

to accept any fine speeches to the compromise of that sex, the belonging to which was after all my strongest claim and title to them."

On this Charles Lamb observes, "I wish the whole female world would entertain the same notion of these things that Miss Winstanley showed. Then we should see something of the spirit of consistent gallantry, and not witness the anomaly of the same man, a pattern of true politeness to a wife—of cold contempt or rudeness to a sister—the idolater of his female mistress—the disparager and despiser of his no less female aunt, or of his still female maiden cousin. Just so much respect as a woman derogates from her own sex, in whatever condition placed—her handmaid or dependent—she deserves to have diminished from herself on that score; and probably will feel the diminution when youth and beauty, and advantages not inseparable from her sex, shall lose of their attraction. What a woman should demand of a man in courtship, or after it, is, first, respect for her as she is a woman—and next to that—to be respected by him above all other women. But let her stand upon her female character as upon a foundation, and let the attentions incident to individual preference, be so many pretty additions and ornaments—as many and as fanciful as you please—to that main structure. Let her first lesson be with sweet Susan Winstanley—to reverence her sex." F.

(To be Concluded in our next.)

(For the Odd Fellows' Record.)

RECOLLECTIONS OF A CONVICT.*

BY "V.-L.E."

CHAP. V.—PERILOUS POSITION.—THE ENGAGEMENT.—OUR LOSS.—ESCAPE.

I DO not deem it necessary to say, that the position of the ladies was one of great anxiety. This much may be imagined. Aroused as they had been from the sweet embrace of that soother of sorrow—balmy sleep; awakened from their slumbers of security, by the sound of fire-arms, to a sense of danger, their hearts almost forsook them, and they gave vent to their feelings in piercing cries. The attention of the gentlemen, with the intelligence that we had driven the natives back, coupled with assurances of safety, tended in some degree to calm their agitation. In this position I leave them for a little, and return to the state of affairs outside the tent.

The captain's first movement after he was made aware of all that had passed, was to order the fire to be extinguished, for the purpose of concealing from the natives a knowledge of our numbers; which he was afraid might be obtained from the reflection of its light. This we endeavored to accomplish by throwing earth over the still burning embers, but it was a task of a rather dangerous nature, from the circumstance of one or two of the more daring of our enemies having secreted themselves in the vicinity of where the fire was placed. We did not discover this fact till one of our party, in the act of throwing some earth on the burning wood, received a wound in the arm from a spear, which was thrown with nearly fatal effect. Our

tactics, therefore, had to be changed. Retiring behind a cluster of trees, one only advanced, while the rest remained stationary, and kept up an irregular firing in order to frighten our enemies. In this manner our object was attained. But for this proceeding some of our little band must have fallen. The natives of this creek are so adept at spear-throwing, that they can strike an object with unerring precision at a considerable distance. Had we therefore continued together near the light, unprotected by any covering whereby we could be screened, a shower of spears from hands so dexterous could not have been otherwise than fatal.

In the performance of this duty an hour had elapsed, and the captain, anxious to learn the state of the ladies, ordered me to proceed cautiously to the tent, and bring him intelligence of their condition. He would have undertaken this business himself, but preferred remaining for a short time in the position he occupied at the head of the few but gallant fellows who composed the crew. It may be a natural question to ask, why not proceed altogether? If the circumstances narrated do not form a sufficient answer to the query, allow me to remark, that had we moved in a body towards the tent, its situation being known to those we were extremely anxious to avoid, we would have paid dear for our temerity, and I think the sequel will show that the captain had judged correctly as to the probability of this being the case.

The tent stood at a distance of not more than fifty yards from the spot occupied by the captain and crew. I had not, therefore, far to walk in the performance of my mission. I had loaded my gun in case its service might be called into action. With the utmost silence and caution I then made towards the tent, but with all the caution I could exercise, I occasionally disturbed the fallen leaves and dried branches, which were plentifully strewed around. These sounds which had been the cause of my alarm at first, tended also to point out my whereabouts; and to the practised ear of a native, my position could be told as plainly and as readily as in the glare of the mid-day sun. I had accomplished about half the distance, and the certainty of reaching the tent in safety and without molestation began to occupy my thoughts. But, alas! how frequently are we the subjects of disappointment! and in this instance I was made to experience this fact in a most trying manner. At this moment I had fortunately reached the shelter of a large tree, when a whistling sound came hastily through the air, followed by a stroke as if from a hatchet, on the opposite side of the tree, and seemingly in a level with my head. It was the act of a moment, and my scattered thoughts were forced into a new channel. My progress and place had been discovered—the cunning enemy had sent a spear to greet me, but, thank Heaven, the friendly tree interposed between me and the messenger of Death. In an instant my hand was passed around the tree to satisfy myself of the truth of my supposition. Yes! there stuck the weapon so firmly fixed as to refuse yielding to a violent effort I made to extricate it from the tree. What mode

* Continued from page 67.