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James  
Dunbar

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MATILDA



OR, THE

INDIAN'S CAPTIVE:

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A Canadian Tale,

FOUNDED ON FACT.



BY

JAMES RUSSELL.



PRINTED FOR THE AUTHOR;

BY GEORGE STOBBS, THREE-RIVERS, AND SOLD BY  
THE BOOKSELLERS OF MONTREAL AND QUEBEC.

1833.

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ENTERED, according to the Act of the  
*Provincial Legislature*, in the year one thousand  
eight hundred and thirty-three by James Russell,  
in the Clerk or Prothonotary's Office of the  
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Rivers.



## PREFACE.



I am truly at a loss (Reader) what name to give this little work ; to call it a Novel is an appellation which in some measure it does not deserve, as it is founded on fact—the author having heard the outlines from the lady herself, who was really taken by the Indians at the period mentioned in this work ; but, as it is impossible to narrate such an event, and bring it before the Public in the shape of a book, without having recourse to fiction, it is anxiously wished the plan here adopted may meet with Public approbation ; more particularly so, as the Author renounces every claim to literary information

having a memory both cramped and treacherous, which, added to his excluded life (for many years, and at an age when the human mind is most susceptible of improvement) among Indian tribes, wilds and woods, where nothing is heard, but the ruthless blast or the howl of the savage, without even books to derive information from; he trusts that the following tale will be perused by the generous Reader with a forgiving spirit for the Author's imperfections.

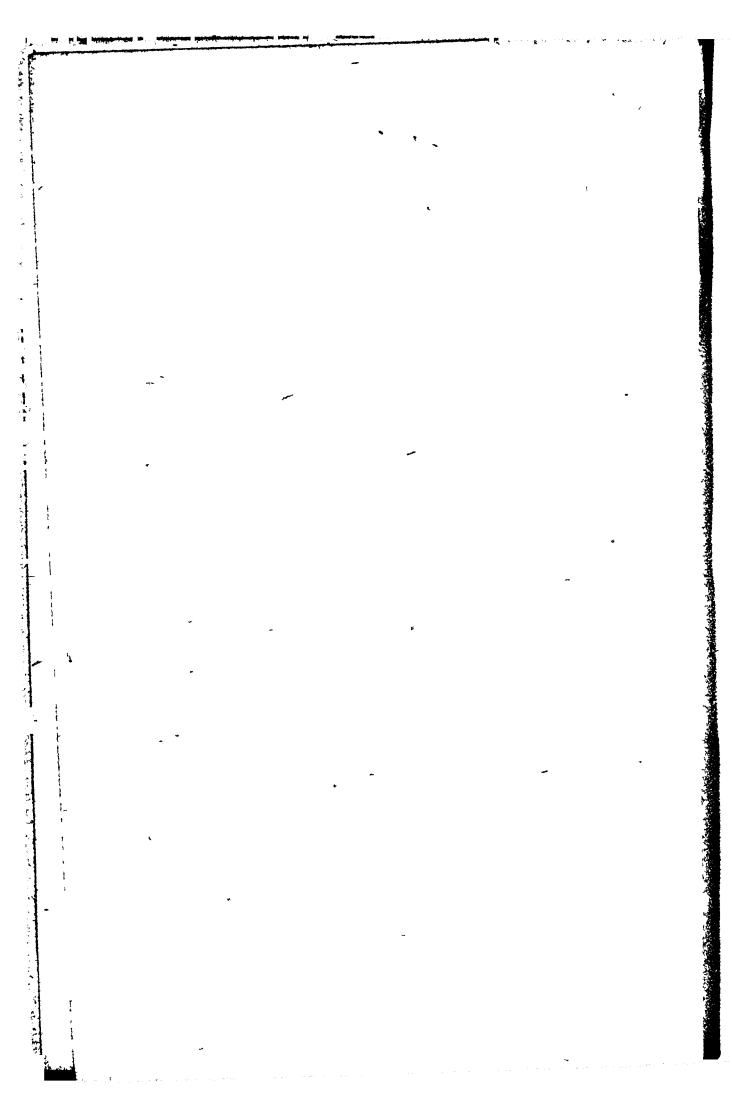
This little work was never written with the intention of appearing before the Public eye, but in these days of scibbling, and being solicited by a few friends (whose knowledge the Author conceived to be far superior to his own) he has issued it forth with fear and trembling.

If it can cheer a moment of despondency, or chase away unmerited grief; if it furnishes amusement or instruction to the reader, the Author's end will be answered, and he will rest satisfied with himself and all mankind.

The Author flatters himself there is not an expression throughout the narrative that cannot appear before the most delicate eye, neither will it taint the mind, but more probably lead it to the fountain of all good.

As a first essay it pleads many excuses.—It was written with the intention of pointing out the interposition of Divine Providence in support of persecuted innocence.

**THE AUTHOR.**



# MATILDA,

*&c. &c.*



In the year 1768 there lived in a remote part of Lower Canada, an English gentleman who had come from the United States, and was married to a Canadian lady, whose beauty, fortune and other attractive qualities, were far superior to many of the fair sex. Soon after their union they were blessed with a daughter, to whom they gave the name of Matilda. As their fortune was sufficient to enable them to live in that easy retirement which was so con-

genial to them both, and which, when rightly enjoyed, is perhaps productive of the greatest share of felicity which can be attained to in this sublunary stage of being, the birth of their daughter was looked upon by them as the perfecting of their happiness ; and was hailed by their numerous and respectable relatives and friends in the neighbourhood (by all of whom they were much esteemed) as an event of common interest ; but every day's events prove how unstable are all earthly enjoyments, and that nothing is more unwise than to presume upon their uninterrupted continuance, as this worthy pair were doomed soon to experience. Matilda was the sole care and delight of her parents, who had begun at an uncommonly early period to sow in her young mind those seeds of instruction which

they fondly hoped to see flourish and ripen into those virtues and graces which alone can give worth and dignity to human nature ; and Matilda, as far as could be judged from her tender age, gave promise of inheriting them in a pre-eminent degree.

