

THE LAMPSHORN

VOL. II.—No. 11.

MONTREAL, SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 1873.

PRICE } FIVE CENTS.
OR SIX CENTS, U.S. C.

BEREFT.

She heard old ocean's hollow roll
And wash of wave upon the sand,
The while a breeding twilight stole
By dim degrees o'er all the land,
"O sea," she said, "give up your dead!
Give back my sailor boy to me!
What worth is left in life?" she said,
"My one love lies beneath the sea!"

A loose wind wander'd through the leaves,
And came and went about the place;
It whisper'd round the cottage eaves,
And last it touch'd her on the face.
"O wind," she said, "my boy is dead!
And if ye come from yon dark sea,
Bring back, O wind," she, weeping, said
"Some tidings of my boy to me!"

Slowly the dull night wore away,
A new day trembled to its birth,
The sun broke through the eastern gray
And drove the shadows from the earth.
"Once more," she said, "the night has fled,
Dawn widens over land and sea,
But never will it come," she said,
"The dawn that brings my boy to me!"

—All the Year Round.

DESMORO ;

OR,

THE RED HAND.

BY THE AUTHOR OF "TWENTY STRAWS," "VOICES
FROM THE LUMBER ROOM," "THE "HUMMING-
BIRD," ETC., ETC.

CHAPTER L.

"Yes," continued Comfort, "how was I, who was almost shoeless, and footsore, hungry, and weary, to walk a distance of six miles?"
"But I must make the attempt. If I could but reach Highcliff, I was sure that its master and mistress would render me some assistance which would lift me out of my present condition of want and wretchedness. With hope in my young bosom, I trudged onwards and onwards, praying that heaven would give me strength to perform the whole of the journey before me. I was aware that I did not present an appearance that would command the attention and respect of servants, and I was dreading lest Mr. Thetford's domestics should prevent my approach to the house, and drive me thence, deeming me some troublesome tramp, whom their master and mistress might have been vexed to see.

"When I had walked about two miles, I was so fatigued that I had to sit down behind a hedge, in order to rest myself a little. My heart felt nearly broken at this time, and I was beginning to wish for death to come and put an end to all my woes. I knew that my wish was a very impious one, but I was far too miserable to care for that fact.

"Highcliff—Highcliff!" I kept on repeating to myself, my brain growing strangely confused as I thus sat with my head resting on my hand, my limbs aching, and hunger gnawing at my vitals. Presently the scene faded from my view, and I remembered no more until I opened my eyes to utter darkness and night.

"I started up in affright. I was in a lonely road, along which I could see no signs of any human habitation. I had been asleep or insensible for some hours, and I was now feeling weaker, and worse than ever. I felt ready to lay me down and die.

"I could not wander on in darkness, so I sat down again, and began to cry.

"I never shall forget my sensations on that memorable occasion, the desolation and misery of those houseless, famishing hours. An orphan and friendless entirely. The night was intensely cold, and I was poorly clad. You may judge of my sufferings crouched thus in solitary blankness; shivering and shuddering at every sound; watching for the coming of morn.

At length grey dawn appeared. I hailed the approach of day with a fresh burst of tears, for I found that I was wholly unable to crawl away from this spot; I was too ill and too weak to do so.

"It was, behind a hedge, concealed from the highway, that I was resting. I might have died



THE CHILDREN'S HOLIDAY.

there without notice from any one, the place was so remote from observation.

"After a lapse of about two hours, I heard the sounds of horses' hoofs, and heavy wheels in the road. Some waggon was drawing near.

"I tried to move—using all my little remaining strength in that endeavor—but all in vain.

"Then I cried out at the very top of my voice—cried out again and again.

"I afterwards paused, and listened. Still, I could hear the slowly-advancing horses and wheels; but no other sounds reached my strained ears.

"I shouted once more, piteously imploring help; but there came no answer to my call.

"My heart sank in my breast.

"Presently I heard the vehicle stop. I felt giddy with thankfulness and joy at this. Assistance was surely at hand. None, I thought, would refuse to aid me in my suffering condition.

"By and by a masculine voice made itself heard.

"Who called?" inquired the voice.

