

skipper, "I will aim at the helmsman. One of the two must be the leader."

I comprehended at once the reasoning of the skipper. If the pirates could be deprived of their head, they would board us, perhaps, in a state of irresolution, consequent on the want of an acknowledged leader to whom to look. The same idea had already occurred to me, and I had, after scanning the desperadoes, concluded also that the persons named by the skipper were the most prominent of our foes. I nodded an assent. The seconds that elapsed were, to me, the most intensely absorbing that I ever spent. I felt the mighty stake which hung on the accuracy of my aim. Some men grow nervous under such circumstances; but my eye was never keener, nor my hand more firm than at that moment. One might have counted three while I paused; then my piece blazed, and my man sprang forward and fell, struggling convulsively. The skipper fired simultaneously, and the helmsman tumbled headlong forward, falling on the man I had shot. Instantaneously there was a howl of lamentation from the negroes; the rowers stopped, several rushed aft, and all was confusion. The boat shot forward until almost abreast of us, and then lay motionless on the water.

TO BE CONTINUED.

Contentment is a pearl of great price, and whoever procures it at the expense of ten thousand desires, makes a wise and a happy purchase.

As rust corrupts iron, so envy corrupts man.

"I WILL SURELY GIVE A TENTH  
UNTO THEE."

LONG before the Missionary, the Bible, and the Tract Societies came into existence, I had read that a young man, who had been piously educated, left his Father's house to seek his fortune in a foreign land. His father was not only a pious man, rich in the hope of eternal life, but he was rich in this world's goods; he had "possessions of flocks; possessions of herds, and a great store of servants," and he was also the owner of a large tract of land in the East—a land flowing with milk and honey. He had not yet received the land, and entered into possession of it; but he had the title deeds from the original proprietor and owner, and it was made sure to his children, and descendants. And yet, notwithstanding the great riches of the father, the son was sent away empty handed; for he had, at the instigation of his mother, and with her help, practised a wicked deception on his father, now old and blind, and had moreover, cruelly wronged his only brother. His brother's anger was fierce against him, and he was sent far away from home, to seek a shelter among the relations of his mother.

I suppose the young man found his long journey wearisome, as he travelled alone and on foot. I think he must have regretted the wickedness of his conduct, and often wished that he was back to his father's house with his mother and brother. At one time, on his journey, he slept all night in the open air; and as he had no bed to rest upon, he took a stone and placed it for his pillow, and laid his head upon it, and fell