcely had he gone ten yards when, on passing a thick cluster of reeds which he was forced to pass on his way, out rushed a huge crocodile within six feet of the officer, who, on hearing the rush, darted forward at headlong speed, but the crocodile pursued him in the swiftest manner possible, and was gaining ground, his huge tail rising and falling as he ran as if an instrument in propelling him forward. All eyes were now bent upon them, but they dared not fire, which would have been useless and might have injured the flying victim. But the moment the crocodile was seen to pursue him, the negroes shouted at the top of their voice, "Turn quick, Massa! turn quick! crocodile no turn quick!" After repeated shouts the officer turned sharply round and passed the crocodile within two yards of his open jaws, and had gained several yards before the crocodile could complete the circuit he was compelled to make in turning. This stratagem proved the only means of saving his life; for he speedily reached the bank, sprang into the boat almost exhausted. The monster still followed on his track and plunged into the water, and an attack upon the boat was anticipated.

Several shots were fired at the crocodile without effect, and several were seen to raise their heads above the water, which showed that the river and the opposite banks were literally swarming with these rapacious monsters. But on that side up which the party advanced there was no harbour for them. This adventure terminated that day's excursion, and the party returned and arrived home about nightfall, and many times has this adventure been related, and will always be remembered by J. W. L., Esq.—[*Part of his experience in the West Indies*].

A PROLIFIC SLAVE.

There was an old Negro woman living on the High-bury estate, near to Gunhill in the island of Barbadoes, West Indies, who went by the somewhat apropos name of Mother Fourteen. She had lived on the estate from her infancy up to the period of the emancipation, and out of ninety persons who resided on the same estate, there were only five who were not in some way related to her. During the period of slavery she had been in the habit of living solely for the purpose of bringing forth children, and had reared children born by fourteen different men, each of whom was the father of more than one child. By some she had four. Hence the numerous relations on the estate and her name of Mother Fourteen. This degrading system was practised in a country under the protection of christians during the period of slavery, but thanks to heaven and christian friends, slavery in British dominions is now abolished.

MISCELLANEOUS.

France.—The Paris election has now concluded, and the republican party have obtained a decided victory over the government. This event produces much conjecture in the public mind as to its ultimate result. Will the republican candidates refuse to take the oath of alliance; or, will they maintain the true spirit of republicanism, in defiance of whatever threats may be held out against them by the government? Time alone will dissolve this query. But there is one important feature to be observed, in this matter. No sooner was the result of the election communicated to the emperor than he made known his intended visit, with the empress, to the British queen, at Osborne House, where he intends to remain perfectly incognito, without visiting any other part of England. His motives for leaving France for this country are already suspected by the Parisians. For it is believed that something is intended to be enacted by the denizens of Bonaparte on the new elected republicans, to see how the people will act during his absence; and, if they quietly submit to imprisonment, or whatever else may befall the republican members, the danger will be over, and discontent subside. But the sequel will explain the result of these suppositions. It is evident that the emperor and his admirers are alarmed, as may be gleaned from the daily papers.

Spain.—This unhappy country is again on the eve of revolution, insurrection having already manifested itself in different parts of the country; and even the troops have revolutionary symptoms discernable in their ranks. At Malaga, the inhabitants have revolted, and the troops have been called out against them. At Vittoria, a regiment of the line was compelled to be removed, a few days since, through their undisguised disaffection. This country appears doomed to suffer under the rule of its present licentious monarch, whose character is a disgrace to her sex, and whose authority cannot possibly continue for any lengthened period, according to the recent news from Madrid.

Italy.—The latest news from Italy brings further accounts of insurrectionary movements in Sicily and Genoa; the whole country appears convulsed, and with one spark would ignite into a blaze of open rebellion, which is now only with difficulty suppressed. It is also stated that the exile Mazini has secretly visited Genoa, and is at the bottom of the whole insurrectionary movement.

USEFUL KNOWLEDGE.

The greater the difficulty, the more glory is there in surmounting it. Skilful pilots gain their reputation by conducting vessels safely through narrow channels, and amidst storms and tempests, and shrink not from danger however great, but rejoice in overcoming even the power of the elements; and so their reputations are sealed as heroes of their profession; all difficulties should be treated as the pilots treat theirs.

Comets and Women—an analogy.—Comets, doubtless, answer some wise and good purpose in the creation; so do women. Comets are incomprehensible, beautiful, eccentric; so are women. Comets shine with peculiar splendour, but at night appear most brilliant; so do women. Comets confound the most learned when they attempt to ascertain their nature; so do women. Comets equally excite the admiration of the philosopher and of the clod of the valley; so do women. Comets and women are therefore closely analogous; but the nature of which being inscrutable, all that remains for us to do is, to view with admiration the one, and, almost to adoration, love the other.—*Rymett.*

A recipe for success in life.—The first thing essential, is good health; add perseverance, forethought, calm judgment, decision and rectitude; sprinkle plentifully with the spice of cheerfulness, and stir well with the spoon of activity. This recipe never fails; and he is a lucky fellow who has the ingredients at his command and knows how to mix them.

