

"Yes, I have kept myself informed respecting him as well as I could, in your brother's interests."

"And do you think he retains the same vindictive designs against him which he had when you wrote so kindly to my mother?" asked Anthony, anxiously.

"Yes, I fear he does. He never made any concealment of his intentions to my correspondent any more than to myself, and I know that he said not long since, that if he could but gain access to Reginald when he was in some way removed from Mrs. Erlesleigh's watchful guardianship, he would at once lay his plans for entrapping him, and it is therefore extremely likely that he will choose this time for the execution of his scheme. Her care is finally lost to him, and Dacre knows nothing of you."

"It seems to me so extraordinary that any man should be capable of cherishing such cruel animosity through so many years—I can hardly believe it."

"I am inclined to think, from what I hear of Dacre," said Vivian, "that it is scarcely now so much a desire of revenge as an urgent need of money which makes him resolve to fleece your brother if he can. Like all men who gamble and speculate he is always in difficulties, and he looks on Reginald Erlesleigh as his legitimate prey."

#### CHAPTER XVIII.

Anthony Beresford was very silent for a few minutes after Mr. Vivian had explained to him what he believed to be the present state of matters as regarded Richard Dacre, and his host at last turned round to him with an inquiring look.

"You seem to be deep in some serious reflections," he said, and Anthony glanced up at his face with a bright smile.

"I should like to tell you exactly what was in my mind at the moment," he said, "only you must not be annoyed when you hear it, for it concerned yourself. I was admiring the contrast between your line of conduct and that of Mr. Dacre. He and you have sustained precisely the same injury from the man who was supposed to be equally a friend to both, and while he through a period of twenty years and more cherishes a spirit of such vindictive malice and spite that he can wreak it even upon the innocent, you have shown an example of the most noble forgiveness and generous requital of good for evil it is possible to imagine."

The color mounted to Vivian's face at this speech. "You think better of me than I deserve," he answered, "and at the risk of being wearisome to you I must explain, therefore, all the truth to you about myself. Perhaps, however," he added, with a smile, "you will not object to hear the causes which have led to so singular a result as my hermit life in this strange solitude."

"Nothing could give me greater pleasure," said Anthony; "I do not at all deny that your position in all its bearings has excited my interest and curiosity in no small degree."

"Well, you shall hear how it has all come to pass," said Vivian, "and as it happens that I have arrived at a time of life when circumstances make me doubt the wisdom of my past proceedings, I shall be very glad to have an honest opinion upon them, such as I am sure yours will be. I must tell you first that Francis Erlesleigh and I were brought up together exactly as if we had been brothers; his father was my guardian, and I was an orphan, with no relations and few friends, so that naturally enough all my affections were centred in him. He was lovable in no common degree, and sadly as he fell later, through his fatal gambling tastes, I have never been able to cast him out from my heart, nor have I ever wished to do so. All my recollections of a very happy childhood and youth are associated with Darksmere, which was my home, and with Frank, whom I believed to be the truest friend ever a man had. My confidence was never once shaken in him, till the terrible moment, when in his absence, the knowledge of his fraud came to me with the certainty that it would cause the ruin of all my prospects in life; even then I believed as I do now—that Frank never meant to injure either myself or Dacre, and that with the self-deception which seems always to blind men tempted as he was, he believed he would be able to repay the money he had gained so wrongfully, before his fault was discovered, so that we should never know it or suffer any evil consequences from it. Still, though I acquitted him of having done me any wilful wrong, he who had been my hem and my heart's true brother, had sinned against honor and truth in such fashion as to overthrow for ever my faith in human nature. If he were false I felt that I never could trust any one of my fellow-creatures. Men do not reflect when they fall from rectitude, as Frank Erlesleigh did, that their error does not tarnish their own soul alone, but that in proportion to the spread of its evil influence on the souls of others, it diminishes by so much the power of God's truth and righteousness in the world. Driven, a dishonored exile, from my country by Frank's misdeed, everything that befell me in Mexico, where I took refuge, tended to embitter me, and make me at last what I have been for the last seventeen years—a confirmed misanthrope."

"The sight of Richard Dacre's persistent animosity and vindictiveness against Erlesleigh had a very bad effect upon me, while it made me only the more firmly resolve that I should myself act in the precisely opposite manner—it showed me how vile and petty a man could be, and strengthened me in the contempt and repugnance I began to feel towards the whole race of mankind. There was one exception in the young lovely wife I had married soon after my arrival from England. She was little more than a child, with a character unformed, and, as I believed, with strong affections given wholly to myself; but my trust even in her was destined to a cruel overthrow. When the disgrace which Erlesleigh's crime had brought upon my name became unexpectedly known to her father, and he came in a fit of fury to take his daughter from me, saying I had married her under false pretences—then she, too, turned against me, and I saw that she had married me for the fortune I had always possessed, and which had not been seriously impaired by Erlesleigh's fraud, and for the position which she thought I should one day give her in my own country. Yet she had learned to love me, and the struggle of conflicting feelings, combined with the

