

Canadian notes, without any material sacrifice. No more was said on the subject, and the purse was for the moment forgotten. Some time afterwards, on rising to get out of the car, which had stopped a few moments on the road, and while removing the folds of my cloak so as to throw it across my arm, down dropped something which I did not myself notice, but which a lady at my side saw, exclaiming delightedly, as she picked it up, "Here, sir, is your purse." It was so indeed. In removing from the last car, it must have got fastened in some fold which I did not shake out, and there remained *perdu* until, extending the cloak, it had fallen to the floor of the car.

Under any other circumstances, this asserted loss of a purse, which had never been out of my possession, and its accidental *exposé*, might have appeared awkward enough; and indeed I could not but feel, at the time, that it was extremely fortunate I had not been under the imperious necessity of accepting the generous offer which had been made to me, of supplying its presumed loss. However, I did not look very guilty, but, on the contrary, not a little pleased, and I believe none of my fellow travellers were uncharitable enough to impute to me what I certainly did not merit.

On leaving Utica the same afternoon, I found myself the solitary occupant of the stage sleigh, and resigned myself to the prospect of having my own reflections only to commune with for the next eight and forty hours. I was, however, very agreeably disappointed when, on being driven a short distance, the sleigh stopped, and an officer in the dress of the American army came to the door, escorting two young ladies, who were proceeding to Watertown, near Sackett's Harbour: the one, to join her husband, to whom she had been recently married; the other, as her companion and friend. The day was rather bitter, promising a night of increased coldness, and accordingly the young officer, after carefully tucking the buffalo robes around the delicate persons of the travellers, bade them take care of themselves, and left them under my charge, not absolutely requested, but implied by his manner.

The ladies of the American officers have, in general, more of tact, more of the *savoir faire*, and less of *mauvaise honte*, than is usual among their countrywomen. The fair friends and myself were very shortly on the best of travelling terms in the world, and I found their conversation so agreeable and unaffected, that I half resolved, as the journey was little more than forty miles longer, to accompany them to Watertown, and thence, by a circuitous route, reach the point of departure for the Canadian shore, without the disadvantage of recrossing the Rossie Mountains. We stopped about nine in the evening to supper, and then re-entering the stage, where I imitated the example of the American officer in inducting my companions hermetically into the buffalo robes, proceeded on our journey. Not a great deal was said, for fatigue now began to exercise its influence over the senses of my fair charge, and by the dim light within I could perceive the young wife pillowed on the bosom of her friend, and her redundant hair partially escaped from its confinement. Whenever we stopped, either that the driver might get his dram or change his horses, the slumberers were generally aroused, and then we conversed for a short time until the renewed motion of the sleigh, added to the natural fatigue of the frame, once more closed their eyelids, and continued them in their state of dreamy, half unconsciousness. In this manner we proceeded during the whole of a very cold winter's night, and after having, since leaving Utica, passed successively through Rome, Boomville, Leyden, and Turin, finally reached Martinsburgh, the proper point of separation, about seven o'clock in the morning.

Here a tall fellow having announced that his stage was ready to leave for Hammond and Morristown, I thought of my lady liege, and my promise to be home on New-Year's Day; and desiring him to remove my baggage into his sleigh, took a final leave of my fellow travellers, whom I recommended to the especial care of their driver, and found myself once more *en solitaire*, and wending my way to the Rossie Mountains. We passed successively through Denmark, Copenhagen, Carthage, Wilner, and Antwerp, at which latter place we stopped for the night. The next day took us through Rossie, Hammond, over the Rossie Mountains, and finally to Morristown, which we reached about two o'clock in the day. The St. Lawrence was not more than half frozen over, the ice projecting from the land on either shore to a distance of about one fourth of the width of the stream; but the centre of the river was filled with cakes of floating ice that were being carried rapidly down by the current, which in this part is of extreme swiftness. Still, as the ferry boats were crossing, I adopted the customary mode of transit. I took a boat for my own especial use, and this containing what baggage I had with me, was placed upon a sledge, with notches cut into the transverse bars, for the purpose of receiving and securing the keel. Thus the sledge was pushed along, both the ferryman and myself having a hand on the gunwale of the boat, in order to be secured from danger in the event of the ice giving way beneath us. But this, so far as it had hitherto formed, was so firm that we gained the extreme edge without difficulty. The boat was then taken off the runners, which in their turn were placed uppermost, and pushed into the stream; and when we had succeeded in getting through the floating ice, and gaining the opposite edge, the ferryman jumped out, hauled the boat up, and then replacing the runners on the ice, fitted the keel to the grooves, and we moved on-

ward as before. About four o'clock on the 31st of December, I once more gained my cottage.

