

upon the wharf and returning the salute of the commandant, I handed him the letter from our captain; it ran thus:—

"Sir Sidney Smith, commanding H. M. Frigate —, presents his compliments to the Commandant of the Fort, and begs to inform him that, much as he deplores the necessity of war and its stern attributes, he never loses sight, when possible, of mingling humanity with its horrors. Being so near to the shore, he would not consign the body of the gallant captain of the brigantine to the deep, feeling that a brave enemy would appreciate this sentiment, which allowed him to perform the last rites of sepulture to his fallen countryman. He sends, therefore, the corpse back with the honors of war, the sword still in the grasp of the gallant officer who wore it. He restores the child to your protection (with deep feelings of sympathy in her affliction), under the escort of a young officer, whose best introduction is that he made an effort to save the life of her father, who died from the effect of a stray bullet from the fire of one of his own crew."

Upon reading the letter first to himself, and then aloud to his officers, they took off their hats and bowed, and the commandant, who spoke French, a language I then slightly understood, came forward and offered me his hand, which he warmly pressed. The little girl, meantime, sat motionless in the boat, as before, almost as still as the draped corpse which lay before her eyes across the thwarts. A messenger was quickly despatched to the fort, and two ladies hastened down to the wharf. The little orphan had now been gently lifted from the boat and stood upon her feet; poor child, she could hardly stand, and trembled exceedingly and would look up furtively to the face of the commandant, and once endeavored to find her voice, but could not; but when his kind wife came forward, and put her arms around her, and softly whispered, "Emiline, my own dear niece!" the spell was broken, she threw herself into her embrace, and sobbed convulsively.

"My orders were to return immediately. After a few kind words of thanks from the officers around, I approached the ladies and bowed respectfully; there must have been some deep sympathy in my countenance, and the child evidently felt it. She gazed at me for a moment with a deep look of sorrow, and yet interest, and drawing down the face of her friend, sobbed a few words in her ear. The lady came forward, lifted off my cap, placed her hands upon my head and said a few words. I knew it was a blessing from the child. I pressed her hand to my lips, grasped those of friends—for such they seemed now—friends in all the perfection of the human heart—enemies to-morrow in battle—for what? "Push off, my lads," I cried, glad to shut the scene of strife and sorrow from my eyes, and was soon again on the deck of the frigate, which was waiting our return to sail with the valuable information obtained in the despatches captured in the brigantine."

"Capt. Standard," said Bilgewater, "when you tell that story again, please leave out the sequel, as you call it; or, first of all order off the port, and let us have something hot with more spirit in it. I don't often pipe my eye, but that yarn of yours although very fine in its way, is a d—d deal too sentimental."

DISEASES OF CANARIES.

BROKEN LIMBS.

It happens occasionally that a canary has the misfortune to break one of its legs. When an untoward event of this kind takes place, remove the perches from the cage in which the bird is placed; supply it with a nice clean bed, made with soft hay or straw (the former preferred), cut it into short lengths and tease it well out, and remove anything of a hard or prickly nature that may by accident have been placed amongst it; make it as smooth as possible in the centre for the bird to rest upon, and in a few weeks the limb will become perfectly sound. Nothing further needs to be done, as it will heal by the process known in surgery by the name of adhesion. It will be necessary, however, for you to supply the little invalid with food and water, and these should be put into suitable vessels, and placed in such a position that the bird can supply its wants without being necessitated to move about for them. Place the cage containing the patient where there is a good and clear light.

LOSS OF VOICE.

Canaries lose their voices sometimes, and this event takes place more frequently during the process of the moult than at any other season. I don't mean their ceasing to sing, for all birds stop singing at this time of year, but they are unable to say "pretty dick," or "peat," and when the season of song returns,

the voice of the bird so afflicted is mute. It probably arises through cold which may produce inflammation of the respiratory organs or larynx, or it may originate from cramp, weakness, or paralysis. I have invariably found that a little gum arabic and a few drops of paregoric (twenty to thirty drops), put into their drinking water twice or thrice a week, and a liberal supply of lettuce, and linseed, mixed, given to a bird so affected, removes the complaint. When a bird is suffering from this affection, he will distend his throat to the utmost of his power, and if otherwise in apparent good health, he will throw his head back, open his mouth to its widest extent, and, in fact, go systematically through all the movements usually made by a vocalist of this kind, and with all the energy he can muster; but not a sound can be heard as he attempts to pour forth his *amour propre*—for canaries are very vain little gentlemen.

CRAMP.

All birds are more or less liable to this troublesome complaint; sometimes it attacks the limbs, at other times the stomach. It may arise from a vitiated state of the bile, or from having eaten something indigestible. The most effectual remedy I know of is, when in the limbs, to immerse them in warm water and administer some gentle aperient. When in the stomach, give twenty drops antimonial wine and ten drops of laudanum to one and a half ounces of water, in place of the regular drinking water.

SURFEIT.

This complaint is usually produced either by a bird eating to excess, or from its being fed too long upon one particular kind of food without having a change. During this affection the insensible perspiration is impeded, and the skin is generally covered with a small, almost invisible, eruption, and the feathers gradually disappear from the head of the bird. A change of diet, something cooling, should be given, and add a few drops of lime juice to the bird's drinking water. Give it once or twice a week a drop or two of castor oil internally, and anoint its head with a little pure olive oil (free from scent), lard without salt, or spermaceti ointment, and the ailment will speedily disappear.

EPILEPSY.

There are said to be three different species of this disease—the cerebral, sympathetic, and occasional. The one from which birds most frequently suffer is the last-named. The existing cause seems to be a nervous tendency, allied with a delicate constitution, and is probably the result of continual confinement. The fits are generally brought on whenever a bird, subject to this ailment, is surprised or frightened; anything likely to create terror must be carefully guarded against. I have known birds subject to these fits go off in one every time they were brought into the open air, or every time you put your hand in the cage to take hold of them. Whenever a bird is seized with one of those occasional fits, sprinkle it freely all over with cold water, but more particularly about the head; dip your fingers into a basin containing some of that element and dash it vigorously over the affected bird. It is not considered a dangerous complaint, although, if it occurs frequently, it is very apt to impair the health of birds and predispose them to disease. A mild aperient given occasionally, with a little tonic medicine beside, such as the carbonate of iron, quinine, infusion of quassia, or gentian, are the best remedies.

APOPLEXY.

There are several species of this fearful disease. There is the atrabilious, cataleptic, hydrocephalic, &c. They are, nevertheless, all of them of such a tendency as to lead to a fatal termination in the lives of birds, as it would be physically impossible to subject these minute objects to a process of treatment similar to that resorted to in human beings. Prevention is by far the best curative of this frightful disease. The most fruitful source of this complaint in birds is luxurious living, which leads them to intemperance in diet. Male canaries which are permitted to revel in Mormonism to any extent are likewise prone to this serious disorder. If you are present at any time when a canary drops from its perch in a fit, and lies struggling at the bottom of the cage in apparent agony, lift it gently out of its cage and carry it to an open window, bathe its head with cold water, and if there should happen to be any spirit of ammonia (hartshorn) at hand, or to be procured readily, dilute a little of this with cold water, and let the bird inhale it. Should it revive, keep it cool and quiet for some time, and afterwards give it some laxative medicine. You might give it two drops of castor oil to begin with, and put a small quantity of Epsom salts among its drinking water. The diet of the patient should be of the most simple