SELECT VARIETIES.

A swellish gentleman was one day passing along the road on horseback, through a rural district, overtook a rustic youth who was driving sheep. The gentleman reining up his horse addressed the lad, saying, "Jack, what is the name of that village yonder just a-head?" "How did you know my name was Jack?" replied the youth, eyeing the horseman with a cunning and crafty glare. "Oh," said the gentleman, "I could tell that by your looks at any minute." "Then," said the lad with sarcastic coolness, "if you are so knowing, you may as well find out the name of the village by its looks," and without taking any further notice, commenced whistling "happy land." The gentleman rode on briskly.

A gentleman travelling over an estate in south Carolina, with the proprietor of which he had been transacting business, on his way from the estate to the nearest village he was caught in a heavy shower, and there being no shelter he kept on his way; and turning an angle of

the road, it being on Sunday, he met a negro who was carrying something bulky under his coat, and his head uncovered. On coming closer, the gentleman saw it was a glazed hat which the negro carefully covered, his head being drenched with the rain. "Why don't you put your hat on, Sambo?" said the gentleman, stopping to speak with him. "Coss," said Sambo, "dis hat am mine, I bort him wid my own money, and I don't want to spile him wid de rain;" and, putting his hand to his head, he continued, "dis head am massa's, and if massa don't like to keep him dry, he may let him be spoilt, for me no cober him wid my new hat what I gib half dollar for last night." The gentleman laughed heartily at the negro's economy, and passed on.

"Well, Pompey, answer me dis," said one negro to another, who were discussing mathematics and geography. "Why is a journey round dis world like a cat's tail?" "Well, I doesn't adzactly see any semblance 'twixt the two cases." "Well den, I spec I'll hab to tell you." "Coss it am fur all round to de end."

A lady addressing her physician said, affectedly, "Oh, Doctor, where in the world did I get such a nose as this?" "Out of the decanter, madam," said the doctor, with great professional *sang froid*.

THE ILL EFFECTS OF BAD EXAMPLES OR ENCOURAGING CRIME.

In the county of Hertford, a short distance from Saffron Waldren, in a secluded village, lived a family named G., at the time of which we are writing, namely, the autumn of 1829. Mr. G. and his family, consisting of the wife and four children, the eldest a boy not more than ten years of age, were reduced to extreme want on account of his ill health, and was at this time confined to his bed, the family subsisting on eight shillings per week, as allowed by the parish, and at that time was paid by the parish overseer, who lived on a lone farm some two miles distant from the village. The family of the G.'s had always been respected and looked upon as worthy people, and the boy before alluded to, whose name was Joseph, was the pet of the parish on account of his good behaviour. Close by the family of the G.'s lived a widow woman named L., who had an only son, a boy about twelve years of age. The widow was remarkable in the village on account of her idle and filthy habits, and pilfering disposition; and her son George was universally disliked throughout the village on account of his mischievous and pilfering habits, which he appeared to inherit from his mother, who never chided him; but whatever he brought home, if he told her no one had seen him take it, she caressed him for his cleverness. On the day in question, concerning which we write—a bright and lovely Saturday morning in the beginning of autumn, when Mrs. G. called her son Joseph, and

informed him that, as his father was too ill to be left, he, instead of her, must start at once to farmer H.'s, the parish overseer, for his father's money. Joseph was proud of his errand, and at once set out upon his journey, there being nothing to say to the overseer but that he had come for his father's money, for that gentleman knew him well. No sooner had the lad started on his journey than George L., the widow's son, met him, as he turned an angle of some buildings.

"Where are you going, Joe?" said he, running up to him.

"I am going to Farmer H.'s, on the Wood-hill, for my father's money," said the boy innocently.

"I wish he would give me some money for my mother," said George, "for we have got no dinner, and mother says I shan't have anything till night, if I can't find anything to take home!"

"Ah!" said Joseph, "but your mother is not ill, and Mr. H. won't give folks money what's well, so you can't get none if you go!"

We give their conversation in the dialect of the county. The two boys continued their journey some time in silence. The foot road to the farm led across the corner of a wood for about two hundred yards, which was extremely narrow, and the wood very thick, though many leaves had already fallen. They soon arrived at the farm, saw Mr. H., who gave Joseph the eight shillings wrapped up in a piece of paper; and though he was astonished to see the widow's son with him, he gave them both some bread and cheese, ordering the servant to give them some milk; and, after they had eaten and drank sufficient, they again set out on their journey towards home. Before arriving at the wood the widow's son asked Joseph several times to let him carry the money, saying, he might lose it.

"No," said Joseph, "I have my new smock on, and the pockets have no holes in, so I can't lose it."

At these words the eyes of the evil-minded George flashed with rage and disappointment, and they moved on in silence, Joseph noticing the ill humour of his companion, who walked with his head down as if meditating something, and Joseph said nothing. No sooner had they entered the wood than George stopped, and, as if suddenly recollecting himself, said,

"Oh, Joe, I know where there is a jay's nest, we found it with young ones in one day last week, and they are fit to take now, let us

(To be continued in our next).

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