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CHAPTER XVIII

I feel within me A peace above all earthly dignities, A still and quiet conscience. The wheel is come full circle. HENRY VIII.

There was no further consideration of There was no further consideration of Shottery and the dear ones tuere. The wish to join them was forgotten in the desire to be alone—alone with those new, new thoughts and that wonderful letter anywhere in the fields, with only the voice of Avon slipping past among the sedges underneath a sky that not all the blue and gold of summer could make more fair. Unmindful of the direction he had takeo, Hamnet passed along down to the waterside and, turning followed the river for a short distance on the way toward Charlecote. He loved to wander at will through the pleasant meadows or, anon, keep to the loved to wander at will through the pleasant meadows or, anon, keep to the little path that wound up the wooded steep and so on to Sir Lucy's demesne

http: pant that so on to Sir Lucy's demesne and Bishop's Hampton. Sometimes long lines of grey willows and green alders completely hid all glimpses of the river, sometimes the trees fell away and it curved through low lying lands, one with the grassy low lying lands, one with the grassy enclosing thickets; but his quick ear enclosing thickets; but his quick ear and area aver heedful of its voice as it went

was ever heedfal of its voice as it went laughing through the rushes along the pebbly shore, or stole by some darkened pot with a sad moan in its murmurs. There was scant music, however, in its sluggish flow that day, though his happy heart would have discovered only its own meaning therein had the boy chanced to listen. But with that little scrap of paper in his keeping which had altered the whole aspect of earth and altered the whole aspect of earth and again and again as he walked along, and mow that he held it thrust into the breast of his jerkin turn where he would he could still see those magic-producing words. producing words. He ran forward gayly, unconscious of

by roducing words.
He ran forward gayly, unconscious of the lowering heavens, unconscious, most of all, of the stealthy footsteps following ever behind him, lagging when he lagged and pressing on more quickly when he accelerated his pace. Several times Silver paused and gave utterance to a low, snarling bark but he was speedily recalled to his usual good behaviour by a word of reproof from his master, and no whit abashed continued on his way, licking the pendent hand with a gently apologetic tongue.
"I cannot make thee out," Hammet eried at last as Silver growled more fiered y than he had yet doue, " there's naught abroad to vex thee that is not on. Is 't not enough that I am happier than I ever thought to be but that thou shouldst seek to mar my content wi' thy

shouldst seek to mar my content wi' thy gramblings? Nay, I meant not to speak so roundly, dear heart, and I ery thee pardon. Come, come we'll go no farther-we'll e'en rest here awhile and then hie us home." As he spoke the boy seated himself on As he spoke the dog's head up

the ground and drew the dog's head up on his breast with a soothing touch. It was a wild, tangled place; the banks of the river which narrowed here,

banks of the river which narrowed here, were sheer and densely wooded and the **Stream**, uncoiling at their feet, was kept in an almost perpetual darkness which least a sense of danger to the uncertain depths. On a ware fair day it was pleasant enough to turn from the daz-zling glow and to halt for a brief space smid these cool shadows and glance amid these cool shadows and glance

amid these cool shadows and glance down into the eddying waters beneath the overarching trees and catch the sudden points of light where an occasion-al shaft of sunshine pierced the thinner leaves with its sharp lance, probing its way to the waves and shivering them with its touch, or to see them disturbed from their sullenness and brightened by a kinghsher's quick dart for its prey. Bat when the sky was overcast there

don, sweet, for that I was wrotn with thee before I came away. Hadst thou told me all not one least cloud would have lain betwixtu. Nay, never let there be thought of jealousy on thy there be thought of pealousy on thy "Tis a vice to shun, for there is thing that it doth part. This a vice to shun, for there is no fair thing that it doth not poison, and every little trifle, to the jealous mind, seemeth more real than the great sun itself. "'I would I were back in Stratford again that I might wreak my vengeance on thy cozeners, but shun their com-pany—this charge I lay upon thee. I will not make this letter longer than to say that I kiss thy dear lips and to pray God, little lad, that He will have thee in His holy keeping. From the Crown, part.

