THE TRUE WITNESS AND CATHOLIC CHRONICLE

CHRISTMAS.

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Lo! hush'd is the voice of all nature around-Not even a breath breaks the stillness profound I This the weird hour of raidnight, and deep slum-ber falls -_____ On all within sanctified Bethlebem's walls I profound i

Not a soul is astir and the scene sacred seems To the Spirit of Peace and the Soul's waking dreams!

▲ few simple shepherds, seen guarding their sheep On the far distant mountains, alone vigil keep... When, hark ! 'Mid the shence stars softly along, A heaven of harmony wedded to song-an anthem whose burden, enchanting to hear, All Christendom ever since justly holds dear-Agrandeur of concert and precept till then, The boon and the blessing of angels, not men !

"On earth peace to men of good will," the glad

"On earth peace to men to gove an earth and "Glory to God" the celestial refrain ! And "Glory to God" the celestial refrain ! Aye, "Glory to God" the celestial refrain ! For to-night there is born unto mankind #

The promised of ages, whom sages of old And prophets predicted and sighed to behold

And how is He born ? in palace and State ? The fawned on and fondled of titled and great-Arrayed, as become the a Prince so renowned, In purpleand gold, with proud Coartiers around? Oh, no: the drend Son of Jehovah, whose sway The heavens and all things created obey— One glance of whose anger could shatter the subsets :-

Undaunted approach Him-behold Him unawed

Not here the least semblance of fodhead or (fod But a poor babe in swaddling clothes, scantly clad.

His birth and surroundings most wretched, most His palace a stable, a manger His cot, His Courtiers, dumb brutes that repose near the spot!

Pray, what is there seen in this pauper child's birth? To dismay the hereditary monarchs of earth? To hedge round the throne of the Cæsars, whose

arms

arms Have conquered the world—with boding alarms? Why is it the alters of Pagandom all. Tottering, seemingly nod to their fall? And why do the shrines, at which worshipped and prayed Rome's veteran legions for centuries, fade?

What dooms her grand temples, all hoary from Her gode long the glory of soldler and sage? Her gode long the glory of soldler and sage? 'Tis He, fellow Christians, no other than He, Yon seemingly impotent babe that we see, Reposing its poor they limbs all but nude. So helpless and friendless, in garments so rude-Around whose frail, shivering, infantine form, Unchecked blow the winds of the mid-winter

Aye! heathendom's rulers and idols may well Be dismayed, for the voice of that babe is the knell That rings out their doom the wide universe

o'er. Which shall know their false rites and foul

teachings no more— That heralds the downfall of Satan and sin, And the triumph o'er both that He's destined to

Let us, then, who follow His banners upraise Our voices and gratefully shout forth His praise ! At this joyous senson forgive and torget The feelings that worldly contentions beget— Let man to his follow-man freely extend, Not the hand of a free, but the hand of a friend! The true Christian's duty he'll thus best fultil— "Do good for evil,"—Faith's golden rule still! W. O, FARMER, Montreal, December 2ith, 1879.

HENRIETTA TEMPLE

BY THE

RIGHT HON. B. DISRAELL

Some persons even went so far as to express their conviction that everything would be left to Mr. Armine, who everybody now discovered to have always been a particular favorite with his grandfather. At all events, Sir Ratcliffe, who ever maintained upon the subject a becoming silence, thought it as well that his son should remind his grandfather personally of his existence; and it was at his father's suggestion that Ferdinand had obtained a short leave of absence, at the first opportunity, to pay a hurried visit to Grandison, and his grandfather.

