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Simclair's Monthly Circular,

AND LITERARY GAZETTE.

Volume 3.

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Number 3.

THE BEGGAR'S CAMP.

I RECUR again to the strange adventures of Sergeant Square, and present another section of them to the readers of the *Border Tales*.

With ruined prospects, and friendships severed by death, (he began,) I resolved to bid, once more, farewell to my native Edinburgh.

I passed two or three days in this listless manner, each being to see me put in force my resolution to depart; till, at length, having provided myself with a seaman's dress, taken the powder out of my hair, seized a stout stick, and provided a small bundle of necessaries, I once more set out upon the world, caring little whether I went to the south or the west, to London or Bristol, to Greenock or Port-Glasgow. I had, in my absent state of mind, almost unconsciously, or perhaps from habit, taken my way down the Canongate, and had reached the girth cross—a few steps, and the streets of Edinburgh would pass from under my feet, perhaps for ever. I neither knew nor cared. A flood of painful recollections came over me, as I stood scarce knowing for what object I had paused. So doubtful and indifferent, so undecided did I stand, that, to put an end to the recollections that pained me whilst I hesitated, I took a piece of copper from my pocket, and, tossing it up into the air, I cried, 'A head for England—a lady for Scotland!' The halfpenny tingled at my feet, the King's head looked to the sky, and, as if relieved of a care, I moved quickly on, nor once looked behind until I had placed Arthur's Seat between me and the city.

Thus moving along, sometimes listlessly, at others quickening my pace, I had journeyed on until I had reached the neighbourhood of Berwick. The day had been overcast with partial light showers; several times I had resolved to stay for the remainder of the day and night in the next inn I came to; but, enticed by partial clearings up of the weather, I still walked on, until towards sunset, when the weather, all at once, put on the most threatening aspect, and the rain fell very heavily. There was neither house nor shelter of any kind in sight; the thick dense clouds that came driving from the west completely obscured the twilight I had calculated upon. At length I perceived, at a small distance from the road, a house, with light issuing from the windows. I knocked for admittance, which was at once cheerfully given, and every exertion made for my comfort by the kind host and hostess—a farmer and his wife. To my inquiries if they could oblige me with a bed for the night—

'You are kindly welcome to the shelter of our roof,' said the farmer, 'and a seat by the fire; and, were it not for a strange circumstance, you might have both a room and a bed.'

'William, William!' said the wife, with a look of great alarm, 'do not speak of it; I could not think of even putting a dog there, far less a Christian. I will give the stranger a pair of blankets, and make a good fire for him; but do not speak of that fearful room. I wish the laird would allow us to pull it down.'

'Grace, my woman,' replied he, 'I did not mean him to pass the night in it. I only, without thinking any harm, mentioned it. I wish, as well as you, that it were taken down.'

Struck by their strange discourse, I requested my kind host to tell me the history of the apartment that seemed to give them so much uneasiness.

Drawing his seat more near to the fire—'I have not the smallest

objection,' said he, 'as it will shew, whatever is the cause of the strange disturbances, that there is no blame on our part. This bit land that I farm has been in our family for more than two nineteen years, and the third nineteen of the lease is nearly expired. Both the old and present lairds have been good landlords to us—we could not well refuse any small favour they required at our hands; and, indeed, we always found ourselves the gainers for any little that was in our power. A few months after the rebels were defeated, and the Rebellion quelled by the battle of Culloden, the young laird came back to the big house again safe, and we all rejoiced. On the day after his arrival, he came to our house to visit us, for he was always like one of ourselves. I saw there was something upon his mind, he was so douce and thoughtful—not in the least like his former way, which was all laughing and chatting with every one. It did not become me to inquire the cause; so, after staying a short time, he requested me to come out and take a turn with him, to see some young trees that had been planted before he joined the King's army. As soon as we were a short distance from the house, he stopped, and, looking me full in the face—

'William,' said he, 'I believe you would not do anything to harm or bring me into trouble.'

I think my face flushed, for I found my ears glow at the supposition.

'No, laird; I would far rather harm or bring myself into trouble. Who has belied me to your Honour? I am certain neither thought nor word of mine ever gave you cause to suspect me.'

I really felt hurt and grieved for a moment, until he took my hand in his, and smiled.

'William,' said he, 'I am sorry if I have unintentionally hurt your honest feelings. I have nothing but good faith in you. I have an affair of importance on hand, and you must aid me.'

'With all my heart,' replied I. 'Only tell me what I am to do?'

'There is one for whose safety I am most anxious,' continued he; 'his life is in danger. In my own house he cannot be concealed; in yours he may. I shall provide for it, if you are willing to encounter the risk and inconvenience. You have no family or servants that reside with you. I shall build an apartment attached to your house, which he shall occupy; and you will attend to all his wants, and administer to his comforts as much as in your power.'

To all this, Grace and I gave our hearty consent. Everything was made ready in much less time than I could have conceived possible; the laird superintending all himself, and we obedient to his will. When all was to his mind, he went from home for a few days, leaving word with me, that whoever should give me his letter, authorizing me to put them in possession of the room, I was at once to comply, and ask no questions.

For those who had taken any part with the Prince, it was a troublesome period. The cruelties committed by the King's troops in the Highlands, made our blood run cold in our veins: and we now pitied those whom we had a few months before hated and feared. Numbers were in prison, waiting a bloody release, more objects of pity than those who were butchered outright. The law sometimes realizes the tales of the crocodiles, and weeps over the victims it is intent to devour. Well, the second evening after the Laird left us, there came to our door a poor, aged man, scarcely able to support himself upon his staff; his keen, grey eyes were at one time fixed upon the ground, and the next, when he looked up, piercing into my inmost thoughts. With a tone of voice which affected humility, he

requested rest and a little food. There was a round fulness in the subdued tone, that ill assorted with the apparent age of the individual; yet I welcomed him into the house—for the needy never left our door empty. When he was seated, I saw his searching eye scan the apartment. Grace was seated at her wheel, while I had been reading to her the 'Pilgrim's Progress,' and the book lay on the table. The first words he spoke, were to inquire if there were any other inmates in the house except ourselves. When I answered him that there was not, he stretched his body erect, as he sat on his chair. I could scarce believe my eyes. Grace gave a faint cry of surprise and fear. I looked to the gun that hung over the mantelpiece—for that he was a robber in disguise, was my first impression. It lasted, however, only for a moment; for, taking a letter from his pocket, he gave it to me. It was the promised letter from the Laird; and so, taking candle from the table, I requested him to follow me. He rose from the seat, and, clothed as he was in his beggar's weeds. I seldom had seen a more majestic figure, as he passed into the little apartment. Without uttering a word, he threw himself upon a seat, and motioned me to retire. I felt awed by his presence, and withdrew, shutting the door after me, and leaving him to his meditations. Grace prepared some supper for him; and, tapping on the door, inquired if he would partake of it. He replied no; and begged not to be disturbed until he called in the morning.

