

without another word, astonished though he was, for there was then no time for explanation, and pushed on at a hand gallop, *feeling*, in his anxiety to reach the end of his journey, that the nearer he approached, the longer every specific distance appeared. The avenue is cleared—a crowd of people is on the lawn, the tramp of his horse on the soft turf makes no noise; and perceiving a heartless bailiff-looking man in the attitude of an auctioneer, he hears him exclaim—"Going!—going!—gone!"

And the hall, and the forest, and the manor, the home and the pride and the riches of a long line of ancestry, whose *glory* had departed, was knocked down, like a *cube of goods* at a common auction, to the highest bidder: to some chandler or sugar bailer, who are every where treading upon the skirts of their betters: such contemptuous terms were, at that instant of chagrin and disappointment at his being a few moments too late for the object of his long journey, on master Harry's tongue; but on perceiving a well dressed elderly gentleman, with a bland benevolent expression of countenance, stand out from the crowd to respond to the demand of the sheriff's officer for the name of the purchaser and the amount of deposit money, he did not give them utterance, but throwing his loosened rein over the drooping neck of his jaded horse, he left him to roam at his pleasure on the lawn, to seek and to console poor Alice Musgrave in her sorrow. But ere he reached the hall his steps were arrested by a call from the bailiff to the departing crowd to return, for the sale was not over, as the purchaser would not comply with its conditions, for he had refused to pay down the deposit money; master Harry was delighted; and as he returned, said to himself, "I may yet save it." But it appeared on further investigation, that the stranger had offered the whole amount of the purchase money, instead of the small per centage demanded as security for the fulfilment of the bargain, which the ignorant and rude officer had misconstrued into a demand against this particular condition, originating in his inability to advance the money, making some vulgar remark in a rough and loud tone of voice about people coming to sales of gentlemen's estates, and pretending to bid when they had not the blunt to fork out for one of their pig-sties; but when the stranger quietly gave him to understand that he offered the whole of the purchase money instead, his taunts were changed in an instant to grovelling obsequiousness; and master Harry again in his disappointment, retraced his steps to the hall, where he was doomed to meet with another, and, as he then thought it, a much greater. He had rung the bell twice and waited, what appeared to him in his feverish anxiety

and weariness, occasioned by his long journey, an unreasonable time before it was answered, when a servant he did not know, and such a servant as he had never seen before, opened the door, and said something which, in his fright he did not hear, but stepped back from the door in an attitude of defence or defiance, 'twere hard to say which, for the servant was a pure African, and he had never seen a negro before.

"Massa no in, Sar," the poor black again repeated, equally frightened at such an extraordinary, and to him unaccountable, exhibition of fear: "but walk in, Sar," he had the presence of mind encouragingly to say, "and I will tell him that *buera* wants to see him."

This reassured him in some degree, although it did not unravel the mystery of so strange an apparition; but he entered the hall in compliance with its civil invitation, and was ushered, just the same as by a common and less unearthly-looking serving man, into the withdrawing room, where he was left to his own reflections, which had begun to take a very different turn from what they had before assumed, as Sambo shut the door with a—"Massa be here directly." But this directly was at least a long tedious hour, which seemed lengthened out to an age, and no mistress Alice appeared; for as she was the object uppermost in his thoughts from the moment he entered the hall until his patience had been more than exhausted, when the latch of the door was lifted he fully expected to see the fair mistress Alice enter the apartment; for in his surprise and fright he had either not distinctly heard or had misunderstood what poor blacky had said about "Massa," and the confusion of his ideas, occasioned by the last half hour's occurrences, was doubly confounded by the entrance, not of the sorrowing playmate of his boyhood, mourning over the ruin of her house, and all through his instrumentality or negligence—and this thought, which although it had never struck him before, was not the less poignant now that his efforts to counteract the revengeful feelings of his poor father had been so unfortunately frustrated, all of which he would explain to her satisfaction. But instead of the poor, forsaken, disinherited and persecuted orphan he had risen from his chair to clasp to his bosom, the gentlemanly personage, to whom he had seen the property knocked down not an hour before, made his appearance, and with a look and air of cold politeness, mingled with something approaching to contempt, inquired, notwithstanding, in a mild though serious manner, so serious as to merge into sternness, to what he was indebted, at such a distressing juncture, for the honor of a visit from the young master of Dunsell; pray he seated. Sir, he continued, as Harry rose to meet his saluta-