

the doctor, who, accompanied, though in a... by the failing soprano of the... Doctor. For long I had the satis-... of being lights distinctly glimmer-... at a great distance, and in the direction... where I had before supposed there stood an... of a house, and, as we redoubled our... and exclamations, we were cheered by... of a gruff voice shouting, in accents... of mingled anger and anxiety. "Where he... ye—where is coming! Here, Giles! Tum-... out a few more exclamations from... the exhausted Doctor brought a powerful... auxiliary to our rescue in the shape of a... study west-country farmer, accompanied by... two ploughmen and a hunter, who, after... much difficulty in finding out our actual... position, and a somewhat prolonged dialogue... exchanged between the rescuers on the bank... and the sufferers in the bed of the stream—... for in my efforts to extricate the Doctor I had... myself got in up to the waist—succeeded in... hauling us by main strength to "terra... firma," where, with natural curiosity, he... proceeded to inquire how we came into our... present plight, and what train of events had... brought about the very unusual spectacle of two... dainty gentlemen, clad in hunting cos-... tume, standing waist-deep in water, towards... the bottom of the stream.

the winter's night. "What to see ye, Squire Nogo," said the... hospitable yeoman, as he strode before us to... wards his farm, greedily listening to an ex-... planation—"Glad to see ye, even in such a... plight as you. My mon! find your horses, I'll... warrant, and hounds as well; and, mean-... while, you're heartily welcome—and you too, sir. With which words, he ushered... us into his ample, if an-looking kitchen, where... a blazing fire, lighting up all the etcetera... of that most comfortable apart-... ment, vividly suggested to us the kind... ideas of supper, warmth, and accommodation, which... but a few minutes before had seemed so utterly... hopeless and unattainable. The host was in earnest, the hostess active, and... the visitors nothing loath to be comforted; and when, an hour afterwards, I stretched... my legs beneath the furrier's ingenu-... ity, and surveyed myself in a suit of his homely... clothing, "a world too wide" for my... least proportion, I forgot my hounds, I forgot Bill, I forgot Mrs. Nogo, and... mixing myself a steaming glass of hot gin-... and-water, no had conclusion to a plentiful... repast of cold boiled beef, hot eggs and bacon, the... richest of home-made butter and cheese, and the... strongest of home-brewed ale—I pledged my jolly host with a lively percep-... tion of that merriest of all "symposiums," an... accidental justification—that greatest of all... luxuries, rest after labor, ease after anxiety, natural warmth after external cold—in fine, pleasure after pain.

As for the Doctor, to use a common but... forcible expression, there was "no holding him." Enveloped—I may say lost—in the... farmer's clothing, nothing much more ridicu-... lous can be conceived than the little man, looking... his half-draped trunk to his eye, and... and... light I had with an en-... thusiasm hardly warranted even by such an... occasion as the present. After Actium, Napoleon at Austerlitz, Wellington after... Waterloo, were but faint samples to typify that... hero which the Doctor felt himself in his own person. What was it to him that the... hounds were probably lost? that Bill was undoubtedly, at that moment, bivouac-... ing with a tired horse on the open moor? that he himself would unquestionably be... caught in a tight place by his day's work, and... in the... of his immersion? What was that? He had not gone a run? Had he not added to his own satisfaction, in what would... after take its place in the annals of the family as "Squire Nogo's day with a wild... Had he not jumped a veritable... over a real stone wall? and was he not... in a strange farm-house, the actual... of one of Aiken's successful... having tired his horse and worn out his clothes, is dependent for shelter... at the... the first stranger that may... take pity on his forlorn condition? All this the Doctor felt, and, to give him his due, he... acted the character well. As the gin-bottle... filled, and fresh kettles of hot water steamed... up the hob, so did the still-commencing... of the medico's exploits trench more and more upon the marvellous—border more and more on the sublime. With a vividness of description, not to be brought out by any... liquid save "hot with," brewed by the orator to his own peculiar fancy, he recounted his... adventures and his success. How he had mastered the grey horse—"a hunter that... nothing but a workman could ride!" how he... showed the hounds away, and told Bill