Wondering at what we had seen, and who our guest could be, we retired to rest. I could hear at times the stranger groan heavily; and Grace, who slept little through the night, said she believed he had never lain down, for she had heard him at times walking and sighing heavily. Yet, afterwards, we had more to wonder at. For many weeks, he never allowed any of us to enter his room. At night only, he would walk forth, after we were in bed. His food was handed in to him at the door. I never saw him, neither did Grace; for he only exposed his hands, and part of his arms, when he took anything from her at the door. At first we felt very curious, and formed many conjectures who he could be; but, as the Laird still remained in Edinburgh, we could learn nothing. Gradually, we became accustomed to all his humours, and thought little of them. Our few neighbours seldom visited us, and they never suspected there was any person except ourselves in the house. His taciturn and secluded manner at length wore off. Grace first was admitted to his apartment, then myself. Previous to this, a large trunk of books and necessaries, along with a letter to me, arrived at the Big House. I was to get the whole conveyed here in the best manner I could, for 'the gentleman,' as we called him, which I immediately set about. From this time he became an altered man. The almost misanthropical turn he had shewn entirely left him; a shade of touching sadness overcast his countenance; and it appeared to me that his grey looks seemed more bleached by care than time; for his voice was full and melodious, and his face unmarked by a wrinkle.

The executions at Carlisle, and the beheading scenes at Tower Hill, had been over for some time before the change of which I speak took place. Pleasing as it was to us, another source of discomfort, and a far more trying one, was discovered. He was a rank Papist!—an idolater!—a worshipper of painted and graven images! Judge you what we two Covenanted adherents of the Church of Scotland, in all her purity, felt, to have a part of our roof turned into a temple of Dagon. We were sore beset. What to do, we knew not. If the Laird had been at home, our duty was plain before us—no demand back my pledge, which I never meant should shelter the enemies of truth, or convert my house into the abode of idolatry, to the risk of the salvation of our precious souls. But I knew not where to find him; and, besides, much as I detested our guest's mode of worshipping, I could not divest myself of a secret love for him—he was so condescending, so grand, yet so humble and polite in all he did; and I could not say there was anything amiss in his conduct, save the way in which he had decorated his lonely apartment. Grace there, was not half so much perplexed as I was. 'Poor gentleman,' she said, 'if he is pleased, it would be wrong in us to find fault. I have nae doubt he is a poor, misled, ignorant, and wish from my heart he was as well informed as we are; but, if he thinks he is right, we may pity, but I wadna distress him. We

must set a good example, and pray for his enlightenment night and morning.'

I yielded to what she said, partly because I had an affection for him, and partly because I agreed in her sentiments; yet I never entered the idolatrous scene without feeling a shudder come over me. Upon the top of his little table stood a crucifix and an open book, by the side of which lay a string of beads. At the foot of his bed there was a picture of Jesus on the Cross; and upon his breast he wore another, which I often saw him take out and kiss, with his face raised to heaven, in an expression of joy and hope, while the tears stole down his face. Yet I could never think he had peace in his faith; for he was always attempting something to secure his eternal happiness—night after night flogging his bare shoulders—week after week tasting only bread and water—on Friday refusing flesh or fowl—and, in the spring of the year, living for weeks on eggs, bread, or milk. Surely, thought I, if they are Christians, they do not feel the faith in Jesus that a true Christian enjoys; for this worshipper obeys the traditions and commands of men more than the word of God. I often wished to expound the truth to him; but we never, in all our converse, entered upon matters of faith. I worshipped with Grace, as my fathers had done, by ourselves, and he in his room, in perfect harmony. Yet, if strictness of walk and self-denial be accounted holiness, he was far more holy than we; for, though his mind was not so much at ease in his faith, his yoke appeared grievous, and his burden heavy; and new penances, as he called them, were proofs of his ever coming short in his own estimation of his attainable object. Poor gentleman! he fell a victim to his own endeavours to attain peace of mind by his austerities. To be short, his life continued to be what I have described. We continued to love him as a father; and poor Colin' (pointing to an old dog that lay at our feet) 'was his friend and constant companion. No one, save the Laird, Grace, and myself, knew he was in our house; and, after two or three years, the Laird called upon often, and passed a few hours with him; but he seemed to feel pleasure only when alone, and engaged in his devotions. About twelve months since, he began evidently to decline in health; and the Laird wished to remove him to the Big House, and procure medical attention; but this he would not hear mentioned.

'I have vowed,' said he, 'to the Virgin, never to leave this place alive; but, if you will send to Edinburgh, and get me a priest of our Holy Faith, that I may receive the last rites and consolations of the True Church, my soul will thank you and depart in peace—you my friend, know whom. If possible, I would wish you to learn if he is still alive; he will not refuse to come.'

In a few days after, a stranger came to our door, and gave me a letter for the strange gentleman. I had not seen him for several days, Grace being his sole attendant; and even she dared not interrupt him but as little as possible. I was shocked at the change I saw upon him. He lay, pale and exhausted, his eyes bent on the crucifix, and his thin, wasted hands, clasped upon his bosom, as if he had been entranced. The sickly light of the wax candle that burned beside the crucifix, cast a strange light upon the dead-like before me. I started back and looked aghast. The noise of my entrance had aroused him.

'What want you, William?' he inquired, in a hollow voice.

'It is a letter for you, sir,' said I, 'brought by a stranger whom the Laird said I might admit.'

A glow of pleasure passed over his face, as, with an effort, he raised himself, and took the letter from my hand.

'Blessed Jesus!' he said, 'my prayers are heard! Admit him. He brings me peace and salvation through the Church. My penitence and penances have prevailed.'

After the stranger, who was a Priest, was admitted, they remained alone until our guest died, which was on the second day after. He was buried by the Laird. What or who he was, we never knew. All his books and papers were taken away. The room he possessed

sed and died in it, we are certain, disturbed by a spirit. We hear the door open and shut at night, and strange noises startle us from our rest. Two visitors, one after the other, who attempted to sleep in it, were terrified almost out of their senses; and it is for this reason we could not offer it to you to sleep in.'

My curiosity was as much awakened by the vague account the good people gave me of the room in its present state, as my interest had been excited by the account of the poor outlaw. I am, I confess, not more brave than other people. I never courted danger for the love of it, or fled from it to meet dishonour; and, as for the reality of spectres, I neither believe nor disbelieve in them; having, in all my travels, never seen a legitimate one, nor troubled my head about them. As much through curiosity, I believe, as anything else—for I am sure it was not the love of a good bed, far less an adventure—I told my hosts I would with pleasure sleep in the room, if they would allow me; and, after some honest endeavours to dissuade me, they consented. Supper and family-worship being finished, we all three entered the apartment—the good woman insisting upon our company while she prepared my bed, and her husband going more cheerfully when I proposed to accompany them. All the little duties were done by the dame in a hurried, timid manner; and, while she was occupied, I looked round. The door was only fastened by a wooden latch, which opened by a string hung upon the outside. The whole interior had a simple, clean, neat look, which pleased me. After a hasty good-night and God be with you, they withdrew. When I was left alone, the account I had just heard of the strange individual who had, for so long a period, inhabited the apartment, passed over my mind; and who or what he could be, gave rise to many a conjecture. I became low-spirited at the thought of the many miseries that human nature is liable to, under reverses of fortune from which neither birth nor riches can protect us. In this frame of mind I retired to rest—the idea of anything supernatural never entering my mind, and no shade of fear discomposing my thoughts. I soon fell asleep. How long I had slept I know not; but I was awakened by a slight noise at the door of the room, as if some one had put their hand upon it. I now felt alarmed, and expected to witness some fearful sight. The door opened and shut with a faint clange. I heard a movement on the floor. A cold sweat came over me. I raised myself upon my elbow. All was dark—impenetrably dark, and I saw nothing; but the curtains at the foot of the bed shook violently.

