

made to their dying mother. Hard had they often to work—ill had they always to fare; yet Jennie's hands grew white and soft—Jennie had always something better on her dish. Davie, also, was Jennie's slave, and followed her everywhere. Thus wearily and thus laboriously did the years roll on till Jennie was sixteen. Duncan Stuart had grown very frail and was hardly able to leave his chair, and was quite childish and very troublesome, so that it was very disagreeable to come near him. He was in constant dread of being robbed, and even his own children were regarded with suspicion.

Jennie had become a very pretty girl—wild and timid as a doe, and spending most of her time in the bush that everywhere surrounded her father's clearance. These woods she had explored far and near, and in all her explorations Davie was her constant companion,—he hardly could be called a protector.

Jennie's favorite place was about a mile up the river, where the water had made a hollow in the steep rock which formed the bank at that place. The only way of getting to it, unless the river was very low, was by wading a few yards in the water; but after she was there, she was perfectly dry and comfortable, the floor being of the hard, white sand, and the top and sides formed by the solid rock. Jennie knew that though, during the summer, the water never reached the floor, yet, during the winter and spring months, when she could not visit it, it must have been almost filled, for every spring it had changed its appearance. This was a great puzzle to her, and she often wished to see it when the snow was on the ground, or during the great floods of the spring. This she was forbidden to do, but that only increased her wish to visit it; and away down in her naughty heart she made a wicked little vow that she would satisfy her curiosity some time; and satisfy it she certainly did. The winter that year had been exceedingly severe. Immense quantities of snow had fallen, and there had been no thaw till the beginning

of April. Then came one of those tremendous thaws that threaten to carry everything before them. For two days it rained constantly, with a strong south wind blowing all the time. The third day it cleared off, and the sun came out strong and dazzling; but the wind increased, and the snow went even more rapidly than before. Just about that time, too, old Duncan Stuart began to feel the approach of death, and the great struggle was going on in his mind, when it became evident that he would have to leave his beloved gold—for little, very little treasure had he laid up elsewhere. His remorse became more terrible as his pains increased, and the care of him took the entire attention of his two eldest daughters. Jennie, not thinking him as ill as he really was, thought this a good chance to slip away unnoticed and visit her cave. The snow had nearly all gone, but still she had great difficulty in making her way along. She intended to walk on the ice, but this Davie would not do, as the ice was very rotten and full of holes, and they had to walk along the bank as best they could. When they reached their destination, she found that there was a narrow channel of water between the ice and the bank, over which they would have to jump. Here Davie again refused to accompany her, and what she thought still more strange, he tried to hold her. Never before had he attempted any such thing, and this time it was unavailing. Extricating herself from his hold, the daring girl sprang over the narrow channel, leaving Davie on the bank, stretching out his arms as if imploring her to come back, and uttering, with a peculiar, mournful sound, "Gee, Gee," the only word he could ever utter, and by which he meant "Jennie." Disregarding this appeal, Jennie turned away and was soon lost to sight behind the rocks. Davie waited for some time, but when she did not come back, he turned and went slowly home, saying sorrowfully to himself, "Gee, Gee."

When Jennie reached her cave she was so delighted with its appearance that she forgot all about returning; and it was not