One fine evening, in the month of June, in the before mentioned year, Mr. and Mrs. Milford (for this was the name of Matilda's father and mother) were seated by the side of a small rivulet which flowed near their house, enjoying the cool and refreshing breeze which succeeded the intense heat of the day, and were much delighted and amused with Matilda's innocent childish gambols on the green, when of a sudden a stranger, habited as a livery servant, made his appearance, and stepping up to them in a respectful

manner, informed them that a lady and gentleman were in a caleche close by, and wished to have the honor of speaking to them. From the appearance of the servant, Mr. and Mrs. Milford felt assured that their visitors must be persons of some distinction, and with that true and genuine politeness which flows from the generous heart, ever prone to please others when it can be done with propriety, immediately attended the strangers, who they were happy to find were near relatives come from a distant part of the country, and who they had not seen for a considerable time. Their mutual greetings, and the many interrogatories which were reciprocally put and answered with all the warmth of feeling which attends the meeting of sincerely attached friends after a long separation, occupied some time, and to-



tally engrossed the minds of Mr. and Mrs. Milford, that even Matilda was unthought of, till the latter recollected with some emotion that she had been left alone on the Bank of the rivulet, and one of the servant girls was instantly sent in search of her. Mrs. M. waited for some time in momentary expectation of the girl's return with the child, but seeing no appearance of her, the fond mother's anxiety became extreme for the safety of her child, and she went herself in pursuit of her, and soon met the servant girl bathed in tears, who gave her the distracting intelligence that she had made diligent search every where in the vicinity, even in the brook itself, but without discovering any traces of the object of her search. The effect which this intelligence had upon Mrs. M. may be more easily con-

ceived than described—She now became quite frantic, and ran to and fro, calling Matilda's name in the most heart-rending manner; and the alarm was soon communicated to her husband and their relatives, to whom they had so lately given a most cordial welcome; and from whose stay with them for a time, they promised themselves no small enjoyment. The whole neighbourhood soon heard of the sudden disappearance of their favorite, and there was a simultaneous and voluntary turn out, and the most minute search commenced, and unremittingly persevered in for four days. In every countenance the most evident marks of unfeigned sorrow were depicted, but in the midst of this disconsolate groupe, the unhappy parents were easily distinguished, so strong and unconquerable is the voice of nature. For

some time the distracted mother was supported by the hope of recovering her daughter, and under its strength was enabled to make one of the party ; but as that hope, so fondly indulged in for some time, became fainter and fainter, her strength failed, and a burning fever ensued, accompanied with delirium ; and it was now necessary to confine her to her bed ; and the best medical assistance that the place afforded was procured, and every means which human ingenuity, prompted by the most ardent affection could devise, and money command, was resorted to for her recovery. Though the most rigorous scrutiny had now been made, without discovering any traces or circumstances whatever that could afford the least inducement to continue the search any longer, of the inutility of which every one present had

become convinced, yet as Mr. M. still seemed to have a wish for its being prolonged, they kindly disguised their true sentiment, and insisted upon him remaining with his sadly afflicted partner while they made further efforts towards Matilda's recovery; and notwithstanding the conviction they were under that every thing had already been done that was in their power to do, yet they continued to make further efforts for some time, till even the unhappy father desired them to desist, for as he himself said if his poor child was still in being, her restoration could only be by some providential occurrence. Her disappearance was so sudden, and the great exertions which had been made for finding her, or at least to discover some circumstance or other that might throw some light upon her fate, having pro-

ved altogether ineffectual, no one could form a conjecture on the subject. That part of the country was not known to be infested with wild beasts from which any danger could arise, and every spot to a great distance had been thoroughly examined, and every enquiry made among the surrounding inhabitants, so that the distressing event was enveloped in the most impenetrable mystery.

During this time the unfortunate mother of Matilda continued to grow worse daily, and on the seventh day from the occurrence of the fatal accident, she breathed her last in the arms of her distracted husband ; and in the presence of her disconsolate relations, whose feelings on this truly heart-rending occasion, may be more easily conceived than described. In a moment of time was this once happy family,

plunged into the depth of anguish. This may afford a lesson to those who pride themselves on this world's treasures, whatever they consist of relatives or riches, or of both, for all are equally transitory, and may soon vanish from our view. By this time Mr. Milford had nearly lost the use of his reason, and for three weeks his life was despair-ed of by all his attendants; however, a kind and beneficent Providence was graciously pleased to restore him, but to a sense of his wretched situation, and to lament the loss of an amiable and affectionate wife, and a most beautiful and promising child. Alas! said he, life to me is of little value now, for all I held dear in this world are now no more. Oh! that I had followed them for we should not have been separated, nor had I been doomed to thus lament the

loss of those I can never again behold in this world. After residing for a short time at his own house among the few domestics which he had, all of whom endeavoured in vain to divert his mind from the constant melancholy that possessed it) he returned again to the United States ; and left his property to the care of his late lady's relations, with strict injunctions never to cease making every possible inquiry after his dear Matilda, whose fate preyed more upon his mind than that of her mother, for her dear remains he had seen committed to their parent earth ; but his child had disappeared in a manner unaccounted for — her body might have been the prey of savage animals for any thing he knew, though, as has already been observed, none such were known to infest the neighbourhood where the deplored event took place.

Soon after Mr. Milford's arrival in the United-States, he received a letter from his relations in England, giving him an account of his only uncle's death in the East Indies, and who had left him sole heir to his immense property, with orders for him to return home to take possession of the same. Ah! said he on the receipt of this letter, such news some years ago would have given me great pleasure, when I had two dear pledges to have enjoyed it with me, and with whom alone I could have enjoyed this world's comforts; but now it is too late. Such reflections as these made his grief break out anew, in which he indulged for some weeks unresolved what step to take; but by the persuasion of his friends he was at length prevailed on to go home to take possession of the property left him by his uncle, but he had no knowledge what that property



consisted of, for his friends in England had not informed him on that head.

