

being the warning of the clock ; and, in a minute or two thereafter, the bell struck ten. Oh, but it was a lonesome and dreary sound ! Every chap went through my breast like the dunt of a fore-hammer.

Then up and spak the red-headed laddie :—" It's no fair ; anither should hae come by this time. I wad rin away hame, only I am frichted to gang out my lane.—Do you think the cloup of that candle wad carry i' my cap ? "

" Na, na, lad ; we maun bide here, as we are here now.—Leave me alane ? Lord safe us, and the yett lockit, and the bethrel sleeping with the key in his breech pouches ! —We canna win out now though we would," answered I, trying to look brave, though half frightened out of my seven senses :—" Sit down, sit down ; I've baith whisky and porter wi' me. Hae, man, there's a cawker to keep your heart warm ; and set down that bottle," quoth I, wiping the saw-dust affn't with my hand, " to get a toast ; I'se warrant it for Deacon Jaffrey's best brown stout."

The wind blew higher, and like a hurricane ; the rain began to fall in perfect spouts ; the auld kirk rumbled and rowed, and made a sad soughing ; and the branches of the bourtree behind the house, where auld Cockburn that cut his throat was buried, creaked and crazed in a frightful manner ; but as to the roaring of the troubled waters, and the bumming in the lum-head, they were past all power of description. To make bad worse, just in the heart of the brattle, the grating sound of the yett turning on its rusty hinges was but too plainly heard. What was to be done ? I thought of our both running away ; and then of our locking ourselves in, and firing through the door ; but who was to pull the trigger ?

Gudeness watch over us ! I tremble yet when I think