

## CARED FOR.

BY THE AUTHOR OF "JACK THE CONQUEROR," "DICK AND HIS DONKEY," &c.

(Children's Friend.)

## CHAPTER I.—(Continued.)

## THE ARRIVAL IN ENGLAND.

Mary Arnold had for years made God her friend. In the days of her happiness and prosperity she had not forgotten Him, and now she was rewarded by feeling that He would not forsake the two young ones who were going to be thrown so entirely on His fatherly care.

"They will literally have no friend but himself," she thought, as in the silence of night she lay awake in her cabin hearing the plash of the waves against the side of the vessel in calm weather, or the roaring of the wind amongst the sails when it was stormy. "But as He guides this vessel hour by hour, so will he guide them. I know not how He will do it, or whither He will take them, but I will trust Him to care for them and find them a home. I commit them to Him, for He is faithful who has promised."

Her great anxiety now was to instil her own trust into the hearts of her children. She told them how ill she was, and that she expected to die. But she assured them that though father and mother would be gone, their Father in heaven would never forsake them. "You cannot see Him," she would say, "but He will be ever near you. Every time you say, 'Our Father which art in heaven,' try and feel that He really is your Father. Shun doing anything that can displease Him, and then trust Him for yourselves as I trust Him for you."

At first neither of them seemed at all to be able to realize the idea of losing her. But when she took Phil aside and talked to him about his little sister, and told him that soon she would have no one but himself to protect her, he seemed to comprehend the reality of what was coming upon them.

"Phil," she said to him one day when they were alone together, "I want you to promise me to be a good and true brother to Susie always. You are three and a half years older than she is, and may do a great deal for her in many ways. You can see that she never forgets her prayers, and you can teach her all I have so often taught you about our Heavenly Father's love in sending His Son to die for us. This will show her how great that love must be, and will teach her to look up to him. I

trust Susie to you, Phil; you will take care of her, will you not?"

"Mother, I promise you I will." The boy said the words with an earnestness that quite satisfied the dying mother.

But although she was anxious to prepare her children's minds for the worst, Mrs. Arnold still clung to the hope, that she might reach England, and have strength enough left to find out a cousin whom she had left living at Hampstead, near London. In former days they had been more like sisters than cousins, and as she was a single woman in comfortable circumstances, she thought

"God will watch over you," she said; "He will provide you with a home somewhere, when you reach England. Ask the captain —" But what she was about to say was never said—a coughing fit came on, and in a few minutes she expired.

It was not till her remains were committed to the deep that Philip and Susan could realize that she was really dead. From that moment they would never be parted for an instant from each other. Susie clung to her brother as to her all, now her mother was gone; and Philip felt that the time was come to fulfil his promise to care

long time. He had conceived a perfect dread of the lot that seemed awaiting them, and his imagination magnified the horrors of a life in a Union a thousandfold. Above all, he shrank from being separated from Susie, the little tender, clinging creature given into his care. The eleven-year-old boy became almost a man in his anxiety to shield her from all harm and distress. She must not, should not go into the Union, where only paupers ever went. He felt sure that could not be the home his mother said God would provide.

That evening, when Susie was asleep, he looked carefully over his mother's things. There were but few—some clothes, a silver watch, her Bible and prayer-book, four pounds in gold, and some loose silver. There was also a note, addressed to her cousin—Miss Susan Harmer, 3, Holly Lane, Hampstead, London. It was unsealed and enclosed in a paper, on which was written his mother's desire that if she died before reaching England, Phil should get this letter conveyed to her. The letter was a touching petition to her cousin to be kind to the orphans, who had no other relative or friend in England than herself. Phil's first idea was to show this letter to the captain; yet on second thoughts he resolved not to do so, but to try and find out Miss Susan Harmer and deliver it to her themselves. How far Plymouth (where they would land) was from London, he did not know, nor did he then much care. His one thought was how to escape from being made over to the Union by the captain, who would of course want to get rid of them as soon as the ship was emptied of her passengers. The only plan seemed to be to go off with Susie without saying anything, and without observation.

He did not tell even Susie what he thought of doing till they came in sight of Plymouth. Then he confided to her that he meant to slip away from the ship in order

to avoid being sent to the Union, and to go to London on foot and find out their cousin at Hampstead. Susie was delighted. Everything with her was right if Phil proposed it. They were going off in search of the home mother had said God would provide, and they were sure to find it after a time.

It was a bright day in the early part of May. The sun shone brilliantly, and the waters danced and sparkled in its rays as they entered Plymouth Sound. The bustle and confusion that were going on prevented Phil having



"WHERE ARE WE, PHIL?" SHE ASKED.

that she would show the children kindness for her sake, if she knew of their desolate condition,

She told Phil all about this cousin, and of her firm belief that she would befriend them when she was gone, and she talked with him about her plan of finding her out and confiding them to her care. But, as events proved, this was not to be. The sudden rupture of another blood-vessel brought her to the very door of death, and gave her only time to say a few last words to her children, and those were spoken with difficulty.

for Susie and be her protector; and in his almost nervous anxiety to be faithful he could not bear to have her out of his sight. The reader will now understand in how very desolate a position the young couple were placed, and will perhaps feel interested in following their history for a time.

## CHAPTER II.

## THE FLIGHT FROM THE SHIP.

We left the young Arnolds sitting together, with the impression made by the conversation they had heard still fresh in their minds. Phil thought and thought for a