

was willing to undertake the task, for the sake of a shelter, and the "bit morsel," which were to be her only remuneration.

She proved indeed kind to the boy, and often after he had consumed his small allowance of food, shared with him her own scanty portion; for not even towards his child, did the seared heart of the old miser melt into natural love and compassion. The little fellow early become sensible of the hardships of his lot, but he endured them till he attained the age of nine or ten years, when, one morning, he was missing, having on the previous evening bid poor Phebe, such a tender "good night," that she ever after said, she "felt at the time, poor thing, that it was to be his last." The miser neither expressed regret at his absence, nor made an effort to trace his flight,—he was satisfied that the boy should seek his own fortune, and free him from the burden of his maintenance.

Young Harry, who was high-spirited and intelligent beyond his years, persuaded himself that he had been guilty of no breach of affection or duty in deserting his miserable home, since his father had never sought to win the one, and the other he had enforced by such harshness, that the child's heart had ever rebelled against the paternal requisitions. He had made acquaintance with a young sailor, belonging to a ship of war, which was lying in the harbour, just ready for sea, who had painted to him in such glowing colours, the delights and varieties of an ocean life, that the boy resolved at all hazards to enjoy it. A few hours before the vessel sailed, he contrived, with the aid of his friend, to get on board, and stow himself away in a snug corner, where he lay concealed till it was out of port, when he was dragged forth by the laughing youngster, to the utter astonishment of his mesmates.

The poor boy's half naked little figure, and his famished looks excited the pity and interest of the warm hearted sailors, and the simple and unvarnished history which he gave of his brief life gained him many friends. He was fed and clothed, and his quickness of observation and intellect, his unvarying good temper and obliging disposition, soon made him a general favorite both with the crew and officers of the ship. Fortunately for Harry, he attracted the favor and attention of the second Lieutenant, who had recently lost an only son, of very nearly his age, and through his influence, he received such an education as fitted him to become an aspirant for the honours and emoluments of the profession, which, as he grew older, he resolved to embrace. In short, so great was his improvement, and so satisfactory his behaviour, that before the age of thirteen he was promoted to a midshipman's berth, and from thence he continued to rise, till he held the commission of a first Lieutenant.

It was soon after this period that the fleet to which Harry Dorival was attached, sailed on a three

year's cruise to the Pacific; but, soon after quitting Norfolk, encountered severe storms and gales, which drove it in among the Bahamas, and so greatly damaged the spars and rigging of some of the smaller vessels, that they were obliged to remain at the islands to refit, which they received orders to do as speedily as possible, and then rejoin the remainder of the fleet at Callao. The repairs, however, occupied several weeks; and they were weeks of holiday enjoyment to the young officers, who were cordially welcomed to the tables of the wealthy residents upon the islands, and were, besides, so constantly feted with balls and other entertainments, that their stay seemed to them but as one long and pleasant gala day.

But Harry Dorival who commanded one of the injured vessels, found during his detention at the islands, an object that more deeply interested his feelings than the gaiety of dance or feast, for, at the house of a wealthy planter of Jamaica, he was introduced to his adopted daughter, a portionless orphan, but beautiful, gentle and accomplished,—to whom the ardent sailor immediately surrendered his heart. The planter had one son, whom it was a favourite project with him to marry to this girl; they had been brought up together, with this expectation, and though no sentiment more tender than that of fraternal affection subsisted between them, they had hitherto regarded it as a matter of course that they were to be united.

But, when young Dorival appeared, and poured into the young lady's ear the passionate accents of his love, a new feeling awoke in her heart; she shrank with terror from the thought of that union which she had hitherto regarded with indifference, and aware that no entreaties of hers would free her from the doom she dreaded, she yielded to the prayers and persuasions of her lover,—clandestinely quitted the sheltering roof where she had so long received the tender nurture of a child, was privately married, and fled with him to a neighbouring island, where, in a sequestered spot on the sea-shore, he had procured pleasant and well furnished lodgings for her reception. From thence, she wrote to explain the reasons of her clandestine conduct to her guardian, and to entreat of him reconciliation and forgiveness. But no notice was taken of the appeal, and when again she wrote, the letter was returned unopened. Dorival's efforts were equally successful. He felt he had betrayed the hospitality and confidence of the worthy planter, in dishonorably stealing away the flower he had reared to adorn his own garden; and he sought him prepared to make the most humble concessions for his fault, hoping thereby to win forgiveness for his bride.

He was, however, refused admittance to the exasperated old man—nay, actually driven from the door by his black slaves, and forbidden ever to approach it again. Under these circumstances, he was com-