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taining the valuable labours of many years, scattered about, defaced and destroyed. All poor Catharine's little bijoux, and works, and painting, and the numerous articles in which fair ladies take delight, together with the valued memorials of her mother and other dear friends, were tossed about or carried away. Her beautiful flower-garden, on which she used to bestow so much pains, and which in the pleasant month of April, should have been just putting forth its buds and flowers, was trampled down by the horse-hoofs, the fence demolished, and the shrubs rooted up and used as firewood. Nor was their condition worse than that of their neighbours. The fair town of Lichfield, which six weeks before had been peaceful and flourishing, now presented very much the appearance of a nest of ants which by some accident had been disturbed, and were busily employed in restoring their injured dwellings. Mr. Morley was much gratified by the kind attention of some of his poorer parishioners, who, having suffered less in the general calamity, simply because they had less to lose, voluntarily came forward to assist him with their labour in restoring his habitation to its former state of comfort. It need scarcely be added that Henry was there every day, rendering his services, which were thankfully accepted, until duty again called him to other scenes.

The domestic inconveniences to which civil war had exposed so many peaceful families were rendered still more painful by the reflection, that they had no safeguard against the recurrence of similar calamities.

The recapture of Lichfield was a brave exploit, and important to the surrounding district; and the near presence of a royalist garrison, so long as it was not attacked, gave protection to the neighbourhood. But the war now raged throughout almost every county of England; and it was impossible to say how soon Lichfield might be again the scene of strife between the contending parties. And they who know the misery of suspense and danger, will be well aware that, where they exist, it is impossible that peace and comfort should be inmates. Religious faith may reconcile the Christian heart to many afflictions; but it cannot preserve us from those natural sorrows which must ever accompany a state of alarm and anxiety.

Providence, however, so ordered it, that the scourge of actual war did not for some while visit a spot which had already suffered so much from its miseries. For two years the rebels made no serious attempt to disturb the garrison of Lichfield, which, having now been well provisioned and furnished with all necessary stores, would have been able to make a more determined resistance than in the former siege.

During the whole of this time, the midland counties, though not invaded by the main armies of the contending parties, were a continual scene of petty warfare. The King had strong garrisons at Tutbury and Ashby-de-la-Zouch, as well as at Lichfield. The rebels held Derby, Stafford, and Tamworth. The object of these garrisons was to overawe and levy contributions on the neighbourhood. They were maintained partly by heavy assessments collected from the surrounding parishes, partly by plunder drawn from the houses or estates of those persons who were of different politics. Every country-house, every farm, nay, almost every cottage, was liable to constant pillage. He who to day was possessed of a valuable live-stock on his farm, to-morrow might have them all driven away; or the man who had just thanked God for enabling him to gather in a plentiful harvest, might have the disappointment of seeing a troop of soldiers come and thrash out his corn, and carry it off for the use of the garrison. Then, when any of the parliamentary troops' horses fell lame, an order was made for them to go and help themselves from the stable of any papist or other malignant, meaning thereby any royalist in the neighbourhood; and no doubt the royalists availed themselves of similar means to recruit their cavalry: large sums, also, were demanded by the way of loan or gratuity from those who were possessed of any property; and if the sum was not soon forthcoming, the defaulter was speedily lodged in prison until he found means to pay it; or his estates were put under sequestration, and the rents or proceeds paid to commissioners. Another grievous annoyance was, that each party would often quarter troops in the houses of those of the contrary faction, and the peaceful inmates were obliged to submit to all the inconvenience, besides the expense, of maintaining a lawless and hungry set of soldiers. It was necessary, too, for any person who desired to leave his home, to obtain, for a considerable sum, a pass, or safe-conduct, from the commander of the troops near which he journeyed; nor could people safely travel on their ordinary business, or even go to visit their friends, without being provided with such safeguards. Of course this was a serious drawback to all mercantile transactions. Trade languished in consequence of the danger of communication between

distant places; and even the mining operations in the midland counties were much interfered with.

Such was the condition of the country in general. Some few persons, who happened to have powerful friends on both sides, were enabled, through their interest, to obtain partial exemption from the annoyance endured by others; but these fortunate persons were very few in number; and the comparative impunity which they enjoyed was commonly purchased at the expense of principle, and by truckling to each party in its turn.

Besides the ordinary exactions for the subsistence of the troops, the country was harassed by continual expeditions made by the commanders of the different garrisons against each other for the annoyance of the enemy, by cutting off supplies, or with a view to gain some advantage for their cause.

Colonel Bagot, the commander of the troops at Lichfield, appears to have been a most gallant and zealous partisan of the King; and not only to have protected his own neighbourhood, and to have secured the love and esteem of his friends, by gaining several important advantages over them. On one occasion in particular, the gallant colonel, with a considerable number of troops from the Lichfield garrison, marched to Burton-on-Trent, and took possession of the manor-house belonging to Lord Paget. Here he was attacked by a body of the enemy; but sallying forth, he charged them with such vigour, that they fled with the loss of sixteen cart-loads of slain. There was another bloody affair at Burton-on-Trent, in which the Church, containing a considerable number of men, was blown up; but it does not appear, from any document in my possession, whether the garrison of Lichfield had any part in this affair or not.

