

into the stable, and on listening to their conversation discovered that it was the landlady, and a man laying a plan how to murder her husband. In the morning John renewed his journey; but at the next town he came to, he was told that the landlord in the town he had left had been murdered, and that two pedlars, whose clothes were found all covered with blood, had been taken for crime, and were going to be hanged. John, without mentioning what he had overheard, to any person, determined to save the pedlars if possible, and so returned in order to attend their trial.

On going into the Court, he saw the two men at the bar; and the young woman and the man, whose voice he had heard in the stable, swearing their innocent lives away. But the judge allowed him to give his evidence, and he told every particular of what had occurred. The man and the young woman instantly confessed their guilt; the poor pedlars were at once acquitted; and the judge ordered a large reward to be paid to John Carson, as through his means the real murderers were brought to justice.

John now proceeded toward home, fully convinced of the value of two of the advices which his master had given him. On arriving at his cabin, he found his wife and children rejoicing over a purse full of gold which the eldest boy had picked up on the road that morning. Whilst he was away, they had endured all the miseries which the wretched families of those who go over to seek work in England are exposed to. With precarious food, without a bed to lie down on, or a roof to shelter them, they had wandered through the country, seeking food from door to door of a starving population; and when a single potato was bestowed, showering down blessings and thanks on the giver, not in the set phrases of the mendicant, but in a burst of eloquence too fervid not to gush direct from the heart. Those only who have seen a family of such beggars as I describe, can fancy the joy with which the poor woman welcomed her husband back, and informed him of the purse full of gold.

"And where did Micky, my boy find it?" inquired John Carson.

"It was the young squire, for certain, who dropped it," said his wife; "for he rode down the road this morning, and was leaping his horse in the very gap where Micky picked it up; but sure, John, he has money enough besides, and never the halfpenny have I to buy my poor childer a bit to eat this blessed night."

"Never mind that," said John; "do as I bid you, and take up the purse at once to the big house, and ask for the young squire. I have two casks which I brought over step of the way with me from England, and they will do for the children's supper. I ought surely to remember, as good right I have, what my master told me for my twelvemonth's wages, seeing I never, as yet, found what he said to be wrong."

"And what did he say?" inquired his wife.

"That honesty is the best policy," answered John. "The very well, and 'tis mighty easy for them to say so that have never been tempted, by distress and famine, to say otherwise; but your bidding is enough for me, John."

Straightways she went to the big house, and inquired for the young squire; but she was denied the liberty to speak to him.

"You must tell me your business, honest woman," said a servant, with a head all powdered and frizzled like a cauliflower, and who had on a coat covered with gold and silver lace and buttons, and every thing in the world.

"If you knew but all," said she, "I am an honest woman, for I've brought a purse full of gold to the young master, that my little boy picked up by the roadside; for surely it is his, as nobody else could have so much money."

"Let me see it," said the servant. "Ay, it's all right—I'll take care of it—you need not trouble yourself any more about the matter; and so saying, he slapped the door in her face. When she returned, her husband produced the two casks which his master gave him on parting; and breaking one to divide between his children, how was he astonished at finding six golden guineas in it; and when he took the other and broke it, he found as many more! He then remembered the words of his generous master, who desired him to give one of the casks to his wife, and not to eat the other himself until that time; and this was the way his master took to conceal his wages, lest he should have been robbed, or have lost the money on the road.

The following day, as John was standing near his cabin-door, and turning over in his own mind what he should do with his money, the young squire came riding down the road. John pulled off his hat, for he had not forgot his manners through the means of his travelling to foreign parts, and then made so bold as to inquire if his honour had got the purse he lost.

"Why, it is true enough, my good fellow," said the squire, "I did lose my purse yesterday, and I hope you were lucky enough to find it; for if that is

your Cabin, you seem to be very poor, and shall keep it as a reward for your honesty."

"Then the servant up at the big house never gave it to your honour last night after taking it from Nance—she's my wife, your honour—and telling her it was all right?"

"Oh, I must look into the business," said the squire.

"Did you say your wife, my poor man, gave my purse to a servant—to what servant?"

"I can't tell his name rightly," said John, "because I don't know it; but never trust Nance's eyes again if she can't point him out to your honour, if so your honour is desirous of knowing."

"Then do you and Nance, as you call her, come up to the hall this evening, and I'll inquire into the matter. I'll promise you." So saying the squire rode off.

John and his wife went up accordingly in the evening, and he gave a small rap with the big knocker at the great door. The door was opened by a grand servant, who, without hearing what the poor people had to say, exclaimed, "Oh, go!—go—what business can you have here?" and shut the door.

John's wife burst out crying—"There," said she, sobbing as if her heart would break, "I know that would be the end of it."

But John had not been in merry England merely to get his twelve guineas packed in two casks. "No," said he firmly, "right is right, and I'll see the end of it." So he sat himself down on the step of the door, determined not to go until he saw the young squire; and, as it happened it was not long before he came out.

