

'Weel, my daughter will be the first o'her family that ever gaed on foot to the altar,' answered the auld leddy.

'And I assure ye, Ma'am, that I would be the first o' my family that ever gaed in any ither way: and to gang on foot shows a demonstration o' affection and free-will, whereas gaun in a carriage looks as if there were compulsion in the matter,' said I. Weel, we walked to the tap o' the Canongate, where the Episcopawlian chapel stood. I had often read over the marriage service in the book, in order to master the time: to say, 'I will:' nevertheless, I had no sooner seen the white gown of the clergyman, and felt Janie's hand trembling in mine, than he might as weel hae spoken Gaelic—and when the minister was done, I whispered to the best man—'is a' owre now?' 'Yes,' said he. 'Heeven be thankit!' thought I.

'Weel, as I had been used to an active life a' my days, I had nae skill in gaun about like a gentleman wi' my hands in my pockets—and I was anxious to take a farm. But Jeanie didna like the proposal, and the auld leddy wadna hear o't. So I put out the money, and we lived upon the interest. For six years every thing gaed straight, and happy as a family could be: we had three bairns—the eldest a daughter, called Margaret—the second a son, named Andrew—and the third we ca'ed Jeanie. They were as bonny and obedient bairns as ye could see, and every body admired them. There was ane Lucky Macnaughtan kept a tavern: a sort of respectable folk used to visit it, and I was in the habit of gaun at night to smoke my pipe, but it was seldom that I exceeded three tumblers—and among the customers was ane that I had got very intimate with—a genteel looking man as ye could see—indeed, I took him to be a particular honest man. There was ae night that I was rather hearty, and says he to me, 'Mr. Stuart, will you lend your name to a bit paper for me?' 'No I thank ye—I never wish to be caution for onybody,' says I. 'It's of no consequence,' said he, and there was no more passed. But as I was rising to gang hame, 'Come, tak anither, Mr. Stuart—I'll stand treat,' said he. Wi' sair pressing I was prevailed upon to sit down again, and we had anither and anither, till I was perfectly insensible. What took place or how I got hame I couldna tell, and the only thing I remember was a head fit to split

next day, and Jeanie very powty--however I thought nae mair about it, and was glad I had refused to be bond for the person who asked me—for within three months I heard that he had absconded: a day or twa after was telling Jeanie and her mother o' the circumstance, and what an escape I had had when the servart lassie shewed a bank clerk into the room: 'Tak a seat,' said I, for I had dealings wi' the bank. 'This is a business, Mr. Stuart,' said he. 'What business?' said I, quite astonished. 'Your security for Mr. So-and-so,' said he: 'I cried I, starting up in the middle of the floor--'Me! the scoundrel—I denied him point blank!' 'There is your signature for a thousand pounds,' said the clerk. 'A thousand pounds!' exclaimed I, stamping--'it's an infernal forgery!' 'Mr. Such-an-one is writing to your hand writing,' said the clerk. I was petrified: in a moment a confused recollection of the proceedings at Lucky Macnaughtan's flashed across my memory! There was a look of withering reproach in my mother-in-law's een, and I heard her muttering--aye said what his three tumblers wad cost her.' But Jeanie bore it like a christian--she came forward to me, and poor thing, she kissed my cheek, and says she--'Dinna distress yourself', David, dear--it canna be helped now--let us pray that this may be a lesson for the future.' I flung my arm round her neck--I couldna speak--but at last, I said--Jeanie, it will be a lesson--and your affection will be a lesson! Some of your book learning folk wad ca' this conduct philosophy in Jeanie--but I, who lenned every thought in my heart, was aware that it proceeded from resignation as a true Christian, and her affection as a dutiful wife. Weel, the upshot was, I had robbed myself out of a thousand pounds as simply as ye wad snuff out a candle. You have heard the saying, that some ne'er comes singly; and I have found its truth--I had twa thousand pounds, bearing six per cent. lying in the hands of a gentleman with immense property. Scores of folk had money in his hands: the interest was paid punctually--and I hadna the least suspicion. When looking over the papers one morning when his name should I see, but the very gentleman that had my twa thousand pounds! I had the papers in one hand, and a saucer in the other. The saucer and the coffee got smashed upon the hearth! 'Oh David, what the matter?' cried Jeanie! 'We're a' ruined