## THE KING OF NO-LAND.

BY B. L. FARJEON.

X.

(*Continued.*)

Bluebell blushes, and shakes her head. When she is inside the cottage, Dame Endive grows garrulous over the virtues and accomplishments of her son, and dilates with pardonable pride upon the estimation in which he is held by all who know him. Bluebell listens, and says, "Yes, yes," to everything the old woman advances, and dame Endive gazes on her with secret delight and pleasure.

Coltsfoot and Robin come. Each has flowers for Bluebell. She selects two of the prettiest, one from each bunch, and twines them in her hair. Robin is a strong, sun-burned man now. Woodman as he is, he belongs to the thinking classes, for he has his grievance—that two shillings a week more, which is to set everything right. He gives Bluebell a sounding kiss, and wipes his lips afterward. A strong yearning comes into Coltsfoot's face as he takes Bluebell's hand in his, and wishes her joy. As he stands thus, his old mother calls out:

"What! and not kiss her on such a day as this? Well, if I was a man!"

Whereupon Bluebell holds up her face, and he touches her cheek with his lips. The old woman cackles and laughs.

"May your life contain much brightness, Bluebell!" says Coltsfoot, tenderly.

She answers sweetly, and bustles about to hide a tear. Joy and melancholy hold subtle relationship with each other.

Along the fragrant country lane, in the direction of the cottage, Sassafras is strolling. When he is within hail of it, he pauses and looks fondly about him. The beauty of nature sinks into his soul, and breathes peace into it. He sighs with a sense of relief, as he thinks that he is here, unknown and free, away from the cares and griefs which weigh so heavily upon him. "Has any other man," he murmurs, "ever so fully appreciated the pleasure of obscurity?" The reflection inspires the shadow of serious thought. He shakes it off. "Thank God," he says, "to-day I am not a king!"

He approaches nearer to the cottage; enters the porch. They within see his face at the window, and they all smile a welcome. Bluebell runs to open the door for him. He also has a flower for her; it is a rose-bud with a small piece of rosemary attached. She places it in her bosom, and in a few minutes they are all sitting down to dinner, and Sassafras is declaring that the pease are the sweetest that he has ever tasted.

"And I'll wager," he says, "that I know who gathered them."

"Yes, yes," cackles the old woman, "Bluebell gathered them. My old joints are stiff. I can't stoop as I used to."

Robin is full of a subject which interests him hugely. For some time past there had been rumors that the laberers in No-land—those who tilled and plowed—were becoming dissatisfied with their condition, and that very week news had come that in a village hard by thirty of them had refused to to do any more work for their masters, the farmers, unless they had two shillings a week more. Robin shows himself to be quite a politician as he descants upon this theme but the others decline to be drawn into conversation upon the subject. Sassafras certainly says that for his part he thinks he should like to be a woodman. Bluebell's eyes sparkle.

"Eh," says Robin, "but your hands are too soft."

"They would soon grow hard," replies Sassafras.

Then Robin recalls the day on which they had first met, and tells, for the hundreth time, what a queer chap he thought Sassafras was.

"He didn't know naught," cried Robin, with a snap of his fingers; "he was the ignorantest chap I ever clapped eyes on!"

After dinner they sat in the porch, talking. Sassafras listens, but says very little. He sits next to Bluebell, and this for him is sufficient happiness. There is to him something sacred in the very touch of this young girl's cotton dress; and if their fingers meet—as they do sometimes—every nerve in him thrills. Robin succeeds in drawing Coltsfoot out upon his pet theme. Coltsfoot, who knows the exact state of affairs, sympathizes with the men, and wishes that their demands had been complied with. Their condition he describes as lamentable.

"They are waking up now though," shouts Robin, triumphantly.

"But notwithstanding that they have reason and justice on their side," observes Coltsfoot, "they have a hard battle to fight. The issue in the end can not be doubted, but they will have to suffer. One does not need much for comfort and happiness in this world, and a man can do very well on a little; but these men certainly have not enough, and certainly are most unfairly paid for their labor. We'll say no more on the subject; this is not the day for its discussion."

In the afternoon they stroll through the fields and the woods and Robin and Bluebell point out many wonders by the way. They are the happiest of the happy. Coltsfoot's usually grave face breaks into smiles, and he joins in the innocent merriment with the light spirits of a boy.

"I know where there is an echo," says Sassafras.

"Let us go there," cries Bluebell, clapping her hands.

They make their way through the tangled brushwood, Sassafras leading. Now and then he turns and assists Bluebell. With her hand in his he helps her to overcome obstacles.

"Eternity must be filled with such days as this," he says.

Bluebell sighs a happy assent. Now and then Sassafras runs to help Dame Endive.

"Thank you, my dear," she says; "it is fit that the young should help the old."

Colsfoot hears this. "You are right, mother," he says; "and the rich, the poor; the wise, the ignorant."

"Too much wisdom is a dangerous thing," observes Sassafras. He is in the humor to say any daring thing.

Now they are standing on a slight elevation. A few hundred yards away, where the land slopes toward a wood, rich with the richest treasures of the season, lies echo-land. Thitherward they walk briskly, and in another moment the inspired hollow speaks and laughs and sings.

"Hush!" calls out Sassafras, with assumed solemnity.

"Hush!" responds the hollow, solemnly.

They gather about Sassafras. Coltsfoot regards him and Bluebell attentively; Bluebell has eyes for no one but him; Dame Endive, leaning on her crutch-stick, peers up at him from beneath her spectacles; Robin waves his arms, and is about to utter some wild words, when Sassafras, with his fingers on his lips, says, almost in a whisper,

*To be Continued.*


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This House is finely situated—being near the International Steamboat Landing, and convenient to the leading public and business offices, churches and places of amusement—with a full view of the Bay and Harbor, and is eminently adapted for a first-class Hotel. A few Permanent Boarders can now obtain board with choice rooms.

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Common & Refined Iron, Metal, Cordage, Duck, Spikes, &c.

Per steamer Mimosa, from Liverpool, and vessels from United States:

1500 BARS BEST REFINED IRON, well assorted.
1576 bars Common Iron, well assorted;
81 coils Isle of Man Hemp Rope, 2 to 7½ in.
106 " English & American Manilla, 2 to 6 in.
13 " B B Charcoal Wire Rope, 2 to 4 in.
219 " YELLOW METAL, ¾ to 1¼;
8 Chain Cables and Anchors;
2000 yards Cotton Duck.

To arrive per ships Ruby and Eviva, and steamers from Liverpool

Outfits for vessels complete. COMMON and REFINED IRON, Yellow Metal, SPIKES, Oakum, Lead, &c., &c.

For sale at lowest market rates.

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In the market, including favorite brands of

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50 PER cent Overproof, in bond at No. 2 Warehouse. Will be sold at Lowest Market Rates, in Bond or Duty Paid, by

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ARMSTRONG & McPHERSON, 99 UNION STREET.

ARE now receiving a choice assortment of Teas, Sugars, Coffees, Spices, Fruits, etc., etc., suitable for the season.

All warranted fresh and good.

Also—5 bbls Cranberries, choice.

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Perfumerie des Trois Freres

Paris, West End, White Rose, Frangipane, Ess. Bouquet, Jockey Club, Hille Fleurs,

THE finest perfumes made. If not sold by your druggist, may be obtained at retail of the Wholesale Agency,

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PRESSED HOPS—One ton—crop of 1873—fresh and good. For sale by

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Ex stmr New Brunswick:

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175 TONS Beater Pressed Hay, fine quality.

W. A. SPENCE, North Slip

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