

fatal consequences. But he had caught from Sir Walter Raleigh, whose friend and admirer he was, the spirit of adventure, at that period so rife in England,—he had listened to his descriptions of the great El Dorado of the West, and of its wild and warlike inhabitants, till his imagination was kindled by the theme, and he longed to study the habits and manners of that primitive race, who remained yet untainted by the luxury and the vices of civilization, and to witness the barbaric pomp of those forest kings who swayed the sceptre of their vast dominions, in absolute and savage sovereignty.

Above all, with the chivalric ardour of loyal enthusiasm, he panted to extend the possessions of his virgin mistress, by planting a colony of her subjects upon the soil of the new world,—where protected by the folds of her victorious standard, they might in peace and safety extend their borders, till they grew into a mighty people, who should bow to her dominion, and pour the treasures of the mighty west into the lap of their loving and all conquering sovereign.

Animated by such feelings, Herbert joined the expedition about to sail for the distant shores of America, purposing, not to spend his life there, but if all went prosperously with the colonists, and their efforts were being crowned with success, to return to England at the termination of two years, and settle down on his paternal estate, or as circumstances and inclination might direct, to arrange his affairs, and, accompanied by his young brother, re-embark with all his worldly wealth, for his new, and henceforth his permanent home in the wilderness.

Frank was made acquainted with these plans at the time, and could he then have been permitted to share in them, his ardent nature would have led him heartily to approve them. But as it was, he saw the brother on whose wisdom and protection he had so long relied, depart from him with pain, though the first year of separation was cheered by tidings twice received from the absent, speaking with confidence of their success, and with enthusiasm of the beautiful country, and its rich and varied resources.

Then another year passed, and not a word reached England from the adventurous colonists—another came and went, and still no greeting from the dwellers in the desert cheered the hearts that were aching for tidings from their loved ones. Yet hope failed not in the hearts of all—and it revived in many, when a returning vessel, which had visited those wild shores in search of the missing band, brought back some relics, found in a certain place, which were known to have belonged to some of the company. They reported too, that they had found the initials of several familiar

names carved upon the trunk of a tree, and on the face of a smooth rock which jutted into a little bay, they had seen the word *CROATAN*, cut in fair English letters with some sharp pointed instrument, and beside it a hand similarly engraved, the forefinger of which pointed southwest, as though to indicate the spot to which the little colony had removed.

Drawing new hope from these uncertain signs of their continued existence, Frank, whose college life was now at an end, purchased a vessel, manned it, and with a small company as sanguine as himself, set sail from England, guided by an experienced mariner who had before visited the American coast. They steered directly for that point, where Herbert Courtney and his associates had first effected a landing, and it was opposite the little bay, with its projecting rock, whereon the word *Croatan* was inscribed, that the *Sea-bird*, the vessel described at the commencement of our story, might have been seen hovering in the distance.

There was a discussion among the group gathered on its deck, as to the safety of casting anchor within the cove, preparatory to an immediate landing,—the more timid urging the propriety of sailing slowly along the coast, till having attracted the notice of the natives, they should allure some of them on board, who, bribed by presents, which they had provided for the purpose, might be won to guide them in safety through the intricacies of the forest.

Frank Courtney, full of youthful daring, and impatient of delay in the all important search which he came to prosecute, was violently opposed to this plan. "The sun," he said, "shone with propitious brightness on their enterprise—their band was strong, courageous, and well armed either for defence or attack—why then should they suffer one moment to pass without action, when that very moment, perhaps, might crown their hopes with success." But though some approved, all would not be persuaded by his counsel, and muttering the words "cowardice," and "procrastination," he walked away from the busy speakers, and leaned over the taffrail of the vessel, to cool by patient thought his burning displeasure.

Exquisitely alive to the beauties of nature, his roving gaze was soon enchained by the fair landscape of forest, glade and hill, which lay unrolled in pristine beauty before him, glowing like some matchless painting with lights and shades of alternate depth and softness, as the fresh breeze and the cloudless sunshine of a balmy summer morning, touched and mellowed it with their glorifying influences. The long voyage which was just ended, with its monotonous sights, and