

surely nothing good can induce you to disregard it : come, come, and leave that un-earthly creature."

John Bell, who had been occupied in mental devotion, at length broke silence—

"Let us not judge harshly," said he; "perhaps it is a Christian child, dropped here by the fairies as they were bearing it away from its parents, who now mourn for its loss, and nurse a changeling in its place : it may have been rescued by the prayer of faith, or some other means, from their power: in the strength of His name, I will be convinced of its real nature, either by puiting it to flight if it is unearthly, or rescuing it from death if it is human ; for we must not leave it here to perish through cold and want, and prove ourselves more cruel than the dumb animal."

As he spoke the eye of the child turned towards them ; it gave a feeble cry, and stretched out its arms, still supported by the dog. The elder advanced to it, and placing the Bible upon its head, it smiled in his face, and grasped his leg. The tears came into the good man's eyes, while Colin bounded for joy, and licked his hand as it rested upon the head of the child.

"Come forward my friends," he said ; "it is a lovely child, a Christian babe, for it smiles at the touch of the blessed Word. It is weak and sore spent, and calls for attention and kindness.

All the woman was kindled in the heart of the farmer's wife ; she ran to the babe and pressed it to her bosom, kissing it as it smiled in her face, and lisped a few words in a language none present could understand.—The fears of all were now nearly dissipated ; those who had fled returned ; all the females in turn embraced the babe ; but the fondness of William Kerr for the foundling was now equal to his former fears. He at once resolved to adopt it as his own until its sorrowing parents should reclaim it. Grizzel concurred in the sentiment and resolution ; and he and Colin, who now had resumed all his wonted obedience, set off for the hill, while the other returned to the house. As Grizzel carried the child home, she felt her love for it increase ; and the void that had existed in

her bosom ever since her marriage, was filling up. The child's eyes were of a hazel, and gave indications of beauty ; its clothes were of a far finer texture than those worn by children of humbler rank, bespoke a good origin. Of all the females present she alone felt assured that it was a proper child, because she wished it to be the others looked upon it still with some misgivings ; revolving, doubtless, in their mind the strangeness of all the circumstances attending the affair—and not the least of these was the locality of the child's position.

It was a lonely spot, bearing no good near close by a beautiful green knoll, standing a spring of pure water, and covered with daisies ; while all around was heather stunted grass, resembling an oasis in the desert. Strange sights were reported to have been seen near it ; and the shepherd lads the still evenings of summer, were wont to hear their strange humming noises, mixed with faint tinklings—sure signs, of course, the presence of the fairies. It was called *Faire Knowe*, while the stone was called *Eldrich Stone*—names of bad omen, and sufficient to scare all visitors after nightfall. The newly awakened feelings of Grizzel deprived all these ideas and recollections of that weight which operated with the other females, and warped their opinions ; and while they concluded that nothing good could be found in such a spot, they cautioned Grizzel, in their kindness, to be wary that the creature did her no harm. Grizzel however was not without some misgivings ; but he clung to the babe that lay in her bosom, and resolved to put to the test, as soon as he reached home, whether it was really a fairy or a child stolen by these kidnappers.

She believed her test to be sufficient to make it, if a fairy, leave her presence ; if a human babe, to place it beyond their power to recover it, cleanse it from any spell that might have put upon it, secure it from the evil eye, and prevent its being fore-spoken. For these most important purposes she borrowed a piece of money (without assigning a reason for wanting it) from one of her neighbours, and, as, soon as she reached home secured herself in the spence with the bed (for no one must see her in the act,) put the piece of money into some clean water which salt, stripped the child to its skin, washed