terror she felt at the violent scene between her father and myself, was too much for her—she fell ill and died, leaving me with an infant daughter but a few hours old. This calamity, and its cause, put the finishing-stroke to my hatred to the world. I determined that I would take refuge in some utter solitude from the society of all my fellow-creatures, and strive to forget in studying the writings of the noble dead, that men yet lived whom I felt I could henceforth only mistrust and despise. I did not condemn the whole race, of course, even in my own mind, but I had been too cruelly deceived to be able, at least at that time, to place confidence in any one, and there seemed to me no safety but in an isolation as complete as I could make it. I had, however, another motive, which was more powerful than that which regarded myself alone. The little infant who had been left to me was all my own possession—the only being on the face of the earth who was connected with me by the ties of blood, and I could not separate myself from her even had I desired it. But I did not wish it—on the contrary, I became possessed with the idea that it might be possible to bring up a child in such absolute isolation from the world, that she might never learn to know the crooked ways of men, and thus would escape all contact with error of any kind. It seemed to me that if a little human child could be kept entirely from the contamination of evil, from the knowledge even of its existence, she might be able to maintain her innocence of mind and heart unsullied and unchanged through all her years of life. Sickened as I was of all the falsehood and worldliness I had found in my intercourse with ordinary men and women, I determined to try the experiment. I had my little girl baptised by the name of Innocentia, and determined that she should grow up to be in very truth an embodiment of purity and innocence."

"And so she is!" exclaimed Anthony, with a burst of enthusiasm which he could not control.

"Ah, I forgot," said Vivian, with a smile, "that you have seen the result of my experiment."

"Yes, and I saw in her the most lovely and innocent being it was possible to behold!"

"I think I have not been altogether unsuccessful," said Vivian; "and certainly I took my measures very effectually. Before she was a year old I had created this refuge, and I brought her to it, taking with me only two servants whom I could trust—Juan, and Miguella, the old woman you saw in the passage. With neither of them has Innocentia ever been able to hold any communication excepting by signs. The woman, who has been a most kind and careful nurse to her, is deaf and dumb; and Juan only speaks Mexican-Spanish, which I have not allowed my child to learn. She had therefore never spoken to any man but myself when she saw you to-day."

"How very strange!" exclaimed Anthony, thinking, however, that this sufficiently explained all that had seemed so singular in the young girl's conversation.

"Yet you must not suppose she is uneducated," continued Vivian. "I have devoted myself entirely to the task of training her, cultivating her mind and her natural talents, while always keeping steadily before me the one great object of keeping her from the knowledge of evil. She knows of its existence in the abstract, because I have carefully taught her the pure Christian faith, which of course implies it; but she is certainly quite ignorant of it in detail, except in so far as her own childish faults may have taught it to her, and of course she knows nothing whatever of the ways of the world or of men. I have let her read only such books as I chose for her, and of them even only certain portions, carefully selected; and I have chiefly instructed her by word of mouth, so that I could frame my teaching according to my own plan. She has a natural aptitude both for music and painting, which I have done my best to cultivate, and she sings charmingly. Miguella has taught her various feminine arts of embroidery, and she is always fully occupied. Whether or not I have quite succeeded in my main object, at least I have the comfort of knowing that my darling has led a most happy life. She shares with me in my love of all creatures of the lower creation, and I had always seen with so much disgust and horror the cruelties practised on them in the world that I resolved to make Refugium a paradise for them. Innocentia finds endless pleasure and amusement amongst them, and I feel sure she craves for no better society. Yes," he continued, with a sigh, "the past has been very peaceful and blessed; but the future fills me with apprehension. I had felt, as you will readily understand, that I must make some provision for my child's welfare in the event of my death; not as regards a fortune—for that is secured to her; she will be rich with all that I can leave—but in respect to the guardianship and care which her unusual ignorance of the world would render so specially necessary for her; and for this, Mr. Beresford, I had looked to your mother. I had bequeathed my innocent daughter to Mrs. Erlesleigh as a sacred charge, which I feel sure, under all circumstances, she would have willingly accepted."

"That I am sure she would!" exclaimed Anthony.

"But she is gone," continued Vivian, "and I know not where to look now."

"I fear," said Anthony, with a smile, "I cannot hope to be my poor mother's substitute in this matter, as in the case of my brother," and Mr. Vivian shook his head gravely.

(To be continued.)

A SOUL that is growing in God's likeness needs often to be alone with God.—*Bedell.*

No man is a better merchant than he that lays out his time upon God and his money upon the poor.—*Bishop Taylor.*

The more enlarged is our mind, the more we discover of men of originality. Your common-place people see no difference between one and another.—*Parisi.*

"THE restoration of our Church we owe to the labours of our own Reformers, who seized the cup from the hand of the Sorceress, and by a powerful but legitimate alchemy, precipitated to the bottom all the poisonous drugs, and then presented the waters of life in their genuine purity to a thirsty people."—*Bp. Jewell.*

## BRITISH AND FOREIGN ITEMS.

WATER, it is said, costs as much as wine in Venice.

