

deeper love on their own happy children, as the cry of this little motherless one reached their ears. The fathers looked graver, and there were tears in the young women's eyes :

And well the gathering tears might start,
As they nam'd the infant's name;
Whose mother had died of a broken heart,
From mourning its father's shame.

Poor little thing! it was come into a troublesome world to be sure; it was tossing on rough waves; but the frail bark was soon to be in port, where no storms come. The woman, whom the parish officers engaged to nurse the child, proved extremely careless of it; and the next thing we heard, was, that in consequence of her neglect, it had met with a frightful accident; and the overseers removed it to another nurse. Having heard thus much, I could not, of course be surpris'd, when passing one winter's day through the churchyard, I saw a little, narrow grave, dug in the part called the poor's ground; and heard, upon inquiry, that it was for Martha's child. It was buried that evening. No knell had tolled for it when it died; no mourner stood by the grave; the nurse brought the unornamented and nameless coffin under her cloak, and there was no pall to cover it. It was of little moment; the grass, and the spring violets grew there in token that, being "sown in weakness, it shall be raised in power;" and the spirit so forsaken, so lonely on earth, found, doubtless, a bright and innumerable company to welcome it at the gates of heaven.—*Scenes in our Parish.*

THE LAW-SUIT.

The village of Yewford very much resembles a hundred other villages in England. It has its parish church overgrown with ivy on the south side: the parsonage house is very much like other parsonages, and the squire's mansion on the hill, with its tall chimneys and its rookery, is as like what I have seen in half a dozen other counties as one pea is like another.

Again, the churchwarden of Yewford is a man beforehand with the world; one who likes to keep up the different grades in society. The lawyer is an incessant talker; and the schoolmaster a tall, thin man, with a pale face. The butcher, too, has a broad back and a capacious front; and the landlord of the Bull, a face as red as a rose.

Beside these characters, Yewford has many others, male and female, old and young, gentle and simple, all of them well worthy of being introduced into this narrative; but as such a proceeding would materially interfere with our present object, we must leave them to be severally described by those who have more talent and more leisure. One personage, however, we must not forget, especially as he happens to be the principal hero of our history.

A Mr. Douglass had taken a lodging at the widow Freeman's but as the village knew next to nothing of him, and of his concerns, so the good people were at a loss how to speak of him one to another. He was a civil, well-behaved man, respectful to the rich, and kind to the poor; but no one can live long any where, and least of all in a village, without making friends or foes; and doubtless Mr. Douglass would have received an earlier intimation of the position which he occupied in the estimation of those around him, had it not been for a circumstance, which, for a time prevented the worthy inhabitants of Yewford from making up their minds about him.

The lawyer, though not professionally employed by Mr. Douglass, had discovered that a trial was pending, the issue of which would put Mr. Douglass in possession of five hundred a year, or reduce him to the situation of a beggar: who could expect, then, under such circumstances, that the villagers of Yewford could come to any satisfactory conclusion as to the estimation in which Mr. Douglass ought to be held, until the issue of the trial should be known?

Mr. Douglass, whatever good qualities he might possess, was evidently not a rich man; and, by degrees, an opinion got abroad that he was poor. For some months he was punctual in his payments as the church clock was to strike the hour; indeed more so, for it sometimes happened that the clock was sadly beyond time.

At length symptoms appeared which most people,

whether living in town or country, are quick to understand. A few articles sent to Mr. Douglass by the village draper were not paid for on delivery. The butcher had a small account unsettled, and Widow Freeman had whispered to Mrs. Perkins, the publican's wife, that her lodger for the last month had not paid her a single sixpence.

Things were in this critical state, and the reputation of Mr. Douglass hung trembling in the balance, when a few of the village worthies met together at the Bull, to settle something connected with the poor rates.

The important affairs of the parish being discussed, the lawyer took up the newspaper, which had just been brought in by the landlord, and soon read, in a rapid manner, the following announcement:—

"The long-pending cause, 'Douglass versus Paisley,' is at length decided. The plaintiff proved unsuccessful."

The lawyer immediately threw down the newspaper on the table. "Just what I expected," said he, "and just what I think Douglass deserves. If he had applied to me before he had commenced his suit, I could have saved him some hundreds of pounds. A man must be non compos mentis to take such a cause into court. But I saw how the case stood, he has been led on by a swindling attorney, who will now most likely arrest him for costs. So that Mr. Douglass, instead of having a rent-roll of five hundred per annum, must be content to live in *forma pauperis*."

"I never thought that he would help to pay poor rates," said the churchwarden.

"Poor rates!" cried the butcher, "was it ever likely that he would pay poor rates, when he couldn't pay his butcher's bill? It run, in my head for some time past that this noble would come to nine-pence and I told my wife so."

"Had Mr. Douglass taken a lesson from those who were able to instruct him," said the schoolmaster slowly delivering his opinion, "had he correctly calculated his profit and loss, he might have been aware that the sum total of all his expectations would only amount to a cipher."

