

thing, whatever I may think, excepting what a certain poet has said, and said so admirably, videlicet :-

'How loved, how valued, once avails thee not,
By whom related or by whom begot,
A heap of dust alone remains for thee,
'Tis all thou art, and all the proud shall be.'

"As to pedigrees and ancestry, in one sense it is all vanity, for, as Shakespeare has also said so well, 'Heaven does with us as we with torches do, not light them for themselves, for if our virtues did not go forth of us, 'twas all as one as though we had them not.'"

"Now, as to the Woman, my mother, my dear mother, Angelle and Volcanic, I think her father was a Dutchman, a tanner; he dwelt by the sea, also in Lancashire; six foot two about in height; a nose like a bowsprit on a ship. His wife, my maternal grandmother, a Wright, and I must say, an admirable reasoner, a little woman, about five foot or so. Oh, how, as a boy, I used to love to hear her talk! My father's mother was a Scotch lady named Jane Millicent Stevenson.

At the age of eleven years young Rice was bound an apprentice to a law stationer, and after a year, by the consent of all parties, he was transferred to the firm of Messrs. Balguy, Porter & Barber, eminent solicitors in the city of Derby, and on Mr. Porter and Mr. Barber retiring from the firm he went along with Mr. Bryan Thomas Balguy, for whom he formed a deep personal affection; he was the Town Clerk of Derby and the Coroner. With Mr. Balguy he served the remainder of his apprenticeship, and about a year besides.

His father at that time, being an excise officer in the Government service, had been ordered to Barnard Castle, in the county of Durham, and the son was left to live by himself while continuing his duties in Derby. "During that time," he says, "though very young, I can look back upon the time and think what a

steady, sober little fellow I was. I pitched into books, and as I intended to be a practitioner of the law, I made for myself at overtimes copies of every important legal instrument to serve as precedents. And also I obtained employment after office hours in writing legal instruments in similar lines. Also, Mr. and Mrs. Bemrose, who were booksellers and stationers, gave the job to me of transcribing petitions (popular) to the House of Commons, to the House of Lords, and to his most gracious Majesty the King, William the Fourth, 'the sailor,' in whose reign we had a regular row in Derby, the riot act being read by my master, surrounded by soldiers. . . After the passing of the reform bill there was an extraordinary rejoicing and a procession such as I have never seen. At the head of it was a man on a strong horse, dressed in a complete suit of steel armor, with drawn sword in his hand, and a little distance after a very large caravan containing a printing press, and printers, and as they progressed they printed a programme and distributed them (sic) to the crowd. The procession was immense. Whole oxen were roasted, and sheep, and there were garlands and bowers and shades of huge branches of trees, and such a to-do as was hardly ever seen, and the procession was wound up by a carriage containing the personation of Adam and Eve, almost in a nude state, and as if trees were springing out of the floor of the carriage. . . The reformation of abuses is certainly very important, and good government is extremely so, but if our human race were to be as eager for the salvation of the soul, how admirable it would be, and conduce to our entire welfare. . .

"After my father had been a resident at Barnard Castle for some time he was ordered by the Honorable Commissioners of Excise to the town of South Shields, in the same county, and, my apprenticeship having expired some time, and he becoming acquainted with a legal gentleman who wanted a clerk, my father wrote to me, and I sent him my credentials