

but there was ground for alarm: before under the shadow of a grey stone, within a few yards, lay his faithful dog, a creature that never before required a second call from him, now deaf to that voice which he was wont to obey: he was supporting something that had the appearance of a lovely child and asleep, nestled close into his bosom, the child resting upon his shaggy side, and its golden hair appearing like rays of light upon the pillow upon which it rested: the face appeared more beautiful than any thing of earth he had ever seen. As William's surprise began to abate, his fears, if possible, increased.

"Surely," said he to himself, "this is one of the children of the fairies. God protect me! I am bewitched as well as my dog. I never felt thus before in the presence of mere earthly beings! my knees can scarce support me, and cannot withdraw my eyes from that awful object! God deliver me from the power of the enemy!" And he shut his eyes, by a convulsive effort.

He then attempted to pray, but memory failed, the palsy of fear had so completely seized him: the very beauty of the object increased his alarm; for he had heard that Satan is never more to be feared than when he appears as an angel of light: with his eyes closed by a nervous effort, he turned himself round and ran to his reapers.

As he approached them his natural firmness returned; but his countenance still betrayed the agitation of his mind: the reapers ceased quitting the field, and seeing him running towards them, crowded round him, eagerly inquiring the cause of his alarm; and it was some time before he recovered his strength to give them an account of what he had seen: the whole group was struck with awe and amazement, gazing alternately at the farmer and at each other—not knowing what to think of the strange case; but they agreed that some effort should be made for the recovery of the dog: John Bell, an elder of the church, and a neighbour farmer, came and said—

"My brethren, the power of the Evil One is great; but it is overruled by One greater and more glorious: let us employ His aid, and we shall flee before us."

When his prayer was finished, he arose with a firm assurance in the Divine aid.

"I will go forth," said he, "in the strength of His name, and see what new delusion of Satan this is! William Kerr, send to the House for the ha' Bible, that I may carry it as a shield between us and the wiles of him who will vanish before the holy book, like mist before the wind."

One of the young men ran to the house, and soon returned with his mistress, she herself carrying the important volume, which she delivered into the hands of John Bell; and he read aloud to them that beautiful chapter, the fourteenth of St. John's Gospel. They then proceeded to the spot pointed out by the farmer, chanting a psalm as they walked along: all, excepting the elder, were unnerved by fear; casting many a glance around, and ready at the least alarm to run away: before they reached the stone, Colin came bounding to them, barking for joy, while the master exclaimed—

"Great is the power of the Word! The charm is broken! Colin, Colin, I am rejoiced to have rescued you from the evil powers: come my lad, let's to the hill and weer in the ewes." And with his usual whistle he pointed to the hill.

Colin would not obey the order, but ran back towards the large grey stone, barking in an unusual manner, returning, again running towards it, and looking back as if he wished his master to follow: the whole group were in amazement, and knew not what to think—but what surprised them the more was, at the dog taking the end of his master's plaid in his mouth, and endeavouring to drag him towards the stone: as the party thus stood irresolute, the faint wailing of a child was distinctly heard, and a babe, supporting its feeble arms upon the stone, was seen to emerge from the other side of it: it was the same the farmer had previously seen: his fears returned; several of the most timid fled—but Colin ran to the little stranger, and licked the tears that ran down its cheeks, while the child put its arms around his neck: that they witnessed something out of the usual order of nature, no one present had the smallest doubt; for how, by earthly means, could a child of man have reached a spot so lonely and secluded?

"What can this mean," exclaimed Grizzel: "Colin, you never refused to obey my voice;