in His holy keeping. From the Crown,

"Tae lad's right," Cawdrey cried, in great consternation, retreating at the same time to the thicket. "Come-come -the beast is stirring now, and he'll do for thee and thourt na watchful. Prithee-hurt na the lad furder. I'faith the whole country-side will be upon us for his sake. Thou's given him drubbing enow, and thou'lt pay dear for this day's sport, but by cock and pie ! I be na in it. I was loath to come, and that thou know'st and thou speak'st truth. And thou canst na say I hurt thee, boy, nor thy dog neither, but only that I begged yon fellow to stay his hand. Come away Diccon whiles 'tis yet time." With a deep bark Silver bounded away from the encircling arm, knocking the paper which his master held before him upon the ground in his flight. Ham-net possessed himself of it quickly and smoothed out its crumpled folds, then he thrust it into his breast again. he thrust it into his bres "Thou art over-rude, I trow," breast again.

"Thou art over rule, I trow, he cried, half angrily, " and need'st that that will teach thee better manners..." " "Ay, that he doth," a voice back of him growled, " an thou dost he call the beast off. I'll give him summat that will stop his month forever."

"Down, true heart, down," he com-

when I could serve thy turn, but now-thou may'st na stay. By the mass, who hath laid behests on thee ? Marry, 'tis I, Diccon Hobday, that shall say what thou wilt do." " Nay then, I may have naught to do wi' thee, for so my father hath said." "Thy father ? Out upon thee, for a tattling knaye !"

speaker who was now sworn friends again with the unprincipled fellow. "'Tis the very truth," he exclaimed, diddied.

disdainfully. " So thou'lt slander thy betters, and

"So thou'lt slander thy betters, and lie, and break thy word, thou lily-liv-ered, prating thing," Diccon cried, white with anger; "thou'lt pay for thine own sins and thine uncle's into the bargain, for I'll change skins wi' a weasel. Thou needst na think to fright me wi' that lazy cur, I've that here that shall quict him." There was a sudden gleam of steel as he finished speaking, and Silver, with a loud yelp of pain, bounded into mid-air only to fall back again with a groan, a only to fall back again with a groan, :

stream of blood gushing from his shoulder where the knife had gone About the rest of all that winter I re-For one moment Hamnet stood as if

paralyzed with the horror of what had happened, while everything swam be-fore him in a sickening mist, the next—

"Nay," Hamnet returned dauntlessly "it was no lie. Thou know'st whether "it was no lie. Thou knowst wnetter Master Sturley succoured thee or not o' Monday night. On ! ye think that because my father is away ye can wreak what ill ye will, but have a care. Good Master Page and others beside know already o' your villainy, and if aught o' harm befalleth us here ye'll have short reachoning wi' them.'

"Tae lad's right," Cawdrey cried, in

THE CATHOLIC RECORD

But now I wanted the power so much, that I went and kissed mother very shyly, looking round the corner first, for Betty not to see me. But mother gave me half a dozen and

About the rest of all that winter I re-member very little, being only a young boy then, and missing my father most out of-doors, as when it came to the bird-catching, or the tracking of hares in the snow, or the training of a sheep-dog. Oftentimes I looked at his gun, an ancient piece found in the sea, a little below Glenthorne, and of which he was mighty roud, although it was only a only one shilling for all of them; and I could not find it in my heart to ask her for another, although I would have taken way to the waves and shivering them with its touch, or to see them disturbed from their sullences and brightened by a kingdsher's quick dart for its prev. Bat when the sky was overcast there was something unlovely and sinister in the grey gloom all around. The hund that so often prevedes a storm pervade the lonely soot that July afternoon and gave it an additional if of solemanty. It was as if Nature were holding her sharmed by the invasion of its solutder, alarmed by the invasion of its solutder, away further up stream flying low above the water. A little willow wren piped in feeld dismart for the need s and the frightened wint of the reed sparrows among the seles for a the said brokers. "Go thy ways," he said brokers head goon' her ways, "a be said brokers, "Go thy ways," he said brokers, "Go thy ways," he said brokers, and the frightened wint of the reed sparrows among the seles for a the ways," he said brokers, "Go thy ways," he said brokers, "So thou galaries, but need sparrows among the seles for a "Go thy ways," he said brokers, "So thou galaries, but need sparrows among the seles for a "Go thy ways," he said brokers, "Go thy ways," he

