(From Sharpe's Magazine.)

at intervals from the loaded trees, or by the creaking disappearing for weeks together, and then returning of the branches as, relieved from their burthen, they ragged and wretched, to escape again as soon as his gradually began to resume a less bending position. Now and then a solitary crow might be seen skimming him. its way through the sir, and its clear loud caw seemed a note of rejoicing in the recovered liberty of nature. Justine L'Estrange appeared impressed by the quietude of the scene, and after gazing on it for some time, not far from this place, in a state of decomposition, remarked upon its beauty; adding, "I think I felt it even more yesterday than I do to-day. There was was found to his death, and the general belief is that certainly more animation in seeing all the people proceeding to church; yet there was a staidness in their demeanour which spoke a reverential consciousness of their common object, and made them rather add to, than take from, the general impression of solemnity.' "I am pleased to hear your remark, my dear Jus-

tine," said Mrs. Martha Loraine; "I have myself often felt the soothing influence of the scene as a fit preparation for the solemn services of the Church, and always endeavoured to be ready a little before the rest beautiful to see the labourers and their wives and children coming across the fields, which no longer yield no one to care for poor Jemmy. God had now protheir sustenance, to pray for continued blessings from vided better things for him than she could have done, that God who has promised that 'seed-time and har-vest shall never fail;' and who will soon change the sterile face of winter to the rich luxuriance of summer; and, oh, it is beautiful, on the summer Sabbaths, to watch them pouring down from the hills, group after group, winding along the terrace, or crossing the park from the more distant homesteads! To me the interest is, indeed, great. There are some faces which I have known for years, and I still remark them regularly their long pilgrimage. There are the same features which I knew in earlier life, but each year takes from their freshness,—the same forms, but every winter brings a gradual stoop, and an increasing feebleness. red cloak, I recognise again, and they often look less

worn than their wearers. "There are some few striking figures amongst the villagers," remarked Justine, "particularly one old woman with a face puckered into innumerable wrinkles, and a low figure, bent still lower by age, who always walks with her dark linen gown tucked up to display a well-preserved quilted green petticoat, made of some

almost forgotten material.

"Poor old Deborah Dison, with her green calimanco petticoat, is indeed a striking figure, and always looks to me like some fantastic, gnarled, and knotted stump of an oak tree," said her aunt; "for she has resisted many storms of adversity, and, like the oak, only seemed the more firmly rooted to the earth by the winds which blew over her. I have sometimes heard it asked of a blighted tree, why is it left when beauty and usefulness are gone? and the answer has been difficult to find. Perhaps, when looking at Poor Deborah, ing than Mrs. Mills." man has an answer to the inquiry. With that hard exterior a change is going on inwardly. She was always a hard-working woman, rising early, and late taking rest; and maintained a decent and steady character; but formerly the Sabbath shone no Sabbathday to her; she was full of worldly cares, and the things of time hid from her eyes the greater things of Eternity. To all that our good vicar would urge on the necessity of attending to the 'one thing needful,' she opposed the immediate necessities of her worldly duties, and years glided by without any impression being made. Deborah was at length a leafless and a withered stump; but gradually the change has been wrought, and she now comes to the House of God, to find there comfort, mingled with repentance for opportunities neglected, and regret that she has wasted years of toil uncheered by that light which is now lighting

her peacefully to the grave.' "If Deborah Dison be like a gnarled oak, my dear aunt," said Lucy Loraine, "I think you may compare poor old Mrs. Mills to a graceful willow; she is so fragile, so drooping; and yet there is a freshness about her which seems to adorn her as the willow leaves adorn an almost time-destroyed trunk. Her fair and delicate features, with their placid expression, her silvery grey hair, and her slight tall figure, are almost lady-like, and look as if it were impossible that any impurity should adhere to them; and her clothes, though of the plainest and coarsest materials, seem to have the same quality, and are always strictly tasteful. and clean, and neat. Her white knitted lambs'-wool stocking and well-polished shoe appear never intended to be soiled by walking, and I suspect she has that