Let us now return to poor Matilda, and trace her wandering steps. Her disappearance took place on the 6th June 1768, at which time she was four years of age, and in the autumn of the same year, an Indian, his Squaw, and two children arrived in a canoe in the evening, at an American house, near the falls of Niagara, and having landed their canoe, the two Indians proceeded to a house, at a little distance from the bank of the River, and were followed by the two children; but the Squaw turned round, immediately went back and struck one of the children, and sent it to the canoe crying, the other child followed them to the house. The cries of this poor little creature, (which were indeed piercing

and heart-rending in the extreme,) attracted the attention, and commanded the sympathy of a servant girl so much, that when the Indians entered the house, she went to the canoe to see the little sufferer ; but what was her surprise when she beheld the most beautiful child she had ever seen, notwithstanding its tattered clothes, and its otherwise dirty appearance. She could not help running to the child, and took it in her arms with the strongest marks of affection for it and commiseration for its helpless state ; and on addressing it in English, she was still more astonished when the infant answered her in the same language. She put many questions to the child, but it could give no satisfactory answer. She immediatly went to acquaint her mistress with the circumstance, assu-

ring her that the child she had seen must be of either English or American descent, stolen by the Indians. Mrs. Wilson called her husband, and communicated the girl's report to him, who directed some liquors to be given to the Indians, while he went to the canoe in order to ascertain the truth of the girl's relation ; and, if correct, he resolved upon endeavouring to effect the poor innocent's liberation, should it be even at the hazard of his own life. He had no sooner arrived at the canoe, and talked a few words to the little girl, than he was convinced in his conjectures beyond all doubt, that the Indians had stolen her from some unfortunate parents ; and he immediately formed the determination to release her, at all hazards ; but he being a merchant and an Indian Trader, and being somewhat conver-

sant in the Indian language, he thought it would be most prudent for him to endeavour to accomplish his object by offering goods to the Indians for her in the first place ; and as they appeared to be poor, he did not despair of succeeding in that way.

He accordingly took the sweet little captive in his arms, who seemed to be delighted, and flung its hands round his neck with a degree of ardour which seemed to indicate a strong presentiment of the happy destiny which awaited her, the commencement of which had at that very instant taken place. On Mr. Wilson entering the room where the Indians were, they no sooner saw him than they exhibited strong marks of uneasiness, and the Indian gave his squaw a look of disapprobation, enough to have frozen the blood in the veins of a

weak heart which had never been accustomed to that savage race. The Indian rose and advanced towards Mr. Wilson with the evident intention of claiming the child, who was still in Mr. Wilson's arms, to which it fixed its grasp much closer if possible, and hanging round his neck, screamed in a manner truly affecting. Mr. W. gently refused the Indian's request, and desired Mrs. W. to give him and his squaw some more rum, which they swallowed most greedily, and became a little more satisfied, but still evinced a strong desire for the restoration of the child ; but which Mr. W. again rejected from fear that they might decamp the moment the girl was in their possession, as also from the dread that the instant the child found itself in the hands of those it had already given such strong proofs of

its abhorrence of, it might be driven to frenzy ; all which only tended to strengthen Mr. W's determination to accomplish the little girl's rescue : in which Mrs. W. most ardently joined him ; and who by this time had the infant in her arms, a situation with which it was evidently pleased in a degree surpassing description. She eyed the Indians with the greatest dread, and every motion of theirs seemed to excite the deepest anxiety in her young breast. . At this instant several persons very fortunately arrived in the shop, sufficient to protect him and his family against any assault the savages might be disposed to make ; nevertheless Mr. Wilson still wished to purchase the child from them, for fear of their resentment at a future period, and accordingly he took them into the shop for that purpose, and upon

making known his desire to them, they stood sometime motionless, and afterwards went to the door and held a private conversation. They soon returned, and told Mr. Wilson that they did not wish to part with the little girl as they intended her for a wife to their only son, the other child who they had with them, for which reason they could not dispose of her, but, at the same time they wished to know how much he would give, provided they were inclined to do so; upon which Mr. W. offered blankets, cloth, tobacco, &c. none of which they were disposed to accept of. They were then offered rum, being the most captivating article among this savage tribe, and were given another dram to whet their appetite. They then pointed to an eight gallon keg, and gave him to understand that for that quantity of rum, five

yards of cloth and two blankets, they would part with the Child. To these terms Mr. W. readily agreed, and would most willingly have given half of what he possessed, rather than have parted with the sweet little innocent he was so anxious to adopt ; for though he could have retained her by force, yet he was too well acquainted with the Indian character to hazard such a step, particularly in such an unprotected situation as he was in. The Indians received the articles agreed upon, and were on the point of taking their departure for the country above the Falls of Niagara, but expressed a wish to see the child first to bid her farewell, and being well on his guard, this request he likewise granted them, in order to leave nothing undone to give them entire satisfaction ; and on their approaching the



poor infant, who was with Mrs. Wilson at the time, she screamed to that degree as frightened every one present, being, like one of her tender age, under the impression that they were to take her away; however, when informed to the contrary, she became more tranquil, but continued to be much agitated, until she saw them depart in their canoe; nevertheless Mrs. Wilson was very apprehensive her reason might be somewhat deranged, in consequence of the brutal treatment she had experienced from them; therefore she carried her into the house, and lay down with her in her own bed. After changing her clothes, and washing her all over, it is scarcely possible to express the difference which a change of dress made in her appearance. She was beyond all question one of the loveliest children

ever seen, and afforded reason to believe that she was of a respectable family, and lost to them perhaps for ever. Before the Indians went away, Mr. Wilson endeavoured all in his power to find out from them where they became possessed of her, but in vain, for they obstinately refused to give him any satisfaction whatever on that head; and seemed anxious, after they got their goods to be out of his reach; therefore he was compelled to rest contented with his beautiful little adopted, and to remain in total ignorance of her history for the present, though he indulged a hope that time might bring the secret to light; he, however, was under serious apprehensions of a visit from the Indians in the night time, the consequences of which might be such as humanity shudders to think upon; and therefore

wisely used the precaution of keeping up a vigilant watch during the night for three weeks, with loaded fire arms in readiness, as also a large trusty dog tied to the door of the house, in order to give timely notice of approaching danger ; but fortunately these precautions proved to be unnecessary, for no molestation was offered. The next morning after the Indians went away, that circumstance was made known to the child, who, the reader will readily conceive, gave the most lively expressions of joy ; but in the midst of her rejoicing, her countenance all of a sudden became clouded, and she eagerly asked “ will they not come back again ? ” and upon being answered in the negative, her former exhilaration of countenance instantly returned. Mrs. Wilson next enquired of her whether she had any