The old lord yielded him a reception which might have flattered the most daring hopes. He embraced Ferdinand, and pressed him to his heart a thousand times ; he gave him his blessing in the most formal manner every morning and evening ; and assured everybody that he now was not only his favorite but his only grandson. He did not even hesitate to affect a growing dislike for his own seat, because it was not in his power to leave it to Ferdinand; and he endeavored to console that fortunate youth for his indispensable deprivation by mysterious intimations that he would, perhaps, find quite enough to do with his money in completing Armine Castle, and maintaining its becoming splendor. The sanguine Ferdinand returned to Malta with the conviction that he was his grandfather's heir: and even Sir Ratcliffe was almost disposed to believe that his son's expectations were not without some show of probability, when he found that Lord Grandison had absolutely furnished him with the funds for the purchase of his company, Ferdinand was fond of his profession. He had entered it under favorable circumstances. He had joined a crack regiment in a crack garrison. Malta is certainly a delightful station. Its city, Valetta, equals in its noble architecture, if it even do not excel, my cap- maxims. No one had been educated with ital in Europe; and although it must be confessed that the surrounding region is little better than a rock, the vicinity, nevertheless, of Barbary, of Italy, and of Sicily, presents exhaustless resources to the lovers of the highest order of natural beauty. If that fair Valletta, with its streets of palaces, its picturesque forts and magnificent church, only crowned some queen and azure island of the Ionian Sea, Corfu for instance, I really think that the ideal of landscape would be realized. To Ferdinand, who was inexperienced in the world, the dissipation of Malta, too, was delightful. It must be confessed that, under all circumstances, the first burst of emancipation from domestic routine hath in it something fascinating. However you may be in-dulged at home, it is impossible to break the chain of childish associations; it is impossible to escape from the feeling of dependence and the habit of submission. Charming hour when you first order your own servants and ride your own horses, instead of your father's! It is delightful even to kick about our own farniture; and there is something manly and magnanimous in paying our own taxes. Young, lively, kind, accomplished, good-looking, and well-bred, Ferdinaud Armine had in him all the elements of popularity; and the novelty of popularity quite intoxicated a youth who had passed his life in a rural seclusion, where he had been appreclated, but not huzzaed. Ferdinand was not only popular, but proud of being popular. He was popular with the Governor, he was popular with his Colonel, he was popular with his mess, he was pepular throughout the garrison. Never was a person so popular as Ferdinand Armine. He was the best rider among them, and the deadliest shot; and he soon became an oracle at the billiard-table, and a hero in the racket-court. His refined education, however, fortunately preserved him from the fate of many other lively youths; he did not degenerate into a mere hero of sports and brawls, the genins of male revels, the arbiter of roistering suppers, and the Comus of a club. His boyish feelings had their play; he soon exhuded the wanton

books, his music, and his pencil. He beame more quiet, but he was not less liked. If he lost some companions, he gained many friends : and, on the whole, the most boisterous wassailers were proud of the accomplishments of their comrade ; and often an invitation to a mess dinner was accompanied by-a hint that Armine dined there, and that there was a chance of hearing him sing. Ferdinaud now became as popular with the Governor's lady as with the Governor himself, was idolized by his Colonel"s wife, while not a party throughout the island was considered perfect without the presence of Mr. Armine. Excited by his situation, Ferdinand was soon tempted to incur expenses which his in-

come did not justify. The facility of credit afforded him not a moment to pause; every-thing he wanted was furnished him; and until the regiment quitted the garrison he was well aware that a settlement of accounts was never even desired. Amid this imprudence he was firm, however, in his resolution never to trespass on the resources of his father. It was with difficulty that he even brought himself to draw for the allowance which Sir Ratcliffe insisted on making him; and he would gladly have saved his father from making even this advance, by vague insinuations of the bounty of Lord Grandison, had he not feared this conduct might have led to suspicious and disagreeable enquiries. It cannot be denied that his debts occasionally caused him anxiety, but they were not considerable; he quieted his conscience by the belief that if he were pressed, his grandfather could scarcely refuse to discharge a few hundred pounds for his favorite grandson and, at all events, he felt that the ultimate resource of selling his commission was still reserved for him. If these vague prospects did not drive away compunction, the gualms of conscience were generally allayed in the evening assembly, in which his vanity was gratified. At length he paid his first visit to Eng-

land. That was a happy meeting. Bis kind futher, his dear, dear mother, and the faithful Fatner Glastonbury, experienced some of the most transporting moments of their existence, when they beheld, with admiring gaze, the hero who returned to them. Their eyes were never satiated with beholding him; they hung upon his accents. Then came the triumphant visit to Grandison; and then Ferdinand returned to Malta, in the full conviction that he was the heir to fifteen thousand a year.

Among many other, there is one characteristic of capitals in which Valette is not deficient: the facility with which young heirs apparent, presumptive, or expectant, can obtain any accommodation they desire. The terms; never mind the terms who ever thinks of them? As for Feadinand Armine, who as the only son of an old baronet, and the supposed future inheritor of Armine Park, had always been looked upon by tradesmen with a gracious eye, he found that his popularity in this respect was not at all diminished by his visit to England, and its supposed consequences; slight expressions, uttered on his return in the confidence of convivial companionship, were repeated, misrepresented, exaggerated, and circulated in all quarters. We like those whom we love to be fortunate. Everybody rejoices in the good luck of a popular character; and soon it was generally understood that Ferdinand Armine had become hext in the entail to thirty thousand a year and a peerage. Moreover, he was not long to wait for his inheritance. The usurers pricked up their cars, and assistance were made to the fortunate Mr. Armine, that he really found it quite impossible to refuse them, or to accept the loans that were almost forced on his acceptance.

