

on for a fancy ball ; and my face low-
 though ye were haudin' a candle to it ;
 out comes the servant, and I stammers
 'Is your mistress in?' says I. 'Yes,'
 says she ; 'walk in.' And in I walked ;
 I declare I didna ken whether the floor
 led me, or I carried the floor ; and wha
 I see but an auld leddy wi' spectacles
 the maiden's mistress, sure enough, though
 mine, but my mother-in-law that was to
 So she looked at me and I looked at her
 she made a low curtsy, and I tried to mak
 ew ; while all the time ye might hae
 and my heart beatin' at the opposite side o'
 room. 'Sir,' says she. 'Ma'am,' says I.
 had hae jumped out o' the window, had it
 been four stories high : but since I've gane
 far, I maun say something, thinks I.—
 'I've taken the liberty o' callin', ma'am,' says
 'Very happy to see ye, Sir,' says she.—
 'Aye,' thinks I, 'I'm glad to hear that, how-
 er ; but had it been to save my life, I didna
 what to say next. So I sat down ; and
 length I ventured to ask—'Is your daugh-
 ter, Miss Jean, at hame, ma'am?' says I.—
 'What is she,' quo' she. 'Jean!' she cried
 a voice that made the house a'dirl again.
 'Comin', mother,' cried my flower o' the for-
 y ; and in she cam, skipping like a perfect
 y. But when she saw me, she started
 if she had seen an apparition, and coloured
 the very e'ebrows. As for me I trembled
 ean ash leaf, and stepped forward to meet
 : I dinna ken she was sensible o' me
 ing her by the hand ; and I was just be-
 ginning to say again, 'I've taken the liberty,'
 when the auld wife had the sense and discre-
 tion to leave us by oursel's. I'm sure and
 vain I never experienced such relief since
 my birth. My head was absolutely singing
 with dizziness and love. I made twa or three
 attempts to say something grand, but I never
 half a dozen words out ; and finding it
 nonsense, I threw my arms around her
 and pressed her beating breast to mine, and
 giving a hearty kiss, the whole story that
 had made such a wark about was ower in
 a minute. She made a wee bit fuss, and
 said, 'Oh fie!' and 'Sir!' or something o'
 that kind ; but I held her to my breast, de-
 clared my intentions manfully ; that I had
 been dying for her for five years, and now
 that I was a gentleman, I thought that I
 might venture to speak. In fact, I held her
 by my arms until she next door to said—
 'Yes!'

" Within a week we had a'thing settled—
 I found out she had nae fortune. Her mo-
 ther belonged to a kind o' auld family, that
 like mony others cam down the brae with
 Prince Charles, poor fallow ; and they were
 baith rank Episcopawlians. I found the mi-
 ther had just sae nickle a-year frae some of
 her far-awa relations ; and had it no been
 that they happened to ca' me Stuart, and I
 tauld her a rigmarole about my grandfather
 and Culloven, so that she soon made me out
 a pedigree, about which I kemed nae mair
 than the man o' the moon, but kept saying
 'yes,' and 'certainly' to a' she said—I say,
 but for that, and confound me if she wadna
 hae curled up her nose at me and my five
 thousand pounds into the bargain, though her
 lassie should hae starved. Cut Jeanie was
 a perfect angel. She was about two or three
 and thirty, wi' light brown hair, hazel een,
 and a waist as jimp and snu' as ye ever saw
 upon a human creature. She dressed maist
 as plain as a Quakeress, but was a pattern
 o' neatness. Indeed, a blind man might have
 seen she was a leddy born and bred ; and
 then for sense—haud at ye there—I wad hae
 matched her against the minister and the
 kirk elders put thegither. But she took that
 o' her mither—of whom mair by and by.

As I was saying, she was an Episcopawlian
 —a down-right, open day defender o' Arch-
 bishop Laud and the bloody Claverhouse ;—
 and she wished to prove down through me
 the priority and supremacy of Bishops over
 Presbyteries—just downright nonsense, ye
 ken—but there's nae accounting for super-
 stition. A great deal depends on how a body
 is brought up. But what vexed me maist
 was to think that she wad be gaun to ae place
 of public worship on the Sabbath, and me to
 anither, just like twa strangers—and may be
 if her minister preached half an hour langer
 than mine or mine half an hour langer than
 hers, or when we had nae intermission, there
 was the dinner spoiled, and the servant no
 kenneed what time to hae it ready—for the
 mistress said ane o'clock, and the maister
 said twa o'clock. Now I wadna gie tippence
 for a cauld dinner.

" But as I was telling ye about the auld
 wife, she thecht fit to read baith us a bit o'
 a lecture.

'Now bairns,' said she, 'I beseech ye think
 weel what ye are about—for it were better to
 rue at the very foot of the altar, than to rue