'Who is there?' I attempted to inquire; but only a faint murmur escaped my lips.

A strange noise and movement on the floor again took place, and I bolted up and sat in the bed. The curtains again moved at the head; and, as I thought, were partially opened. Still nothing was to be seen, and I put forth my hand to grope. Something as cold as death touched it. This was more than I could endure. I sunk upon the bed, buried my head in the clothes, and would have cried out; but that terror had paralyzed every faculty. Whatever was the cause of my alarm, I now found that the object had come into the bed, and was either seated or lying between me and the wall. I dared not uncover my head, or put out my hands to ascertain what it might be. The icy feeling still thrilled through my frame; and thus I lay in mortal agony, under the conviction that the object still reclined immovable by my side. My firmness gradually began to return; and, with it, came calm reflection. I thought I heard a heavy breathing; and slowly uncovered my head to bear it better. Once more I summoned a desperate resolution to put forth my hand. What did my hand encounter?—the snaggy coat of a dog. A gentle whine followed; the next moment my hand was licked by a warm tongue. I smiled at my late alarm. It was Colin.

Soon after daybreak I was awakened by my host, who came to inquire how I had passed the night. He was agreeably surprised to find me safe and well. To his inquiries, I related the adventure of the night, without concealing my fears, and the chance there was of my having added one more testimony to the evil report of his apartment. The gratitude of the good people was extreme. They overwhelmed me with their thanks. They said I had rendered them a service they could not sufficiently repay. I had removed a cause of

dread which had cast a gloom over their minds for many months; and, continued William—

'How silly it was in me not to know or think that it might be Colin!—for both the people who fled the room in terror, gave the same account of the early part of the adventure. Colin, poor thing,' he said, as he patted the head of the dog, 'you little knew the evil you did your master and mistress. You and he that is gone were dear friends and inseparable companions. No Christian could have shewn more concern at his death. You never came out from beneath his bed while the body lay on it: and, when he was carried out, Grace had to hold you, to prevent your snapping at the company as they bore him away. For long you visited his grave, and sat for hours upon it. It is the remembrance of your old friend that makes you still visit his room when all is quiet at night. He that is now 'where the Lord will,' taught you to take the string in your mouth and pull the latch, that, always welcome, you might enter when you chose.'

During this address to the dog, he looked wistfully in the face of his master, as if he comprehended all that was said. The weather having now cleared up, the morning was beautiful. After breakfast. I bade adieu to my kind hosts, with a promise that if I ever passed that way I should make their house my home, and sleep in the room I had freed from its evil name.

As I moved cheerfully along the road, chanting some snatch of a song to keep up my spirits, my ears were assailed, at a sudden bend of the road, by a rough voice.

'Hollo, messmate, cast here a few coppers to help to revictual a hulk all the doctors in the world could not refit for sea!'

Turning my eyes to the road-side, I saw, seated upon a bank, two strange objects—a stout young man, in a tattered seaman's dress, with one arm off by the shoulder and the other by the elbow, and a young, good-looking, but tattered female by his side. In a moment my hand was in my pocket, and, drawing near to them, the female rose and held out her palm in dumb show.

'Not so fast, young woman,' said I, as I was putting a half-crown into his vest pocket; 'it is for Jack.'

'Bless your Honour,' said he, 'it's all one. That there young one is my wife; poor thing, she was struck dumb in real earnest. when she saw me come home to her thus maimed. Bless her pretty face, she did not forsake poor Bill for all that.'

While he spoke, a strong feeling came upon me that I had seen his face before; but when or where, I could not call to mind. As I stood gazing into his face, he looked as scrutinizingly at me.

'Were you ever in the East Indies?' inquired I.

'To be sure I was. In that place I lost my precious limbs,' replied he.

'Then you must be Bill Kay, whom Captain H——and I left at Bombay,' said I.

'And you are Jack Square,' said he. 'Give me your hand, old shipmate.' And he held up the stump to me, and burst out a-laughing as I shook the sleeve.

The female gave him an angry look, with so much more of meaning than anger, that I thought she knew all we said.

'Come, Betsy, don't be sulky,' said he; 'I wish to have a bit of a talk with my old mate. Come, be a good girl, and let us go back to Berwick. Jack Square, you will not be ashamed to walk home with us?'

The wife nodded a consent, and away we trudged to the town, from which we were only a small distance.

During our walk, I told him that I was on my way to London to look out for a vessel to India, as my fortune had been adverse in Scotland; and I was sick of the land, and careless what became of me.

'Never strike to an enemy, or quit the pumps while your vessel can float,' cried he. 'There are many ways of leading a jovial life. You were always my friend, and a good fellow. Give me your word, Jack, you will either stay and join us, or pass on and do us no harm, and I will have no secrets with you. Speak the word.'

'I know not what you mean,' I replied; 'as for joining you, I do not think, in the meantime, I shall, until I know better about it; and

as for hurting you or doing any harm, I give you my sincere assurance I will not, however much I might gain by it.'

'Betsy, my dear,' said he, 'we are not going to the kenn; we will go home. I wish to entertain my old friend.'

We then altered our direction, and proceeding down a dark and dirty lane, entered a neat and well furnished room. As soon as we entered and the door was shut—

'Betsy,' said he, 'there is no use for gammon now; find your tongue lass, and help me to find my arms.'

'As you please, Billy,' said the dumb wife. And both retired to another apartment, from whence they soon returned—she well dressed, and Bill as perfect in every limb as when we had parted, he to remain in India, and I to return home.

I believe he had told her his intention and who I was, in the time they were away; for, seeing my surprise, he laughed aloud, while she, smiling, took me by the hand and welcomed me to their house. Now that her begging disguise was thrown off, she really was a most bewitching girl, of the gipsy cast—brilliant black eyes and hair—her features regular, almost to perfection—the loveliest brunette I had ever seen. Bill smiled good-naturally at the admiration my looks expressed, as I gazed at her; and, slapping me on the shoulder—

'Square,' said he, 'is she not a beauty? You must not fall in love with her if you stay—that I must make a condition.'

We all laughed.

