

THE CANADIAN CASSETT.

NEC DESIT JUCUNDIS GRATIA VERBIS.

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SELECT TALES.

"To hold the mirror up to Nature."

FOR THE CASSETT.

THE REWARD OF ENVY.

No two passions are more uncongenial in their operations, and unlike in their results, than Envy and Emulation. The first arises from that heaven born principle by which man, formed for a **hero** and destined to rise in the scale of beings, is taught to look with admiration upon superior excellence, and constantly abated to the attainment of some eminence that lies but just one step above him. But envy is the offspring of avarice; the criterion of a mind naturally weak, or narrowed by education. It is the canker-worm of the soul, which gnaws at the root of every generous feeling; and which inspires its victim with ambition for an eminence, gained not by his elevation above others, but by basely reducing them beneath himself. That every picture of human society might be so diversified, as that its brighter colours might glow with a more lively hue by the effect of contrast, when Nature had drawn the finer feelings of the soul, she permitted a demon to strike a line of darker hue. Essaying, at one dash, to mar the beauty of the whole, he touched the heart with a pencil dipped in gall, and called the stain Envy.

Though the baser passions are too often triumphant, yet we generally find virtue, in the end, the vanquisher of vice; and sometimes the latter, when conquered, becomes the passive and happy captive of the former. We could wish that this had been the sequel of the following extraordinary incidents.

Some forty years ago, two enterprising and intelligent brothers—the elder united to a most amiable lady, who brought him a considerable fortune; the younger a bachelor, dependant, like many young Englishmen of that fraternity, upon the patronage of an elder brother, and upon his personal enterprise—bid adieu to the attractive shores of England, to adopt a new home amid the rugged charms of Upper Canada.

After having been in this country but one year, and while his bosom was still tenderly alive to the wounds it had sustained in being severed from all the en-

dearments of his native land, the elder Carlisle (for this was their name,) was visited with an affliction to which his fortitude was unequal. On abandoning England, affection for his lovely wife had taken the place of every other attachment; and when Death, wrested her from his bosom, the grief of the mourner was as intense as had been the love of the husband: he gave himself up to the deepest melancholy and sometimes to distraction.

Mr. Carlisle was the father of two children, both sons, the younger of whom was still in the nurse's care at the time of the mother's exit. But these little prattlers, instead of engaging their father's affections and dissipating his melancholy, seemed only the objects of oppressive care; and his brother, who had been a principal agent in inducing him to leave England, he looked upon as a seducer who had led him into an abyss of wretchedness. There seemed not a being left on earth upon whom his affections could devolve.

At length, leaving his children, with the charge of his fortune, to his brother's care, Mr. Carlisle determined to seek the boon of health and tranquility, on the broad waters of the Atlantic and in the bosom of his native island. He bid adieu to the little village of —, with the intention of sailing on the earliest opportunity. For week; his brother anxiously awaited intelligence of his embarkation from Quebec; but as no information could be obtained concerning him, the melancholy conclusion arose, that in one of his fits of despondency he had fallen a victim to suicide.

The younger Carlisle—who was now left to the most depressing reflections, in a strange land, to which, however he had long felt an attachment—very naturally placed his affections on his young nephews, to whom he became, in all the momentous duties which that name involves, a father.

George, the eldest of the two boys, possessed little of that energy which is the harbinger of distinction in life, but was of a kind and affectionate temper, more fond of pleasure than of study, and not at all disposed willingly to sacrifice his ease to the acquisition of knowledge,

or the accumulation of fortune. For the latter, however, there was little need of his exertions; as the estate left by his father had, under the judicious direction of his uncle, become so large as to place him in a state of affluence. Nature, too, had endowed him with a form adapted to his character; he possessed great personal attractions. The younger brother, James, on the contrary, was a lad of good parts, Naturally quick in his perceptions, active and ambitious. His predominant passion was emulation, and he soon acquired the reputation of being the most talented youth within the circle of his acquaintance.

Between dispositions so opposite, it need hardly be said, that the bias of a patron who had been all his life a man of the world, always preponderated in favor of the younger brother. And though his affection for both, and his high sense of justice, forbade the thought of neglecting the elder, he early determined to leave his estate to the younger, in which his partiality was justified by the superior fortune of George.

Fondly going as he did on his James, all that affection could do towards instilling into his mind the precepts, and forming the habits, which would tend to make him wise and virtuous, was done by Mr. Carlisle; and in this he met with few obstacles, as he had only to provide those means and procure those privileges of which his nephew was ever eager to avail himself. At the same time, he avoided every occasion for jealousy on the part of George, from whom he so effectually concealed his partiality, that the latter flattered himself with the mistaken impression, that in the affections of his patron he maintained an enviable ascendancy over his brother.

George was favored with every advantage that had been placed within the reach of James; and his uncle would often say to him, "George, when I am gone, the only return you can make, is that you imitate the example I have set you. be kind to your brother, assist him when he wants assistance, and counsel him when he wants advice. And remember the poor; as you never saw one go in want from my door, so let yours be ever the portal