

that stranger land to which they were hastening, only remembered in the household treasury from which they passed away, mourned and wept for there with undying love, that even in spirit watched over the exiles when the last hour came, and made them feel how gladly they would barter all the gold that lay heaped around them for one tone or smile from the visible reality of home.

In this vessel, with several others, hopeful and adventurous like himself, with whom he had been familiar for years, Hamilton embarked for California. With aching hearts those nearest and dearest to him bade him farewell; but he cheered them with prospects of speedy and joyful return, though his own heart perhaps misgave him as he spoke; and who shall say, that he did not then repent of the step which exiled him from his country and his home. The vessel had a safe though not speedy voyage, to her place of destination. On her arrival at Sacramento, the pleasant tidings were despatched to their homes, that all had landed well, in good spirits, and with every prospect of success. With their safe arrival, half the doubt and danger of their absence seemed surmounted, and the anxious hearts that had followed them in their pathway over the great ocean, seemed to gather a portion of the hope and cheerfulness which animated the exiles, and began already to look forward to their return.

Hamilton soon procured advantageous employment; he was willing to work at anything that promised the speediest remuneration, and his labours were varied during his residence in that lawless region. Sometimes toiling at the diggings—spade in hand—animated by the memory of those for whom he toiled. At others earning large wages as a seaman, during short voyages between the adjoining ports; as a book-keeper, a labourer, or a director; ever active and energetic, his wealth increased with his exertions, and every day brought the successful return nearer. He had many hardships to encounter, and want and privations of various kinds to endure, but he had youth and health, and a strong constitution, to meet them; and while he saw others dying around him, or turning away, disappointed and heart-sick, from the place where they had not strength to labour, his courage and thankfulness revived; as he saw that every day brought him nearer to the accomplishment of his object, and that with his many difficulties he had escaped the worst of all—prostration by hardship and sickness.

Cheering accounts from him came with every mail from his temporary home; his success encouraged others to follow in his path, though he never gave such advice, or by hope or counsel induced any to forsake their homes. He dwelt on his own success and under-rated his trials, only to encourage the friends, who regarded him with such anxiety; but often even after he had penned his most cheering letters, would he turn shrinking from the want and suffering around him, and envy the letter that was soon to find its way to the home he so yearned to see.