for our hospitable entertainer, after we had... disposed of the Doctor, was, "Success to fox hunting!" and I sought my welcome... couch with the stentorian refrain of his jolly... song, "Tally-ho the hounds, sir!" ringing in my ears. Nor was it without many a... kind invitation to return, and many a hearty... good wish, that he allowed us to commence our homeward journey on the morrow, jaded, stiff, and weary, but triumphant notwithstanding; though I am bound to confess that the Doctor had a splitting headache, and I myself was not without misgivings as to the sort of reception which, after "being absent without leave all night," I should experience from Mrs. Nogo.

CHAPTER XXVII.

They reached the hotel, forth streamed from the front door. A tide of well clad waiters and around. The mob stood.

Don Juan.

And laughed, and blushed, and oft did say Her pretty oath by yea and nay She could not, would not, dare not play. At length, upon the harp, with gleo,

the night, the lively air she rung. A soft, the wily lady sung. While, as the wily lady sung.

Marmion.

I saw how it would be. "Such con-... ditions," Mrs. Nogo remarked, "must never be repeated. Was it to be borne that, not... boistered with neglecting her by day, in the... suit of those field-sports which rendered her so fatigued in the evening that a hog... would have been a livelier, and less snoring... companion for the drawing-room—not con-... tent with invading my energies, and wasting my substance in these ridiculous attempts at... achieving fame as a sportsman—attempts which met with invariable failure and de-... rision, I should likewise make a practice of leaving my home at daybreak, and regard-... less of the terror I inflicted on the nerves of my delicate spouse spend the night in... carousing with boon companions at some dis-... reputable farmer's, and return the following day glorifying in, rather than ashamed of, such an utter subversion of all marital duties, and domestic subordination?"

Such is an abbreviated summary of the... lecture which Mrs. Nogo thought proper to inflict as a slight castigation for my mis-... demeanors, on the eventful day that wit-... nessed the triumph of my gallant little pack, and the first and last appearance of en-... thusiastic Doctor Dott in the hunting-field. But alas! this was not all. So good an op-... portunity of at once assuming the reins of government was not lost on the female diplomatist at the head of the bureau de-... partment. The agitation of mind endured for my sake (how could I resist such an argu-... mentum ad hominem?) very naturally brought on one of those organic affections of the nerves, which, I need not call on the... heads of families to bear me witness, so mysteriously baffles constitutional vigor and professional skill. Little Doctor Dott shook his head as though conscious that he too was in the scrape; while he avowed his utter inability to minister relief to his inexplicable affliction. Aware that he had participated in its origin, he felt so uneasy in the im-... mediate presence of the sufferer, that he im-... plored me to allow him to curtail his visit, and return forthwith to the bosom of his family, and that London practice, which he always thought it necessary to extol as "equal to that of the late Sir Henry Hal-... ford—a weight of responsibility, Mr. Nogo, that few shoulders could bear."

"But, at least," said I, "before you go, Doctor, set my mind at ease by recommend-... ing some beneficial treatment for Mrs. Nogo, as I am exceedingly anxious about her state of health."

"Not the slightest cause for alarm, my dear sir," was the reply. "Between our-... selves, in professional confidence, Mrs. Nogo is as well as you or I; but—" (and here the Doctor laid his finger to his nose, and looked unutterable things) "your good lady will never get better here. She has taken a dis-... like to the place, sir; and consequently it disagrees with her. Take her away, Mr. Nogo; take her to Leamington, Cheltenham, Malvern, Bath—anywhere you think you can command a certain amount of gaiety and amusement, and I am prepared to stake my reputation as a physician, that she is quite recovered in a fortnight."

