

their appearance. Happiness disdains not the poverty of the poor, but in love is found bestowing upon them her golden favours. The brothers married; labour was their inheritance but health and contentment smiled on their toil, and thankful for the good afforded here, they looked forward with the eye of hope to that better good in the land afar off; and pilgrims, from the snares of earth they sojourned in joy to their Father's house.

But we must return from the brothers to that son who was every way worthy such a relationship. Francis grew up as fair a flower as ever adorned the regions of poverty, his aptitude to learn was remarkable, and his sweetness of temper made him a universal favourite; these traits in his character became household words, and "as good and as clever as Frank Morier," was the highest commendation either teacher or parent could bestow upon the young. His uncle loved him as his own, and felt all a father's pride at the praise which he every where received. But it was not the will of heaven that he should see the promise of so fair a childhood fulfilled—the uncle was suddenly called from the scene below to his reward above, and had scarcely time to say "God bless and protect those I leave behind," ere the grim messenger took him away.

The struggles of the bereaved family were at first great, but by the exertions of the several members, and a blessing from on high, they were enabled to enjoy much of their usual comfort. Years sped on, and the pledge of childhood was redeemed in a youth whose piety and judgement gave reason to hope a yet brighter manhood.—He had borne when a child an unobtrusive and studious character, and he retained it now; instead of indulging in the pleasures natural to his age and situation, reading was his delight, and in addition to the very few books of his own, those of the minister and schoolmaster of the village were at all times at his service; and although collectively his resources were far from extensive, they aided in strengthening and expanding his mind far above the generality of those filling similar

stations. He might be seen on a summer's evening, after literally earning his bread 'by the sweat of his brow' wandering to some retired and beautiful spot, with a favourite author, and there, in the bosom of nature, communing with the 'mighty dead;' or, sitting in deep abstraction, wrapt in the mantle of his own thoughts. But his love of books was far from making him careless or indifferent to the interests or pleasures of the rest of the domestic circle; so far from it, he was ever ready to sacrifice his own will, to make himself either useful or agreeable. His cousins were his juniors by some years, and to cultivate their springing intellect, and give a proper direction to their enjoyment, afforded him very high gratification, and not unfrequently foregoing his own intentions, he might be observed with one or two of his little relations passing along the romantic avenue which led by the old church, while they, rejoicing in his company, seemed the glad representatives of happy unsophisticated innocence. But the most pleasing spectacle which one could wish to witness, was to see him on the Sabbath with his widowed aunt and her family proceeding to the house of God—there was something so tender, so affectionate in his manner, that all noticed, all spoke of it; and there was no one who did not breathe a silent aspiration for his welfare.

It is not at all wonderful that one possessing a character like that which we have been noticing, should entertain a desire of becoming a minister of the gospel, and for long Francis had nourished the hope that a favouring providence would give him the means of prosecuting an academical course of study; for to serve God in his church was his highest ambition—the burden of his earthly longings. Hitherto he had hid this wish 'in the secrecy of his own breast.' 'I will not,' he would say, 'make other feel by feeling with me—I will not sacrifice the peace and comfort of dear warm hearted relations; by letting their goodness know that I cherish so great a wish, without the possibility of its realization. No! no! this were vainly