knowledge of her parentage, or how she came to be in the Indian's hands ; to which questions she replied, that she knew her Papa and Mamma, and that they had a fine house, but she did not know where they lived—that her name was Matilda, and had been with the Indians for a long time, but they had never before taken her near any house ; and that they beat her very often. Mr. and Mrs. Wilson having no children of their own, were not a little delighted with the unfortunate Matilda having been so providentially thrown into their hands, and mutually agreed to bring her up with all the care and affection they would a child of their own ; and as they had property sufficient for all their wants, they spared no expence in giving her an education, as far as the place in which they lived enabled them to do ;

and they had daily the most satisfactory proofs of their care, in the improvements made by their little adopted. Matilda made rapid progress in her various studies, as she advanced in days and years ; and what endeared her still more to them was the ardent affection which she evinced towards them by every attention and mark of duty which they could possibly desire from a child. When either of them was indisposed, she was miserable. She in the midst of the tender lavishments bestowed upon her by this worthy pair, by degrees forgot the Indians altogether, and believed herself to be, in reality, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Wilson, an illusion which they encouraged, and used all the means in their power to confirm. Many Indians were in the practice of frequenting Mr. Wilson's shop and trading

with him ; but those who had sold Matilda were not of the number, nor did he ever mention the circumstance to any of the other Indians. Such was the parental affection which Mr. and Mrs. Wilson had for their adopted Daughter, that they sent to Albany, in the state of New-York, for a widow lady, a relation of Mr. Wilson's, and possessed of female accomplishments of the first class, for the sole purpose of undertaking the education of Matilda. This lady having resided at such a distance from her new abode, never imagined her pupil to be any other than the daughter of her relative, in which she was not undeceived ; and as she had the highest veneration for the supposed parents of Matilda, she undertook her instruction with all the zeal of a near relative ; and as Mr. Wilson's neigh-

hours at the time he became possessed of Matilda, were like "Angels' visits, few and far between," the circumstance of Matilda having been purchased from Indians soon became totally unknown in the neighbourhood, owing to those fluctuations which are continually going forward in society from deaths and removals to other places; so that there was no possibility of Matilda's Governess acquiring a knowledge of the truth. Under such favourable circumstances, with a lively imagination, an uncommon share of penetration and much docility of temper, it need be no astonishment if Matilda Wilson soon became the admiration and delight of the neighbourhood, the pride of her Governess, and the solace of her reputed parents. Her complexion was extremely fair, her features formed with

perfect regularity, lively and expressive in an uncommon degree; her eyes were blue, rather above the common size, full of tenderness and intelligence; her hair was of a light brown colour, and hung in pleasing ringlets upon her forehead and ivory neck—add to this a figure of the most faultless form, about the middle size, and you will have an idea of this most amiable and promising young lady—such was Matilda when she had reached her fourteenth year.

One forenoon Matilda took a solitary walk along the banks of the “far-famed St. Lawrence,” near to her house, and while her warm and lively imagination was quite absorbed in contemplating and admiring the grand and various objects within her view, she insensibly extended her walk considerably be-



yond what she intended when she left home, for notwithstanding her extreme attention in the most trivial matters to the will of her supposed parents, she had not on this occasion deemed it necessary to ask their permission, or to make any one belonging to the family acquainted with her intention. On wakening from her agreeable reverie, and perceiving how far she had strolled from home, she suddenly turned round on her way back, at which instant a young and athletic Indian sprung with the agility of a lion out of the woods, caught her in his arms, and expressed himself thus : “ Ah ! you thought yourself secure when my father sold you to the American Merchant, but almost ever since that day I have been watching an opportunity of finding you alone, that I might carry you off for my wife

according to my Father's promise, and this day my Great Father has put it in my power to find you ;" and as he finished these words, poor Matilda had just strength enough to utter one dreadful scream, and instantly sunk insensible into his arms. At this critical moment a gentleman on horseback appeared, and hearing a female scream, he immediately flew to the spot from whence he thought it came (for at the very instant of hearing it a bight in the skirt of the woods intervened) and perceiving the Indian in the act of bending his bow, he struck him a violent blow on the head with the but-end of his gun, and brought him to the ground in a state of insensibility, with the lovely maid apparently dead in his arms. Matilda's charms made such a strong and instantaneous impression on her deliverer, the

moment he cast his eye upon her lovely face, that he instantly felt love's arrow enter his heart, though he was almost fully persuaded that her angelic spirit had taken its flight to its congenial element ; yet, as we naturally hope for what we ardently wish, he, as it were mechanically uttered an ejaculatory prayer for her recovery ; which he had no sooner done, than the necessity of securing the Indian who had not yet recovered from the blow, flashed into his mind, whether Matilda recovered or not. The savage had provided a long leather thong, of deer skin, for the purpose of securing his prize when captured, and had it rolled round his waist, which the stranger who had so providentially arrived, with much presence of mind, seized upon, and bound the Indian hand and foot ; thus literally

proving that "whosoever diggeth a pit for another, shall fall therein himself." This done, the stranger turned his attention to Matilda, who still bore every appearance of having done with all sub-lunary concerns ; however, anxious to do all that human efforts could for her resuscitation, he brought some water in his hat from the river, and bathed her forehead and temples ; soon after which he was rewarded for his pains, by perceiving symptoms of returning animation ; and had the inexpressible satisfaction of learning from her own lips, what he most anxiously desired, an account of herself. Happy as Matilda must have felt at being so unexpectedly delivered from the fangs of the inhabitant of the forest, yet she was not altogether free from apprehensions, at being equally in the power of a stran-

ger, who however (besides the most lively interest he had already taken in her fate), bore every mark of being a gentleman of the most polished manners, and magnanimity of mind ; and after a few moments conversation with him, her fears gave way to the fullest confidence in his honor. He begged to know in what way he could farther serve her, at this or any future period, and earnestly solicited permission to escort her to her house, with which request Matilda readily complied ; for a certain indefinable reluctance arose within her breast against so suddenly parting with one to whom she stood so deeply indebted, and who had rendered himself interesting to her in no common degree, independent of which she was by no means safe to be left alone where she was. The gentleman pro-