opinion herself, for winter or summer Mrs. Mills is

never seen without her pattens." "I do not remember to have seen her walking without them," said Aunt Martha; "and lightly she used full of fresh holly, and I believe have discovered a to trip in them at the head of her well-ordered scholars, whilst she was still able to perform the function of village schoolmistress. Now that age and infirmity have obliged her to relinquish that post, I am pleased to see the love and reverence with which the young ones still cling to her, and how glad they are to lend her their support to church each Sunday, looking up in her face, and blushing and smiling at her thanks and praise; and I am still more pleased, on leaving church, to see that the young men have not forgotten the lessons of their childhood, and that there is always one of the robin, as he descended from the terrace, had or other ready to lend her his arm up the steep bank, and give practical proof that her teaching has not been departing with the departing snow. "I am almost thrown away. Mary Mills has been a blessing to the tempted to give you something like a sermon," said village, and she has taught by example as well as by he, "so strongly has that little warbler brought to my precept."

"She certainly looks very superior to her situation," said Justine; "I could fancy she had a history attached

to her, and was no common person." "She is not, indeed, a common person. She was the daughter of a worthy simple-minded curate in one are continually flying around us, were not created only of our most sequestered dales, and, with an only sister, for the use of the body of man. They serve higher was early left an orphan, with a very small pittance. and nobler ends. They often read lectures, to which Mary married the schoolmaster of Kirkfield, and was the greatest philosopher might attend, and be the betfor a few years a happy wife; but her husband, too, ter for them, if he would consider and apply them died young, and left her to struggle with poverty and aright. When, therefore, you behold one of these four infant children, for whom she toiled patiently and choristers of heaven, singing upon a naked bush, amidst even cheerfully, assisted as far as she could be by her the darkness and desolation of winter, might you not sickly sister, whose little income was added to the address it in some such manner as the following?common stock. Two of her children-the girls-repaid her care, and grew up all a mother's heart could yet knowest not where thou art, nor where thou shalt wish, but scarcely had they reached their girlhood, when they successively drooped and died. The eldest boy, unchecked by a father's firm hand, broke from all howl through it, and thy feathers shall be wet with most cherished, was an idiot."

"Poor woman!-she had indeed sad trials!" grow up unconscious of his duties and his privileges thankful dulness! Had I so little certainty of my coul would be freed from all bodily impediments, and myself! Surely thou camest not hither without a open to the bright consciousness of everlasting happi- providence; God sent thee not so much to delight, as ness. She prayed and hoped that he might grow up to shame me out of my sullen unbelief, who, under far ness. She prayed and hoped that he might grow up to shame me out of my sullen unbelief, who, under far harmless, and always soothed his wayward humours, more apparent means of maintenance and protection, notice in superior style; also, Fine Linen Surplices.

A CHRISTMAS PARTY IN THE COUNTRY. pleasures. Not so her sister: she, too, was fond of alas, alas! have not yet done for me, what mere instinct the boy, but sickness had made her irritable, and, as does for thee; and want of foresight makes thee more years drew on, though her health improved, this irri- merry, if not more happy, than the foresight of better The snow was melting rapidly away in the park of tability increased, and many and sad were the conten-The snow was mening rapidly away in the line snow was mening rapidly away was Kirkfield; and the sun, which had shone so brimainly on its glittering crystals, now looked here and there on frail sickly woman venting their rage at each other in given me; let not my greater helps hinder me from on its gattering crystals, now looked here and there is most horrible contortions, and the poor mother often possessing an holy security and comfortable reliance patches of verdure which emerged from that covering, and bad lain safely protected by it from the rude frost and had lain safely protected by it from the rude frost exposed to the blows of both whilst endeavouring to on thee. I never knew an earthly father take care of and had lain sately protected by it from the road has part them. At length decided insanity appeared in his fowls and neglect his children: and shall I suspect terior, to escape the chilling sarcasms of the thoughtterior, to escape the chining sarcasins of the thought fluement, where the whole of her little income was to have God for his Father in heaven, who depends less and the worldly. There was something solemn in the gradual fading of the wintry pageant; the air was still and calm, and the silence unbroken save by the heavy fall of some mass of snow which came down watchful care, and became a homeless wanderer, often field, or the barn." mother had expended her little savings in clothing

> "No; a few winters ago, after an absence of longer duration than usual, his body was found in the river which proved that it had been long there. No clue

it occurred by accident.' "How did she bear his loss?"