Soon after my return I sustained one of the most bitter losses I have ever known. I had left my faithful Hector as a protector to his mistress, during my absence, but the poor dog, ever accustomed to be with me, feeling anxiety and restlessness at my prolonged absence, could not overcome a new desire which had been created in him for roaming broad—doubtless in the hope of meeting his truant master. On my arrival I was made acquainted with this change in his habits; but so far from his now absenting himself, I could scarcely induce him to leave the place. One day as I prepared to go into the town, I called to him to follow, but he merely accompanied me to the gate conducting outside of the grounds, and then returned to the house slowly, and without any seeming attention to my whistling. Conceiving this to be obstinacy, I punished the dog rather severely. The poor creature seemed to reproach me with unnecessary cruelty, and from that moment I observed that he was gradually sinking. He ate but little food, wore an expression of mingled pain and sorrow in his large, soft, and beautiful dark eye, and seldom wandered a hundred yards from the door. My feelings were deeply interested. I saw the dog was in pain from some cause which I could not fathom, and bitterly did I reproach myself for the flogging I had given him. I at length suspected he was poisoned by some of the scoundrels with whom Brockville abounds, and whom the dog had been principally instrumental in keeping off the grounds. In this belief I was soon confirmed, for at a later hour the same day, the poor suffering creature trailed himself through the door-way to the snow, on which he rolled himself incessantly, uttering a low howl, as if under the influence of extreme internal torture. Towards the evening he seemed to be more at ease, but he was so reduced that, whenever he attempted to move, the rattling of the claws of his powerless feet, which he had not strength to raise, was painfully audible. During the greater part of the time he fixed his eyes upon my face with an expression full of melancholy, and indicative of the pain he suffered, while frequently, as he thus gazed, he placed (not without effort) his large paw in my hand, and continued it there as if desirous of proving to me his deep attachment. I confess I was as much grieved at the condition of the noble animal, and the too probable loss that awaited me, as though some dear and intimate friend lay dying at my side. Previous to my retiring to rest I had, in strong apprehension of his death during the night, caused a thick layer of straw to be placed in the hermetically closed porch, which had been raised before the hall door, and to this I conducted the suffering creature, who seemingly thankful that his bed had been placed in a situation which afforded coolness, amid the fire which seemed to consume him, again tendered me his paw on parting. That night he died.

I had thought it impossible that my sensibilities could have been awakened in the powerful manner they were, but I confess that I shed more tears on that occasion than I ever previously had at the death of any human being. Few people will understand this, because there are few people who take the trouble to draw out the affections of animals, or to unfold in them that intelligence which they possess, and which requires but the hand and voice of kindness to elicit. I am fully convinced that there are certain animals, in what is called the brute creation, who with the exception of the gift of speech alone, possess a reason, feelings, perceptions, prepossessions and recollections, which far exceed those attributes in the merely animal portion of the human family.

On the following morning, I sent for a person to remove his beautiful skin, and to discover the immediate cause of his death. The body was accordingly opened, and in the stomach, the coats of which were corroded and black, were found particles of *nux vomica* which had not yet been dissolved. This, at once, clearly accounted for all the protracted suffering of the poor creature. How should I have acted had the brute, who had perpetrated this inhuman deed, lain writhing at my feet in all the agony he occasioned my faithful friend and companion, I can scarcely trust myself to say. I do not really think, in the mood of mind I then experienced, that if the movement of a hand, or a word of mine could have saved the wretch from dying the lingering death of that dog, I would have stirred to save him. My first care was to have the remains of the poor animal nailed up in a case in which a bed of snow had been placed, and buried under a locust tree adjoining the ice house, where a turf-covered mound was erected over him in the spring. His splendid skin, a white ground with large dark spots interspersed, was also sent to be dressed, and is now suspended before my writing table, conveying the strongest reminiscence of the noble creature who loved me so well. I offered a reward of fifty dollars for the discovery of the murderer, but without effect.

In the early part of the month of June, the canal from New York being open, the person whose services I had engaged to superintend the mechanical arrangements of the paper arrived, bringing with him the necessary materials for the "New Era,"—a name that had been selected in consequence of the important political changes which had taken place in the country, and the new principle of government then being followed up, on the recommendation of Lord Durham, by Mr. Poulett Thomson. The paper was necessarily not large, but its contents, and principally