posed to Matilda to mount his horse behind him, but this she declined, assuring him that she was now sufficiently recovered to walk, and they accordingly proceeded slowly towards home, Matilda leaning on his arm, while he led his horse by the bridle. On their near approach to the house, Mr. and Mrs. Wilson both met them with fear and joy pictured in their countenances. Mrs. W. flew to Matilda, and with the greatest eagerness inquired where she had been, and the cause of her long absence, stating that much consternation to the whole family had been occasioned, not having been made acquainted with her departure, the direction she had taken, or the purport of her going away. Matilda gave them a faithful account of her disagreeable adventure, and introduced the gentle-

man as her deliverer, stating that had it not been for him they would never have seen her more. Such was the anxiety of Mr. and Mrs. W. respecting their dear Matilda, and so eager had they been in their interrogatives touching the accident which had befallen her, that her deliverer was unnoticed by them, although he stood close to Matilda all the time. She again called their attention to him, as an angel sent from heaven for her rescue from the power of the Savage, which, had he accomplished his object, would have proved to her far worse than death. She at the same time fell on her knees, and begged their pardon for having absented herself without their permission, and for the pain and anxiety which her indiscretion had given them. By this time the governess joined the party, and shared in the general joy at her pupil's deliver-

ance from so perilous a situation. Mr. and Mrs. W. now turned to the stranger, and begged he would be good enough to excuse their apparent want of politeness in having hitherto shewn him no attentions, and he in return observed, that the extreme agitation which they must unavoidably be under on so interesting an occasion was a sufficient apology ; that the joy which they experienced at the safe restoration of their so nearly lost daughter, could scarcely exceed his own at having been the happy instrument in the hands of Providence of effecting her deliverance from the perilous situation in which he found her. Mr. and Mrs. W. said he had placed them and their daughter under obligations of no common kind, and which they never could repay, but trusted they were duly sensible of the same ;



and that he would have the most unfeigned friendship of them all—a friendship which neither time nor distance could efface from their memories.

When Mr. and Mrs. W.'s agitation had somewhat subsided, and they had time to reflect upon this singular and most unlooked for occurrence, they were much concerned and vexed at the expressions which the Indian had made use of at the time he seized upon Matilda, as it would be almost impossible any longer to conceal from her what they were so very desirous of doing (at least for some time longer) that she was not their daughter; they, however, were much pleased to learn from her that she had not communicated one word of the Indian's harangue to her deliverer, which still left it in their power to keep the secret among themselves; however, as

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Matilda had ever experienced from her reputed parents, such treatment as could only be supposed to proceed from parental feeling, and that too of the most refined and elevated kind, the words of the Indian did not leave that impression on her mind, which Mr. and Mrs. W. had feared they would have done, for she only asked Mrs. W. what they could mean, to which she replied that he must have taken her for some other person, and with this she appeared to be satisfied.

Mr. W. after the effervescence of feeling excited by this event had subsided, requested the gentleman to remain with the ladies, while he went with two of his men to look after the Indian. On Mr. W. and his party arriving at the spot where the capture of Matilda took place, they found the In-

dian still there, and so securely bound hand and foot as to be altogether unable to make the least efforts towards his own liberation. Before Mr. W. did anything towards relieving him from his bonds, he inquired into his motives for his conduct towards his daughter, and what his intentions were; to which he replied with the greatest frankness, that he meant to make her his wife; that his parents, who were then in a distant part of the country, had told him that they had stolen her when quite young for that purpose, and had left him behind them to watch for an opportunity of carrying her off, as they said it would redound to his honor to secure her, dead or alive, and that he had frequently visited Mr. W.'s store, in company with other Indians, to see her, but never before that day had an opportunity of get-

ting her into his possession. He however, positively denied ever having received from his parents the least hint from whom, or the place where, they had stolen her. Mr. W. though he had his enemy prostrated at his feet, was much perplexed how to act, for he feared that while he remained in the neighbourhood, Matilda could not be in safety ; and so deeply impressed with this conviction were the men who accompanied him, that they had a musket presented in order to dispatch him, which Mr. W. with some difficulty prevented ; by representing to them the enormity of such a deed, for the object of their hatred, though a savage, was nevertheless a human being ; and exhibited to them a mortifying proof of what man was in his fallen and uncivilized state, and especially when uninfluenced by

the benign dictates of christianity ; and that though he, Mr. W. was much at a loss how to prevent the Indian from making another attempt such as he had to day done, yet as he was entirely in their power, they could not be justified in the sight of God or man in doing him the least personal harm, as they had not even the plea of self-defence to urge. These arguments had the desired effect upon Mr. W.'s companions, and they readily acquiesced in their justness, though their affection for Matilda, and fear for her future safety, had made them for a moment lose sight of such reflections. The Indian, seeing a musket pointed at him, became much alarmed, and in the most pathetic terms begged Mr. W. to spare his life ; assuring him that he would not only quit that part of the country immediately, and never again return to it,

but he would likewise, make known to his countrymen the humane treatment he received ; and on every occasion, as opportunities might occur, promote his interest and that of his connections. Mr. W.'s companions not understanding the Indian language, eagerly inquired of him the purport of their conference, and though they had abandoned the idea of taking his life, or otherwise doing him personal harm, yet they thought that his bare parole was but a flimsy security for Matilda's future safety ; but upon being assured by Mr. W. that it was Matilda's most earnest request that no hurt whatever should be inflicted upon him, for were he to suffer any injury whatever on her account, she should be miserable, and would ever consider herself as unworthy of that distinguished protection which a wise

and gracious Providence had shewn her ; and should conceive that she had violated one of the fundamental principles of christianity, that of rending good for evil.

It was now unanimously agreed upon to allow the prisoner to depart upon the assurances which he had given. Accordingly he was unbound, previous to which, however, they made him repeat his assurances, at the same time holding out to him the severest punishment, in case of a violation of them. When he was freed from his bondage, the first use he made of his liberty was to fall on his knees to Mr. W. and thanked him with every demonstration of gratitude for his life, and said he should ever look upon him as a being of a superior order, and approaching more to a God than a man. He then rose from his humble

posture, and presented Mr. W. with his pipe as a pledge of the faithful fulfilment of his engagements, and departed at a slow pace, which he was constrained to do, having become stiff from the tight bandage from which he had just been released.