Ferdinand Armine had passed the Rubicon. He was in debt. If youth but knew the fatal misery that they are entailing on themselves the moment they accept a pecuniary credit to which they are not entitled, how they would start in their career! how pale they would tarn! how they would tremble, and clasp their hands in agony at the precipice on which they are disporting! Debt is the prolific mother of folly and crime; it taints the course of life in all its dreams. Hence so many unhappy marriages, so many prostituted pens, and venal politicians! It path a small beginning, but a giant's growth and the most kind-hearted and virtuous of and strength. When we made the monster his sex. Fortunate the parents blessed with we make our master, who haunts us at all hours, and shakes his whip of scorpions for | with such a husband! ever in our sight. The slave hath no overbond with blood, did not secure a doom more terrific. But when we are young we must things more gloomy than the recollection of their Lilliputian circle. a youth that has not been enjoyed. What prosperity of manhood, what splendor of old age, can compensate for it? Wealth is power : and in youth, of all seasons of life, we require power, because we can enjoy everything that we can command. What, then, is to be done? I leave the question to the schoolmen, be- on the stairs, the door opened, and certainly cause 1 am convinced that to moralise with the inexperienced availeth nothing. The conduct of men depends upon their temperament, not upon a bunch of musty more care than Ferdinand Armine; in no heart had stricter precepts of moral conduct ever been instilled. But he was lively and His arrival, indeed, was a revolution. Their impetuous, with a fiery imagination, violent mourning days seemed at once to disappear; passions, and a daring soul. Sanguine he and although they of course entered society was as the day; he could not believe in the very little, and never frequented any public night of serrow, and the impenetrable gloom that attends a career that has failed. The of a sudden she lived in a round of delightworld was all before bim; and he dashed at ful gaiety. Ferdinand was so amusing and it like a young charger in his first strife, con- so accomplished! He sang with her, he fident that he must rush to victory, and never dreaming of death. Thus would I attempt to account for the extreme imprudence of his conduct on his return from England. He was confident in He had seen so many things and so many his future fortune; he was excited by the persons; everything that was strange, and applause of men, and the admiration of wo- everybody that was famous. His opinions men; he determined to gratify, even to were so original, his illustrations so apt and satiety, his restless vanity; he broke into lively, his anecdotes so inexhaustible and profuse expenditure ; he purchased a yacht ; he engaged a villa; his racing-borses and his servants exceeded all other establishments, except the Governor's in breeding, in splendor, and in number. Occasionally wearied with him. She did not believe that there was any the monotony of Malta, he obtained a short eave of absence, and passed a few weeks at so clever. No one, indeed, that knew Fer-Naples, Palermo, and Rome, whare he glit- dinand Armine could deny that he was a rare more grateful. vered in brilliant circles, and whence he returned laden with choice specimens of art | unprejudiced observers who had known him and luxury, and followed by the report of in his younger and happier hours, they would strange and flattering adventures. In the midst of his career, Ferdinand resived intelligence of the death of Lord ble one. He was indeed more brilliant, but Grandison. Fortunately, when he received it | not quite so interesting as in old days; far he was alone; there was no one, therefore, to witness his blank dismay when he discovered that, after all he was not his grandfather's perfect breeding, but there was a restlessness heir 1 After a vast number of triffing legacies about him, an excited and exaggerated style, to his daughters, and their husbands, and their children, and all his favored friends, Lord Grandison left the whole of his properity to his grand-daughter Katherine, the only remaining child of his son, who had died early in life, and the sister of the lately deceased Augustus. What was to be done? His mother's sanguine mind; for Lady Armine broke to him | tion to venture upon a scene, made his prothe fatal intelligence, already seemed to anticipate the only remedy for this 'unjust will.' served as a safety-valve. He returned to his intention fell upon a ready car. Yes! he blushed and wept and sobbed, and hid her but a calm and candid state of serene enjoy- indulged, are ye, indeed, after all, but fantas- of Luby's Parisian Hair Renewer.

