

SUNNY DAYS IN WINTER.

Summer is a glorious season,
Winter is a dreary season,
But the Fall is not a season,
For the sun is not in the sky,
And the birds are not in the air,
And the leaves are not on the trees,
And the flowers are not in the fields,
And the children are not in the school,
And the men are not in the office,
And the women are not in the shop,
And the old are not in the home,
And the young are not in the street,
And the world is not in the air,
And the world is not in the earth,
And the world is not in the sky,
And the world is not in the sea,
And the world is not in the land,
And the world is not in the air,
And the world is not in the earth,
And the world is not in the sky,
And the world is not in the sea,
And the world is not in the land.

THE OLD BARON.

THE CHAMPION OF VIRTUE.

[CONTINUED.]

'All this is news to me,' said Edmund;
'but, Father, tell me what grounds there
were for the lady's suspicion that her
lord died unfairly?'

'Alas!' said Father Oswald, 'that is only
known to God. There were strange thoughts
in the minds of many at that time; I had
mine, but I will not disclose them, not even
to you. I will not injure those who may be
innocent; and I leave it to Providence, who
will, doubtless, in its own best time and
manner, punish the guilty. But let what I
have told you be as if you had never heard
it.'

'I thank you for these marks of your
esteem and confidence,' said Edmund; 'be
assured that I will not abuse them; nor do
I desire to pry into secrets not proper to be
revealed. I entirely approve your discretion,
and acquiesce in your conclusion, that Pro-
vidence will in its own time vindicate its
ways to man; if it were not for that trust,
my situation would be insupportable. I
strive earnestly to deserve the esteem and
favor of good men. I endeavor to regulate
my conduct so as to avoid giving offence
to any man; but I see, with infinite pain, that
it is impossible for me to gain these points.

'I see it too, with great concern,' said
Father Oswald. 'Every thing that I can
say or do in your favor is misconstrued. By
seeking to do you service, I lose my own in-
fluence; but I will never give my sanction
to acts of injustice, nor join to oppress
innocence. My dear child, put your trust
in God. He who brought light out of dark-
ness, can bring good out of evil.'

'I hope and trust so,' said Edmund; 'but,
Father, if my enemies should prevail, if my
lord should believe their stories against me,
and I should be put out of the house with
disgrace, what will become of me? I have
nothing but my character to depend upon. I
lose that, I lose everything. I see they
seek no less than my ruin.'

'Trust in my lord's honor and justice,'
replied Father Oswald; 'he knows your
virtue, and he is not ignorant of their ill-will
towards you.'

'I know my lord's justice too well to
doubt it,' said Edmund; 'but would it not
be better to rid him of this trouble, and his
family of an incubus? I would gladly
do something for myself, but cannot without
my lord's recommendation; and, such is my
situation, I fear the asking for a dismission
would be accounted base ingratitude. Be-
sides, when I think of leaving this house my
heart aches at the thought, and tells me
I cannot be happy out of it; yet, I think I
ought return to a peasant's life with cheer-
fulness, rather than live in a palace under
disgrace and contempt.'

'Have patience a little longer, my son,'
said Father Oswald. 'I will think of some
way to serve you, and to represent your
gratitude to my lord, without offence to
either; perhaps the cause may be removed.
Continue to observe the same irreproch-
able conduct; and be assured, that Heaven
will defend your innocence, and defeat the
unjust designs of your enemies. Let us now
return home.'

publicly. I have been seeking you this hour
to inform you of this, that you might be
prepared to defend yourself against your
accusers.'

'God reward you, sir,' said Edmund; 'for
all your goodness to me! I see they are
determined to ruin me, if possible. I shall
be compelled to leave the castle; but what-
ever becomes of me, be assured you shall
have no cause to blush for your kindness
and partiality to your Edmund.'

'I know it, I am sure of it,' said William;
'and here I swear to you, as Jonathan did
to David, I beseech Heaven to bless me, as
my friendship to you shall be steady and
invariable.'

'Only so long as I shall deserve so great
a blessing,' interrupted Edmund.
'I know your worth and honor,' continued
William; 'such is my confidence in your
merit, that I firmly believe Heaven designs
you for something extraordinary; and I
expect that some great and unforeseen event
will raise you to the rank and station to
which you belong. Promise me, therefore,
that whatever may be your fate, you will
preserve the same friendship for me that I
bear to you.'

Edmund was so much affected, that he
could not answer but in broken sentences.
'Oh, my friend, my master,' said Edmund.
'I vow, I promise, my heart promises.'

He knelt down with clasped hands and
uplifted eyes. William knelt by him and
they invoked the Supreme to witness to their
friendship, and implored His blessing upon
it. They then rose up, and embraced each
other, while tears of cordial affection be-
dewed their cheeks.

As soon as they were able to speak, Ed-
mund conjured his friend not to expose
himself to the displeasure of his family, out
of kindness to him.
'I submit to the will of Heaven,' said Ed-
mund. 'I wait with patience its disposal of
me. If I leave the castle, I will find means
to inform you of my fate and fortune.'

'I hope,' said William, 'that things may
yet be accommodated. Do not take any
resolution, but let us act as occasion arises.'

In this manner these amiable youths con-
ferred, till they arrived at the castle. The
Baron was sitting in the great hall, on a high
chair, with a footstep before, with the state
and dignity of a judge; before him stood
Father Oswald, as pleading the cause for
himself and Edmund. Round the Baron's
chair stood his eldest son, and their kin-
smen, with their principal domestics. The
old servant, Joseph, at some distance, with
his head leaning forward, was listening with
the utmost attention to what passed.

Mr. William approached the chair, 'My
lord, I have found Edmund, and brought
him to answer for himself.'

