

it; this happened a short time before harvest; the chase was very hot, and they ran the deer many miles, which did great damage, the corn being almost ripe. Upon the death of the deer, and examination of the collar, it was found to belong to Colonel Nutcombe, of the parish of Clayhanger. Those farmers and gentlemen, that sustained great damage, complained very heavily to Mr. Rayner, the school-master, of the havock made in their fields, which occasioned strict inquiry to be made concerning the ringleaders, who proved to be our hero and his companions, who on being severely threatened, absented themselves from school, and the next evening fell into company with a society of gipsies, who were feasting and carousing at the Brick-house near Tiverton. This society consisted of seventeen or eighteen persons of both sexes, who met with a full purpose of merriment and jollity; and after a plentiful meal upon fowls, ducks, and other dainty dishes, the flowing cups of October cider, &c., went cheerfully round, and merry songs and country dances crowned the jovial banquet: in short so great an air of freedom, mirth, and pleasure, appeared in the faces and gestures of this society, that our youngsters from that time conceived a sudden inclination to enlist in their company; which, when they communicated to the gipsies, they, considering their appearance, behaviour, and education, regarded it as only spoken in jest; but, as they tarried there all night in their company, and continued in the same resolution the next morning, they were at length induced to admit them into their number, the proper oaths being first administered.

Thus was Mr. Carew initiated into the mysteries of a society which for antiquity needs give place to none. He did not continue long in it without being consulted in important matters; particularly by Madam Musgrove, of Monkton, near Taunton, who hearing of his fame, sent for him to consult in an affair of difficulty. When he was come, she informed him that she suspected a large quantity of money was buried somewhere about her house, and if he would acquaint her with the particular place, should reward him handsomely.

Our hero informed the lady, that under a laurel tree in the garden lay the treasure she sought for, but that her planet of good fortune did not reign till such a day and hour, till which time she should desist from searching for it. The good lady rewarded him very generously with twenty guineas for his discovery.

In the meantime, his parents were not able to get the least tidings of him, though they publicly advertised him