

I shall not stop to detail the mingled emotions of gladness and sorrow, which at the last moment, however hard I might endeavor to banish the latter, struggled within me for the mastery, sorrow nearly gained the victory when about to quit the fond shelter of the paternal roof, especially as I gazed upon the saddened countenances of those two dear ones whom I well know were smothering within their aching hearts the tears that must not fall to throw a damper on their darling's joyous anticipations. I feel even now the fervent mother's kiss upon my lips, the blessing of my aged father is ringing in my ears, as I mightly and daily return thanks to the Giver of all good that he has so far mercifully preserved me from forfeiting those best of earthly blessings—the affection and respect of my beloved parents. I must not here omit to pay a fond tribute to my dear old Jim, my faithful friend and co-adjutor, who, in company with another *gentlemen friend*, accompanied me as far seaward as the limits of the Tug in which they returned to land would permit, suffice it to say that I there bade farewell to one of the kindest, best, and truest hearts that ever beat within a brother's breast.