which we of England managed to con-quer, with God and the weather helping us, a hundred years ago or more—I can't say to a month or so. After a little while, when John had fired away at a rat the charge I held so sacred, it came to me as a natural thing to practice shooting with that great gun, instead of John Fry's bluderbuss; which looked like a bell with a stalk to it. Perhaps for a boy there is nothing better than a good windmill to shoot at as I have seen them in flat countries; but we have no windmills upon the great moorland, set here and there a few bar dors, where shelter is, and a way up the hollows. And up those hollows you can shoot, with the help of the sides to lead your aim, and there is a fair chance of hitting the door, if you lay your check to the barrel, and try not to be afraid of it.

and "Watch,' my father's pet dog, was nodding closer and closer up into her

lap. "Now, Annie, will you come ?" I said

the splash of the water, and water

JANUARY 1, 1910

CHAPTER VII

HARD IT IS TO CLIMB

victuals. Now I chanced to remembe at once at the time of the holidays that once at the time of the holdarys I had brought dear mother from Tiverton s jar of pickled loaches, caught by my-seif in the Lowman River, and baked in the kitchen oven, with vinegar, a few leaves of bay, and about a dozen pepper-corns. And mother had said that in all her life she had never tasted anything it to be commared with them. Whether HARD IT IS TO CLIMB So many a winter-night went by in a hopeful and pleasant manner, with the hissing of the oright round bullets, cast into the water, and the spluttering of the great red apples which Annie was roasting for me. We always managed our evening's work in the chimney of the back kitchen, where there was room to set chairs and table, in spite of the fire burning. On the right hand side was a mighty oven, where Betty threat-ened to bake us; and on the left, long sides of bacon, made of favored pigs, and growing very brown and comely. Annie anaged her life she had never tasted anything inney of it to be compared with them. Whether as room she said so good a thing out of compli-ment to my skill in catching the lish and cooking them, or whether she really threat-ings, and most people who tasted them; at any Annie rate, in ow resolved to get some loaches and you have a state of the some loaches

<text><text><text><text><text><text><text><text><text><text><text><text><text><text><text><text><text> Which they grinny can suce was mig. In the third meadow from the gate of the school, going up the river, there is a fine pool in the Lowman, where the Taunton brook comes in, and they call it the "Taunton pool." The water runs down with a strong, sharp stickle, and then has a sudden blow in it where the you may see him come forth amazed at the quivering of the shingles, and car himself and look at you, and then dart up stream, like a little gray streak; and then you must try to mark him in, and follow very daintily. So after that, in a sandy place, you steal up behind his tail to him so that be cannot set areas in a sandy place, you steal up behind his tail to him, so that he cannot set eyes on you, for his head is up stream always, and there you see him abiding still, clear and mild, and affable. Then, as he looks so innocent, you make full sure to prog him well, in spite of the wry of the water, and the sum making elbows to everything, and the trembling of your fingers. But when you gird at him lovingly, and have as good as gotten him, lo! in the go-by of the river he is gone as a shadow goes, and only a little cloud of mud curls away from the points of the fork. then has a sudden elbow in it, where the small brook trickles in; and on that side the bank is steep, four or it may be five the bank is steep, four or it may be not feet high, overhanging loamily; but on the other side it is flat, pebbly, and fit to land upon. Now the large boys take the small boys, crying sadly for mercy, and thinking, mayhap, of their mothers; with hands laid well at the back of their nears, there being them un to the creat

A long way down that limpid water, chill and bright as an iceberg, went my and the second second

JANUALY 1.

