

remained unoccupied. He had raised his hands before his eyes, and besought a blessing which was placed before them, and was preparing to carve for his visitors, when his eyes fell upon the vacant chair. The knife dropped upon the table. Anxiety flushed across his countenance, like an arrow from an unseen hand.

"Janet, where is Thomas?" he enquired; "have none of ye seen him?" and, without waiting an answer, he continued, "How is it possible he can be absent at a time like this? And on such a day, too? Excuse me a minute, friends, till I just step out and see if I can find him. Since ever I kept this day, as many of ye ken, he has always been at my right hand, in that very chair, and I canna think o' beginning our dinner while I see it empty."

"If the filling of the chair be all," said a pert young sheep-farmer, named Johnson, "I will step into it till Master Thomas arrives."

"Ye are not a father, young man," said Peter, and walked out of the room.

Minute succeeded minute, but Peter returned not. The guests became hungry, peevish, and gloomy, while an excellent dinner continued spoiling before them. Mrs. Elliot, whose good-nature was the most prominent feature in her character, strove, by every possible effort to beguile the unpleasant impressions she perceived gathering upon their countenances.

"Peter is just as bad as him," she remarked, "to have gone to seek him when he kenned the dinner would na keep. And I am sure Thomas kenned it would be ready at one o'clock to a minute. It is sae unthinking and unfriendly like to keep folk waiting." And, endeavoring to smile upon a beautiful black-haired girl of seventeen, who sat by her elbow, she continued, in an anxious whisper, "Did ye see naething o' him, Elizabeth, hiny?"

The maiden blushed deeply; the question evidently gave freedom to a tear, which had, for some time, been an unwilling prisoner in the brightest eyes in the room; and the monosyllable, "No," that trembled from her lips, was audible only to the ear of the inquirer. In vain Mrs. Elliot despatched one of her children after another, in quest of their father and brother; they came and went, but brought no tidings more cheering than the moaning of the hollow wind. Minutes rolled into hours, yet neither came. She perceived the poulder of her guests preparing to withdraw, and observing that "Thomas's absence was so singular and unaccountable, and so unlike either him or his father, she didna ken what apology to make to her friends for such treatment; but it was needless waiting, and begged they would use no ceremony, but just begin."

No second invitation was necessary. Good humor appeared to be restored; and sirloins, pies, pasties, and moor-fowl, begun to disappear like the lost son. For a moment, Mrs. Elliot apparently partook in the restoration of cheerfulness; but a low sigh at her elbow again drove the color from her rosy cheeks. Her eye wandered to the farther end of the table, and rested on the unoccupied seat of her husband and the vacant chair of her first born. Her heart fell heavily within her; all the mother gushed into her bosom; and, rising from the table, "What in the world can be the meaning o' this?" said she, as she hurried, with a troubled countenance, towards the door. Her husband met her on the threshold.

"Where have ye been, Peter?" said she, eagerly: "have ye seen naething o' him?"

"Naething! naething!" replied he; "is he

no cast up yet?" and, with a melancholy glance, his eyes sought an answer in the deserted chair. His lips quivered, his tongue faltered.

"Gods forgi'e me!" said he: "and such a day for even an enemy to be out in I've been up and down every way that I can think on, but not a living creature has seen or heard tell o' him. Ye'll excuse me, neighbors," he added, leaving the house; "I must away again, for I canna rest."

"I ken by myself, friends," said Adam Bell, a decent-looking Northumbrian, "that a father's heart is as sensitive as the apple o' his o'e; and I think we would shew a want o' natural sympathy and respect for our worthy neighbor, if we didna every one get his foot into the stirrup without loss o' time, and assist him in his search. For, in my rough, country way o' thinking, it must be something particularly out o' the common that could tempt Thomas to be amissing.—Indeed, I needna say tempt, for there could be no inclination in the way. And our hills," he concluded, in a lower tone, "are not ower chancy in other respects, besides the breaking up o' the storm."

TO BE CONTINUED.

CANADIAN FAMILY HERALD.

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GRAND PROVINCIAL SHOW.

The Provincial Agricultural Association's Exhibition is the first great fact now to be developed in Toronto. Somehow the people have been led to expect a great display; we fondly hope they will not be disappointed. Our city Council have stepped nobly into the breach, and many of our citizens have exerted themselves with an earnest good will to maintain unimpaired the honour of the city. But, there is always some Achan in the camp,—some paltry selfish interest at work to counteract the glory which naturally would result from great achievements. We had expected that at least the energies of all those who had leisure and influence would be devoted to the promotion of this anticipated display so as to make it worthy of the province; but, no, some purely selfish, local, idea,—like a few hundred pounds of debt on a church, or something of that kind—intervenes, to divert not only the influence, but also many of the ornamental works which would have helped to enrich the Exhibition, and to turn both into antagonism to that Great Show in which the honour of the City and the Province are alike at stake. How amazingly mean, selfishness looks, when brought into contrast with the public weal. The City, by the liberality of the Council, is pledged

to produce something grand,—something that will eclipse all previous efforts, and yet a host of citizens from whom better things might have been expected, whose education and status warrant such an expectation, have been working night and day for some time to defeat, so far, the cherished consummation. Nevertheless, of all this counter-working, we look forward to a successful Exhibition of the industry and resources of Upper Canada, with a fair display of the mechanical ingenuity of our brethren across the Lake. Our City is admirably situated for such an assemblage, as it is easy of access from all quarters, and with the arrangements made is so far fitted to afford ample accommodation to a crowd of strangers. The corporation, by liberally voting eight hundred pounds to help on the cause, have considerably lightened the burdens of the local committee, and have enabled them to prosecute their operations in a more becoming style. The grounds are conveniently situated, being within a few minutes walk of the centre of the city, and so far as ground in a state of nature can be readily adapted to such a purpose, they have been so arranged. The main approach will be by William street, where tickets and badges will be sold, and where all entries of stock and articles for exhibition will be made, on Monday and Tuesday, and on Wednesday morning. But at the upper end of the enclosure there is an entrance from the College Avenue by the side of Caer Howell, and if the weather be fine so that visitors can, with freedom, walk amongst the trees, this will be a favorite entrance, as tickets can also be had here.—The proprietor of Caer Howell has made a carriage-way by the end of his house, right up to the gate of the Exhibition grounds so that this route will generally be preferred by all ramblers. Immediately beyond on the same road, is the Cricket ground, which will no doubt attract a few visitors during the Fair. We subjoin the following condensed programme of the proceedings.

MONDAY and TUESDAY, the 20th and 21st Sept., will be devoted to the entering and arranging of Stock and Articles for the Exhibition. All articles should if possible be entered in the Secretary's books, not later than Tuesday evening, as the entry books will finally close on Wednesday morning at 9 o'clock, and such articles as are entered on Wednesday morning, before 9 o'clock, will be subjected to a charge of 5s. each.

No one who is not a member can exhibit any stock or other articles. Ladies, however, are members *ex-officio*, and have full right to exhibit of their treasures. Badges of membership can be procured from the Treasurer at 5s. each, admitting the purchaser, his wife, and children under fourteen years of age, to the Exhibition, during the week, without any additional charge.

The Directors, the Judges, and the Press, will breakfast on the Grounds, at eight o'clock, on Wednesday morning, in that sweet little spot—the Bowling Green of Caer Howell, where an elegant and spacious tent will be fitted up for the occasion.

Members will be admitted at 2 o'clock P. M. on Wednesday.

The Great Public, or non-members, will be admitted during the whole of THURSDAY and FRIDAY, at 7 1/2d. each for admission.

Arrangements will be made for addresses and dis-