must marry; he must marry his cousin; he fair and streaming face; but the result was must marry Katherine Grandison. Ferdinand as satisfactory as our hero could desire. The looked around him at his magnificant rooms; the damask hangings af Tunis, the tall mirrors of Marseilles, the inlaid tables, the marble statues, and the alabaster vases that he had purchased at Florence and at Rome, and the deficate mats that he had imported from Algiers. He looked around and, he shrugged. his shoulders : 'All must be paid for,' thought he; and, alas! how much more!' And then came across his mind a recollection of his father and his cares, and innocent Armine, and dear Father Glastonbury, and his sacrifice. Ferdinand shook his head and sighed. "How have I repaid them,' thought he. Thank God they know nothing. Thank God they have only to bear their own disappointments and their own privations ; but it is in vain to moralise. The future, not the

past, must be my motto. To retreat is impossible; I may yet advance and conquer. Katherine Garndison; only think of my little cousin Kate for a wife! They say that it is not the easiest task in the world to fan a lively flame in the bosom of a consin. The love of cousins is proverbially not of a very roman-fore hisf riends, ona plea of visiting London, to tic character. 'Tis well I have not seen her much in my life, and very little of late. Familiarity breeds contempt, they say. Will she dare to despise me?" He glanced at the mirror. The inspection was not unsatisfac-tory. Plunged in profound meditation, he paced the room.

It so happened that the regiment in which and especially, embrace his deal Glastonbury. Captain Armine had the honour of commanding a company was at this time under orders of immediate recal to England; and within a) friend; always assuring him that nothing month of his receipt of the tatal intelligence but important business could prevent him of his being, as he styled it, disinherited, he from instantly paying him his respects. was on his way to his native land. This speedy departure was fortunate, because it permitted him to retire before the death of Lord Grandison became generally known, and distance, and soon the towers and turrets of consequently commented upon and inquired Armine Castle. Those venerable towers, into. Previous to quitting the garrison, Fer- | that proud and lordly house, were not then to dinand had settled his affairs for the time without the slightest difficulty, as he was still able to raise any money that he required.

On arriving at Falmouth, Ferdinand learnt that his father and mother were at Bath, on a visit to his maiden aunt, Miss Grandison, with whom his cousin now resided. As the regiment was quartered at Exeter, he was enabled in a very few days to obtain leave of | care and gloom, crowned with ease and hapabsence and join them. In the first rapture of meeting all disappointment was forgotten, and in the course of a day or two, when this sentiment had somewhat subsided, Ferdinand perceived that the shock which his parents must have necessarily experienced was already considerably softened by the prospect in which they secretly indulged, and which various circumstances combined in inducing them to believe was by no means a visionary one.

His cousin Katherine was about his own age; mild, elegant, and pretty. Being fair, she looked extremely well in herdeep mourning. She was not remarkable for the liveliness of her mind, yet not dovoid of observation, although easily influenced by those whom she loved, and with whom she lived. Her maiden aunt evidently exercised a power ful control over her conduct and opinions: and Lady Armine was a favorite sister of this maiden sunt. Without, therefore, apparently directing her will, there was no luck of effort from this quarter to predispose Katherine in favor of her cousin. She heard so much of her cousin Ferdinand, of his beauty, and his goodness, and his accomplishments, that she had looked forward to his arrival with feelings of no ordinary interest. And, indeed, if the opinions and sentiments of those with whom she lived could influence, there was no need of any artifice to predispose her in favor of her cousin. Sir the happiest fellow in the world? I have Ratcliffe and Lady Armine were wrapped up in their son. They seemed scarcely to have ther Glastonbury | and we owe everything to another idea, feeling, or thought in the world you, everything. What would Sir Ratcliffe but his existence and his felicity; and al- have been without you? what should I have though their good sense had ever preserved been? Fancy the best news you can, dear them from the silly habit of uttering his pane- friend, and it is not so good as I have got to

then had no appetite for the repast when they had arrived. Nevertheless the maiden aunt, although a very particular personage, made this day no complaint, and was evidently far from being dissatisfied with anybody or anything. As for Ferdinand, he called for a tumbler of champagne, and secretly drank his own health, as the luckiest fellow of his acquaintance, with a highbred Armine restored.

It was settled that a year must elapse from the death of Lord Grandison before the young couple could be united; a reprieve which did not occasion Ferdinand acute grief. In the meantime the Grandisons were to pass at least the autumn at Armine, and thither the united families proposed soon to direct their piogress. Ferdinand, who had been nearly two months at Bath, and was a little wearied of courtship, contrivedto quit that city bearrange about selling his commission ; for it was agreed that he should quit the army.