"There was always too much froth about him for me," said the publican; "for though he could talk fast enough when it answered his purpose, he was never the man to stop to take a mug of ale, or a glass of brandy and water, from one month's end to another. However, he has run up no score at the Bull, and I'll take pretty good care that he has not even a pipe of tobacco without paying for it."

For some time nothing interrupted the tide of unpopularity which had set in against the unfortunate Mr. Douglass. Each expressed his opinion, in his own way, but all agreed that too much forbearance had already been exercised, and that it was high time to let Mr. Douglass understand, that an upstart, having nothing but a trumpety claim to five hundred a year to support him, would no longer be countenanced by the worthy inhabitants of Yewford.

At length, during a momentary pause, the schoolmaster took up the newspaper, with the idle curiosity of one who has pleasure in reading with his own eyes what has already been read to him by another, when, to his great astonishment and apparent confusion, he made the discovery that the paragraph had been incorrectly read by the lawyer, and that, instead of Mr. Douglass, the plaintiff, having been unsuccessful in his suit, he was reported to have been successful!

This announcement having been made by the schoolmaster, accompanied with an observation on the great advantage of correct reading, a thing which he always tried to impress on the minds of his scholars, every countenance underwent a sudden change.—

The lawyer looked as keenly at the newspaper as though he would cut out the piece with his eyes; the churchwarden, half-opening his mouth and raising his brows, sat like a statue; the butcher started at the publican, and the publican started at the butcher. A clap of thunder would scarcely have been more instantaneous in producing an effect on the whole group.

The unbelieving lawyer was the first to take the newspaper from the hands of the schoolmaster, and so soon as he was convinced of the error into which

he had fallen, he burst into an affected giggle, a little resembling a laugh. "You must," said he, "really forgive the hoax I have put upon you, but I wanted to see whether it was possible to persuade you to believe so improbable a thing as that of Mr. Douglass losing his cause. I was convinced, *a priori*, that a verdict must be given in his favour. The defendant had no evidence to bring forward, and I quite expected that he would have allowed judgment to go by default. Never did a jury decide more uprightly, and I shall have great pleasure in congratulating Mr. Douglass on his deserved success."

"Ha! ha! ha!" here burst from the opened mouth of the churchwarden, who in his turn affected to be very merry. "I saw plain enough," said he, "the trick you were playing us, and was willing to keep up the joke as long as possible. From what had been told me of Mr. Douglass, I knew that he had too much good sense to bring an action that he could not sustain, and it was but the other day I was saying to the justice Villers, that, before long, I hoped to see Mr. Douglass in the office of churchwarden, for that a more respectable man was not to be found any where. We must set the bells to ring on the occasion, that Mr. Douglass may see that his neighbours are almost as much pleased at his good fortune as he is himself."

The schoolmaster, though not bold enough to assert that he had at first been aware of the incorrect reading of the lawyer, maintained that, had the verdict been as described, he should have been justified in the sentiments which had escaped him, inasmuch as the decision of a British jury would have proved, as plain as two and two make four, that the calculations of Mr. Douglass had been worked in error. He declared that he had much rather enumerate the good qualities of Mr. Douglass, whom he always considered a man of education, than subtract from his merits; pronounced him worthy to be classed among gentlemen, and considered it the undoubted interest of the inhabitants of Yewford to cultivate good fellowship with so respectable a character.

The publican confessed that he had been fairly taken in, but no wonder, as he should as soon have thought of drinking a pint of neat brandy, as differing in opinion from his good friends, the lawyer, the churchwarden, and the schoolmaster, who had so long frequented the Bull. Mr. Douglass, he had no doubt, was a good fellow at bottom, and he should be glad to take from him an order for the best hogshhead of ale he had in his cellar.

Though the churchwarden saw through the deceit of the lawyer, and the lawyer understood the trickery of the churchwarden; though the publican laughed at the backing out of the schoolmaster, and the schoolmaster despised the selfishness of the publican; yet every one tried to persuade himself that his hollow-heartedness was unknown to his neighbour.

When the party broke up, each individual determined in his own mind to pay some immediate tribute of respect to Mr. Douglass, and secure his favours; thus affording another instance of the insincerity and meanness of those who pay homage to wealth rather than to worth; who would honour the rich, though adorned with every vice, and despise the poor though adorned with every virtue.

"Every man is a friend to him that giveth gifts. All the brethren of the poor do hate him; how much more do his friends go far from him!"—Prov. xix. 6, 7—*London Visitor.*

The government of the Sandwich Islands had issued an ordinance prohibiting the use of the Roman Catholic religion in that kingdom, and forbidding the entrance of any priests of that persuasion; on the ground that the introduction of two religions in those small dominions has been attended with troubles and dissensions. Two French priests, who landed at Otahite in November last, had been forcibly expelled the island.—*Barbadian.*

The Roman Church in Scotland and England.—According to the "Catholic Directory," just published, there are 446 chapels, 9 colleges, 16 convents, and 557 Clergymen in Great Britain; and 67 chapels, 1 college, 1 convent, and 74 Clergymen in Scotland.—*Ban. of the Cross.*