During the same period, many skirmishes seem to have taken place between the King's troops in garrison at Lichfield and those of the Parliament at Tamworth. The Governor of Tamworth was Waldive Willington, a person of consideration in the neighbourhood. The deputy-governor, Major Hunt, was one of those persons who are wont to rise to the surface in revolutionary times. Originally a mercer at Coventry, he had failed in his business, and had taken up the trade of demagogue as a more profitable speculation. For some time he had been conspicuous as a fomentor of democratic opinions amongst the weavers of his native town. Bold, active, and unscrupulous, but, at the same time, vain and conceited, he was just the man to obtain a bad eminence in times when impudence is wont to get the ascendancy over real worth. Hunt was just cut out for a provincial agitator, and as such was patronised and used as a tool by the disaffected party in Parliament, being found a fit agent for these purposes in the borough in which he resided. At the breaking out of the rebellion, he was chosen leader of a band of apprentices; and soon after, being found bold and useful, he was advanced to the rank of major, and entrusted with the governorship of Ashley Castle, from whence he was afterwards removed to Tamworth.

This man had been taken prisoner in some engagement, and confined at Lichfield, from which place he was released by Colonel Bagot, probably in exchange for some prisoner in equal rank on the royalist side.

Whether he had not been treated with the respect which he conceived due to him, or from whatever cause is uncertain; but, as soon as he had got back to Tamworth, he wrote the following extraordinary challenge to Colonel Bagot, which is preserved in the pages of the *Mercurius Aulicus*:—

"Bagot, thou some of a Egyptian.—meete me half the way to-morrow morning, the half way betwixt Tamworth and Lichfield, if thou darest; if not I will whippe thee whensoever I meete thee.

"Tamworth, this December 1644."

(To be continued.)

#### ENTERING IN.

The Church was dim and silent  
With the hush before the prayer:  
Only the solemn trembling  
Of the organ stirred the air.  
Without, the sweet, still sunshine,  
Within, the holy calm,  
Where priest and people waited  
For the swelling of the psalm.

Slowly the door swung open,  
And a little baby girl,  
Brown-eyed, with brown hair falling  
In many a wavy curl,  
With soft cheeks flushing hotly,  
Shy glances downward thrown,  
And small hands clasped before her,  
Stood in the aisle alone—

Stood half abashed, half frightened  
Unknowing where to go,  
While, like a wind-rocked flower,  
The form swayed to and fro;  
And the changing colour fluttered  
In the little troubled face,  
As from side to side she wavered  
With a mute, imploring grace.

It was but for a moment—  
What wonder that we smiled,  
By such a strange, sweet picture  
From holy thoughts beguiled—  
When up rose some one softly,  
And many an eye grew dim,  
As through the tender silence  
He bore the child with him.

And I—I wondered (losing  
The sermon and the prayer)  
If, when sometime I enter  
The "many mansions" fair,  
And stand abashed and drooping  
In the portal's golden glow,  
Our God will send an angel  
To show me where to go!

#### A DAY OF RECKONING.

"THE harvest is past, and the summer is ended." What time more fitting for a little retrospect, and a careful balancing of accounts? At the close of the summer the crops are all made, and for the most part gathered in. The summer has done its work, and the results may now be counted. The farmer, the fruit grower, the gardener, and, indeed, all the tillers of the soil, know pretty well what the products of their labours are. They should also know what their expenses have been, and thus be enabled to strike a balance, and see how they stand. So it may be with all other classes. Those who have been travelling at home or abroad—those who have been in the mountains, or at the seaside, or in the country, should now, upon their return to their business and their homes, carefully count up the cost of their summer vacation and recreation. Very likely they may find that their expenses have been disproportionate to their income. This is not an unfrequent experience. But what shall be done? Economy must be practised. Expenses must be reduced, otherwise the very foundations of a true prosperity will be taken away. Now, as good, sensible Christians we should look the matter straight in the face. Shall the necessary retrenchment be in our charities or in our personal expenses? This is the question, and each one of us must settle it for ourselves. As our increased expenses during the summer were for our personal pleasure and gratification, it will hardly be honourable for deserving charities to bear the cost of these enjoyments. Would not that be rather selfish? And could we expect that God would be pleased with it? No, not that. Let us meet the case by our own self-denial. This will be Christian, and it will also be right.

After all there is something pleasant in getting back again to our homes and accustomed duties. It is very pleasant to go about awhile in the summer; see new places and new faces; live at hotels and in boarding houses, and feel comparatively free from pressing cares and anxieties. It is not only pleasant, but profitable both for body and mind. As the Lord said to His disciples, "Come ye apart and rest awhile," so He says to His followers now: Take a little time for change and recreation—you will be the better for it. We may, therefore, feel free to take a proper portion of time for rest and refreshment. But after a few weeks our very rest and recreation become rather irksome. We tire of the hotel and the boarding house, and long for to return to our simpler and more sensible mode of living, and to the work God has given us to do. Say what we will, vacations are not very profitable for either mental or spiritual growth. We do not feel like applying ourselves to anything in particular. We form ever so many plans as to what we will read and do; but somehow we read scarcely anything, and do little or nothing. The result is, we often return home more improved in body than in mind and soul, and it is a real pleasure to enter upon our regular courses of life again, for after all it is in these that our mental and spiritual growth is to be secured and promoted.

At first Satan came to make the heart of Judas his own; now he "enters" because it is his own.