On his arrival in London, having spoken to his agent, and finding town quite empty, he set off immediately for Armine, in order that he might have the pleasure of being there a few days without the society of his intended celebrate the impending first of September For it must not be supposed that Ferdinand had forgotten for a moment this invaluable

It was with feelings of no common emotion, even of agitation, that Ferdinand beheld the woods of his ancient home rise in the pass away from their old and famous line? He had redeemed the heritage of his great ancestry; he looked with unmingled complacency on the magnificent landscape, once to him a source of much anxiety and affection. What a change in the destiny of the Armines ! Their glory restored; his own devoted and domestic hearth, once the prey of so much piness and joy; on all sides a career of splendor and felicity. And he had done all this ! What a prophet was his mother! She had ever indulged the fond conviction that her beloved son would be their restorer. How wise and pious was the undeviating confidence of kind old Father Glastonbury in their fate! With what pure, what heartfelt delight, would that faithful friend listen to his extraordinary communication!

His carriage dashed through the park gates as if the driver were sensible of his master's pride and exultation. Father Glastonbury was ready to welcome him, standing in the flower-garden, which he had made so rich and beautiful, and which had been the charm and consolation of many of their humbler hours.

'My dear, dear father !' exclaimed Ferdinand, embracing him, for thus he ever styled his old tutor.

But Father Glastonbury could not speak : the tears quivered in his eyes and trickled down his faded check. Ferdinand led him into the house.

'How well you look, dear father !' continued Ferdinand; 'you really look younger and heartier then ever. You received all my letters, I am sure; and yours, how kind of of you to remember and to write to me! I never forgot you, my dear, dear friend. I never could forget you. Do you know I am

ing up and down the beechen avenue.

the greatest news in the world to tell my Fa-

fair and streaming face; but the result was ment. Feelings then were not compromised tical and airy visions? Is love indeed a delufor interests ; and then it was the excellent sion, or am I marked out from men alone to young equestrians kept their friends in the that was studied, not the expedient. Yet be exempted from its delicious bondage? It crescent at least two hours for dinner, and such I suppose is life, murmured Ferdinand; must be a delusion. All laugh at it, all jest we moralize when it is too late ; nor is there about it, all agree in stigmatising it the vanity anything more silly than to regret. One of vanities. And does my experience contra. event makes another ; what we anticipate seldom occurs ; what we least expected generally happens, and time can only prove this ill report?. No one, nothing. Some wo-which is most for our advantage. Our an- men I have met more beautiful, assuredly cient house rises from its ruins ; the beings I love most in the world are not only happy, but indebted to me for their happiness; and I, wife, with all his debts paid, and the house of I myself, with every glft of fortune suddenly thrown at my feet, what more can I desire? Am I not satisfied? Why do I even ask the

like a devil in my thoughts, and spoils everyleast I suppose I love her. I love her at any not like to give up without a struggle all his chance of romance and rapture.

'I know not how it is, but there are moments I almost wish I had no father and no mother ; ay! not a single friend or relative in | the world, and that Armine were sunk into that life without love is worse than death ! the very centre of the earth. If I stood How vain and void, how flat and fruitless, apalone in the world methinks I might find the place that suits me; now everything seems ordained for me, as it were, beforehand. My spirit has had no play. Something whispers me that, with all its flush prosperity, this is neither wise nor well. God knows 1 am not heartless, and would be grateful; and yet if | in a coronet of lead! life can afford me no deeper sympathy than I 'And who knows whether that extraordin-have yet experienced, I cannot but hold it, ary being, of whose magnificent yet ruinous even with all its sweet reflections, as little bet-

ter than a dull delusion.' While Ferdinand was thus moralizing at the casement, Father Gfastonbury appeared same sad lack of love? Perhaps while the beneath; and his appearance dissipated this world, the silly superficial world, marvelled gathering gloom. 'Let us breakfast together,' and moralized at his wanton life, and poured proposed Ferdinand, 'I have breakfasted forth their anathema against his heartless selthese two hours,' replied the hermit of the fishnesss, perchance he all the time was sighgate. I hope that on the first night of your | ing for some soft bosom whereon to pour his return to Armine you have proved auspicious dreams.'

'My bed and I are old companions,' said Ferdinand, 'and we agreed very well. I tell you what, my dear Father Glastonbury, we rounding bowers. This azure vault of heaven. will have a stroll together this morning and this golden sunshine, this deep and blending talk over our plans of last night. Go into | shade, these rare and iragrant shrubs, you the library and look over my sketch-books; grove of green and tallest pines, and the you will find them on my pisiol-case, and I bright gliding of this swan-crowned lake; will be with you anon.'