"I have been expecting you some time, John," said he; "come in and bring your wife in;" and he made them go before him into the house. Immediately he directed all the servants to come up stairs; and such an army of them as there was! It was a real sight to see them.

"Which of you," said the young squire, without making further words, "which of you all did this honest woman give my purse to?"—but there was no answer. "Well, I suppose she must be mistaken, unless she can tell herself."

John's wife at once pointed her finger towards the head footman; "there he is," said she, "if all the world were to the fore—clergyman, magistrate, judge, jury, and all—there he is who told me it was all right when he took the purse, and slammed the door in my face, without as much as thank ye for it."

The conscious footman turned pale.

"What is this I hear?" said the master. "If this woman gave you my purse, William, why did you not give it to me?"

The servant stammered out a denial; but his master insisted on his being searched, and the purse was found in his pocket.

"John," said the gentleman, turning round, "you shall be no loser by this affair. Here are ten guineas for you; go home now, but I will not forget your wife's honesty."

Within a month, John Carson was settled in a nice new-slatted house, which the squire had furnished and made ready for him. What with his wages, and the reward he got from the judge, and the ten guineas for returning the purse, he was well to do in the world, and was soon able to stock a small farm, where he lived respected all his days. On his death-bed, he gave his children the very Three Advices which his master had given him on parting:—

Never to take a by-road when they could follow the highway.

Never to lodge in the house where an old man was married to a young woman.

And, above all, to remember that honesty is the best policy.

FOREIGN.

The tone of the Paris papers is pacific. The *Moniteur*, the government paper, speaking of the recent naval preparations, says:

"The recall of the American Charge d' Affaires, coming after the measures proposed last year to the Congress, has rendered some precautions necessary. It was the duty of the French Government, under such circumstances, to be prepared, at all events, to protect French interests. Such is the aim of the armament's equipping in our ports,—an aim *purely defensive*. There exists at this moment no legitimate cause of war between France and the U. States, and in no case shall the aggression come in the first instance from France."

The Queen's party in Spain had gained some recent advantages over the Carlists.

An armament was fitting out at Genoa, said to be destined to act against Portugal, with a view to replace Don Miguel upon the throne, and also to aid the cause of Don Carlos in Spain.

DEATH OF THE PRINCESS TALLEYRAND.—The Princess, from whom M. Talleyrand has been separated for a number of years, died Dec. 9th, in her 74th year. She was a native of Denmark.

GREAT BRITAIN.

[From the London Morning Chronicle.]

* * * The only medium that now exists for communication between the two Governments (France and the United States) is the Government of this country. We are happily upon the terms of cordial friendship with both parties, and cannot be supposed to have any wish to see the honor of either injured in the affair. It becomes, therefore, the duty of our Government to assume the character of an arbitrator between them—to assume it upon no ground of superiority, or upon any ground whatever save that of the most disinterested amity towards the two nations, and our deep anxiety for the preservation of the general peace.

Under all circumstances, and in the character just described, our Cabinet would be justified in stating on the one hand to that of France that the latter ought to pay the money upon Mr. Livingston's first explanation; and on the other hand to that of America, that the President ought officially to give the sanction of his authority to Mr. Livingston's explanation. Such a course as this would be the right one on both sides; it would stand the test of history, and defy the cavils of the discontented, who are eager for war at all hazards.

Should our anticipations of a pacific issue to these misunderstandings be unfortunately not realized—should a law of reprisals be passed in America, which we should hear of with extreme regret—Then a war must ensue, of which it will not be possible for us to remain long indifferent spectators. We, on account of our vast commerce, are deeply interested in the preservation of peace on the high seas. At all events, we shall be under the necessity of affording complete protection to our merchants, and consequently of augmenting our naval force without delay.

WHALENS BESET IN THE ICE IN BAFFIN'S BAY.—It will be gratifying to learn that the unfortunate sufferers now left in the Arctic regions (600, or thereabout, in number,) the crews of 11 whaling vessels beset by the ice, are likely to have the able aid of that distinguished officer, Captain James Clarke Ross, the discoverer of the north magnetic needle, who has volunteered his service to Government, which have been accepted, to perform the humane but dangerous duty of commanding the expedition to search for, and, if possible to restore them to their country and friends. We understand three vessels, properly equipped and victualled for this service, will forthwith sail under his command from Hull, for which place he has already taken his departure.

The proposal of the Admiralty with respect to the Greenland ships is, that if the owners and underwriters will fit out a ship, and men from the ports will volunteer for her, the Admiralty will commission her, pay and provision the crew, and fill her with stores and provisions for the crews in Davis' Straits. The men of course, to be discharged as soon as the service is performed. Captain Ross's immediate object will be to try to communicate with some of the Danish settlements, and effect the forwarding of the provisions. Whether a further attempt shall be made to send res-