

SUNNY DAYS IN WINTER.

Winter is a glorious season,
Sunny days are few and far between,
But the sun is not a friend,
Who while he shines can cheat the mountain,

THE OLD BARON.

THE CHAMPION OF VIRTUE.

[CONTINUED.]
All this is news to me, said Edmund;

But, Father, tell me what grounds there
Were for the lady's suspicion that her lord
Died unfairly?

'Alas!' said Father Oswald, 'that is only
Known to God. There were strange thoughts
In the minds of many at that time; I had

'I thank you for these marks of your
Esteem and confidence,' said Edmund; 'be
Assured that I will not abuse them; nor do

'I have found Edmund, and brought
him to answer for himself,' said the Baron.

'I see that you are very kind, and I
Thank you for your interest in my case;
But I shall be glad to have your opinion

'I have patience a little longer, my son,
Said Father Oswald. 'I will think of some
Way to serve you, and to represent your

'My dear Edmund, you must come with
Me directly. Your old enemies have united
To ruin you with my father; my brother

'I cannot rightly understand, my dear
Edmund, why they make a great mystery
Of it. It is something of great consequence,

I have been seeking you this hour
To inform you of this, that you might be
Pleased to defend yourself against your

'God reward you, sir,' said Edmund, 'for
All your goodness to me; I see they are
Determined to ruin me, if possible. I shall

'I know it, I am sure of it,' said William;
'and here I swear to you, as Jonathan did
To David, I beseech Heaven to bless me, as

'Only so long as I shall deserve so great
A blessing,' interrupted Edmund.

'I know your worth and honor,' continued
William; 'such is my confidence in your
Merit, that I firmly believe Heaven designs

'I am so much affected, that he could
Not answer but in broken sentences.

'Oh, my friend, my master,' said Edmund.
'I vow, I promise, my heart promises'

'He knelt down with clasped hands and
uplifted eyes. William knelt by him and
they invoked the Supreme to witness to their

'As soon as they were able to speak, Ed-
mund conjured his friend not to expose
himself to the displeasure of his family, out

'I submit to the will of Heaven,' said Ed-
mund. 'I wait with patience its disposal of
me. If I leave the castle, I will find means

'I hope,' said William, 'that things may
yet be accommodated. Do not take any
resolution, but let us act as occasion arises.'

'In this manner these amiable youths con-
ferred, till they arrived at the castle. The
Baron was sitting in the great hall, on a high

Edmund, and offered to swear to the truth of his
accusation.

'Be silent, Dick,' said the Baron; 'I shall
Judge for myself.' 'I protest,' said he, to
Sir Robert; 'I never heard so much as

'What should I fear? I have not wilfully
offended God or man; why then should I
doubt protection? But I have not yet im-

'What all my heart, my lord,' said Ed-
mund; 'I have not wilfully offended God
or man; I have, therefore, nothing to fear.'

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I expect it! Upon this he knelt down
and prayed earnestly; resigning himself
wholly to the will of Heaven. While he
was yet speaking, his courage returned, and

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J. B. McDonald's Building,
Nearby Opposite Stampers' Corner.

West Side Queen Street.
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