In due time the friends commenced their Father Glastonbury's various suggestions for the completion of the castle; and as for the tified hopes and fanciful desires. Is it then creation and the restolation of the family, to which he had been so long devoted, he was in a rapture of enthusiasm, which afforded an amusing contrast to his usual meek and subdued demeanor.

"Your grandfather was a great man,' said Glastonbury, who in old days seldom ventured to mention the name of the famous Sir Ferdinand: 'there is no doubt he was a vere great man. He had great ideas. How he would glory in our present prospects!

"Tis strange what a strong confidence I have ever had in the destiny of your house. I felt sure that Providence would not desert us. There is no doubt we must needs have a portcullis.'

'Decidedly, a portcullis,' said Ferdinand; you shall make all the drawings yourself, my dear Father Glastonbury, and supervise every thing. We will not have a single anachronism.

It shall be all perfect.' 'Perfect,' echoed Father Glastonbury really perfect! It shall be a perfect Gothic castle. I have such treasures for the work. All the labours of my life have tended to this object. I have all the emblazonings of your house since the Conquest. There shall be three hundred shields in the hall. I will paint them myself. Oh! there is no place in

dict this harsh but common fame? Alast what have I seen or known to give the lie to men I have met more beautiful, assuredly, than Kate, and many, many less fair; and some have crossed my path with a wild and brilliant grace, that has for a moment day. zled my sight, and perhaps for a moment lured me from my way. But these shooting stars have but glittered translently in my question? I am sure I know not. It rises heaven, and only made me, by their evanescent brilliancy, more sensible of its gloom, thing. The girl is young, noble, and fair, and loves me. And her? I love her, at then believe that the forms that inspire the sculptor and the painter have no models in rate as much as I love, or ever did love, nature ; that that combination of beauty and woman. There is no great sacrifice, then, on grace, of fascinating intelligence and fond demy part; there should be none; there is votion, over which men brood in the soft none; unless indeed it be that a man does hours of their young loneliness, is but the promise of a better world, and not the charm of this one.

"But, what terror in that truth! what despair! what madness! Yes! at this moment of severest scrutiny, how profoundly I feel pear all those eplendid accidents of existence for which men struggle, without this essential and pervading charm! What a world without a sun! Yes! without this transcendent sympathy, riches and mank, and even power and fame, seem to me at best but jewels set

career this castle is in truth a fitting emblem ; say, who knows whether the secret of his wild and restless course is not hidden in this

overwhelming passion, even as 1 am ! 'O Nature! why art thou beautiful? My heart requires not, imagination cannot paint, a sweeter or a fairer scene than these surmy soul is charmed with all this beauty and this sweetness; I feel no disappointment ramble. Ferdinand soon became excited by here; my mind does not here outrun reality; here there is no cause to mourn over ungraold man himself, between his architectural | my destiny that I am to be bafiled only in the dearest desires of my heart?

> At this moment the loud and agitated bark ing of his dogs at some litlle distance roused Ferdinand from his reverie. He called them to him, and soon one of them obeyed his summons, but instantly returned to his companion with such significant gestures, panting and yelping, that Ferdinand supposed that Rasto was caught perhaps in some trap ; so, taking up his gun, he proceeded to the dog's rescue.

> To his surprise, as he was about to emerge from a bercean on to a plot of turf, in the centre of which grew a large cedar, he beheld a lady in a riding-habit standing before the tree, and evidently admiring its beautiful proportions.