Such was the farewell advice of my kind-... hearted friend as I packed him up in the dog-cart on his return to the metropolis; and when I thought it over in my own mind, and

to take up our abode until we could procure a suitable residence in the metropolitan city of Bath! How the past few, conscious of the dignity in which these railroad days I attached to a real travelling carriage and ap-... pendages, boiled up his mercurial canter, to stop dead-short with a jerk that nearly sent my nose through the front window! How the magnificent proportions of "James" and his cauliflower head struck dumb the throng of idlers, who are always ready to witness the descent of a private individual from his carriage! How the landlord attended Mrs. Nogo into his house, with a deference usual-... ly reserved for princesses of the blood; while the head-waiter—a privileged and plethoric individual in black silk shirt and gold knee-... buckles—asked after my brother-in-law, Mr. Tophthorne, and "hoped I had enjoyed good sport with my 'hounds!'" How the ostlers and attendants without, and the chamber-... maid and boots within, all seemed to know me personally as a friend, and to revere me immeasurably as a superior; and how I hugged myself in the conviction that al-... though I might have driven up to the door of the Clarendon, nor found that the name of Nogo commanded attention from one re-... gardless functionary of that metropolitan es-... tablishment, yet my arrival at the "White Rose Hotel," Bath, was heralded with all

the honors, and attended with all the... functions due to a visitor whose stay was... likely to be prolonged to an indefinite... length, and whose bill would bear due pro-... portion, multiplying its items and increasing in its volume, as the termination of his... journey was further and further postponed.

"The bill of fare, sir—this morning's... paper—the list of visitors at Bath—and early... of appointments of the hounds!" wheeled... the fat waiter, as he entered our sitting room with all these important documents in his hands.

"Like to see your apartments, ma'am," added an elderly and smartly dressed female, who had evidently made a capital race with the waiter up-stairs, and only been beaten at the post.

"I trust you will find the suite of rooms I have prepared comfortable," continued the landlord, as, following on the heels of his myrmidons, he conducted us through a labyrinth of passages, and across spacious and stately halls, to the comfortable dormitories prepared for our reception.

And here I leave Mrs. Nogo, in her glory, to arrange with James about bringing up cap-boxes, parcels, and imperials, and, with her own Abigail and all the chambermaids, to discuss warning, airing, and unpacking, whilst I free from the inextricable confusion to consult with my first friend, the fat waiter, as to ordering dinner, and afterwards to re-... fresh my agitated mind with a stroll through the town.

"There is no solitude like solitude in a crowd," but at the same time, few things are more amusing than to find one self suddenly dropped among a set of people, to all of whom one is unknown, and to be able as an unob-... served observer to watch the habits, and study the peculiarities of these unobscured fellow-creatures. I know nobody at Bath, and nobody knew me; and as I turned down Milson street, at that hour in the afternoon the fashionable resort of all the distinguished individuals whose names I had perused in the Visitors' List at the White Rose, "I felt the same sort of interest in remarking on the customs and manners of the aborigines, as if I had been a visitor in Paris, a stranger in St. Petersburg, a wayfarer in Warsaw, or a mis-... sionary swaggering down the principal promenade of that enlightened capital which rejoices in the residence of His Majesty the King of Congo. Nor was I destined to re-... main long without exercise of my perceptive faculties. Groups of "fashionables" thronged the street on either side, and, like the figures in a spectacle, got up regardless of expense by the spirited leasos of a minor theatre, I remarked that those who challenged my ad-... miration as they sauntered down the street on this side, failed not in due relation to re-... appear, slowly toiling up the steep ascent of the opposite pavement, again to pass before my eyes, now beginning to recognize their respective toilettes on their downward career, and so on *ad infinitum*, in what could appear to me a circular course of labor in vain.

