

May he bless and watch over you, my dear child, for Jesus' sake!

Again Mrs. Mortimer kissed his cheek, and Frank felt a tear that was not his own; but before he could speak she was gone.

Frank did not see his father again before he started; but when he bent forward to catch a last glimpse of the old Grange, he noticed that the blind in Mr. Netherton's room was drawn slightly aside, and felt that he watched and blessed him.

'Do not cry, Frank,' said his cousin, at length. 'After all, you will not find a school life so bad, when once you are used to it. I rather like going back now. But to be sure I felt as you do at first.'

'It is not that. I should not so much mind going to school,' said Frank, 'if I were quite sure of finding all right on my return.'

'You are thinking of your father. He will get better.'

'O, I hope so!'

'I am sure of it,' repeated Frederick, encouragingly. 'My mother is a capital nurse.'

Frank did not reply; but after a few moments he wiped away his tears, and spoke cheerfully. He had placed the matter in God's hands, and asked him to take care of his dear father for him until he came back.

CHAPTER V.

SCHOOL TRIALS.

NEARLY all the boys had returned, and were assembled in the schoolroom when the cousins arrived. Mr. Campbell received them kindly, and having shaken hands and exchanged a few words with his new pupil, he introduced him to his schoolfellows, and consigning him more especially to the care of his cousin, left them together.

Frederick had a thousand things to tell his companions; a thousand questions to ask and answer as to where they had been, and what they had done during the holidays; and Frank meanwhile stood by, unnoticed and alone, and feeling almost ready to cry. When they did begin to notice him at length, he was not much better off, for they only smiled, and whispered to one another; and he observed that Frederick appeared to be as much amused as the rest. Frank began to look as well as feel very sad and dismal in that room full of strange faces, and a large tear stole down his flushed cheek.

'What is the matter, little one?' asked one of the boys. 'Are you mother-sick already?'

'That cannot be,' answered Frank, 'for I have no mother.'

'Poor little fellow! leave him alone,' said an authoritative voice. The boys drew back and continued to whisper; all but one, who went up to where Frank stood, and holding out his hand, said in a low voice—

'I have no mother either. Let us be friends.'

'With all my heart,' replied Frank.

'I did not hear what Mr. Campbell said your name was?'

'Frank Netherton.'

'Mine is Howard.'

'Have you been long at school?' asked Frank.

'Yes, nearly a twelvemonth; but I do not like it better than the first day I came.'

'Mr. Campbell appears to be very kind.'

'So he is, when we do right. But the worst of it is, I never can do right for long together; and then he is stern, and I get so frightened that I do not know what I am about.'

'Have you a father?' asked Frank.

'No, I am an orphan. My aunt is very kind to me; only of course she does not love me as well as her own children.'

'I, too, have an aunt,' said Frank; 'and a father also.'

'You are very young to come to school, are you not?'

'Only a year younger than my cousin Frederick.'

'Then you are very little for your age.'

'That was what you were all laughing at, I suppose,' said Frank; 'but I did not make myself.'

'Why, Philip Doyle did call you an odd-looking, old-fashioned little thing; and then Mortimer said that you were as old as you looked, and they would find it out by-and-by.'

'It was very unkind of Frederick to say that,' observed Frank, coloring.

'I do not think he meant it unkindly; but he always laughs when the rest do.'

'And who is Philip Doyle?'

'One of the cleverest boys, and one of the greatest tyrants in the school. I would do anything rather than offend him. When once he works himself into a passion, it is quite terrible to see him; and very little will do it.'

'Who is it now talking to my cousin, and looking at us?'

'Claude Hamilton. He is very clever too. Every one loves Claude Hamilton. It was he who interfered just now, when they were going

to tease you for crying. I am sure it is only natural to cry when one comes to school for the first time.'

'It may be natural, but I am afraid that it was very foolish,' said Frank; and I do not mean to cry again if I can help it.'

There were no lessons that evening. It seemed a very long evening to Frank. Frederick never once approached him until just before bedtime, when he came to warn him not to be too intimate with young Howard.

'He is the greatest dunce in the school,' said he, 'and a coward as well: the less you have to do with him the better.'

'He was very kind to me,' answered Frank, a little bitterly, 'when no one else came near me.'

Frederick colored.

'I warned you beforehand,' said he, 'that you must fight your own battles.'

'And so I will. But even if you are not on my side, surely you need not be against me.'

'Who said I was against you? Did Howard say so?'

'Never mind,' answered Frank. 'I do not want to quarrel with you, or for you to quarrel with any one else on my account. But I did think it hard, when your dear mother said that we should be like brothers.'

'Well, well,' said Frederick, holding out his hand, 'I did not mean to be unkind. But you must not expect too much. 'Every one for himself:' you know the old proverb.'

'Yes,' replied Frank, 'I have heard it, but I never felt it before.'

Mr. Campbell was surprised upon questioning Frank, the following morning, to find how much he knew, and how carefully and thoroughly he had been taught; and said a great deal that was highly gratifying to his feelings on the subject.

'Contrary to my usual custom,' observed he, 'I shall place you immediately in one of the upper classes; and it must be your care to prove that I am justified in so doing.'

Frank thanked him gratefully, and promised to be very diligent. As soon as he returned to his seat, Frederick congratulated him in a whisper upon his good fortune, and spoke so kindly that he quite forgot the past.

TO BE CONTINUED.

The Sabbath Afternoon Temperance Meeting is held from 3 to 4 o'clock, in the Temperance Street Hall. Please attend.