

obtained from my beloved master, and re-joined my dad and family at South Shields, where I became managing clerk for the gentleman, with whom I remained for the term of six years. On taking leave of my boss he put two sovereigns into my hand and wished me every success. . . .

"Well, now I got ensconced again into the vortex of law or jurisprudence, and during my six years' occupation I got a quantum sufficit of legal experience sufficient to carry me on to promotion to my heart's content, had it not been that my optics waned, and threatened extreme diminution. But I had not the least idea in the world of anything of a weakening nature happening to my eyes. On the contrary, I was like a vessel in full sail, with every inch of canvas set, sky-rakers, moon-rakers, jibs and all for go-aheadativeness in the law. 'Forwards, forwards, brodren,' as the Dutchman would say."

He then hits upon a quaint device for the strengthening of his eyes, and in which he found the good result, at all events, of gaining him the key to his knowledge of Greek. He formed the idea that to read a type to which he had been unaccustomed would be a good exercise for his eyes. So he entered a bookseller's store and inquired for a Greek Testament. Returning home, he mused upon the form of the Greek character, and concluded that it would be "a very good ophthalmic." He then considered that it would be necessary to get some instructions "to make an assay." Happening one day along a street of Dumbarton, he saw a card in a window, "Instruction given here in Greek and Latin." Entering, he bargained for a quarter's instruction of two lessons a week from a Rev. Mr. McIntosh. He appears to have profited very quickly by these lessons, and after a short time with the grammar was put to reading the Greek Testament. He had bargained for the Latin, too, and on being asked to read a chapter in the Latin Testament he was told that he had got as much

Latin as would be of any service to him.

It was about this time, in the year 1833, that, finding his inability to continue writing legal documents, owing to the condition of his eyes, he decided to quit the law and emigrate to America. He had prepared a lecture on "The Sublime and the Beautiful," which he intended to deliver in the States as something to begin with. On arriving in Philadelphia he found the population "as busy as bees in attending to the things of daily life." He was amongst a practical community, and, as he says, he cannot help laughing now at the subject he had chosen. So the lecture never came off. Incidentally one may say that the vessel he crossed in, the City of Glasgow, was lost on her return trip, never having been heard of, with some six hundred persons aboard.

To return to the eyesight. Mr. Rice is fond of referring to what he calls physiological alchemy, and he tells of how he invoked this alchemy in a most heroic treatment inflicted on himself. It is best told in his own words:—"Well, when by the before-mentioned means I had (grace a Dieu) succeeded so as that my eyes were become somewhat normal, about fourteen years thereafter a large white film began to cover my right eye, extending presently very rapidly, and I began to think that all my efforts were going to be abortive. I immediately desisted from work, and, having some money in my pocket (see the value of the use of money!), I went out and purchased some pounds of very fine sirloin, along with a heap of a great variety of vegetables, and a dollar bottle of Hennessy, i.e., good old brandy. I dieted myself on the substances after a fashion, which, I think, may be fairly called alchemical, though to give the idiosyncrasy of each kind of matter and its modus operandi or its way of being cooked or used would puzzle a Philadelphia lawyer. However, when I had got through all the substances I filled a big tumbler up to the brim of the spiritual matter, Hennessy, and, taking out of my trunk a clean pocket handker-