Ere I had been thus occupied for half an hour, I began to make acquaintance with the forms and features of the well-dressed in-... dividuals thus continually passing in review before me, and to speculate on the different characters and pursuits of these indefatigable promenaders. Ere I beheld, with an ad-... miration not wholly unmingled with awe, the *passere* beauty, for whose failing charms, alas! even the healing waters of King Bladud, recommended in sheer despair by the "family

ment is blocked up by the gossiping throng. A tall, handsome girl with bright sunny ringlets (such an one—so thinks ancient Phyllis—as she herself was not so very long ago!), chaperoned by a stout lady, who is doubtless the mamma, forms an additional attraction to the group, and accounts by her presence for the number of young gentlemen who swell the concourse, and offer to the curious in costume an interesting study in-... deed. Various are the garments; and of a cut and texture seldom seen, save amongst their own immediate set. But the prevail-... ing taste appears to be a habit in which the wearer, without the slightest inconvenience to himself, is prepared to jump into the saddle, and ride to London at a moment's notice. The noble animal, the horse, fur-... nishes with his accoutrements the favorite ornaments of these his adorers. As the ladies of ancient Rome caused their jewels to be slaped into such talismanic forms as were best appreciated by those virtuous matrons, so does young England, in its out-... ward adornment affect an equine style of decoration, which shall argue a correspond-... ing taste within; and whilst a turquoise horse-shoe fastens the folds of a cambric bosom, picked out with Derby winners, the snaffle connects his button-hole, the curb-chain... ure his watch, and the top of his walking stick is dignified with a representa-... tion (wrought in the precious metal) of that quadruped to whom certain cynics will opine the owner to be a first cousin once removed.

What a relief to discover the honest, hand-... some countenance, to recognize the manly simplicity of dress which distinguishes my friend Joe Bagshot, amongst this bevy of second rate dandies! His greeting is kind and cordial, as usual; he links his arm with mine, and soon in our multitude of con-... fidences and inquiries we forget faded belles, supernaturated bucks, mutilated warriors, juvenile tigers, Milson street, Bath, and all but our own concerns and our own proceed-... ings.

"Kate will be so glad to hear you have arrived!" says my friend; "come to us to-... morrow evening at half past eight. She has a sort of quiet 'at home' in our small house. I cannot ask you to dinner, old fellow, for... a cook gave up her place yesterday, be-... cause Kate, oh, cried to her wearing her hair... long ringlets—only don't say I told you... but drop in to-morrow night, at any... rate, before twelve, and bring Mrs. Nogo with you."

And with these words—it being now lamp-... light—my friend took leave of me on the steps of the "White Rose," and betook him-... self to his own home, and the society of his... wife, who, I could not help suspecting, was... appropriate by no means adapted for my... frank-hearted old schoolfellow.

The whole of the ensuing day we spent in... with Mrs. Nogo terms "settling"—a mis-... termed evolution, of which it is difficult to... discern the nature or the details. My own... share of the performance was limited to an... inspection of my stall, who had arrived the... day before by the road, and had performed... that feat of Bill, and had performed that... journey with the usual loss of condition and... of legs, inseparable from a cavalry... to the west. Whilst I was feeling sinews and... joints, terribly swelled by that un-... necessary punishment the animal inflicts on his own person, in what grooms term "backing himself," I had to listen to a tissup... of complaints from my master-of-the-horse, as to the accommodation provided for him-... self and a charge. Of course the water was hardly out-kiln-dried, the hay musty, the stable low, ill-ventilated yet full of draughts, and no servant in Bath could keep a horse's coat down in such a dog-ken-... nel as this. Then his dormitory let in the rain, and did not keep out the cold, and "was a fit for a pig, let alone a Chris-... tian, to sleep," and it was not without the exercise of a good deal of patience, and... the making of dry promises of an alleviat-... ing tendency, that I effected an escape from my grumbling hippopotamus.

A solitary walk to Lansdown, for the sake of fresh air, of which I obtained a sufficient quantum from the north-east, made me vote... bath the coldest place in England, and serv-... ed to while away the afternoon till dinner-... time, before which received a gentle hint from Mrs. Nogo, it could be unnecessary for me to present myself, as I should only be "in the way," and interfere with the essen-... tial ceremony of "sewing," which could not be concluded till that hour.