"I—I!" I answered, eagerly, trying to raise myself as I spoke.

"Where are you, and who are you?" further demanded the voice.

"I am here!" I replied, doing my best to force my way through a gap in the hedge. "I am a poor girl!" I added, a big sob at the time almost choking my utterance.

"Stop a minute, my lass, and I'll give thee a helping hand," I heard the voice further say, in cheery tones, which made my very soul rejoice.

"And then I felt a strong arm encircle my waist, and, more dead than alive, I was dragged

tares narrowly, with his head first on one side and then on the other.

"I'll as I was at the time, my powers of observation did not entirely fail me. The jolting of the vehicle, too, was rousing me up a little.

"See, yonder's the house!" he went on, "at the top of the hill before us!"

"What house?" I asked, feebly.

"Highcliff, to be sure!"

"Highcliff?" repeated I. "What, the residence of Mr. Thetford?"

"Ay. Do you know the squire?"

"Yes—that is, I once knew him."

"Then you'll be glad to see him, and he'll be glad to see you, I suppose. Was you goin' there?"

"Where?"

"To Highcliff."

"I was intending to call upon Mrs. Thetford. I had no further business with her, save to restore a handkerchief of hers which I found in the road yesterday, and to ask her husband and herself to assist me in my present strait of circumstances. Mr. Thetford knows me well," I explained.

"Lor, how strange!" returned my companion, in a simple manner.

"I was full of hope now, as you may well imagine, for I was building much upon the generosity of Mr. Thetford.

"Well, after a short time, we reached Highcliff, which was a most imposing edifice, perched upon an eminence, and surrounded by magnificent grounds of vast extent.

"As we approached one of the back entrances of the house, I saw Mr. Thetford himself, giving directions to some men who were engaged in placing iron spikes on the top of a fence.

"The waggoner spoke to the gentleman, who looked much mystified as he listened to him.

"I then saw Mr. Thetford approach the conveyance in which I was sitting. I was quite faint with agitation at this moment, and it was with considerable difficulty that I could succeed in keeping myself from swooning outright.

"I can't understand," I heard him say to the waggoner. "A young girl, did you say?" he added, as he drew nearer to the vehicle.

"The sound of his well-known voice seemed to fill me with sudden energy.

"It is I, Comfort Shavings!" I cried out.

"He was by my side in an instant; and, after the lapse of a very short time, indeed, I was sitting in a cozy room, having all my wants attended to, kind Mrs. Thetford herself waiting upon me, and anticipating all my wishes.

"The Thetfords behaved to me as kindly as they could, and much commiserated my destitute position.

"I stayed with them some months, until I had quite regained my former health and strength. Then I began to grow uneasy, and I longed to go forth and seek some means of earning a subsistence for myself. I did not like to eat the bread of dependence when I was feeling able to labor for my own requirements.

"Mr. and Mrs. Thetford murmured when I talked of soon leaving them, and wondered why I could not make up my mind to remain with them for ever.

"I had no ties of any sort, they said; then, wherefore could I not stay with them?"

"I was much too young to go forth into the world wholly alone and unprotected, they further added.

"No matter for my youth, I replied, I was now able to earn my livelihood, and I would do so.

"They used all their persuasive efforts in order to induce me to stay with them. But in vain, I related all their arguments: I was grateful for their kindness, I said, but I could not think of trespassing upon it any longer.

"What could they possibly say to me after my firm protestations that I would not remain with them, that I preferred to go forth and buffet with the world for my daily bread, rather than live a life of ease? They could not blame me for my decision, and they did not attempt to do so.

"After a great deal of trouble, Mr. Thetford succeeded in learning the whereabouts of Mr. Jellico, who had again become the manager of a strolling company; and, after being well clothed, I was placed in his care, with many strict injunctions from the Thetfords.

"In the first place, I was not to be permitted to want for anything, as they (the Thetfords) would always be delighted to assist me as far as I would allow them to do so. And, in the event of my getting tired of my labors, or falling ill, I was to return to them, and share their home, just as if that home belonged unto myself.

"My heart swelled with thankfulness to hear them. I was not quite alone in the world now,