

and while I have often felt somewhat bitter towards my ain man for no aye thinking wi' me in this, I ken his heart is richt, but he has had a sair fecht, and circumstances have been ower strong for him. But it's a' richt noo, and Alistair will get my blessing when he comes to get his wife "

"That will he, and mine, too," said the relieved farmer. "I'm ashamed to think that I was such a coward as to allow the fear of trouble to make me cruel to my only bairn."

All being satisfactorily arranged, Charles returned to the Braeside, carrying with him a budget of good news that warmed the hearts of his father and mother.

About a week later he again returned to Aberdeen, this time traveling through the night, and not on horseback as before, but with an ordinary farm cart upon which he had erected a canvas cover similar to that used by the country carrier of the time. Carefully packed in the cart were provisions of all kinds procurable at a farm; and, to all outward seeming, he was simply taking into the market town a quantity of farm produce for sale.

He again spent a night at his uncle's house in the Old Town; and, when morning came, he took his way southward by the east coast road. No longer attired in the comfortable dress of a well-to-do farmer, he now wore a clean, but not new, suit of hodden gray cloth, his head crowned with a broad Tam o' Shanter bonnet, the usual costume of the country carrier.

We need not describe his journey to Perth, which was commonplace and uneventful. In due time he arrived there, and had his carrier's cart and horse put under cover at a quiet stopping-place much frequented by the carrier fraternity. His inner man refreshed, he set out, as he said to the landlady, for a "daunder through the toon." Once on the outskirts, he quickened his pace until he