little self that d fish seemed to know had taken out () meant to have th one of them was as more than repleni ow might come an cow might come an and put her yellow fisher, like a blue through the dark nel, or sit on a with his beak s feathers; even a down stream like down stream, like of wood, with his ! water-top, and h quietly; and yet quietly; and yet other life, as it d

man comes. Now let not an thought of these t for I knew not proud enough in versal fear 1 spr places, where 1 raid, if anythin It is all very pre-with their hopes dumb as yet or waters murmurin spread out with takes none of thi meant for a poe charge upon me have a good app he stole it.

stole it. When I had to conquered now coming out to r friction, and onl because of the t ly, in an open spread about it flowing softly in And it brought by the sweep of a larger power Lynn itseif ha nietly down, 1 stairs and step Lynn is, but gli bly, as if upon s Hereupon I d

reason was muc water was bit toes were ach rubbed them we rubbed them wi sting-nettle, at a while, was ku Now all the upon that mon munching a cri sweet brown

bacon along wi

red heels agai them warm, I under the for under the form me. It seemed now and tell loaches; and y knowing what where no grow worthy water. that I was o fond enough ike a man to like a man to However, as spirit arose w what my fath had told me a a coward. A my little hear pating, and I father looks, him." So I j again, and b from the kne and crossing under the br on the Bag ac I found it s and torn wit rocky as the go evenly. stakes stret way across t riders of pi last year's w uiet places the transpat

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whenever I called a bi sooth there having mon the rough I

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never was rocky ech away, or th and the pli and the c until I th

pound. But in a

the transpat olive movin the sun cam making dan shadowing t Here, alth deep, dark p step I took ward, on ti sport of lo forking son driving oth I could bail have ever

with hands laid well at the back of their necks, they bring them up to the crest of the bank upon the eastern side, and make them strip their clothes off. Then the little boys, falling on their naked knees, blubber upward piteously; but the large boys know what is good for them, and will not be entreated. So they cast them down, one after another, into the sulash of the water, and watch

rose from the side of the river and flapped its heavy wings noisily as it moved away further up stream flying low above the water. A little willow wren piped in feeble dismay from its nest, and the frightened whir of the reed sparrows among the sedges for a moment disturbed the brooding still-ness, then it pressed close again darker and closning for the tometh of life and v above the water. A little willow upon the ground and sprang to his feet, en piped in feeble dismay from its confronting his taunting foe.
"Go thy ways." he said brokenly, "Go thy ways." he said brokenly, "the broding still-section that had come and gone.
"By my troth," Diccon sneered, "woulds lord it over me ? I'll gon, when the blubberin' at ? Wish indful of any lack of brightness in his for this thing here, why so-and so-I'll and gloomier for the touch of life and

Han Hannet sitting on the bank was in mindful of any lack of brightness in his surroundings; usually in sympathy with Nature's varying moods he yet failed to perceive that in this instance she was not in accord with his thoughts. The golden haze which invested his fance lent a fairness to everything. He went " Thou canst not think what joy hath " Thou canst not think what joy hath

hand. "Thou canst not think what joy hath "Nay, that thou shalt not," he cried; "Any, that thou shalt not," he cried; "Thus has not think. A letter, the sweet est, the bravest that ever was writ, I trow, and mine—mine—my very own. Nay I pity thee, dear beast, that thou canst not time cars—thou shalt not make it out, my eyes shall serve the. Listen: "Alderliefest: From my heart I write that word, but 'tis most weak "Alderliefest: From my heart I write that word, but 'tis most weak "Alderliefest: From my heart I write that word, but 'tis most weak "Alderliefest: Thom the arm or the more of the sole and the had and the full serve the set of the word, but 'tis most weak "Alderliefest: Thom my heart I write that word, but 'tis most weak "Alderliefest: Thom the arm or the sole and the the set of the word, but 'tis most weak "Alderliefest: Thom my heart I write that word, but 'tis most weak "Alderliefest: Thom my heart I write that word, but 'tis most weak "Alderliefest: Thom my heart I write that word, but 'tis most weak "Alderliefest: Thom my heart I write that word, but 'tis most weak "Alderliefest: Thom my heart I write that word, but 'tis most weak "Alderliefest: Thom my heart I write that word, but 'tis most weak "Alderliefest: Thom my heart I write that word, but 'tis most weak "Alderliefest: Thom my heart I write that word, but 'tis most weak "Alderliefest: Thom my heart I write that word, but 'tis most weak "Alderliefest: Thom my heart I write that word, but 'tis most weak "Alderliefest: Thom my heart I write that word, but 'tis most weak "Alderliefest: Thom my heart I write that word, but 'tis most weak "Alderliefest: Thom my heart I write that word, but 'tis most weak wather alderliefest: Thom my heart I write that word, but 'tis most weak wather alderliefest: Thom my heart I write that word, but 'tis most weak wather alderliefest is that the approxem to my heart I write that word, but 'tis most weak wather alderliefest is hat my approxem to my heart I w