Mr. W. and his men now went home, and on their arrival were saluted with a host of questions from every one in the house respecting the Indian, and the manner in which they had disposed of him. Their conduct met with general approbation, but from none more than from Matilda, who justly considered herself as being deeply concerned in this affair; and on learning that no kind of injury had been done to the savage, the feelings it excited in her, were particularly visible in her countenance, which brightened up in such a manner



as to make her appear more lovely than ever, so amiable is pity in all, but in the cultivated mind of a female, it shines forth with resplendent lustre. The effect which this intelligence had upon Matilda, did not pass unnoticed by her deliverer, who viewed it with heartfelt approbation, and received therefrom an additional impression in her favor.

Dinner was now ready, and when the party were seated at the table, and such further discussions, as the eventful occurrence related gave rise to, were gone through, Matilda's deliverer informed them that his name was Clifford, and that he was a Captain in the British army, that he had been wounded and taken prisoner at the battle of Bunker's Hill, on the 17th June 1775, by the Americans; and that he was on parole

not to serve again during the present war, and had chosen this neighbourhood for his residence until the differences between the British and American Governments should be adjusted, and that he considered himself as being singularly fortunate in having acquired the acquaintance of a family of whose esteem and friendship he should be proud ; and what added much to its felicity on the present occasion, was the singular and knight-errant-like manner in which he obtained his introduction, since the amiable Matilda had sustained no real injury. Mr. and Mrs. W. in the fervour of their feelings, could not refrain from again expressing in flattering, but at the same time sincere, terms, the high sense they entertained of the favour he had conferred upon them ; and that they should, while they lived, consider them-

selves under the deepest obligation to him. At this moment a sigh was observed to escape Matilda, and immediately all eyes were directed towards her, when they perceived that she was much embarrassed, and her eyes moistened with tears; but soon recovering herself, she said it would be in vain for her to attempt to thank him, for no language which she could command, could convey the high sense she entertained of the gallant and disinterested conduct which the Captain had displayed in her deliverance; but she trusted he would do her the justice to believe that she was fully sensible of the lasting obligation she was under. To these compliments, Capt. Clifford made suitable replies. He was a young man about twenty-two years of age, highly accomplished in point of education and

manners, and possessed a person of the finest mould, with a manly countenance, expressive of magnanimity and sensibility. For Matilda to have been rescued from a perilous situation by such a person, it will be readily admitted by the reader, whether male or female, to have added to the delight she must have felt on her deliverance.

Dinner being over, Captain Clifford took his leave, but not without evident signs of reluctance :—that Matilda had become interesting to him to an extent beyond that of an acquaintance, was apparent to all present ; and to an observant eye, it was equally evident that she felt emotions beyond those of gratitude, however elevated it might be ; and after he had departed, her eyes followed him until a turn in the road inter-

cepted their view. During the remainder of the evening, Matilda was remarkably pensive, which did not pass unobserved by Mr. and Mrs. W. but they naturally attributed it to her reflections upon the recent drama in which she had acted so prominent a part. When the hour of bed-time arrived, the family retired to their respective apartments, and Matilda had no sooner entered the neat little bed-room which had been allotted for her, than she fell on her knees and offered up the effusions of a grateful heart to the fountain of Being and Author of all good for his deliverance of her from the power of the Savage by the hands of Capt. Clifford, whom she looked upon as the most superior of his sex ; and conceived that the risque she had run, and the alarm and anxiety which she had undergone, were amply

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compensated, since they had brought her acquainted with that accomplished and engaging young man. She derived the most exquisite pleasure from his company, owing to his refined conversation, his elevated conceptions on every subject, and his most insinuating manners, that the time he remained appeared to her only as a moment ; but her heart was a stranger to love, and the high esteem she had for him sprung from a sense of the great service which he had rendered her, and of his valuable and engaging qualities ; and while pondering over the events of the day she fell into the arms of sleep, which she much wanted to recruit her exhausted strength, and quiet her troubled spirits.

After Mr. and Mrs. Wilson had retired to their room, they began to consi-

der the danger poor Matilda had run, and the peril to which she would still be exposed, should she remain in her present place of abode ; for though the Indian had made promises so fair, the risque was still great, for no reliance could be placed on them. They might be only decoys to throw Matilda and her protectors off their guard. She could not now stir from the house, for even the shortest distance, without being herself exposed to danger, and her friends to the greatest anxiety ; and the thought that should she really be again captured and carried off, after having been twice rescued by the hand of Providence, was too horrid to dwell upon, To send her to another part of the country, would be distressing in the extreme, for she had now become as part of themselves, by her sweet en-

dearing temper, and amiable endowments ; besides the bereavement which they would feel by her absence, they could not think of parting with her, from the belief they were under, that she was in a peculiar degree liable to accidents, and therefore were desirous, above all things, of having her continually under their own eye and protection. At length an idea occurred to Mr. W. which he immediately communicated to his wife. It was as follows :—He belonged to Albany, in the State of New-York, where he had a younger brother, whom he intended to write to, and request him to pay him a visit, when he would make known to him proposals which would, in all probability, ultimately turn out to his advantage. These were, to make over to his brother his house, shop, merchandize, &c. for such sum



as they might agree upon, and take his bill for the amount, payable at his convenience ; and as he himself had never been called upon to swear allegiance to either the British or American Governments (being so far from the seat of war) there was nothing to prevent him from removing to the British territories, particularly as he was still partial to that constitution ; taking his ready money (which was ample for a re-establishment in business) with him, and removing to Kingston, in Upper-Canada, being the place which he preferred. This scheme met with the entire approbation of Mrs. W. and the next day a letter was accordingly written to Albany. Captain Clifford, as might have been expected, called the morning following to inquire the health of Matilda after the severe fright which she

had the day before. His visit was not altogether unexpected on the part of Matilda, and she had accordingly paid more attention to her toilet than ordinary, and appeared to greater advantage ; so much so, that the heart of the Captain received another wound, in addition to those it had already experienced ; and it was with difficulty he could refrain from throwing himself at her feet, and avowing his pure and honorable passion for her ; but on a moment's reflection, he saw the imprudence of such a step in his present circumstances, being as before observed a prisoner of war ; and though on parole, yet much circumscribed in his liberty. Mr. and Mrs. W. soon joined the young pair, which relieved them both from some embarrassment, and the conversation became general. Capt.