I said, if I fell in love, I could not help it; the fault was his for bringing me into temptation. A large square bottle of brandy and a jug of water were set on the table; and while the wife was busy preparing dinner, Bill gave me the following account of himself:—

'You know, Jack, I am no scholar,' he began; 'only a pretty good seaman, as far as hand, reef, or steering goes; so I soon found India was no place for me, in a regular country ship. I could not abide these black, lazy, cowardly rascals of lascars; and there was crowds of them in all the vessels I could find. They are well enough in fair weather; but when it blows, the heart is blown out of them. They are neither in the way, or skulking in corners; so I took the first opportunity of returning home to Britain again. When I came to London, I got into all manner of mischief, and lost my guineas like winking; above two hundred in one week; and the remainder, clothes and all, in one night in Wapping; for I awoke in the morning in the watch-house, bruised, and with only a watchman's greatcoat thrown over me. I had been thrown out of a window, or pushed down some stair, and in that state they told me I was found by the watchman. I had now time to reflect, but nothing to reflect upon, for all I had in the world was a shirt and a pair of trowsers. There was no charge against me, so I walked from the watch-house like a man adrift in an old boat, without oars or food. I went to the wharfs, for pity or employ. I got fitted in a kind of way; but could not find a vessel, for there were too many like myself. What to do I knew not. More than once I thought of doing as I had been done by—that is, helping myself where I could; but, although I was often without food, and slept in the streets or under a boat, I, somehow, could not bring my mind to that. I often wished I was again in Scotland, where I had friends and was known; but how to get there I knew not. At length the thought came into my mind—I could beg my way down. I could be no worse than I was in London—and where was the odds? A beggar in London was no better than a beggar in Scotland, or anywhere else; for my Scotch pride was by this time starved out of me; so off I set; but was poorly enough off, for I was not then up to the trade, so my stout look and honest truth met nothing but unkindness and insult. At length, one day, as I was on the point of dying from starvation, (for England is not a country for an honest beggar,) I fell upon a gang of gipsies, upon the borders of a heath, making merry. I joined them, and was kindly and hospitably received. Betsy there was one of the troop. From the moment I saw her, I took a fancy to her pretty face—joined the gang for her sake, and soon won her regard and love. I was now content and happy. We had victuals of the best in plenty, and roamed where we pleased, with no restraint but our own wills. I found there was some tough work before my hand. Betsy had one or two pretenders to her love, in her own and other gangs, and my rivals were not to be lightly thought of, for in

their minds none but the brave deserve the fair. It is, win your bride and keep her while you can. There was one stout, active fellow, whom her parents intended for her husband; but Betsy had no wish for the match, and my arrival confirmed her dislike to him. Our loves were only known to ourselves, and our interviews stolen, until my services had gained me the esteem of her father. He was patriarch or head of the gang, and kept the common stock, guiding our movements and directing our operations as far as our wayward fancies could be guided—partly by argument, partly by yielding, but seldom by resorting to punishment, for all was done for our good, to the best of his judgment. No one thought of resisting his control; and if any became discontented, they left the gang—a step by no means desirable, for our safety lay in the strength of the gang. There is scarce a gang but is at feud with some other gang or gangs; and when they meet, nothing but the flight of the weaker, or some other overruling cause, prevents a battle, in which murders are not unfrequently committed.

Under the tuition of Betsy, I became a most expert beggar, as you witnessed this morning. My contributions to the common stock often equalled the amount of all the others put together. I became the pride of the gang; and no wonder—for I strove for Betsy, and was cheered on by her acclaim, while I was scowled at by my rivals, who were quick enough, though her parents had no suspicion of it, to see her preference of me. When we thought it proper time, I proposed to the father for the hand of his daughter. He had no objection to me as a son-in-law, further than that he had all but promised her to long Ned, but would leave it to Betsy and myself to manage the affair as we best could, and would interfere no farther with his authority than for the good of the gang. If Betsy was pleased, he cared not whether Long Ned or I had her. When I told her the result of my conference with her father, she was as well pleased as myself.

'Bill,' she said, 'you will not win me from Long Ned with both ease and honour. He is no contemptible rival. He will be at you as soon as he comes to the camp, for his mother will tell him. Now, be a man, and do not yield while you can stand to him; for, much as I love you—and you know I love you dearly—I could not marry you if you are beat. Nay, the people might make me marry him; and you must leave the gang, or your life would not be safe for one night. What says my Bill?'

I looked upon the lovely girl with astonishment, her language was so unlike anything I had ever heard from a woman. In Scotland here, if a woman knew her lover was to fight, she would almost go distracted, and do all in her power to prevent him. I could scarcely believe my ears, I was as yet so little used to their ways. As I stood looking at her, a shade of anger passed over her face, and the tears came into her eyes; she turned away her head, and sobbed aloud. This roused me.

'What ails my Betsy?' I said, taking her in my arms. She still sobbed, and pushed me from her.

'I am the most unfortunate girl in the world,' she cried. 'I love a man, and he is a coward.'

'A coward, Betsy!' cried I. 'What do you mean? I am no coward. I fear not the face of clay.'

Turning to me with one of her sweet smiles—

'I am not deceived, then in my Bill?' she said. 'He is not afraid of Long Ned?'

'No, my love; nor of the whole gang, one after another—one down, another come on,' said I. 'Are we friends again?'

'O Bill, we are more than friends,' she sobbed. 'I love you dearly, and am proud of you.'

Arm in arm, we returned to the tents.

Long Ned had just come home after an excursion, so, as soon as he saw us his rage knew no bounds; and his dark eyes flashed fire, as he came forward and ordered me to quit my hold of the girl. There were few words passed between us; every one knew what was to take place, so no one interfered further than to see fair play. You recollect, Square, I always loved a bit of a row. The lessons I took on board from Sambo the black cook, stood me now in great stead. I learned from him the African mode, to hold the stick with both hands by the ends, and cover the body with it, more especially the head; having thus the advantage of striking with

either hand, and puzzling my opponent. Ned, who was an expert cudgel-player, chose that weapon; I nothing loath, agreed. Two sticks of equal length were chosen. Betsy, at my side, held my jacket, while Ned's mother held his. His anger was so great, he could scarce restrain himself until we were ready. I knew my task, and was cool—as if I waited the boatswain's call to it. So away we went. I at once felt my advantage; and, expert as he was, he could not reach me—my mode embarrassed him. I hit him on both sides, not severely, as I might with ease have done; but he had never touched me. We paused, for a minute or two, for breath.

'Ned,' says I to him, 'I bear you no malice. I could have struck you down every time I have touched you. Yield me Betsy, and be friends.'

'I will die first,' he cried, kindling in rage.

'And if you yield, I will disown you,' said his mother.

As he made at me again—'Don't spare him,' cried Betsy, 'as you wish to win me.'

This was enough; but he plied me so hard for some time, that it was with difficulty I could defend myself. I had been hit slightly several times before an opportunity offered, so active was he and quick in his assaults. But my mode was not nearly so exhausting as his; and it being now my turn, I embraced it: down he went as if he had been shot. His mother raised him up, and encouraged him to renew the fight; while Betsy wiped some blood from my face, which came from a slight wound in the forehead; and, squeezing gently my hand, said I was her own brave boy; able to win a wife, and protect her. I see you do not much admire my story, but it shews the character of the people I was among. So, the short and the long of it is, Long Ned was carried to his tent, beaten to his mother's satisfaction; and I was married to Betsy next day, agreeably to the gipsy fashion—that is, a feast was given to all the gang—and her father delivered her up to me with a long harangue, concluding by declaring us man and wife, and the others wishing us joy.

