

taunts and unchristian actions the foundation of many a desperate crime is laid. Let a man totter on the verge of ruin, it is the world's way to look on unconcerned, and not a few even endeavour to knock the last remaining prop from under him, and he is left to go down to perdition without a hand being stretched out to save him from his fate. I know there are exceptions to every rule, and exceptions to this one I experienced largely; but such I have known to be the governing principles of man generally. Yes, in my experience I have found those who would smile you into security, and yet laugh loudest when your calamity came. I trust this short digression will be excused, and now to my narrative.

I travelled towards the mountains, after the departure of my friend, till the shadows of evening began to darken around me. My clothes were wet, and a chill began to creep over my whole body. Seeing I could not proceed much farther, I began to look about for a place of shelter, which I at last found. Resting for a little, I commenced to muse over my past sorrows, but was unable to gain a glimpse of happier prospects. The chillness increasing, I at last determined to light a fire. This was a matter, however, not so easily accomplished, for the rain had so damped every thing around, that I had great difficulty in finding a sufficiency of broken wood and leaves dry enough to effect my purpose. At last I succeeded. I then began to collect a quantity of moss for a bed. When this was ended, I sat down to dry my clothes at the fire. The heat relieved me, and, in about an hour, I fell into a sound sleep, nor did I awake till daylight the following morning.

The sun, which "slumbers not nor sleeps," now shone forth in all the beauty attendant on a lovely morning—no clouds to interrupt the bright rays which descended to the earth, as if they wished to quench a feeling of thirst with the dew drops scattered around on leaf and grass. It was indeed a delightful morning, and well calculated to rouse my drooping spirits; but there was a weight at my heart which defied all my endeavours to become cheerful. For this depression I could not account—it seemed as if a foreboding of evil hung upon me, my utmost exertions being unable to dispel it. I managed, however, to partake of a slight repast from my slender store, and collecting together the few articles I possessed, I proceeded in the direction of the south end of the island. As I hastened onwards, not knowing how soon I might fall into the hands of the constables, I occupied myself with watching every object to prevent being surprised. At length I thought I distinguished voices as if engaged in a sort of whispering conversation. I suddenly stopped, listening eagerly to acquaint myself whether I had not been deceived, or, if possible, to discover from what quarter the sounds proceeded—but all was still. Afraid that it might be my pursuers, and having every reason to fear being surprised by them, I moved quietly to a tree whose branches hung drooping down close to the grass, with the intention of concealing myself there; but judge of my surprise, when, on moving a branch cautiously aside to allow of

entering, I beheld a young man in the act of supporting the head of a middle-aged female. Seeing they were discovered, the young man cast a terrified and exploring look at me, and exclaimed, "Oh, sir, for the love of God do not betray us;" he then became so agitated that the head of the female dropt from his arm, and he threw himself across the seemingly insensible form of his companion, giving vent to his grief in deep drawn sobs and words expressive of his agony, exclaiming at times, "Mother, dear, dear mother, we are lost, we are lost." These and other broken sentences uttered by her son at length brought the helpless and unfortunate parent to a sense of her condition. The lustre had left her eye, but there was language of deep sorrow and suffering in the look she gave me, that pierced me to the heart—a language which, really, can only be understood by those who have suffered. That glance rivetted me to the place; I could not move—I remained as fixed as if I had been chained to the spot. She attempted to speak, but the tongue refused to perform its office. What her feelings were I could guess from the mental torture exhibited in the writhings of her thin and miserably-clothed form. The spell under which she seemed gave way, and the melancholy tones of her voice reached my ears, while she supplicated me to spare her boy, whom she said she had ruined, expressing her willingness to suffer any punishment were he to pass unscathed; then, turning towards her son, she raised her feeble arm, and placing it round his neck, made a violent effort to imprint a kiss on his lips. The effort seemed too much, for her head fell back, and she again relapsed into her former state.

Could I dream, or was the spectacle before me real? It was some moments after she ceased to speak ere I could assure myself of the truth of what I saw and heard; and I was no sooner aware of this, than I endeavoured to soothe their fears by stating to the son my own position. Having done so he became less agitated, and confessed to me in turn that they were themselves runaways, which, from what I had heard, I suspected previous to his confession. A friendship thus suddenly sprung up between us. His mother by degrees recovered sufficiently to mix in our conversation. From what they stated, they had fared much worse, from the time of their escape till I found them, than I had done. On one occasion they had been betrayed by a man who professed the deepest sorrow for their condition, and who, to keep up the appearance of that profession, invited them to his house. Happily, they were informed of this person's treachery by one of his daughters, and had barely time to effect their escape from his *kind* intentions. Surrounded by dangers, and suffering the greatest privation, they had passed nearly a fortnight. The exposure to the cold, want of food, anxiety of mind, and great bodily fatigue, had wrought so much on the health of the poor woman, that she was unable to proceed farther. They had, therefore, sought their present retreat, where for two days, she had been tended by her son, who believed she could not recover, and that he would be compelled to leave her body to be devoured by the animals which