

had as convincing an effect as if he had given a long catalogue of honourable ancestors. During that quarter of an hour the visitor had said not one word of himself, whither he was going, whence he came, or what he sought; and with a delicacy not unfrequent in the cottages of mountaineers, the good peasant would not have asked a question for the world, as long as he saw his guest contented with his homely fare, and a seat at his fireside. And he did seem contented; so much so, indeed, as to win greatly upon his hosts; for there is an implied compliment of a very kindly character in the cheerful and unaffected acceptance of what a poor man can do to entertain us, which is worth all the condescension in the world.

At length, however, the young gentleman rose with a sigh, as if he really felt regret at going, and said, "I must wend on my way, my good friends, with many thanks for your hospitality. I dare say it has done raining by this time; but as I cannot well go on to the place where I intended to sleep, so late at night, I will thank you much if you can direct me to some inn or public-house where I can get a good, clean bed."

The principle upon which a peasant

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