Betsy and I did not remain long with the gang after this. Long Ned and his mother were our implacable enemies, and neither of us were safe from their revenge—not that I cared a straw for them openly, but I knew their character too well to be at ease. Betsy and I left them, have lived well and comfortably since, and could save money, only there is no occasion for it. We, like all the men of superior minds in the world, live by our wits; there is no occasion for working when we can live without. I never want money and a good diet. Now, you say you have no particular object in view, save to get a ship for India; and why should you court difficulties and dangers abroad when there is so rich a prospect before you at home? From experience, I can assure you, no trade is so easy, or quickly learned, as begging. The first day is the worst; after that, it came quite natural and agreeable.'

There was a romance and bustle in the events he had narrated, which had a strange charm for me, and opened up a new leaf in the book of life. I had no conception of beggary but as extreme misery, and, until now, held them as synonymous terms, from what I had witnessed in Edinburgh in the early part of my youth. I had had no idea of the regular systematic beggar. My notions were formed upon the destitute widow and orphan, those whom I had herded with, who shrunk from importunity, and scarce let their wants be known; enduring want to the extreme ere they stealthily crept forth from their abodes of wretchedness, and returned as soon as their urgent wants were satisfied. To Bill I made known my surprise at the history he had given me of himself, and my wonder that any one should ask charity, save those who had no other means of supporting themselves.

'I once knew as little of the matter as you,' said he; 'but this I know now: were none but the really needy to ask charity, they would soon be supplied, and fare well; but it is to good a trade, once begun, to be given up easily. But here is Betsy, to tell us dinner is ready.'

The repast did honour to her cooking, and consisted of the best the town could afford. She herself sat at table, more lady-like than I thought it possible a gipsy girl could have done.

'Bill,' says I, 'if your trade were as honourable as it appears to be profitable, I would commence it this night.'

'And what is more dishonourable in it than any other calling a man may choose to live by?' said the young wife, with a smile.

'Is not the whole bent of every one's mind to get as much from every one of his fellow-men as he can? Does not the king and his ministers get all they can from the people by taxation? Do not the ministers of the church get all they can from their flocks? Do not the lairds get all they can for their lands; the merchant get all he can for his goods; and the poor man get all he can for his labour? Real utility or value enters not into their minds at bargain-making. It is how they can get most of their neighbour's property, in the safest and easiest manner. What is honour but a fluctuating opinion? As I have heard my father say, when he spoke the words I am now uttering—is it honourable for kings to take their subjects from their peaceful employments, and send them to plunder and destroy other states; is it honourable to be one of the plunderers; for one man to shoot another for some trifling word is honourable. Every nation has its own notions of this same thing called honour. But we of the wandering tribe think it means gold; for he that has got the most of it is the most esteemed, and he that has not a penny in his purse has not a jot of honour, though he had all the virtues. And why? Because, from the king to the beggar, no one can expect to add to their store from him. He is an egg already eaten—an empty shell; and, as such, crushed and thrown aside. These are the words of my father.'

I heard the bewitching creature with astonishment, and could not but admire how easily every class finds consolation to themselves by arguing as it suits their views. I had often before remarked, that when numbers of any class associated, they rose in their own estimation; but I had no idea that the beggars carried it so far.

'But it is under deceit and false pretences,' said I, 'to enjoy the pleasure of hearing her speak, you extort money from the humane and charitable. I would rather work to the death.'

'That is a matter of choice or education,' replied she. 'We use no more deceit than is necessary to obtain our object, and all the world do the same, while we do more to give pleasure to the good than any other class. Don't we keep alive the kindly feelings of man? My Bill there, as you saw him this morning, was a walking lecture upon the miseries of war; and, I am sure, from what I saw in your looks at the time, that you felt a real pleasure in having it in your power to give him the half-crown—nay, had you walked on, you would have slept the sounder for it. Had you tipped it, spent it foolishly, you would have regretted parting with it. Even now, that you think we had no need of it, your self-esteem is only wounded at being imposed upon; but your heart upbraids you not for your good intentions; and may not a beggar feel pleasure in the success of his arts as much as those of another calling?'

'Does not Betsy speak like a parson?' said Bill. 'I can't say I feels as if all was right when I am rigged out for an excursion; but, somehow, she appears to have reason on her side; and, even if I were to get a ship, I must leave my pretty Bess, so I just get on; and I am now pretty well used to it. If I had stayed by my trade, as my parents wished me, I could have wrought for her at home; but Betsy is pleased, and I have no more to care for.'

'And why should I not?' she quickly replied. 'I have been bred to it, and know nothing else. I could not live mewed up in a house, however grand. A wide heath, or a dark wood, with a few light, verdant, sunny spots embossed in its bosom, has far more charms for me than a crowded city or painted room; and the piece of money, dexterously obtained, has a beauty about it that does not belong to the fixed income. I had as soon be in my grave as a sober citizen; for there would be as much exercise for the mind in the one case as the other.'

For a moment, I looked with admiration at the lovely girl, as her face glowed with animation while she spoke; but pity soon took its place, suggesting the mournful reflection, that a mind of her powers was in a state of nature; and what it might have been had it been cultivated. A sigh escaped me at the thought of my own inability to lend instruction. She saw the cloud upon my brow.

'Come, Bill,' she said, laughing, 'you neglect your friend; he grows sad. Shall we go to the kenn to-night! We are expected.'

'To be sure, Betsy,' replied he. 'Square, fill your glass; and don't break your heart because Betsy is my wife, and can't be yours. There will be rare fun, I expect, and would advise you to go.'

I was in that mood, at the time, between the serious and the sad, contrasting the pious and modest Helen Grey with the pert and forward beauty before me. Both were lovely in their persons—but how different in expression and mind! Helen was a lilly, modest, and filling the air around her with a mild perfume; Betsy, an exotic flower, of surpassing beauty, with an odour so powerful it required a time to render it not offensive; yet it was a lovely flower; and, in a skilful gardener's hands, would have been the honour of his plots and the object of his pride. Under the example and tuition of Helen, I had felt some serious impressions—at times a thorn, at others a balm, as my own wayward actions were approved or condemned. I wished to speak seriously to the interesting creature before me, but could not find resolution. I was conscious that it would be an evening of regret if I was left alone, and so I agreed to accompany them.

'Hurrah!' shouted Bill. 'You will, I see, be a mumper yet. But you can't appear in that rig, Square; you could not get admittance. Betsy will furnish you out of my store. Will you be a soldier, a sailor, or a ruined, burned-out tradesman? I guess you will be a tar?'

'Certainly,' I replied.

'Shall you lack a whole fin, or part of one, or be lame of a leg? Make your choice.

'Oh, half an arm,' said I, now ripe for the fun I expected.