"Most calmly," replied Lucy. "I went with my mother to see her as soon as we heard what had happened, and found her quietly preparing some little mourning; and, in reply to our condolence, she said, Though the first shock was great, the first reflection brought thankfulness to her mind, and proved to her that in this, as in every other event of her life, God had done well for her. Her strongest tie to earth was now broken; and it had long been her chief regret in thinkand she had only to prepare to follow him.' All this you forget," she continued, with a mournful smile, was said with a quietness which carried conviction of the depth of her feelings, and in a few days she was again at the head of her little scholars. From that feel quite confident that He will protect us." inherited, she gave up her school."

"How does she employ herself?" arrangements, which are never seen but in the nicest | The mother, and the three young children and a maidtected them, and clothed them, and fed them, through order; and she reads a great deal. Her library to be servant, were the sole inmates. They had retired to Even the best grey homespun coat, and the once bright says she has all she wishes for, and all that are neceshere the words of soberness and truth."

"She seldom stirs out except to church," added Mrs. Martha Loraine, "and there she is never missed, winter or summer. Fair or raining she is seen amongst the first who answer the call of the bell, and in the whence she thought that the noises she first heard had which she says will soon be her last home, but one .- | door which the dog was attacking so violently. One other removal she looks for, and that is from earth girl was a determined and resolute creature, devoid of to heaven. I think there are none of the many figures | fear, and she did so without hesitation; when the dog I love to watch on the Sunday mornings, more interest- rushed out; and the widow saw through the open door

cumbereth it the ground?' for she has long seemed silently joined the party at the window; "surely the through the window, after them. A violent scuffle useless—all who depended upon her for support, or to vicar is more interesting as he walks quietly on his ensued; and it was evident, from the occasional yelpuseless—all who depended upon her for support, or to way, looking kindly first on one, and then on another whom she might have looked for it in her latter days, of his flock, listening to all they have to say to him, are gone—she is alone, and, to a superficial observer, of his flock, listening to all they have to say to him, worst of it. The noise of the contest, however, inquiring after the sick, advising the distressed, and gradually receded, till Mrs. M--could hear only the benefits of their policies, by the omission-perhaps inadencouraging the well-doing. I never see him thus without thinking that his is the most desirable station or perhaps murderers, had taken out a pane of glass, of life, which thus humbly, imitates the Good Shep- which had enabled them to undo the fastening of the herd, and when the rustic group at the church porch window, when, but for the dog, they would doubtless stand to let him pass, raising their hats in love and have accomplished their purpose. The mistress and reverence, and then following him into the church, he maid got a light, and secured the window as well as always seems a type of Him who has said, 'His sheep | they could. They then dressed themselves; for to hear His voice, and follow him.' "

"We lose something of the beauty of that expression from our customs differing from those of the east,"

"Then I have the advantage of you," said Justine, since in many parts of France I have seen the shepherd leading the way, and the sheep following him, closed his eyes and went to sleep. The next mornand can therefore fully realize the picture." ing they gave him a breakfast any dog might have en-

"Do you remember Mrs. Hemans's beautiful sonnet?" asked Rosaline :-

How many blessed groups this hour are bending, Through England's primrose meadow path their way Towards spire and tower, 'midst shadowy elms ascend Whence the sweet chimes proclaim the hallowed day!

"It always appears to me most applicable to our wn Sunday scene. But," she added, "I hope Mr. Forster will be well enough to come to us this evening as he promised. The day has been so mild he will have little fear of cold, and I am sure Charlotte will wrap him up well, for she always huddles as many great coats and shawls upom him as he can well carry, she had told me they were not unprotected. and he often laughs at his own load, yet does not like to refuse what is pressed upon him by love.'

"Agnes has been talking of the party the whole morning," said Justine, "and she and Laura have both run into the garden to search for a bouquet to deck the mantelpiece. I wonder what they will find."

"Here they come," cried Lucy, "with their hands bunch of Christmas roses."

Glowing with exercise, and delighted with the success of their search, Agnes and Laura entered the saloon, and displayed their treasures, which they endeavoured to dispose to the best advantage. A short time saw the day closing in, and its requiem was sung by the cheerful robin, who gave a blithe welcome to the guests from the vicarage. An arm chair close by the fire was offered to Mr. Forster, but he declared that he did not feel the cold, and added, that the song almost cheated him into the belief that winter was

nind a passage from Bishop Hall." Mrs. Loraine and Mrs. Barlow begged he would do so, and, after a little coaxing of his excellent memory, repeated the passage.