THERE are twelve lady notaries public in Chicago, and twenty-five in Illinois.

AUSTRALIA has sent \$380,000 for the relief of sufferers from the famine in India.

THE Gospel of Matthew has been translated for the first time into the Russ Lap dialect.

MINNESOTA has about 7,000 lakes, so that the state has about 2,700,000 acres of water.

THE "London Lancet" suggests the opening of "milk taverns" as an antidote to gin-shops.

MR. FROUDE, the authorized biographer of Carlyle, is busy collecting materials for his task.

FOR the first time in history a Protestant Theological seminary has been established in Paris.

SWEDEN and Switzerland contribute the largest number of new members to the Mormon Church.

IT is estimated that New York city receives from license fees \$300,000 and pays for pauperism and crime \$7,000,000.

MR. STANLEY has found white natives in Africa dwelling in the elevated regions between lakes Victoria and Albert.

A PHILADELPHIA minister trains the deacons in his church to pass the contribution-box to the pulpit as well as the pew.

AT Aintab, India, is a Sunday school numbering from 1,500 to 1,800 pupils, and it is said to be well managed and quite orderly.

"WHAT is the interior of Africa principally used for?" asked a teacher of a pupil. "For purposes of exploration," was the reply.

M. GARTIAUX estimates that in the old diligence days a man had one chance of being killed in 300,000 trips, and now by railways one chance in 6,000,000.

THE Minister of Public Instruction has offered several prizes for the best works in sculpture and painting that may be exhibited in the Turin Exposition, in 1879.

FOURTEEN thousand clergymen of the Church of England have protested against allowing dissenting ministers to bury the dead with religious services in the churchyards!

MRS. JOHN C. GREEN, the executrix of the estate of her benevolent husband, has added to her munificent charities the gift of \$100,000 to the American Sunday School Union.

THE Russian authorities are taking strong temperance measures, closing drinking shops at eight o'clock in the evening, shutting up the casinos, and removing the refreshment saloons from the theatres.

IT is said that more persons are deaf in the left ear than in the right, and some one says "boxed" ears account for it, the blow being generally inflicted with the right hand. Who doesn't know how?

TREES are cut down by electricity in the East Indies. A platinum wire, connected with the poles of a battery, is passed around a tree and burns its way, in fifteen minutes, through one which it would take two hours to fell in the ordinary way.

A MEETING of the committee appointed to obtain subscriptions for the erection of a bronze statue of the late Rev. Dr. Norman Macleod was held recently in Glasgow. It was reported that the sum already subscribed amounted to £800, but that £600 was still needed. It was resolved to make an effort to raise this sum as quickly as possible.

IN Ireland it is proposed to build a "manse" for the use of foreign missionaries of the Irish Presbyterian Church who may be home on furlough. At a meeting of the General Assembly's Primary Education Committee in Belfast—Rev. L. E. Berkeley presiding—it was agreed that, in accordance with previous practice, ministers be recommended to preach to their congregations, on or before the first Sabbath in February, on the importance of the religious instruction of the young in the family and in the Sabbath and daily schools, and that the Shorter Catechism should be regarded as an essential part of this instruction.

THE first Sunday school has been started in Madagascar, with an attendance the first day of 630 scholars. It is located at Antananarivo. The great trouble was in the enrolling. It is not the custom to have surnames, and many of the names were repeated over and over again, and, hence, had to be numbered. The eldest child is called "Ramato," the youngest child is called "Raketaka," and the grandchild "Kazafy." As these names apply indiscriminately, it is a little puzzling to tell which Raketaka, or Ramato, belongs to a particular class. Occasionally, however, the names are elongated by the addition of other syllables, which enable one to distinguish who is meant with a little more certainty. Raramamanga, for instance, means, "Miss Blue Grandchild," and they even run out at length to "Ramananzanahary."

IN France the number of Sunday schools has increased since 1856, from 300 to 1,050. Eighty-eight of these are in Paris. In Holland, where there were no schools fourteen years ago, there are 800, with a constituency of 75,000 scholars. In Germany, where the same fact was true, there are 1,218 schools with 81,785 scholars. Thirty schools have lately been begun in Mexico and South America. Japan has nineteen small "beginnings," and China as many more. French Switzerland reports 700 schools and 30,000 scholars. The Waldenses have eighty-three schools in which are gathered 3,323 scholars. Exact statistics are not reported from Spain, Italy, Portugal, and Sweden, in all of which countries schools have been started. England is credited with 300,000 teachers and 5,000,000 scholars—quite an army mustered under the banner of truth. In Saxony thirty-seven schools represent something over 6,000 scholars. In London over 80,000 children entered for examination in the Scriptures to compete for the prizes offered by Mr. Francis Peck and the Tract Society, consisting of 500 Bibles and 3,500 New Testaments.