In a few minutes Betsy had me so completely changed, I hardly knew myself, even when I looked in the glass. An immense long tye of false hair—mine being then of a sandy colour, the same nearly as Bill's—was brought forth, opened, and my own shorter tye secured in it. With a liquid she browned my face. To this I at first objected, until she assured me she would wash it off in the morning. An old pair of canvass trowsers, a ragged jacket, a shabby vest and hat were given to me. When I came to put on the jacket, she caused me to double my arm, laying my hand upon the top of my shoulder; and there was a case in the tattered arm, made of leather, to receive it. With difficulty my doubled limb was forced in, presenting the elbow first. For sometime the constrained position pained me, for there was a flap of leather that came over my open hand, and was made fast to my trowsers, to diminish the bulk.

'Where did you lose your arm, my good lad?' said the smiling Betsy, as she offered a half-penny in jest.

'Faith, I do not know, mistress, if you have not cut it off for me,' I replied.

'Jack, that will never do,' said she. 'I will send for the constable, you impostor.' And she turned, smiling, from me, with all the airs of fine lady; then turning round, and assuming the attitude of a beggar—'Bless your pretty face,' she said, 'sweet lady, spare a half-penny to a poor tar, who lost his precious limb in defending the beauties of Old England.'

'I have no coppers.'

'Oh, bless you, beautiful lady,' she continued, 'I would die of want were it not for angels like you.' And she whined along the floor, as if she had followed some one.

Bill and I could not refrain our laughter.

'Does she not do it in style?' he said, exultingly. 'Take the dear creature's advice, and copy her, and you need never want a good bed and a good diet, besides money in your fob, and be a jolly beggar.'

'Are there more kinds of beggars than one?' said I.

'Oh!' replied he, 'there are many kinds; for instance, jolly beggars, sturdy beggars, humble beggars, and randy beggars. I had forgot the gentle beggars; but you will see them of all descriptions.' And away we trudged; Betsy as an old decrepit woman, and with so well-managed a metamorphosis that I, who saw the change effected, could scarce believe my eyes. Bill was not the same person I had seen in the morning; he only wanted his left arm, which was bandaged by his side, and his leg supported at the knee by a wooden substitute for the lower part of it.

'This,' said he, 'was my last cruising dress when I was among them. I was maimed, as you see, in the gallant Admiral Hawke's own ship, when we defeated Confans. You may have either lost your fin there or at Cape Breton; for our meetings are a kind of masquerade—no one knows his fellow, but as in the character he for the time assumes.'

After a few turns through dark alleys, we arrived at a low, dirty-looking public-house. As we entered, Bill whispered in my ear—

'Now, Square,' said he, 'this is Liberty Hall—every one eats what he pleases, drinks what he pleases, and I may say, speaks as he pleases. All I advise is, do not be too ready to take or give offence. Betsy has agreed to sit by you—be guided by her.'

We entered one by one. A single flickering light was attached to the wall; everything bespoke the most abject poverty, until we had passed through a second small apartment, when the sound of voices, mixed with boisterous laughter, fell upon my ears.

'We are too late, I fear,' said Betsy—the fun is begun.'

The next moment the door opened—and such a scene! I did not think the universe could have produced such a collection of apparent misery and mutilation. The miraculous pool of Saloam, the evening before the angel descended to trouble the waters, I really believe never furnished such a spectacle of incurables. To be more particular would only disgust you: all was hilarity and vulgar enjoyment. Viands of the richest kinds—roast fowls, and meats of all varieties—smoked on a table at one side of the room, and which, as called for by the guests, was cut off in proportion to the amount ordered, handed to the expectant guest, and the money received before the plate was delivered. Some had done, and commenced their favorite liquors; others were doing justice to the cookery—praising, and not a few finding fault.

'What shall I have the pleasure of handing to Mr Kay?' cried the landlord, bowing.

'Betsy my love, what shall we have?' said Bill.

'What you please, Bill, for myself. Square, what do you wish?' she said.

'Oh, I care not,' I replied.

'Then, landlord, a duck; and have you any green peas yet?'

'The season is backward; I have some,' replied he, 'but they are a little high priced.'

'So much the better—send half a crown's worth with the duck, for me and my friends.'

'Well Kay, you always do the thing genteelly; but who is this friend of yours?' said a fat little man, in very rusty black, of a clerical cut.

'An old messmate of mine, I met by chance to-day—a real good un.'

'As Mr. Kay's friend, I drink your health, and our better acquaintance.'

'Thank you, Doctor,' said Kay; and I did the same.

After every one had satisfied his appetite, and got his liquor before him, the noise of voices, joined to the boisterous laughter, was absolutely deafening—all were in committees of two's and three's, talking. I began to despair of getting my curiosity gratified, by Betsy, on the spot; for the noise was so great that to whisper was impossible. Never in my life had I witnessed such unbounded apparent happiness and glee—all was enjoyment. At length a little hunch-backed caricature of a man leaped upon the head of the table and, seated like a Turk, cross-legged, struck the table with a wooden mallet, and, in a hoarse, croaking voice, commanded silence and attention to their president for the night. In a minute all was still. Without rising to his feet, he croaked forth—

'Ladies and gentlemen, we are met here to forget the cares and toils of the day. You have all (or you have your purse to blame) had your pleasure of the eatables—of the drinkables you shall have the same provided. I add no more, save a word for our worthy landlord. He says, if we do not be less noisy, and give him less trouble than the last time we met, he must either cease to enjoy our company, or be on more intimate terms with the magistrates—an honor he does not covet. He has been a man to be sought after by the authorities already. Now, ladies and gentlemen, I call on Rhyning Bob for his last new song—ruff him in. Up rose a tall, gaunt, shabby-genteel, pale-looking figure; bowed to the company, and began, in a cracked voice, affectedly to chant some doggerel verses against the Minister of State. I looked inquiringly at Betsy.

'Oh, that is the poet,' said she; 'a gentle beggar by nature and profession; he has no shift but his verses, and a poor shift it makes for him. He bothers the gentry with his rhymes; sometimes gets kicked out, sometimes a sixpence. Hand him, when done, a glass,

Bill; he has been more fortunate than usual if he has one of his own. He had better attended to teaching his scholars than song-writing. Our friend, the doctor here, is also a gentle beggar—he asks nothing on the streets and highways—he writes a good letter as a distressed clergyman or reduced man of education, and lives well, as you see. A great number, almost all the maimed, are jolly beggars, like Bill, and what you are to be. They have numerous ways of earning a subsistence, and spend it as freely. They never take anything save money in charity, for, poor souls, they are too feeble to carry heavy gifts.

The noisy applause of the poet's song put a stop to our whispering. When order was restored, Mrs. Kay was called upon for a song. Betsy immediately stood up in her old woman's attire, and astonished me, little as I know of music, by the sweetness of her voice, and the effect with which she sung 'An Old Woman Clothed in Grey.' Twice was she obliged to sing it to the company, which she did with the utmost good nature. When the deafening applause had abated, or, I may rather say, the storm of noises had ceased, a stout, red-haired, broad-shouldered, rather shortish man was called upon to sing. He gave a Welsh song, the air of which was pretty, but the words uncouth to my ear.