"The little innocent inhabitants of the air, which Sweet bird, how cheerfully dost thou sit and sing; and make thy next meal, and at night must shroud thyself in this same bush for a lodging, while the winds shall restraint, and ran off to sea; and the youngest, the rain, or covered with the snow! How ought I to blush, who see before me such liberal provisions of my God, and find myself sitting warm under my own roof, West of England Broad Cloths, Cassimeres, Doeskins, "Even the sad trial of watching her favourite boy yet am ready to droop through a distrustful and unshe bore cheerfully. 'It was the will of God,' she support and shelter, how anxious and heartless should said; and she looked forward to the day when Jemmy's I be! how little disposed to make music for thee or

THE WIDOW'S CONFIDENCE. (From "Memoirs of a Church of England Missionary the North American Colonies.")

I went to attend the sale of the effects of Mr M-, a very respectable farmer, who had died at one of my outsettlements a few months before. He had left a widow, a very amiable and pious woman. and three children, to mourn his loss. The lone widow thought herself unequal to the management of the large farm which her husband had occupied. She therefore took a cottage in the village where I lived, and was now selling everything off except a little fur-

After the sale was over, I went into the house to see her. I congratulated her upon the plan she had adopted, and remarked that she would be sauch more WATCH MAKER AND MANUFACTURING JEWELLER, comfortable, not only in being relieved from the care of a business she could not be supposed to understand, "Oh, no!" she said; "not unprotected, far from it; that I am now under the special protection of Him 'who careth for the fatherless and the widow,' and I time, however, her strength rapidly declined, and on He did protect them, and that very night too, in a the death of her sister, whose little property she most extraordinary and wonderful manner. The farmhouse was a solitary one; there was not another within half a mile of it. That night there was a good "Oh! she has plenty of occupation in her household deal of money in the house, the proceeds of the sale, sure is not very extensive,—a Bible, a Prayer Book, rest some time; the wind was howling fearfully, and Nelson's Fasts and Festivals, and an odd volume of the shook the wooden house at every blast. This kept Spectator, composing her whole stock; but, when we the poor mother awake; and she thought she heard, in offer to lend her more, she always declines them, and the pauses of the tempest, strange and unusual noises sary to comfort and console her. 'If I want to hear listening to catch the sound again, she was startled by of God's love, she remarked one day, 'I can read it in the violent barking of a dog, apparently in a room in His word; if I wish to make my wants known to Him, front of the house, immediately beneath the bedthe prayers which my dear father offered up for so chamber. This alarmed her still more as they had nany years are before me, and let my wants or my no dog of their own. She immediately rose, and feelings be what they may, in the Prayer Book I can going to her maid's room, awoke her; and they went always find expressions better fitted to present them down together. They first peeped into the room to His throne than any other I ever met with. I have where-they had heard the dog. It was moonlight, at least partly so, for the night was cloudy; still it was as to the value of life. light enough to distinguish objects, although but faintly. They saw an immense black dog scratching and gnawing furiously at the door leading into the kitchen, from ummer evenings I often see her lingering near the spot proceeded. She requested the servant to open the two men at the kitchen window, which was open .-"None, aunt?" asked Rosaline Loraine, who had The men instantly retreated, and the dog leaped now and then a faint and distant bark. The robbers, think of sleeping any more that night was out of the question. They had not, however, got down stairs the second time, before they heard their protector remarked Lucy. "Here the shepherd drives the scratching at the outer door for admittance. They sheep before him." nmediately opened it, when he came in wagging his bushy tail, and fawning upon each of them in turn, to be patted and praised for his prowess. He then stretched his huge bulk at full length beside the stove

> door till it was opened; when he galloped off in a great hurry, and they never saw him afterwards. They had never seen the dog before, nor did they ever know to whom it belonged. It was a very singular circumstance; and they could only suppose that came with some stranger to the sale. The family noved the following day to their new cottage in the village. And when my wife and I called upon them, Mrs. M--- reminded me that, when I last saw her,

vied; after which nothing could induce him to pro-

long his visit. He stood whining impatiently at the

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531 Montreal, August, 1847.

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ndersigned who have entered into co-partnership.

D. E. BOULTON.

Cobourg, July 7th, 1846.

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