



THE EDITOR'S SHANTY.

SEDURENT III.

(*Mr. Maclear is announced by the barking of Nell.*)

THE MAJOR.—Peace Nelly, good dog! knowest thou not the footfall of a friend?

MR. M.—I fear that I am somewhat intrusive thus anticipating my visit by an hour, but in truth I was somewhat anxious to hear the continuation of our friend Mrs. Grundy's adventures, and have come to solicit her to continue the recital.

THE MAJOR.—Unfortunately this is a very unlucky day for the purpose. It is the anniversary of a very melancholy event in the category of her misfortunes, and the good dame is now, as is her wont at this season, enjoying the privacy and solitude of her own apartment.

MR. M.—I am sorry.

THE MAJOR.—Nay man, thou shalt not be disappointed—I have heard the story often enough to know it well, and I may spare her feelings a partial trial, by becoming myself the narrator of it, if it pleaseth thee.

MR. M.—I shall be delighted to listen to you, and the more so as the trial to me will be still less, than in hearing it from her own lips.

THE MAJOR.—Give me the cue then. Where did she leave off.

MR. M.—She had just embarked for India

THE MAJOR.—Aye, and a sorrowful voyage it was. The incidents of a departure from one's native land, to a country thousands of miles away, are of so purely a personal kind, as to vary almost in every case. Still, there are certain leading circumstances common to all; but these have been so frequently and graphically described, that a repetition would

only be irksome to you. Suffice it to say that a few weeks found them basking under a tropical sun to the southward of Madeira. The ship in which they were was one of the finest of her class, one of those frigates of the Company's Service, which are now less common than they used to be. A detachment of her husband's regiment and some others going out to reinforce the service companies were on board under his charge, with several women and children attached to them. A severe epidemic fever broke out among them, and the anxiety and fatigue attending his care of these troops predisposed him to an attack of the disease. For five weeks she watched and nursed him, and when the hues of returning health began to spread over his cheek once more, her exhausted frame became an easy prey to the remorseless assailant. A naturally strong constitution however withstood its violence and in a short time, she was able to resume her accustomed evening walk on the deck. We can readily conceive, my dear Sir, what the happiness of those moments must have been. Two young beings mutually dependent on each other for all the kindly offices of domestic life, under circumstances of a most trying nature, and at a time when their relative duties were as yet novel to them, just snatched from the grasp of the King of Terrors, were now in sweet communion under the starry sky and in the balmy atmosphere of a tropical evening. Gliding through the dark blue Atlantic, the foaming water sparkling around them with that singular luminous appearance, so startling when seen for the first time, they must have revelled in the joy of rescue, the sense of security, the dream of hope. The future would seem to borrow its