

mortgage I will forego, and then, that this may not be thought a bribe to buy a sordid love, I will leave my native land and home, and seek in foreign climes upon the battle field——"

But before he could conclude his rhapsody, the landlord entered to stir the fire, and to ask what he would like to have for supper, and as even lovers must eat sometimes—and he had taken nothing since his morning's meal, and now the sun had set—he listened to his kind host's bill of fare, with patient resignation, acceding to every thing he recommended. And when left again to commune with himself, he would fain have taken up the thread where he had left it; but, like the poor woman's, it was gone, and a smile, the first that lighted up his face that day, beamed from his hazel eyes, as he thought upon this trifling coincidence; and, in the strange vagaries of the human mind, it turned his thoughts on other things less sad and gloomy, as if that smile, the harbinger of better days, had said "I did not come alone;" and to the bustling landlord, as he again came in to lay the table for his supper, he made some cheerful common-place remark, to which a bland and courteous reply was made, accompanied with a request to know what provender his horse should have.

"I shall see him fed myself; but he's yet too warm."

"Not a hair turned, sir, I assure you; but there will be plenty of time after you've got your own supper, which will be on the table in a twinkling; I'm sure your honour's hungry and tired with your long ride, as I suppose you've been at the sale today."

"I have," was the laconic reply, when mine host perceiving, with that intuitiveness so common to such functionaries, that he was treading on some forbidden ground, (but why or wherefore it was not for him to ask,) pursued his task in silence, till the viands were on the table and the claret at the fire, when he invited his noble guest, as he designated him, to be seated, and try to make his evening meal upon the best fare, though poor, his house afforded; thus awakened from the reverie he was gradually falling into from the unfortunate remark about the sale, he turned to the supper table and could not refrain from smiling at the landlord's apology when he contemplated the profusion before him. At the end of the small table where he sat, was a dish of cutlets smoking hot, while the other was graced with a royal round of beef, cold although a knife had never touched it; a cold fowl on one side, and a tongue on the other, while the corners were garnished with sundry puffs and tarts, containing rich and curious conserves, more, in the present case, for ornament than use; not but

that our hero, with that best of all most piquante sauces, a good appetite, did ample justice; and no wonder, harassed as he had been, throughout that live-long day, in mind and body, if he felt refreshed in both; and a soothing calm came creeping over him; a looker on would have said he was indeed another man, and so he thought himself, as he went out to the stable to see his horse, when all his firmness gave way on hearing, in the broadest patois of that district, the ostler saying to the labouring servant of the inn, to which a small farm was attached:

"I say, Bill, I'll just bet thee a gallon o' yale that Mr. Winterton's horse is'n't worth sae mickle by five gold guinies, and the maister hissel' shall be't judge. Mr. Winterton's, indeed! and that's all thou knows about horses."

"Done!" said Bill.

And off they were both posting to the house with the lantern, but were intercepted in their course, as well as in the high words to which the argument was rising rapidly, by Mr. Netherby at the very door of the stable.

"What's all this about! what's the matter?" he said, first looking at one of the abashed servitors and then at the other; but instead of an answer to his question, they both set officiously to work to groom and feed his horse, when he observed to him who appeared the chief functionary there, for he had a kind word for every one, however mean, with whom he came in contact: "You must be a judge of horses, you see so many. What do you think of mine? I've just bought him."

"That, your honour's lordship was just what all the noise was about 'tween me and Bill here. He says Mr. Winterton's is a better, and I say he's foondered all fours, and has'n't a leg to stan' on, and isn't worth as mickle as this by five gold guinies, and he says this chap's got no bottom, says he; may be not, says I, as nobody has niver foond it, or I know nought about a horse's ee—Mr. Winterton's indeed!"

"And who's Mr. Winterton?" inquired master Harry, so far interested in the conversation.

"Mr. Winterton! but it's the young Mr. Winterton. I thowt your honour came frae t' ha' and mun hae know'd him," said the now communicative ostler, and continued, as he saw from Mr. Netherby's manner that he did not know who he was:

"Why it's the young un that's come frae far away, frae the Ingies, or some forrin' parts to wed mistress Alice; and a grand weddin' it's to be, they say."

Poor master Harry returned to the house more confounded and bewildered than ever, any misfortune, he thought, he could bear, with manly