Clifford spent the day with this worthy family, and perhaps more to his satisfaction than he had done the day before. The greatest good humour pervaded the happy circle, and at every turn which the conversation took, the Capt. and Matilda discovered new beauties in each other. Capt. C. did not quit the agreeable company in which he found himself until a late hour in the evening, and when he went away, he left behind him, if possible, still more favorable impressions of his worth and amiableness, and carried with him similar sentiments of those he had left.

After he departed, Matilda was, as the evening before, still pensive, but being naturally somewhat reserved and of a contemplative turn of mind, Mr. and Mrs. W. took no particular notice of it; though any one, who had the

least foresight, could not have failed to have found in her behaviour, sufficient proofs of their suspicions being confirmed. Mr. and Mrs. W. were careful to conceal their intended removal from Matilda, well knowing that it would have caused her considerable uneasiness to have thought that she was the cause, though perfectly innocent, of their leaving their present comfortable and lucrative situation, and remove to a distant and strange place, where their success in business was doubtful. By this arrangement these worthy people furnished another striking proof of their tender regard for their adopted daughter, such as but few would have been capable of doing. In the course of a fortnight after Mr. W. wrote for his brother he arrived, and readily accepted of the proposals which

were offered to him, so that a bargain was soon made to the satisfaction of all concerned ; and the week following was fixed upon for their removal. In the meantime it was deemed prudent to conceal this transaction from all the servants, lest by their means the intended removal should get abroad, and come to the ears of some of the public authorities, and measures taken by the American Government to prevent it. They, however, thought it but right to let Matilda into the secret, fearing that by concealing it from her until the last moment, she would be too much affected, besides appearing unkind on their part.

On hearing that she must so soon leave a place to which she had become much attached, she was not a little concerned, though it chiefly

arose from the apprehensions of her being deprived for ever of the society of Capt. Clifford ; but as it was the will of her supposed parents, and they led her to believe that their affairs rendered such an alteration necessary, she made up her mind thereto ; but, alas ! she little knew the ills to which she was about to remove, nor did she as yet know that she was but a poor dependent orphan, all which was in the womb of impenetrable futurity ; and here we remark the kindness of Providence in depriving man of prescience, for were we to foresee the evils which await us, we should in imagination (generally worse than the reality) endure those evils for years before they arrived ; and were our good fortunes to be seen long before they came they would in effect be misfortunes, for that period of time which

must intervene before their arrival, would be spent in impatient repining, in treating as contemptible and unworthy of regard the benefits which we may be blessed with, and in forming such extravagant and hyperbolic conceptions of the approaching good, that when it did actually arrive, it would be found far short of anticipation, and would afford but little real enjoyment.

The period of Mr. W. and family's departure being near at hand, every one was impatient for Captain Clifford's again making his appearance, in order that they might inform him of the place of their future residence, and also to bid him farewell. It was not long before he arrived; and after the introduction of Mr. W.'s brother, and some common-place conversation, Mr. W. informed him of what was about to

take place. The effect it produced upon Captain Clifford may be more easily conceived than described. For some time he appeared almost petrified, with his eyes fixed on Matilda; but at length recovering in some measure from the effects of this unlooked-for shock, he did not descend to such complimentary remarks as ordinary friendship would have dictated, such as that he was extremely sorry to hear it, &c., but at once boldly declared that he cared not how soon he quitted the neighbourhood, since all that could in the least command his esteem or engage his attention were on the point of leaving it. This was uttered with a vehemence and particular tone of voice, so different from his usual mode of conversation, as arrested the attention of all present, but in particular Ma-



tilda. on whom his eyes were fixed at the moment, and she could not avoid drawing from it inferences nothing to her own disadvantage ; and also building thereon some hopes of not being for ever deprived of his company. Captain Clifford remained at Mr. W.'s until the evening, and as they were busily engaged in making the necessary arrangements for their removal, he had ample opportunities of conversing with Matilda, whom he found to surpass even the favourable opinion which he had formed of her, her mental endowments being superior to those of any young lady of her age with whom he had ever been acquainted. He expressed to Matilda, in the most glowing language the pain he felt at the idea of being separated from her and her family, and assured her that time could

never obliterate from his heart the impression which their society had made; but, on the contrary, it would only become the stronger as time progressed, "as streams their channels deeper wear." Matilda most modestly observed that the obligations she was under to him, would ever command her most sincere gratitude and highest esteem, and that nothing could afford her more pleasure than to hear from time to time of his welfare; and this she hoped to do, as she presumed a friendly correspondence would be preserved between him and her father. Capt. Clifford said he trusted this would be the case, and she might rest assured of not being forgotten. He took his leave in the evening, promising to call again on the day of their departure.

Every thing being arranged to their

satisfaction, and the day appointed for leaving their once happy home, they commenced putting their effects on board of the vessel which was to transport them to their destination. It was then late in the evening of the 26th August 1778, and just as they were ready to depart, Capt. Clifford made his appearance. They had been waiting with some impatience for his arrival, being all unwilling to depart without seeing their much-valued friend, the wind being fair and seemed to offer a propitious moment for commencing their voyage.

He viewed all their preparations with emotions of the most unfeigned regret. The painful moment had now arrived, and never before did he feel himself so unmanned as he did at this moment, when about to part with the most valu-

ed object on earth. Short as had been his acquaintance with Matilda, she had nevertheless as effectually got possession of his heart as if their loves had been mutually acknowledged for years ; and he had every reason to believe, from various signs and emotions which had inadvertently escaped her, that his passion for her was not unrequited. He first took a most affectionate leave of Mr. and Mrs. W. but when he approached Matilda, a cold tremor took possession of his whole frame, and he could not for some time articulate a word. He however recovered himself sufficiently to take her by the hand (that hand which he had so recently snatched from the grasp of the ruthless savage) and imprint upon it a kiss, accompanied by the following words, uttered in a wild and frantic manner, "Oh ! dear Matilda, remember

me," to which she could only reply by a shower of tears, and gently withdrawing her hand from his, he abruptly mounted his horse, and was soon out of view.