'That is one of the sturdy beggars,' said Betsy; 'he refuses nothing that is given him, carries all upon his person, and often, before he reaches the proper place to dispose of his gatherings, they amount to the weight of many stones. He always tells the charitable, when asked what is his complaint that prevents him from working—I can't speak the Welsh word, but it means 'sheer laziness.' The people are confounded at the, to them, unintelligible and strange name of the disease, and are ready to relieve the afflicted man. Once or twice, they say, he has been detected by countrymen of his own, who laughed at his impudence, and gave the true meaning of the words. The sturdies are a numerous class. The randies are nearly, if not of the same class; they abuse and threaten, until they are supplied, when they dare with impunity. The humble, poor creatures, are old or real cripples—take what they get, and are thankful; there is not one of them here this night, that I see.'

We had now sat in the pandemonium for nearly three hours. The potency of the liquor had for some time began to preponderate—angry words were exchanging, and some were sleeping, with their heads leaning upon the table. Bill himself was more than half-seas over, and began to bawl out a sea song. Betsy and I endeavoured to keep him in order, and wished him to retire. We had succeeded, and were rising to leave the company—Bill only half inclined, when a stranger entered the hall of confusion and drunkenness. We were on our feet. I saw Betsy turn pale as death, and turn her head aside. A number of voices called out, 'Hurra! hurra!' here is Long Ned. A young female, whose eye I had noticed was seldom turned from where we sat, cried out—

'Betsy, you are not going away because your old sweetheart, Long Ned, has come in?'

'Shiver my timbers if we are!' cried Bill; and in a moment sat down and called for more liquor. I, as well as Betsy, saw that the envious female was bent on mischief; but how to prevent it I knew not. Long Ned had seated himself at the other side of the table, gloomy as Satan. I felt her tremble, as she sat by my side, I believe more through rage at the female than fear. Long Ned was evidently bent on some mischief or other, and he was quite sober. Bill and he eyed each other for some time. Betsy was coaxing him to get him away, as well as myself.

'No, I will not leave the room,' he said, 'while that scoundrel is in it; I will face him or fight him out, if he says an uncivil word to you or myself.'

The same female sat only one seat from him; I saw them whispering together. Betsy's dark eyes glanced fire. She unbuckled his timber leg, and took it off. Scarce was this done, when Ned said aloud—

'Tell me, Kay, how much you have sold the jilt Betsy for. I see she is very gracious with your ac'— He had only got thus far, when the wooden leg was launched across the table, and felled him to the ground.

A scene of uproar and confusion no words can express, ensued;

the lights were extinguished; blows were dealt furiously around; and the sleepers awoke and joined in the strife. Bitterly did I regret my curiosity, as well as the bondage my arm was in from its long confinement; it was benumbed and painful. As I had no immediate interest in the strife, I retired to one corner of the room, where I found several as anxious as myself to escape. Shouts of murder and groans were mixed with vengeful cries. At length the door was burst open, and a body of constables entered. The moment I saw this, I slipped along the side of the room and darted past them, receiving in my flight several severe blows, and leaving the skirts and breasts of my jacket in the hands of those in the way who attempted to stop my career. I turned down the first opening I came to, and ceased to run, as no one appeared to follow me. Fortunately I had the old canvass trowsers and vest above my own, in which was secured my guineas and silver. With some difficulty I freed myself from the jacket, then I with ease got off the others, and had the mortification to find myself, pretty late in the evening, without a lodging, jacket, or hat.

As I began to cool, and find myself secure from pursuit, the contusions I had received from the staves of the constables pained me very much, particularly one I had received upon the head; I put up my hand and found it bleeding pretty fresh. Thus was I in a fine mess to seek for a decent lodging, or account for my present plight. As I turned over in my mind for a plausible story, I perceived a respectable-looking inn still open, and made straight for it. There were several seafaring men, like captains of coasters, sitting in the tap. When I entered, all eyes were turned upon me. The landlord insisted upon turning me out without allowing me to speak. The company took my part, and insisted that I should be heard. I had now my story ready as near the truth as I dared—I told them I was a stranger from Scotland, on my way to London in quest of a vessel, and had only arrived in the town that evening, when I had had a quarrel and fight, having been insulted, and some one had carried off my hat, jacket, and bundle; but that I had plenty of money to pay my way. As soon as I had finished, the landlord became all civility; I got my head bound up, and a good lodging, and got intimate with one or two of the captains before I retired to bed.

Next morning my head ached, but nothing to speak of. I arose, sent for a dealer in clothes, and purchased a jacket and hat, had breakfast, and took a walk through the town. As I did not intend to leave it until I had heard the issue of the brawl, nothing else was talked of. The fight between them and the constables had been long and severe, for they made a desperate resistance; and it was not until several of the inhabitants had reinforced the civil power that the beggars were secured and lodged in jail, male and female. I wished only to know the fate of Bill and Betsy, and then started upon my journey—I wished to have no further intercourse with them. My bundle and necessaries in it I had given up for lost unless they were liberated, at least Betsy, through the course of the day. I could not have found my way to their room without inquiry; and this it was neither prudent nor of any use to make, until they were liberated. Well, the magistrates were busy examining them, I was told, the whole forenoon; and the issue was, that all the able-bodied rascals—Bill amongst the rest—were sent to man his Majesty's navy, and the females were to be confined and then banished the town for ever. I returned to my inn, and, by appointment, met my new acquaintances, the captains—one of them, the captain of a brig, was loading grain for London. I was weary of walking on foot, and agreed with him for a passage, leaving my conductors to the beggar's ball in durance; the males expecting to be sent off in a day or two, and the females making out their solitary confinement preparatory to their banishment.

The continuation of "Captain Todleben," by our anonymous friend. "Quintin Hollythorne, Esquire," will appear in the April number.

HOUSEHOLD WORDS, a Journal conducted by Charles Dickens.

March, 1857. New York: Dix, Edwards & Co. Quebec: P. Sinclair.

This number is the first of the 15th volume of the American reprint and is composed of the January weekly numbers of the original English work. It contains the first chapters of a new story by Wilkie Collins, called "The Dead Secret," and other articles of value and importance. It is a pleasing fact in connection with periodical literature, that now we have nearly every topic brought within the reach of the working classes, so that every man and woman may study it if they will. In former times knowledge was confined almost exclusively to the higher and more wealthy part of the community, but now by the means of cheap periodicals and newspapers, knowledge streams from apex to base and from base to apex of the whole pyramid of society, and a volume of knowledge formerly sold for a pound is now with perhaps a greater advantage to its usefulness condensed into a quarter dollar magazine.

While giving every praise to the Americans for their very excellent publications we cannot but state our conviction that in all things essential to a serial publication, those of British are vastly in advance of the American, and that such is the case is proved by the avidity with which editors and publishers take hold upon these publications and either reprint verbatim or largely transplant from their pages.

The reprints of Blackwood, the Reviews and Household Words, we make bold to say, have each a larger circulation than any single American magazine, Harper, perhaps, excepted, and of Harper too it may be said no mean feature in its attractions has always been its regular reprints of or from English works.

