

its sympathies and companionship at defiance. He purchased here the farm described at the commencement of this sketch, and proceeded with the erection of the house, building the greater part himself; for, as before mentioned, his mechanical ability was considerable, and had been, indeed, often put in requisition by his neighbours. His dwelling was soon completed, and here he lived alone for a number of years—his own cook, laundress and dairymaid—associating with none, and asking help from none.

Why he renounced his solitary state is unknown, but suddenly he took to himself a woman, as his wife, *pro tem*; one of those homeless and friendless beings, who at last grow reckless as to whom their lot is cast with, so that the means of subsistence is supplied. This change was, eventually, anything but conducive to his comfort; instead of a housekeeper, she proved wasteful. Whatever her natural temper may have been, she ruined it by inebriety; and, what was worse, he at length found it more difficult to dislodge than to gain a tenant. He now lived over a second term of domestic martyrdom, and got worsted in the contest. Three children were added to his family—a boy and two girls: and these were objects of perpetual grievance to him. At last his ill-temper and violence grew so excessive, that a regard for her personal safety compelled his tormentor to take her departure, which she did, leaving behind her the three children to anything but the '*tender mercies*' of their father. The boy was, like himself, dogged, obstinate and ill-tempered; and from the time of his boyhood, outbreaks and contests with his father were frequent. The girls were stolid and untractable: brought up without encouragement or guidance, they were little more than civilized savages—untaught and unwomanly. Poor young creatures—it was well their feelings were blunted and unexercised, for theirs was a rough and dreary home, even to blinded and dull natures! They grew up to womanhood, ignorant and helpless, uncared for by their father, and destitute of moral or religious training. Nevertheless, while still very young, they were taken from a place miscalled home, and married to men fully double their ages. The eldest girl was the more fortunate. It was her lot to get the best of the two men, who took her to live with some of his own family; and there under womanly teaching and aid, she improved rapidly in all the duties which females in her station are called upon to perform. Though her husband was an elderly man, he was still active and industrious, and, when sober, was very kind. The youngest girl was more stupid and unteachable than her sister; while the man she married, the elder of the two brothers, was idle, ill-tempered and also intemperate. She had only gone from bad to worse,—to poverty and all the other ills she had ever encountered. Her lot in life will be a dark one, unless there may be yet some Samaritan, who will endeavor to illumine with a ray of light, the mind of this benighted and unfriended woman. After the marriage of his sisters, the boy continued to live with his father for some time; but they occupied different rooms, and sat at different tables, living on for