

distinct and peculiar taps with his finger upon their shutterless windows, from none of which, if I may use the expression, proceeded even the shadow of light; but no sooner was the last tap given upon each, than it was re-ponded to by a low cough from within. No words passed; and at one window only was Ned detained for a space exceeding ten seconds, and that was at the house of his master, Harry Teasdale. Fanny had slept but little since her father left; when she sought rest for an hour, it was during the day, and she now sat anxiously watching every sound. On hearing the understood signal, she sprang to the door. "Edward!" she whispered eagerly, "is it you?—where is my father?—what has detained him?"

"Don't be asking questions now, Miss Fanny—sure it is very foolish," replied Ned, in the same tone; "Master will be here by and by; but ye know we have bonny wark to dow afore daylight yet. Gud night, hinny."

So saying, Ned stole softly along the village; and, within half an hour, half a dozen boats were along-side the lugger; and an hour before daybreak, every tub and every bale on board, was safely landed and stowed away.

Yet, after she was a clean ship, there was ne awkward business that still remained to be settled, and that was how they were to dispose of the wounded officer of the cutter-*rig*. A consultation was held—many opinions were given.

"At ony rate we must act like Christians," said Harry.

Some proposed that he should be taken over to Holland and landed there; but this the skipper positively refused to do, swearing that the sooner he could get rid of such a customer the better.

"Why, I canna tell," said Ned Thomson but what dow ye say, if we just take him t the door o' the awd rascal that gied information on us?"

"Capital!" cried two or three of the crew; "that's just the ticket, Ned!"

"Nonsense!" interrupted Harry, "it's nae ch thing. Man, Ned, I wonder that sic a ever chap as ye aye talks like a fool. Why might as well go and ask them to take u and me off to Morpeth before dinner time, to lay him at their door this morning."

"Well, Master Teasdale," said the skipper, who was becoming impatient, "what ould you have us t do with him?"

"Why, I see there's naething for it," answered Harry, "but I maun take the burden o' him upon my awn shouthers. Get the boat ready." So saying, and while it was yet dark, he entered the cabin where the wounded officer lay, but who was now conscious of his situation.

"I say, my canny lad," said Harry, approaching his bedside, and addressing him, "ye maun allow me to tie a bit handkercher ower yur een for a quarter of an hour or sae. —Ye needna be feared, for there's naething shall happen ye—but only, in looking after yur gud, I maunna lose sight o' my awn. You shall be ta'en ashore as gently as we can."

The wounded man was too feeble to offer any resistance; and Harry, binding up his eyes, wrapt the clothes on the bed around him, and carried him in his arms upon deck. In the same manner, he placed him in the boat, supporting him with his arm, and, on reaching the shore, he bore him on his shoulders to his house.

"Now, Sir," said he, as he set him down from his shoulders on an arm-chair, "ye shall be at liberty to return, safe and sound to your friends, your ship, or wherever ye like." Harry then turned to his daughter, and continued—"Now, my bird, come awa in by wi' me, and I will let ye know what ye have to dow."

Fanny wondered at the unusual burden which her father had brought upon his shoulders into the house; and, at his request, she anxiously accompanied him into her own apartment. When they had entered, and he had shut the door behind them, he took her hand affectionately, and, addressing her in a sort of whisper, said—

"Now, Fanny, love, ye maun be very cautious—as I know ye will be—and mind what I am telling ye to dow." He then made her acquainted with the rank of their inmate, and the manner in which he had fallen into their hands, and added—"Now, darling, ye see we maun be very circumspect and keep his being here a secret from every body; he maun remain ignorant o' his own situation, nowther knowing where he is, nor in whose hands he is; for, if it were found out, it wad be as much as your father's life is worth. Now, he maun stop in this room, as it looks into the garden, and he can see naething frae it, nor will anybody be able to see him. Ye maun sleep wi' the lass in the kitchen, and yur 'sampler,' and every book,