I have already conked in these pages... that I am an indolent as shall I expose myself to the reader's contempt by likewise avowing that, without being exactly an "idiot," I am capable of appreciating and enjoying the good things of this world,

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

of a roomy arm-chair, for the cold interior of a damp fly, and standing room amongst a crowd of people whom one don't know—and above all, to do this without the satis-... faction of growling, and with a smiling face, as though it were one of the great-est pleasures of life to be thoroughly uncomfortable: if this is not domestic martyrdom, I should like to have a satisfactory definition of that very general inflection.

But, luckily, Bagshot's temporary home is but a few streets from the "White Rose," and ere the jingling wretched fly has dis-... composed the muslin folds of Mrs. Nogo's well-chosen toilette, or shaken out one ring-... lot of her rich soft hair—and truth to say, I am somewhat proud of Mrs. N.'s taste in dress, and her magnificent "chevelure;" in fact, I cannot conceal from myself the fact, which I think she has not yet discovered, that she looks "best of an evening"—we arrive at the place of our destination, and are admitted by a sober clerical-looking person-... age in black, hired for the occasion, who consigns us to the care of a pretty waiting-... maid, in a wondrously-becoming cap, by whose dexterous assistance Mrs. Nogo is re-... lieved of her ermine cloak and coverings, whilst I tie up travelling-cap and overcoat into a shapeless mass, and consign them to a heap of similar entanglements, with small hopes of ever seeing my property again. The house is small, though commodious; and ere I have settled myself well into my neck-... cloth, and got a tight kid glove partly on my left hand, I find myself following my bet-... ter half into Mrs. Bagshot's pretty little drawing-room, and, as I shake hands with my smil-... ing hostess, admiring for the hundredth time the nameless fascination of her manner, and the admirable taste of her "get-up."

I confess myself to be a shy man—one of those unhappy individuals who, with a con-... stant hankering after the pleasures of society, suffer torments only known to the diffident, under the gaze of their fellow-creatures, and dissemble with Spartan fortitude the pain-... inflicted on them by the casual observations which well-meaning neighbors address to those who are so obviously ill-at-ease with themselves. At a London party an im-... mediate refuge presents itself in the vortex of the crowd, who, jammed together in a half-suffocated mass, neither know nor care for any other consideration than the facility of obtaining "the carriage," in order to go through the same martyrdom elsewhere. But here, in Bath, no such protraction was afforded by the contracted circle that com-... prised the *elite* of that city; and small as was Mrs. Bagshot's drawing-room, it was not half full. Mrs. Nogo, who suffered as little from bashfulness as any other lady of a certain age (and it is curious to observe at how early a period the fair sex outgrow this weakness), was soon comfortably established as the centre of a small group of admirers—evidently old acquaintances; and chiefly of high military and naval rank, as indeed, from the obvious length of their services, they deserved to be. My friend Joe was busy making the agreeable to an elderly lady, adorned with a curious superstructure on her head, who, I concluded, was either his aunt, or an intimate friend of that im-... portant relative, and I had ample leisure, as I sipped the cup of weak tea offered me by the temporary butler—whose countenance I have since recognized at all the entertain-... ments I have attended in Bath—to take a good look at the different individuals thought-... worthy to comprise one of pretty Mrs. Bagshot's "at homes." It speaks volumes for the tact and cleverness of the *ci-devant* "Kate Cotherstone," that short as had been her residence in this exclusive city, she had contrived to render her abode the resort of all who considered themselves "the best peo-... ple" in its varied society; and an admission to one of her parties gave the fortunate visitor an immediate footing amongst the local fashionables whom I now had an op-... portunity of studying in their natural ele-... ment. The mass appeared chiefly to con-... sist of persons—both ladies and gentlemen—considerably past the middle period of life, and with few exceptions, suffering from some bodily infirmity, the concealment of which afforded them a never-failing occupation. The gradations of rank, too, seemed to be known and observed with a degree of exacti-... tude totally unprecedented in my previous experience of the law of precedence; al-... though Burke or De Brett would hardly have recognized the claim of distinction put forward by the wife of a captain on half-pay, or the widow of a minor-canon.

The licenses to shoot game in Scotland amounts to \$8,000,000 annually—much more than all the game is worth.