

to the Atherstones for more centuries than they can count; and there is a very remarkable building on the estate even more ancient than the house itself, which is really one of the old moated castles of former times."

"How I should like to see it!" exclaimed Una.

"If you are equal to climbing up a rather steep ascent, Miss Dysart, there is a point on the hill-side near this from which you may have an excellent view, not only of Atherstone Abbey and many other houses, but of half the county besides."

"Oh! I should so enjoy going there; I do hope I shall some day. But you must know, Mr. Orlinton; I have the laziest father in the whole world; he will not move an inch beyond the garden, and he is in such a state of dense ignorance as to the habits of this great nation, that he has not the least idea whether it would be proper for me to walk about by myself. My unassisted intelligence would certainly conclude there could be no possible harm in it; but as I never was in a civilised country before, my views may be somewhat those of a savage."

Hervey laughed, as he showed by his involuntary glance of admiration how little like a savage he thought her, with her high-bred look and graceful movements.

"I should think, in this unsophisticated neighborhood, you might walk about alone as much as you pleased," he said.

"I do not find it necessary to place any restrictions in that respect on my sister," said the rector to Colonel Dysart.

"Then Una may safely follow her example," he answered courteously.

"But there is no need you should go alone," said gentle Lillith, slipping her hand into Una's. "Will you let me go with you now to the place you wish to see? It is a beautiful day, and Hervey and I intended to take a walk."

"I shall be only too delighted!" she exclaimed, starting to her feet. "You do not want me at home, do you, father?"

"Not in the very least, my dear. I am exceedingly glad that you should have such an outlet to your overpowering energy, especially with so charming a companion," he replied, with a smile, looking at Lillith.

"Then I will go and get my hat at once," exclaimed Una, bounding away; and the rector was ready to take his leave when Una returned. He had no intention of giving them his society in their walk, and he turned off towards his own house as soon as they had passed the gates.

CHAPTER III.

Up the steep hill-side went bright, impetuous Una, scarce able to restrain herself from outstripping her companions, as she trod with her light, springing step on the elastic heath, and felt the fresh breeze rushing past her, laden with the scent of the pine-trees and a thousand wild flowers, which an especially lovely spring had scattered by handfuls all around them.

"Do you know this is the first time I ever took a walk in England in my life," she said, turning round her face, glowing with pleasure, "and I cannot imagine how people can prefer foreign countries; I think it perfectly delightful—fresher and sweeter than any other land."

"Wait till you see our native country in a November fog or a heavy fall of snow," said Hervey. "I have awful recollections of those vagaries of our climate, though I have been in India for years."

"Have you just come home, then?"

"Yes, only last month; and I am here for a few weeks on leave. It is almost my first visit to Valehead, for Lillith did not live here when I went away with my regi-

ment; she came when our mother died, soon after my departure."

"Then you do not know much of the neighbourhood."

"Scarcely anything; but Lillith will be able to tell you about all the people whose houses you will see from the top of the hill; of course she knows them all by this time."

"Oh! wait a moment; what is that sound?" exclaimed Lillith; and as they stopped to listen, a faint plaintive chirping was heard from a little distance. "It is a wounded bird, I am sure," she continued, and flew away towards the spot whence the murmur came.

Una and Hervey followed, and found her lifting gently from the ground an unfortunate thrush with a broken wing.

"How can it have been hurt?" she said, almost shuddering, as the bird writhed and fluttered in her hands.

Hervey stooped down to examine it. "My dear Lillith, my military experience enables me to tell you that it is suffering from a gunshot wound. I dare say Rupert Northcote shot it—singing bird though it be," he added, looking significantly at his sister. For a moment her transparent complexion was tinged with a faint flush, but it vanished very quickly, and she grew paler as the bird's struggles ceased.

"I fear it is dying," she said. "It undoubtedly is," said Hervey; "your moving it has been its *coup de grace*. You had better leave it, and think no more about it."

"I must stay with it till it dies. But do not let me keep you back, Miss Dysart; pray go on, and I will join you in a moment." She so evidently wished it that Una complied, and turned away.

"I could not imagine a sweeter face than your sister's," she said to Hervey, as they walked on; "surely she must be wonderfully good."