Her countenance was raised and motionless. It seemed to him that it was more radiant than the sunshine. He gazed with rapture on the dazzling brilliancy of her complexion, the delicate regularity of her features, and the large violet-tinted eyes, fringed with the longest and the darkest lashes that he had ever beheld. From her position her hat had fallen back, revealing her lofty and pellucid brow, and the dark and lustrous locks that were braided over her temples. The whole countenance combined that brilliant health and that classic beauty which we associate with the idea of some nymph tripping over the dew-bespangled meads of Ida, or glancing amid the hallowed groves of Greece. Although the lady could scarcely have seen eighteen summers, her stature was above the common height; but language cannot describe the symmetry of her superb figure. There is no love but love at first sight. This is the transcendent and surpassing offspring of sheer and unpolluted sympathy. All other is the illegitimate result of observation, of reflection, of compromise, of comparison, of expediency. The passions that en-dure flash like the lightning; they scorch the soul, but it is warmed for ever. Miserable man whose love rises by degrees upon the frigid morning of his mind; Some hours indeed of warmth and lustre may perchance fall to his lot; some moments of meridian splendor, in which he basks in what he deems eternal sunshine. But then how often overcast by the clouds of care, how often dusked by the blight of misery and misfortune! And certain as the gradual rise of such affection is its gradual decline, and mel-ancholy set. Then, in the chill dim twilight of his soul, he executes custom; because he has madly expected that feelings could be habitual that were not homogeneous, and because he has been guided by the observation of sense, and not by the inspiration of sympathy. Amid the gloom and travail of existence suddenly to behold a beautiful being, and as instantaneously to feel an overwhelming conviction that with that fair form for ever our destiny must be entwined; that there is no more joy but in her joy, no sorrow but when she grieves ; that in her sigh of love, in her smile of fondness, hereafter is all bliss; to feel our flaunty ambition fade away like a shrivelled gourd before her vision; to feel fame a juggle and posterity a lie; and to be prepared at ouce, for this great object to forfeit and fling away all former hopes, ties, schemes views; to violate iu her favor every duty of society; this is a lover, and this is love! Magnificent, sublime, divine sentiment! An immortal flame burns in the braast of that man who adores and is adored. He is an ethereal being. The accidents of earth touch him not. Revolutions of empire, changes of creed, mutations of opinion, are to him but the clouds and meteors of a stormy sky. The schemes and struggles of mankind are in his thinking, anxieties of pignies and the fantastical achieve ments of apes. Nothing can subdue him. He laughs alike at loss of fortune, loss of friends, loss of character. The deeds and thoughts of men are to him equally indifferent. He does not mingle in their paths of callous bustle, or hold himself responsible to the airy impostures before which they bow down. He is a mariner, who in the sea of life,

tell. You will rejoice, you will be delighted ; gyric in his presence, they amply compen-We shall furnish a castle ! by Jove we shall sated for this painful restraint when furnish a castle! We shall indeed, and you he was away. Then he was ever the handsomest, the cleverest, the most accomplished, shall build it! No more gloom; no more care. The Armines shall hold up their heads again, by Jove they shall 1 Dearest of men, I daresay you think me mad. I am mad with such a son ! thrice fortunate the wife blessed

It was therefore with no ordinary emotion seer so severe. Faustus, when he signed the that Katherine Grandison heard that this per- complete Sicilian Hortus Siccus. Ab, John, good John, how is your wife? Take care of fect cousin Ferdinand had at length arrived. She had seen little of him even in his boyish | my pistol-case. Ask Louis, he knows all enjoy ourselves. True; and there are few days, and even then he was rather a hero in

Ferdinand Armine was always looked up to the old staff, and the old arms, and the old at Grandison, and always spoken of by her grandfather as a very fine fetlow indeed; a wonderfully fine fellow, his favorite grandson, Ferdinand Armine; and now he had arrived. His knock was heard at the door his step was his first appearance did not disappoint his cousin Kate.

So handsome, so easy, so gentle, and so cordial; they were all friends in a moment. Then he embraced his father with such, fer vor, and kissed his mother with fondness : it was evident that he had an excellent heart. and, I believe, even drank the health of every amusements, it seemed to Katherine that all ience since the birth of Ferdinand. played with her; he was always projecting

long summer rides and long summer walks. Then his conversation was so different from everything to which she had ever listened. sparkling ! Poor inexperienced, innocent Katherine! Her cousin in four-and-twenty hours found it quite impossible to fall in love with her. He quite succeeded. She adored one in the world so handsome, so good, and being; but, had there been any acute and perhaps have remarked some difference in his character and conduct, and not a favoramore dazzling, but not quite so apt to charm.

and blending with the spotless sky. Every-No one could deny his lively talents and his thing was sweet and still, save, indeed, the carol of the birds or the tinkle of some restless bellwether. It was a rich autumnal which might have made some suspect that morn. And yet with all the excitement of his demeanour was an effort, and that under his new views in life, and the blissful cona superficial glitter, by which so many are deceived, there was no little deficiency of sciousness of the happiness of those he loved, he could not but feel that a great change had away. come over his spirit since the days he was the genuine and sincere. Katherine Grandison, however, was not one of those profound wont to ramble in this old haunt of his beyhood. His innocence was gone. Life was observers. She was easily captivated. Ferno longer that deep unbroken trance of duty dinand, who really did not feel sufficient emoand of love from which he had been roused to posals to her when they were riding in a green | so much care; and if not remorse, at least to lane : the sun was just setting, and the even- | so much compunction. He had no secrets

the world like Armine!

'Nothing,' said Ferdinand; I have seen a great deal, but after all there is nothing like Armine.'