It seems there is every prospect that before long we shall have a weekly line of steamers between these provinces and the old country, which will afford even greater facilities than those even now existing for the prompt delivery to subscribers throughout the year of English magazines, at prices on the average much cheaper than the American, and the proprietor of this Circular has much pleasure in stating that since he commenced the importation on an extensive scale of original English publications, the number of subscribers has exceeded his most sanguine expectations, and especially the subscription list to Household Words has been greatly augmented.

THE SCHOOLFELLOW, a Magazine for Boys and Girls. March 1857. New York: Dix, Edwards & Co. Quebec: P. Sinclair.

Among other things which this excellent juvenile periodical contains is a sketch of Dr. Livingstone, the African traveller, and another sketch entitled "Round the World Joe," giving an account of "The Queene of Oude," both capital papers, highly instructive and amusing.

GODEY'S LADY'S BOOK. March, 1857. Philadelphia: L. A. Godey, Quebec: P. Sinclair.

As usual Godey is full of pretty patterns and illustrations, useful to those for whom it is more particularly intended, and as attractive as ever.

PUTNAM'S MONTHLY. March, 1857. New York: Dix, Edwards & Co. Quebec: P. Sinclair.

Putnam's Magazine from its great superiority as a literary production over all its American contemporaries deserves the attention of all who appreciate first class reading.

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"Of the importance of the subject there can be no doubt, for we find from the earliest ages, that the nations holding the command of the sea were generally the most powerful, and studied with the greatest care the art of preserving and improving their Harbours. As an example we may mention the Phœnicians, who, from merely possessing a narrow strip of barren land along the coast of Syria, became the most wealthy and the greatest of nations, and were only subdued after a long-continued and desperate struggle by Alexander, who was compelled to bring the whole power of the East, or it may be said of the world, to vanquish them. Again, the Greeks, by their command of the sea, maintained their independence with a mere handful of men against the millions of Xerxes. Again, the Carthaginians made head against and almost conquered the mighty Romans, who only recovered their ascendancy, and ultimately overwhelmed their formidable adversary, by acquiring the command of the ocean; and although the Romans were naturally averse to the sea and the pursuits of commerce; yet, feeling that the very preservation of their empire depended upon their maritime superiority, they devoted the greatest care and attention to the perfection of their Fleets and Harbours, as the magnificent remains I shall have occasion to mention, in Italy and other places, afford ample testimony. These works evidently prove that the Ancients had made considerable progress both in the theory and practice of Marine Architecture.

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With this brief explanation of the plan and object of the Work, it is now submitted to the notice of the British and Foreign Governments, to Professional Engineers, and others of all nations who feel interested in the perfect construction and maintenance of Docks and Harbours,—so indispensable in the formation and equipment of naval armaments for the protection of trade and commerce with every portion of the civilized world, and invaluable as asylums for mariners.

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LIST OF PLATES.

- Portrait of the Author.
 Cherbourg Breakwater, general plan.
 Ditto, traverse sections of original design.
 Ditto, details of lines.
 Ditto.
 Ditto, plan and sections.
 Sheerness Dockyard, view looking up the Medway.
 Plan of the old and new Dockyards.
 Sheerness Dockyard, view of Northern portion.
 Ditto, details of the Docks, Basins, and Walls, of the Northern portion of the new Dockyard.
 Ditto, plan and sections of one of the great Dry Docks.
 Sheerness, details of the great Dock-gates.
 Ditto, section of the great pumping-engine.
 Ditto, view of the North portion of the new Dockyard, in progress.
 Ditto, cross section of the Pumping-engine.
 Ditto, plan of ditto, and Cement-Mill.
 Ditto, Masting-Sheers, Building-Slip, and great Entrance.
 Ditto, Mast-House and Locks.
 Ditto, plan sections, Sea Walls, and Coffers-Dams.
 Ditto, view of the great Basin and Entrance.
 Ditto, plan and sections of the Store-houses.
 Ditto, ditto of the Saw-Pits.
 Ditto, Machine for grooving Piles.
 Ditto, ditto, plan.
 Sheerness, Tide-Guage.
 Ditto, plan of new Dockyard, and Mouth of Thames.
 Chatham Dockyard and Dry Dock, with proposed improvements.
 Northfleet Docks, proposed.
 Portsmouth, plan of Dockyard and Harbour.
 Ditto, details of Boiler Manufactory and Basin Walls.
 Woolwich and Deptford Dockyards, with details.
 Plymouth and Devonport, general view.
 Plymouth Sound, chart,
 Plan of Dockyard and Keyham Steam-Vessel Establishment.
 Devonport and Pembroke Dockyards, with details.
 View of the Royal William Victualling Establishment, Plymouth.
 Plan of ditto.
 Milford Haven and Cork Harbour, charts.
 Plan of Ramsgate Harbour.
 Ditto, details of ditto.
 Ditto, ditto, and Moreton's Repairing-Ship.
 Ditto Engine-house and Workshops.
 Ditto Pier-head and new Light-house.
 Dover Harbour, Ancient Plans of.
 Ditto ditto in 1520 and 1844.
 Ditto, with proposed Harbour of Refuge.
 Newhaven, Shoreham, and Rye Harbours.
 Great Grimsby Docks and Harbour.
 Hull and Bridlington Harbours.
 Scarborough Harbour.
 Ditto Piers, elevations, and sections, and Whitby Harbour.
 Hartlepool Harbour, general plan and views.
 Ditto, Ancient Harbour and sections of Walls.
 Ditto, details of Ancient Harbour.
 Ditto, plan of new Docks and Harbour.
 Ditto, enlarged plan of new Docks, Tide, and Outer Harbours.
- Ditto, Cross-wall, Sluices, and Entrance to great Scouring Reservoir.
 Ditto, section of Locks and Sluices in the Cross Embankment between the Reservoir and Tidal Harbour.
 Ditto, plan of part of ditto.
 Ditto, plans and sections of one of the Scouring Sluices.
 Ditto, Locks, and Ramsgate Harbour.
 Ditto, sections of Dock, Walls, and Tide Harbour.
 Ditto, Turning Bridge.
 Ditto, section of Locks.
 Ditto, Dock Gates.
 Ditto, ditto Entrance to Scouring Reservoir.
 Sunderland Harbour, general plan.
 Ditto, details of Pier, &c.
 Ditto, Driving Piles, and Dredging with Steam Engine.
 Mouth of the River Tyne and proposed Pier.
 Berwick Harbour.
 Leith Harbour.
 Ditto, Wooden Pier and Martello Tower.
 Ditto, Locks and Dry Docks.
 Leith Harbour, Warehouses.
 Bell Rock Light-house.
 Douglas Harbour, with proposed improvements.
 Aberdeen Harbour and details.
 Peterhead and Fraserburgh Harbours.
 Ardrrossan and Greenock, and Glasgow Docks and Harbour.
 Port Patrick Harbour.
 Donaghadee Harbour.
 Belfast Town, Harbour, and proposed Docks.
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