

placed in the Poor's House, or as it was called;—"The Hospital of the Poor's Portion."—an institution endowed with £2000, and producing a rental in 1812 of £374 12s. applied to the maintenance and education of poor children. To this place Kitto had a thorough aversion; particularly because of its confinement, and the restraints it laid upon his time. It was, therefore, only by stratagem that he was located there on Nov. 15, 1819, when he had nearly completed his 15th year. His dislike to the place, however, was afterwards greatly removed by the kindnesses of Mr Roberts the governor, and Mr Burnard clerk to the Board of Guardians. They not only indulged, but encouraged him in his taste for letter-writing; and permitted him to remain over night in his own favourite little room at his father's house. The letters which he wrote while an inmate of the Poor's House were numerous, and discover a power of composition almost incredible, for one of his years. But in nothing, perhaps, did Kitto so much excel as in letter writing. In reading his communications to his friends both at home and abroad, one is always reminded of the beautiful and vivacious productions of Cowper; of the touching melancholy effusions of Kirke White; and of the bold, masculine strokes of Hugh Miller—strokes as pithy and well directed as those of his mallet in early days; for the letters of Kitto may be said to combine the prominent qualities of all the three. It has been somewhere well remarked—"Each of his letters on his travels, is a fine specimen of picture-writing."

But Kitto's time, while in the Poor's House, was not all devoted to writing letters and keeping a journal, which he now for the first time began to do. He was set to shoe-making, an occupation which seemed best fitted for one in his circumstances. Nor in this occupation was he found deficient. In seven months he mastered the making of what is called "list shoes"; but as he was held to this work and this work only for five months longer, he tired of it; finding it nothing but a repetition of the same manual and mechanical operations, without a single particle in it to exercise the mind, or to arrest the attention. During the twelvemonth he "made 78 pairs of list shoes, besides mending many pairs." He received as a premium one penny per week.

At the close of the twelvemonth, or nearly so, a Mr Bowden applied to the Poor's House for an apprentice, and Kitto was the individual selected and regularly bound over to him. This man proved to be a complete tyrant, a perfect type, as his biographer remarks, of "the Legree stock," in *Uncle Tom's Cabin*. He maltreated him in every imaginable shape; struck him and cast his awls and other tools at him; besides exacting from him a most unreasonable amount both of time and labour. In this situation, as is to be supposed, Kitto was most unhappy. He maintained firmness in the presence of his tyrant; but in secret, he poured forth floods of burning scalding tears. To such a degree did the treatment of this cruel and unprincipled wretch, prey on the tender and sensitive mind of Kitto, that, seeing no prospect of immediate relief, he resolved on committing suicide; and so determined had he become in his resolution, that he had fixed on the very night and the very place for performing the deed. But after repeated complaints to his friends of the Poor's House, they, in a fortunate hour, interfered, brought his case before a magistrate, got his bond of apprenticeship cancelled, and restored him to his former position in the Hospital.—In reference to this period of his life, it is necessary only farther to remark, that while in the Poor's House, he proposed and was encouraged to write a series of lectures on the government of the boys in that institu-