. Had we been born to this splendor,' said Father Glastenbury, , we should have thought little of it. We have been mildly and wisely chastened. I cannot sufficiently admire the by. How that Virginian creeper has grown ! wisdom of Providence, which has tempered, by such a wise dispensation, the too-enger I have brought you many plants my father ! a blood of your race.'

'I should be sorry to pull down the old place,' said Ferdinand.

'It must not he,' said Father Glastonbury about everything. Well, dear Father Glastonbury, and how have you been ? how is we have lived there happily, though humthe old tower? how are the old books, and bly?

'I would we could move it to another part everything ? dear, dear Father Glastonbury !' of the park, like the house of Loretto,' said While the carriage was unpacking, and the Ferdinand with a smile.

'We can cover it with ivy,' observed Father dinner-table prepared, the friends walked the Glastonbury, looking somewhat grave.

garden, and from thence strolled towards the The morning stole away in these agreeable tower, where they remained some time pacplans and prospects. At length the friends Īt parted, agreeing to meet again at dinner. was evident, on their return, that Ferdinand Father Glasronbvry repaired to his tower, and had communicated his great intelligence. Ferdinand, taking his gun, sauntered into the The countenance of Father Glastonbury was surrounding wilderness. radiant with delight. Indeed, although he

But he felt no inclination for sport. The had dined, he accepted with readiness Ferdiconversation with Father Glastonbury had nand's invitation to repeat the ceremony; raised a thousand thoughts over which he longed to brood. His life had been a scene nay, he quafed more than one glass of wine; of such constant excitement since his return member of the united families of Armine to England, that he had enjoyed little opporand Grandison. It was late before the comtunity of indulging in calm self communion; panions parted, and retired for the night; and I think, before they bade each other good and now that he was at Armine, and alone, night, they must have talked over every cirthe contrast between his past and his present situation struck him so forcibly that he could cumstance that had occured in their expernot refrain from falling into a reverie upon his fortunes. It was wonderful, all wonder-How delicious after a long absen :e to wake ful, very, very wonderful. There seemed inon a sunny morning and find ourselves at deed, as Father Glastonbury affirmed, a prohome! Ferdinand could scarcely credit that vidential dispensation in the whole transache was really again at Armine. He started up in his bed, and rubbed his eyes and stared at tion. The fall of his family, the heroic, and, as it now appeared, prescient firmness with the unaccustomed, yet familiar sights, and for which his father had clung, in all their dea moment Malta and the Royal Fusileers, privations, to his unproductive patrimony, his Bath and his betrothed, were all a dream; own education, the extinction of his mother's and then he remembered the visit of his dear house, his very follies, once to him a cause of mother to this very room on the eve of his first so much unhappiness, but which it now departure. He had returned; in safety had he returned, and in happiness, to accomplish seemed were all the time compelling him, as all her hopes and to reward her for all her i were, to his prosperity; all these and a t: ousand other traits and circumstances fitted solicitude. Never felt anyone more content over his mind, and were each in turn the than Ferdinand Armine, more content and subject of his manifold meditation. Willing He rose and opened the casement ; a rich was he to credit that destiny had reserved for him the character of restorer; that duty inand exhilarating perfume filled the chamber;

he looked with a feeling of delight and pride deed he had accepted, and yet He looked around him as if to see what over the broad and beautiful park; the tall devil was whispering in his car. He was trees rising and flinging their taller shadows alone. No one was there or near. Around over the bright and dewy turf, and the last him rose the silent bowers, and scarcely the mists clearing away from the distant woods voice of a bird or the hum of an insect disturbed the deep tranquility. But a cloud seemed to rest on the fair and pensive brow of Ferdinand Armine. He threw himself on keeps his gaze fixedly on a single star; and the turf, leaning his head on one hand, and with the other plucking the wild flowers, which he so hastily, almost as fretfully, flung

"Conceal it as I will,' he exclaimed, 'I am victim; disguise them as I may, all the considerations are worldly. There is, there must be, something better in this world than power and wealth and rank ; and surely there must be felicity more rapturous even than securing the happiness of a parent. Ah! dreams in which 1 have so oft and so fondly ing star glittering through a vista. The lady then. Existence was not then a subterfuge,

To be Continued.

if that do not shine, he lets go the rudder, and

glories when his barque descends into the

bottomless gulf.

"A thing of beauty is a joy forever," said a poet, and few there are who will feel disposed to disagree with him, and still fewer to doubt that of all the beauties that adorn humanity there is nothing like a fine head of hair. The safest method of obtaining this is by the use