

Alice and little Walter departed the next day for the city, to remain until such time as the country should become more tranquil. Harry accompanied her to the city, when both he and Frank entered the Militia for active service in preserving law and order.

CHAPTER XXIV.

CONCLUSION.

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More than a year has passed since the opening of our story, and we again bring some of our old acquaintances before the public. It is evening, and winter again encircles the earth in its cold embrace; snow lies upon the ground in quantities sufficient for excellent travelling, while anon from the heavens huge flakes of snow descended lazily, as though loth to leave the thin transparent clouds above, through which the stars shone dimly. Near the scenes described in our last chapter, a light sleigh drawn by two powerful chestnut horses, on the evening in question was gliding along over the smooth roads, the merry tinkling of the bells was the only sound to disturb the conversation of the occupants of the sleigh; these were two, and as the conveyance ascends a slight eminence, the gentleman raised his hand, and pointing to a light in the distance, which glimmered merrily from a window, uttered the single word, "home;" and as he turned his face towards the lady by his side, we recognize the pale whiskered man, pale from recent illness, Henry Hewit.

Yes, dear Harry, returned the lady, home, our home, how long it seems since I left the neighborhood, and yet, it is but little more than a year.

It seems a long time to me, dear Alice, for in that time I have seen but little of you, but now, it will be different, before my leave expires, if we are not disbanded, I will give up my commission, for what could tempt me to stay from my Alice? I have surmounted all difficulties, I have proved my loyalty and redeemed my name from the disgrace my unfortunate brother involved me, and now there is no further need of continuing in active service. But here, Alice, we are at home, and there is Arnly, to welcome us.

Hurrah! shouted Arnly, much joy! much joy! and joy not to end, how do you do? and you, Mistress Alice, allow me the privilege of a brother, and he touched his lips gently to those of Alice, saying gaily, you know Harry and I are sworn brothers, and besides I am, or was, your guardian, self dubbed to be sure, but none the less effective for that,