

THE GARLAND.

"TO RAISE THE GENIUS AND TO MEND THE HEART."

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POPULAR TALES.

Original.

OSCAR AND LUTHERA.

One fine summer's day, when Nature appeared clad in her richest garb of loveliness and beauty, I was sitting on a little hillock a short distance from that delightful place, Fort G. inhaling the gentle breeze as it calmly blew over the face of the surrounding waters; at the same time contemplating on the glorious orb of day, gently retiring down the western horizon, tipping the hills with gold: but a few hours past, and I had been fatiguing and laboring under its all-powerful heat and brilliant rays.

Such moments as these are never lost on the reflective mind; with all the charms of nature around him he admires, he at once perceives the wisdom and goodness of the great Author, his heart becomes expanded, and he bursts forth in a song of praise. These were my feelings. I sat musing on the present, and reflecting on the past; and while engaged in this delightful recreation, it introduced afresh to my remembrance, a circumstance which, time-passing-over-events could never obliterate. It relates to the pure affection of two youthful lovers, whose attachment for each other was nourished, grew, and matured from infancy, and rudely severed by the chill hand of cruel fate. As far as the recollection of the event will serve me, for the entertainment of the reader, I will simply relate the facts.

In a small village in the north of Scotland, formerly resided two remarkable and ancient families, of the name of M'Nab and L'Dogan, equal in point of fortune, though in a country where so much party-feeling prevails, not in sentiment; but this proved no hinderance to either family from frequently conversing together, and being sociable, kind and free, as neighbors and kinsmen. In short, but few paces separated their dwellings.

It was the custom for the youth of each family to invite each other in turns to their happy and harmless festivities, in which they took great delight in celebrating, and striving to excel each other in amusements, on the return of a birth-day party. It was at these assemblies of innocence and mirth, that the first seed of a sincere and unfeigned attachment was formed between Luther a M'Nab and Oscar L'Dogan, of which distinctive evidence was given to every observant eye.

Those who are acquainted with this part of the continent, are already aware that Nature has lavished her beauties in rich profusion, in the variegated scenery spreading abroad her

luxuriant foliage, and presenting to the eye of the painter, a volume of grandeur: such as was not passed unobserved by the two lovers, who took pleasure in frequently walking along the banks of the gay and winding river, and often when the luminary orb of night had risen resplendently above them—when all was serenity and silence save the rustling of the leaves, or the motion of the brook, they would meet each other and pour out their whole hearts in mutual affection, each exchanging lovers vows,

"Unheard by stranger's ear
Unseen by parent's eye."

None but those who have enjoyed like happy meetings, are able to describe the transport of their hearts; long and uninterrupted did these joyous meetings continue, except a longing desire to be united to each other by the unalterable tie of matrimony, whose bonds are sacred. But this was not to be. The unhappy circumstance which proved unfortunate to the lovers, was remarkably simple, yet ended in serious results.

It happened that young Lubon, to whose care was entrusted the scattering flocks on the hills, had been attending a neighboring holiday, and by which, was delayed beyond his usual time for gathering to fold his fleecy flock, and did not arrive till some time after the lovers had met. No sooner had Lubon discovered them leisurely strolling along the banks of the smooth and winding stream, than he hastily performed his task, and speedily returned towards home, singing as he went with great hilarity, for which he was very remarkable, these words:

A wedding-day is drawing near,
Come friend and kin from far;
I've seen the charming Luther a,
 wooing the brave Oscar.

Thus, without intermission were their names carolled through the lanes and paths by his unseasonable mirth, till he reached the village, and the intelligence echoed to every listening ear. In the mean time, Oscar and Luther a, thought it advisable to return home sooner than usual, to prevent if possible, any undue surprise reaching the ears of their friends;—for hitherto they had not the least knowledge of their correspondence.

But alas! already had Oscar's parent learnt the cause of his frequent evening absence from home, and for which he could assign no reason before. No sooner had Oscar entered the room, than he found himself in the presence of an angry and enraged parent—hurried from the hour of tranquility, to moments of storm. Col. L'Dogan in a rage more of a maniac than a man, threatened most bitterly to terminate, if possible, the occurrence