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the a noise, the number of the second provided lies, which, working on the second provided lies, which was again kneeding provided lies, which working on the second provided lies, which working on the second provided lies, which was again kneeding provided lies, which working on the second provided lies, which was again kneeding provi

I fastened Peggy by the handle of a warming-pan, at which she had no better manners than to snort and blow her breath; and in I walked with a manful style, bearing John Fry's blunderbuss. Now Timothy Pooke was a peaceful man, glad t. live without any enjoyment of mind at danger, and I was tall and large already as most lads of a riperage. Mr. Pooke, as soon as he opened his eyes, dropped suddenly under the counter-board, and drew a great frying-pan over

Pooke, as soon as he opened his eyes, dropped suddenly under the counter-board, and drew a great frying-pan over his head, as if the Doones were come to of us." And now that she had been on

board, and drew a great rying pan over his head, as if the Doones were come to rob him, as their custom was, mostly after the fair time. It made me feel rather hot and queer to be taken for a robber; and yet methinks I was proud authority, that it was not worth the

"Gadzooks, Master Pooke," said I, wages of the best man on the place to

"Gadzooks, Master Pooke," said I, having learned fine works at Tiverton, "do you suppose that I know not then the way to carry fire-arms? An it were the old Spanish matchlock, in the lieu of this good fint-tengine, which may be borne ten miles or more and never once go off, scarcely coulds thou seem more isas as I do now--even for an hour or more, and like enough it would never shoot thee, unless 1 pulled the trigger shoot thee, unless I pulled the trigger such pretty ways and manners, and such

and small red cattle, and the common deer of the forest, until I was nigh to Porlock town, and then rode straight to Mr. Pooke's at the sign of the Spit and Gridiron. Mr. Pooke's at the sign of the Spit and Gridiron. Mr. Pooke was asleep, as it happened, not having much to do that day; and so I fastened Peggy by the handle of a warming-pan, at which she had no better manners than to snort and blow her

depth is. As for me, they had no need to throw me more than once, because 1 jumped of my own accord, thinking small things of the Lowman, after the violent Lynn. Nevertheless, I learned to swin there, as all the other boys did; for the greatest point in learning that is to find that you must do it. I loved the water naturally, and could not long the water naturally, and could not long be out of it; but even the boys who hated it most came to swim in some fashion or other, after they had been

my back and carried her across, when-ever she could not leap it, or tuck up her things and take the stones; yet so it happened that neither of us had been up the Bagworthy water. We knew that it brought a good stream down, as

full of fish as of pebbles; and we thought that it must be very pretty to make ; way where no way was, nor even a bul-lock came down to drink. But whether we were afraid or not, I am sure I can think that had something to do w to For Bagworthy water ran out Doone Valley, a mile or so from the



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h Nature the cures it bring but are both thorough and lasting

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have a goo of my eati For now hind the b trees, beir giants re-momenta white fro worse and wich it. came to a a great b whitened sides, till Now, t ease and water, why yet I had ears inte cramped in all con the midd shoulder pit was o into it, e sunshine sun ever dered an pool itse about it ner, and it in st and the But s

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