'You have done well,' said the Baron.
Edmund, come hither. You are charged
with some indiscretions, for I cannot properly
call them crimes. I am resolved to do
justice between you and your accusers. I
shall, therefore, hear you as well as them;
for no man ought to be condemned unheard.'

'My lord,' said Edmund, with equal mod-
esty and integrity, 'I demand my trial,
and I shall be found guilty of any crimes
against my benefactor, let me be punished
with the utmost rigor; but if, as I trust, no
such charge can be proved against me, I
know your goodness too well to doubt that
you will do justice to me, as well as to oth-
ers. It should be happy that by the misrep-
resentations of my enemies, who have long
sought my ruin privately, and now show it
publicly, that by their artifices your lordship
should be induced to think me guilty,
I will submit to your sentence in silence, and
appeal to another tribunal.'

Edmund was bid to attend on Edmund
to serve him at supper; and, at the hour of
9 to conduct him to the banquet apartment.
Edmund declined eating, and desired to
be conducted to his apartment.
He was accompanied by most of the ser-
vants to the door of it; they wished him
success, and prayed for him as if he had
been going to execution.

The door was with great difficulty un-
locked, and Joseph gave Edmund a lighted
lamp, and wished him a good night; he re-
turned his good wishes to them all with the
utmost cheerfulness, took the key on the in-
side of the door, and then dismissed them.

He took a survey of his chamber. The
furniture, by long neglect, was decayed and
dropping to pieces; the bed was covered
by the moths, and occupied by the rats, who
had built their nests there with impunity for
many generations. The bedding was very
damp, for the rain had forced his way
through the ceiling; he determined, there-
fore, to lie down in his clothes. There were
two doors on the further side of the room,
with keys in them. Being not at all sleep-
y, he resolved to examine them. He attempt-
ed to open one, and opening it, he found it
went into a large dining room, the furniture
of which was in the same tattered condi-
tion; out of this was a large closet with
some books in it, and hung around with
coats of arms, with genealogies and alliances
of the house of Lovel. He amused himself
here some minutes, and then returned into
the bed-chamber.

He recollecting the other door, and re-
solved to see where it led to. The key was
rusted into the lock, and resisted his
attempts. He set the lamp on the ground,
and, exerting all his strength, opened the
door, and at the same instant the wind of
it blew on the lamp, and lit like a fire
in the room. At the same moment he heard
a hollow noise, as if the roof of it were
coming through a narrow passage. The
moment no one idea of fear had ap-
proached the mind of Edmund; but, when
then, all the concurrent circumstances of
his situation struck upon his heart, and
gave him a new and disagreeable sensation.
He passed awhile; and, recollecting himself,
cried out aloud, 'I have not willfully
offended God or man; why then should I
doubt protection? But I have not yet im-
plored the Divine assistance; how then can

I expect it? Upon this he knelt down
and prayed earnestly; resigning himself
wholly to the will of Heaven. While he
was yet speaking, his courage returned, and
he assumed his usual confidence. Again
he approached the door from whence the
noise proceeded. He thought he saw a
glittering light on a staircase before him.
'It,' said he, 'this apartment is haunted,
I will use my endeavors to discover the cause
of it, and if the spirit appears visibly, I will
speak to it.'

He was preparing to descend the staircase,
when he heard several knocks at the door
by which he first entered the room; and
stepping backward, the door was clapped
with great violence.
Again fear attacked him; but he resisted
it, and boldly cried out, 'Who is there?'

A voice at the outer door answered,
'It's I, Joseph, your friend.'
'What do you want?' said Edmund.
'I have brought you some wood to make a
fire,' said Joseph.
'I thank you kindly,' said Edmund; 'but
my lamp is gone out. I will try to find the
door, however.'

After some trouble, he found and opened
it, and was not sorry to see his friend
Joseph, with a light in one hand, and a
baggon of beer in the other, and a faggot
upon his shoulder.
'I come,' said the good old man, 'to bring
something to keep up your spirits. The
evening is cold. I know this room wants
siring; and beside that, my master, I think
your present undertaking requires a little
assistance.'

'My good friend,' said Edmund, 'I never
shall be able to deserve or requite your
kindness to me.'

'My dear sir, you always deserved more
than I could do for you; and I think I shall
try here to see you defeat the designs of
your enemies, and acknowledge the service
of your friends.'

'Alas!' said Edmund, 'I see little pros-
pect of that.'

'I see,' said Joseph, 'something that per-
suades me you are designed for great
things; and I perceive that things are work-
ing about to some great end. Have cour-
age, my master, my heart beats strangely
high upon your account!'

'You make me smile,' said Edmund.
'I am glad to see it, sir; may you smile
all the rest of your life.'

'I thank your honest affection,' returned
Edmund; 'though it is too partial for me.
You had better go to bed, however. If it is
known that you visit me here, it will be
bad for us both.'

'So I will presently; but, please God, I
will come here again to-morrow night, when
all the family are abed, and I will tell you
something that you never yet heard.'

'But pray tell me,' said Edmund, 'where
does that door lead to?'

'Upon a passage, that ends in a staircase;
that leads to the lower rooms; and there is
likewise a door out of that passage into the
dining-room.'

'And what rooms are there below stairs?'
said Edmund.
'God save us above,' replied he.
'Very well, then I wish you a good night,
we will talk further to-morrow.'

'Aye, to-morrow night; and in this place,
my dear master.'

'Why do you call me master? I never
was, nor ever can, be your master.'

'God only knows that,' said the good old
man; 'good night and Heaven bless you!'

'Good night, my worthy friend.'

[TO BE CONTINUED.]

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