

## HAPPY DICK.

"HAPPY DICK" was an old blind negro, who walked with God. He was another man's chattel, but his master happened to be a kind one, and kept Dick in his old age for the good he had done, allowing a free hut, and maintenance for himself and his wife. Dick's cheerful piety and invariable contentment, procured him, by universal consent, the name he bore. His little cabin stood under a great magnolia tree, and there his song might be heard from morning till night, as he sat in the doorway, weaving osier-baskets, or whittling tiny playings for the picaninnies of the plantation.

A Christian lady once asked him if he never felt uncomfortable when he thought that he was a slave; and if he never longed for the independence of other men, so that he might know what it was to lay up his earnings and have something to call his own.

"O missus, don't ask me dat," said the gray-headed negro, "dem days is all gone by, and I's longed for freedom mightily, but I long for heaben too, and dat's a great deal better. I nebber allows myself to flect on the bad things dat happen to me, nor the good things that I nebber had; and when I tink about something to call my own, it seems as if I had a big treasure right here, dat I don't owe any man er."

"How is that, Dick?"

"When all de rest ob de world, Missus, is saying, 'Dis is my hous,' 'Dat is my sugar mill,' 'dere is my great cotton patch,' say, 'dere is my hope, and dere is my Savior,' and when I own de Lord Jesus, it seems as if I owned all de rest; for the art' is de Lord's, and de finlness dereof. de air is mine, and I can bread it; de sun shine mine and I can sit in it; de eart' is mine, and I can lie down in it to go to sleep."

"But wouldn't it be nice to own a great farm, like Job, and have cattle, and horses and things to give away?"

"Ah, old Dick couldnt take care on't. Tell ye, missus—what a man has, beyond nough to take care on and look out for his own soul too, de same time, is stealin' de Lord's. But I belebe ebery thing is ordered for the best; and I s'pose de good Lord

made some folks to hab de first pick, and some to take de leabins, and some to get both; and Massa Job was one of dat kind; and I s'pose de Lord made me to take de leabens. Den why shouldn't I be thankful? I get de leabens ob de tabies, I get de leabens ob de time, I get de leabens ob de money, de leabens of my strength, de leabens ob young massa's learnin', de leabens of de old camp meetin'; and de leabens ob heaben; and why shouldn't old blind Dick be happy?" And the tears ran down his black face.

"But if the Saviour is yours, Happy Dick, and he ownseverything, you ought to have first pick if you want it."

"Dear missus, I do git de first pick in de way I mean, but not in de way de world understands. I lib like de good old Paul, 'as habin' noting, and yet possessin' all things.' De more world I want, de less Christ Jesus I get; and de more Christ Jesus I get, den I come nearer to habin' all tings; for all tings are his, and I hab de first pick because I hab Him."

"You mean, then, my good old friend, that your interest in the world's people and proper is a spiritual one, not a money one?"

"I s'pose you'd call it so. You sec, men hab a conscience, and dat gibs de humble good man a power ober dem in spite ob demselves. Mas-a Hammond, oberseer on de plantation, is berry proud and wicked, and laughs at my religion; but I know if de day of judgment should come now, he'd ask me to pray for him fust."

"Do you think that this Scripture will literally come true, 'the meek shall inherit the earth'?"

"I s'pose so, missus. Dere is a deep-down-in-de-heart respect, now, in the world for de good and meek man; and by-and-by, when de Lord shall bring forth dat man's righteousness as de light, and his judgment as de noon-day dey won't be ashamed of dere respect, and so de meek man will get de big offices, and then pretty soon after de millennium will come."

"Happy Dick" has long since gone to rest. He sleeps—

"Down on the old Pedee,"

under the shadow of a pine that has numbered far more years than his. He inher-