

THE CANADIAN CASSET.

NEC DESIT JUCUNDIS GRATIA VERBIS.

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SELECT TALES.

"To hold the mirror up to Nature."

FOR THE CANADIAN CASSET.

ADALINE—THE FOREST GIRL.

A CANADIAN TALE.

[CONCLUDED.]

"I was born," said the host, "in the Parish of——on the Connecticut river, was an only son and was at an early age deprived of my father by death. I had a cousin James, residing in the same neighborhood, who was placed in like circumstances with myself. His mother and mine were sisters. Of equal ages, we were almost constant companions—at work, at study or recreation,—had one a sorrow the other shared it; had one a joy the other sympathised with him. Thus happily we lived until we had arrived at manhood, and thus we might still have lived but for my own imprudence and injustice. About the time of which I am speaking, we received a letter from our uncle, in New Haven, stating that he was dangerously sick and requesting us to come to him immediately. He was a Bachelor and a man of handsome property which he had often said he would leave to James and myself. I accordingly made preparation, for the journey to New Haven, but my cousin was prevented from accompanying me by the sudden illness of his mother. He however, gave into my hands a letter, to my uncle, full of the warmest expressions of friendship and affection, and regret that he could not be present to administer to his wants during his indisposition: and such indeed were the feelings of his generous heart—what mine were will appear in the sequel.

I commenced my journey to the city with a mind agitated by various passions. I loved my uncle, regretted his fate, and then there was the prospect of so soon coming in possession of so much property. Yes, Avarice and Ambition, at that moment, served upon my heart, and I yielded myself to their influence. And then there is James, thought I, who will have an equal share. I could not brook that thought a moment, for though I was willing when in humble life, to find him my

equal in every thing and to share with him in all my happiness, yet, when Fortunes ample favors were to be distributed, Avarice told me I sought to have them all. You shudder, sir, at the tale I am relating and well you may—I also feel to shudder." "I will not interrupt you" said Capt Smith and he proceeded. "When I had well viewed the subject in this light, as I journeyed along, though conscience struck me with a momentary remorse for these reflections, I resolved at some rate or other to obtain possession of the whole of my uncle's estate. I opened James's letter and perused its contents, and its fervent expressions of affection half baffled me in my purpose; but a heart resolved on the perpetration of iniquity can soon learn to overcome the qualms of conscience; and tearing the scroll in pieces, I scattered the fragments by the way side. My plan was fixed and I hastened with redoubled speed to put it into execution.

I arrived at my uncle's the next day and found him, as I had anticipated, inevitably on the journey to his long home. I entered the room where he lay, and which had been emptied that he might obtain repose. He was, however, awake and welcomed me with an outstretched but trembling hand.—'And where is James?' he asked faintly, 'why did not he come too?' Here was the time for the prosecution of my diabolical purpose, and I improved it but too well. I faltered as I began—it was my first essay in iniquity, and I had not yet the bold stern countenance of the hardened villain. But I promised to tell him that James, on receiving his letter, declared he would not cross the street were he expiring; and added that he was able to live without his assistance, and would. I lamented much the change which had been affected in a few months in my cousin but knew not to what to attribute it. My uncle groaned heavily, as I concluded my remarks, and covered his face with his bed clothes, for James had held a high place in his affection. At length he said 'Oh the ungrateful wretch! little would I have thought this of him' and he sobbed aloud. 'But can this be true?' he asked 'I call

Heaven to witness,' I replied 'that as I love you it is true—but,' I added, 'let this treatment not move you in regard to him—he will yet repent of it. It cannot be that he, who has so much cause for gratitude, should long remain ungrateful,' 'I will not encourage such villainess,' said my uncle, sternly—'he shall be rewarded for this.' 'Nay uncle I replied, in the language of entreaty—do not—I will reward him,' he interrupted me; and his countenance expressed too plainly what he felt within. 'Go call Lawyer B.'—and I departed for that purpose, congratulating myself on the success of my villainous enterprise.

I returned with the Lawyer, and my uncle asked him 'have you my will sir with you?' 'I have' he replied 'Hand it to me then!' The document was produced and my uncle tore it with his pale and trembling fingers into pieces. 'Why is this' said the Lawyer in surprise at his conduct. 'Sit down,' he answered, 'and make me out another. I wish to have it altered a trifle.' The lawyer seated himself at the table and I listened with exultation, while he bequeathed to me all his property, real and personal, with the exception of five hundred dollars which he gave to the mother of James, thus giving me possessor of an estate valued at \$20,000. I was extremely assiduous in my attentions to my uncle, but ere the next morning's sun arose he was no more. I tarried a few days to attend his funeral obsequies and to arrange affairs and then hastened home.

But what explanation I should give to James was my next study, and I framed a story amounting to this; that when I arrived there my uncle was deranged and raving about James ungratitude; that I attempted to sooth his turbulent mind, but that he repeated still louder, 'He is a wretch—an infamous ungrateful wretch'—and that I could not explain the cause of this; and further, I extremely regretted that my uncle's original purpose was changed, but knew not how to mend it.—My cousin received this intelligence with more resignation than I could have expected in a Stoick. 'I care not for the loss of property' he said to me 'but