

upon him, which, instead of causing a relax in his efforts, or careless ideas to sway him, as it often does many young men when prospects are so bright, it intensified his endeavours and determination to grace his business calling.

Not for a moment though, did our hero become miserly. He denied himself none of the necessaries of life, and his hand was ever open to dispense charities when necessary, and many a needy one found relief at his hands. He enjoyed life to the extent compatible with the quiet whispers and the pure admonitions of two great influences, Temperance and Reason, and to their demands he ever sought to yield a cheerful obedience. Benevolence and charity also spoke, and their cries he ever heard, and at the same time he ever with a bountiful hand endeavoured to supply their wants. Life to him was an object; he saw the necessity of living not grovelling, and with kind affable demeanour he associated with many, and rendered his presence ever sought for and agreeable to all. When he saw humanity suffering he lent a willing hand to soothe its distress, and to pour oil upon the troubled waters, knowing that all these things would work together for his good. By his noble and generous conduct he graced the business of which he was now a representative, and as a recompense the smiles of fortune greeted him in his efforts.

About a year after entering upon his partnership, he received a letter from his friend Mr. Charles Vanners, who amongst other matters alluded to, urgently advised Franklin to invest a few hundred dollars in an oil speculation which promised to be very profitable. He acquiesced in Mr. Vanners' wish, and transmitted him the desired amount, which being duly invested, realized him some thousands of dollars net profit.

His success thus far had been satisfactory. Besides the large profit which he had received from this last investment, he had realized a handsome sum from his interest in the business, and after remaining a partner two years, he withdrew his interest and retired, a comparatively wealthy man, having been in business but six years. Thus we see that Franklin

Lenwood had by perseverance and industry, amassed a comfortable fortune, during that period of life which most young men look upon as being merely a season of pleasure.

Verily industry and honest effort have their sure and certain reward. His intention now was to return to England, and follow the highest and noblest impulse of his heart—devote himself to literature—but afterward circumstances changed his plans as the sequel will show.

CHAPTER VI.

FRANKLIN LENWOOD TRAVELS.

Free from all business restrictions, Franklin now determined visiting his friend, Charles Vanners, who resided in Oil City, Penn. Spring was just beginning to scatter charms profusely over the earth, which rendered his journey a very pleasant one indeed, as no one loved natural beauty more than he, and his course was through a beautiful tract of country. The forests were assuming their virgin greenness and flowers the fairest were bedecking every valley, and beautifying every hill side. Spring's joyous messengers—the innumerable feathery songsters—were in every glen and forest, carolling forth sweet, harmonious songs.

Quickly the cars rushed on to their destination. He arrived at Oil City at morning twilight, and stepping out of the car upon the platform, wended his way to the nearest hotel. Here he performed an ablution, which was very refreshing after a long journey on the cars, arranged his toilette, and partook of refreshments. This done, he shortly afterward issued forth again into the long thoroughfare, and proceeded toward the boarding house, where he had been informed resided Mr. Vanners. Reaching it he rang the bell which was answered by a polite Frenchman who accosted him with the familiar "*bon jour*." Franklin responded and made several inquiries concerning his friend. He was informed that Mr. Vanners had taken his departure a fortnight before for a place in Maine called Kelsey Hall. This satisfied Franklin, and "*Merci*