"She is, indeed—almost too good, I sometimes think, for her blamelessness and innocency seem hardly natural in this evil world. She is not clever, but the very simplicity of her goodness gives her a strange power with most people; her mind is just like a crystal—so clear and pure that one can read it through and through."

"Your brother must be rather an austere companion for so young a girl," said Una.

"He is certainly, and I think it is partly the cause of her great timidity and shyness; still she is happy with him, and would love him if he would let her; but love in any shape or way he seems to regard rather as a weakness than as a virtue," he added, laughing.

"So I should quite imagine," said Una, demurely, and paused to let Lillith join them.

She came up to them quietly, making no remark about the bird, and they all went on together gaily, till they came near the summit of the hill, which was by no means very high.

"Now I must and will be first at the top!" exclaimed Una like a gleeful child; and as the wind, growing fresher and stronger, seemed to bear her up on its wings, she flew on, far past her companions, till she gained her point and planted her little feet firmly on the highest rock.

Hervey, who could easily have overtaken her, let her go unimpeded, that he might have the pleasure of looking at her as she stood with her slender, well-knit figure brought out in strong relief against the clear sky, and the breeze sweeping back the rich brown hair from her charming face, which was radiant with a look of saucy triumph.

Truly she made a pleasant picture as she stood there, with her clear eyes wandering from point to point over the vast landscape

at her feet. Fair and bright the wide expanse of country lay before her in the glad spring sunshine, stretching away to the far horizon, with many a change of wood and field and rugged hill, and every here and there the silver gleam of a rapid river, that rushed with musical murmur onward to the sea; and no less fair and bright, in that morning hour of life, the future seemed to spread its golden realms beneath her hopeful eyes; through flowery paths and scenes of joy her trusting fancy imaged out her yet unknown career; and the proud ardour of her strong young spirit glorified the whole with the pure light of the noble purposes which she had resolved should bring her the blessing of holiness, no less than happiness. And all the while her eyes were on the fateful spot where her strange destiny was indeed to be accomplished, in guise as different from these visions of her youth as well could be imagined; but no instinct warned her of that which was to come. A little time longer she would walk on in her golden dreams, and then—face to face the deadly conflict of her life would meet her.

(To be continued.)

RESTORATION OF THE JEWS TO PALESTINE.

A residence of some years in the Holy Land leads a writer in the *Jewish Herald* to conclude that there are signs of the approaching restoration of the Jews to that country. "The last four or five years have witnessed a return of the Jews to Palestine from all parts, but more especially from Russia, which has been altogether unprecedented. The Hebrew population of Jerusalem is now probably double what it was some ten years ago. Accurate statistics on this subject it is impossible to find, as the Eastern Jews dread a census from superstitious reasons, and also from fear of having to pay more by way of poll-tax to the Turk if their true numbers were known. For these reasons, and especially the latter, their official returns on the subject are not to be trusted. In 1872 and 1873 such numbers returned to Saphed alone, one of the four holy cities of the Jews, in the mountains of Galilee, that there were no houses to receive them, and building was for a considerable length of time carried on all night, as well as all day. This, be it remembered, in the East, where the night is emphatically the time 'in which no man can work!' Great accessions still continue daily; and whereas, ten years ago, the Jews were confined to their own quarter in Jerusalem, the poorest and worst, they now inhabit all parts of the city, and are always ready to rent every house that is to be let. Notwithstanding this happy change, owing to want of accommodation still, a building society has been formed, and many of its simple tenements are now rising outside the city to the north-west. Even before this many Jewish houses had already been built in two little colonies outside the Jaffa gate. Moreover, the Jews in Palestine are certainly acquiring possession of landed property in the villages and country districts." The writer attributes these changes to—first, new land laws affecting Palestine; secondly, new laws of military service in Russia; thirdly, new civilization throughout the East.

BRILL, of Leyden, proposes to publish extracts from the Talmud. The original text is to be accompanied by a literal German translation, together with explanations and remarks. The author is H. J. Spiro. It is to form a compendious lexicon, and will facilitate the reading as well of the Talmud as of other Rabbinic writings.