

in your overland trip, to spy out the nakedness of the country, before you came on to Ontario; however, I'm none the less pleased to see you," and the doctor shook him warmly by the hand again.

"Come, give me your arm, I feel a bit shaky, and let us walk up home; dinner will be ready, and were it not that in my profession I come home at all hours, my wife would be put out at having to keep things warm. I'm not a gourmand, but after being out in all weather, cold and heat, rain or sunshine, I'm glad of a quiet dinner, that is when people will let me—but, I'm forgetting—What sort of a voyage had you? Fine—that's good. And how do you like Canada? Oh! pshaw, how can you tell yet? By the by, you're a Canadian, though your experience of the land of your birth has been so far confined to daily strolls for a week or so on the wharf at Quebec in the arms of a nurse. I was at Quebec the day your father and mother arrived, and was in consultation with the ship's surgeon when your mother was lying so ill in the captain's cabin."

Arm in arm they strolled towards the village, the doctor asking innumerable questions about Grant, his father and mother, England, and the voyage, and occasionally pointing out views of landscape as they turned an abrupt corner or came opposite a gap in the enclosing woods. Grant, who could not keep his thoughts from wandering to the accident, especially as he felt his companion leaning rather heavily upon his arm, tried again and again to break in upon the innumerable questions which the doctor, seldom waiting for an answer, poured out upon him, when at last he managed to interrupt with:

"Were those your horses that ran up the village just now, sir?"

"Oh! by the by, yes; I must be after them," suddenly ejaculated the doctor, and away he sped, regardless of his stiffness, in the direction of the village. Grant followed, but they had not gone twenty yards when the doctor as suddenly changed his mind, and sitting down on the bank, proposed to wait. "I know," he said, "the team will go straight for home, and my man will bring them back, when I can send

him down for the buggy, which is just below the hill."

"How did it happen, sir?"

"Oh! only a shy; they're given to that sort of thing. I am afraid I shall find a little difficulty in breaking them off it, too. I was thinking of a bad case, and all of a sudden they gave a jump right against one of those telegraph posts, pitched me out with the jar, the line broke, and they got clear from the buggy, and were off like a shot. Ah, here is Duncan now."

"Are you hurt, sir?" said the man. "The mistress is in a real bad fright."

"Tut, tut, there was no need. What did you let her know anything about it for?"

The man was proceeding to explain that Mrs. Olmsted had heard the horses come dashing up to the stable door, when the doctor interrupted him impatiently:

"Well, never mind, go on down the road and bring up the buggy; you can tie it on behind, and we will walk on home."

The two proceeded slowly towards home, the doctor unfolding a great scheme he had for safety reins. "He proposed," he said, "to have a small reel to his carriage and a pair of extra driving lines to the bridle bits, and these lines were to be wound round this reel so that they would run out about a hundred yards. The danger is," he proceeded to further explain, "when horses break a whiffletree, or shy and upset a buggy, or in any way get away from the vehicle, that, in holding on to the reins, the driver is pulled out and either kicked or run over. Now if he had a long safety rein to pay out, he would have lots of time to drop his driving lines, and consider,—a few moments is quite long enough for a man to gather his wits together in an accident, and by the time he has got his hands again on the horses' mouths, his head would be cool."

The revelation of this scheme occupied the walk through the village, and so thoroughly wrapped up in the plan was the doctor that he appeared quite unconscious of the smile of recognition, mingled with amusement, to which he was treated by persons on the sidewalk. On arriving at the house, the doctor hurried into his surgery, and soon reappearing, ushered his