

warned of his danger ; they told him how many others had tried and lost their heads ; but he said he was not afraid, and so he was brought before the king. He was a man of a very composed, quiet, gentle, deliberate manner of speaking ; and, after stipulating for time for his eating, drinking, and sleeping, he thus began his story :—

[illegible]

“He had gone on thus from morning to night (except while he was asleep, or engaged at his meals) for about a month, when the king, though a very patient king, began to be rather tired of the locusts, and interrupted his story with : ‘ Well, well, we have had enough of the locusts ; we will suppose that they have helped themselves to all the corn they wanted ; tell us what happened afterwards.’

To which the story-teller answered very deliberately : ‘ If it please your majesty, it is impossible to tell you what happened afterwards before I told you what happened first.’ So he went on again : ‘ And then another locust went in and carried off another grain of corn ; and then another locust went in and carried off another grain of corn ; and then another locust went in and carried off another grain of corn ; and then another locust went in and carried off another grain of corn ; and then another locust went in and carried off another grain of corn ; and then another locust went in and carried off another grain of corn.’ The king listened with unconquerable patience six months more, when he again interrupted him with : ‘ O friend, I am weary of your locusts ! How soon do you think they will have done ? ’ To which the story-teller made answer : ‘ O king ! who can tell ? At the time to which my story has come, the locusts have cleared away a small space, it may be a cubit each way round the inside of the hole, and the air is still dark with locusts on all sides ; but let the king have patience, and no doubt we shall come to the end of them in time.’ Thus encouraged, the king listened on for another full year, the story-teller still going on as before : ‘ And then another locust went in and carried off another grain of corn ; and then another locust went in and carried off another grain of corn ; and then another locust went in and carried off another grain of corn.—till at last the poor king could bear it no longer, and cried out : ‘ O man, that is enough ! Take my daughter ! take my kingdom ! take anything—everything ! only let us hear no more of your abominable locusts !’

"And so the story-teller was married to the king's daughter, and was