

he was not to be seen any more at the village ; and one day his boat was discovered gliding with him in it to the western shore ; it remained there fastened to a tree three days and three nights. On the fourth day it returned and bore him to the rural retreat, he had prepared with a young and lovely female.

A variety of conjectures followed, but there was one which seemed to be strengthened by a thousand circumstances which had not heretofore been noticed—it was that the beautiful boy who had been his companion and friend—who had loved him and left him, was in reality the personage, who came to share his home dressed in her proper garb, and claiming to the relation of a fond and fervent friend the character of a wife.

Still the custom that forbids the prying scrutiny of curiosity, and that sought no further disclosures than such as were voluntarily made, prevailed. The strangers saw it and testified their gratitude by throwing off their reserve. They lived in constant intercourse with the villagers many years. The island became one of the best cultivated places in the country ; and while a large and lovely family of children grew up around them and a long residence endeared them to an extensive circle of acquaintance, the mysterious circumstances which took place at the time of their settlement were almost forgotten.

Gustavus might possibly, in the lapse of 15 or 16 years have become rich, but his object seemed constantly to be to attain simply to such an independence as would best promote his happiness.—He was industrious, frugal and managing ; keeping aloof from every hazardous speculation, he was nevertheless prompt to profit by every opportunity which afforded the certainty of profit ; and he denied himself none of the little delicacies and amusements of life, to save a trifling expense ; he, on the other hand expended nothing foolishly to gratify childish pride or capricious whim.

Go to the Hermitage when you would, every thing was in the neatest style, and you was sure to be entertained in the best manner—the most delicious fruit and the choicest pound cake, excellent cider, and plenty of nuts, and, what was even better than all, smiles that said as plain as smiles could say, “ you are welcome,” always awaited you. Thus this amiable family secured and enjoyed independence and happiness, pure and without alloy.

At length, early in the spring of the sixteenth year of his residence at the Hermitage, Gustavus took a journey to the eastward ; it was the first time he had been from home any distance since his settlement among us. He remained abroad two months, and brought with him when he returned, a pale, sickly, dejected looking boy, wearing a bandage of mourning. A few days after several of the aged villagers went down to the island to spend an afternoon and an evening ; and when, after tea, the little circle was formed on the green before the cottage door, Gustavus laid aside flute and thus addressed himself to the company :—

“ I am about to let you into the history of a portion of my life, with which you are acquainted ; this, gratitude prompted me to do long ago, but prudence forbid it : now the necessity of silence does not exist. You knew not sixteen years since, to whom you were
 “ *known of hostility when my young friend and my*