Mr. W. and family now embarked, and the wind being still fair, they had a pleasant run, nothing occurring by the way worthy of notice. Their embarkation was effected with as much privacy as possible, and was scarcely known to any one, save those interested, for the reasons already assigned. When their departure came to be generally known amongst their numerous friends, there was a universal lamentation, for the whole family were held in the highest esteem by every one who had the pleasure of their acquaintance: but though all regretted the loss which the place had sustained by the removal of one of

the most worthy families in it, yet no one blamed them for the private manner in which they had effected it, being well convinced that the existing state of public affairs rendered it, if not absolutely necessary, at least prudent.

On their arrival at Kingston, they were necessitated to be contented with a very ordinary domicile, all the principal lodgings being occupied by the British troops.

Though Mr. W. was perfectly in circumstances to have spent the remainder of his life in comfort and even elegance, independent of any business whatever ; he, however, like most other men who have all their lives been accustomed to the busy scenes of commerce, declined to remain inactive, particularly as he could not be said to have much passed the meridian of life, and

was very desirous of again entering into business ; but as he had now come to a strange place, he did not wish to be too precipitate in settling himself, but preferred rather to look around him a little, in order to acquire some local knowledge ; and, if possible, find out an advantageous situation for business. With this view, he was one market day sauntering through the town, carefully noting the various business-thoroughfares, when he happened to step into a respectable looking store, and entered into conversation with its owner (a Mr. Johnston) on the nature and extent of the business of the place, when, in the course of conversation, Mr. J. happened to mention that he intended to withdraw from business as soon as he could, in consequence of a considerable legacy having been left him by a near relative

in Scotland. It instantly occurred to Mr. W. that if he could effect a reasonable arrangement with Mr. J. it might be a good opportunity for his commencing business, as the house was in a most eligible situation, and had long been occupied as a Store. He accordingly communicated to Mr. J. his intention of beginning business, and proposed making a purchase of his whole property, to which he found Mr. J. in no way averse; but as Mr. W. was a man who, however henpecked the world might think him, would not take any step of such moment as the present without the concurrence of his partner in life, he informed Mr. J. that Mrs. W. and himself would call next day for the purpose of inspecting the premises; and in the event of their liking them, of which he said he had scarcely a doubt



from the little he had seen of them, and if Mr. J. was reasonable in his demands, they would in all probability come to an agreement.

The following day Mr. and Mrs. W. accompanied by Matilda, went to Mr. Johnston's store and found him busy in attending to a number of Officers, and their Ladies. Several of the former on observing Matilda, eyed her with such intense regard, as quite disconcerted her and also Mrs. W. who felt in the keenest manner for poor Matilda, and their confusion being observed by Mr. J. he requested them to walk into the parlour, an invitation they gladly accepted of; for both Mrs. W. and Matilda were but poorly calculated for encountering the insolent stare of those military men, who, when they have obtained His Majesty's Commission

and mounted a sword and the other accompaniments of that profession, seem to think (for so they certainly act) that they are at once commissioned to outrage all the common decencies of life ; instead of keeping in view the noble and exalted duties which so peculiarly belong to the glorious profession of arms, for such the profession is, and no one is fit to have a commission, nor will he ever do honor to it unless he is a knight-errant at heart. Should this ever meet the eye of any Gentlemen in the army, let them not feel offended, for it is by no means intended to reflect on the whole of them—many of whom are indeed an honor to their dignified station, but it is impossible to deny that many others who having been useless, or perhaps a nuisance, in the place or vicinity

where they were born, obtain a commission through some rotten interest or for money perhaps but indifferently obtained, act according to their origin, and only disgrace their profession, and make the unthinking throw odious reflections on their more noble comrades in arms.

When Mr. J. found a little leisure, he conducted Mr. and Mrs. W. through the different apartments of the house, and over the premises generally, with all of which they were pleased ; and an inventory of the goods in the store having been taken, a bargain was soon concluded, for they were both honest and reasonable men, the one well disposed to sell, and the other equally willing and able to purchase ; and in such a case there is no need for wasting precious time in that jew-like higgling but too pre-

valent in this country, and which indicates the strongest disposition on both sides to cheat as far as they possibly can. A notarial deed was speedily made out, the money paid, and Mr. W. at once took possession of his new establishment. Mr. J. not having any debts to settle, and few accounts to collect, (these few he made over to Mr. W. with a liberal allowance for bad payments) took his departure for his native land ; but before he went away, he gave Mr. W. letters of introduction to the merchants he was in the practice of dealing with, both in Montreal and Quebec, and likewise informed him that he would call and make them acquainted with the circumstance.

Mr. W. having retained Mr. J.'s principal clerk, on account of his local knowledge, as well as his general good cha-

cacter, and being himself a man long habituated to business, and in every way well qualified for it, the custom of the shop, which had long been good, rather increased than diminished. Among the Military Officers, there was a very sensible increase, the cause of which Mr. and Mrs. W. were at no loss to divine; and they again became very uneasy on Matilda's account, but were careful to conceal their apprehensions from her and every one else; but resolved to watch over her with a jealous eye, as their knowledge of the world warned them of the necessity, of so doing; for she was on all occasions actuated by the most pure motives, and consequently would naturally suppose every other person to act from like principles, having been brought up in perfect solitude, had never in her life witnessed

duplicity in any one instance, nor any vicious action, excepting what she experienced from the savage, and such actions she confined to these people alone little aware that there are savages equally cruel, without the excuse in their favour which the poor benighted sons of the forest have, as she was doomed by and bye to experience. Under the influence of apprehensions of some deep laid scheme being resorted to in order to bring Matilda into danger, Mr. and Mrs. W. were the more guarded against forming any intimacies whatever, beyond what their commercial transactions required. Numerous were the invitations which they received to Balls, &c. all with the view, as they suspected, of bringing Matilda on the carpet, but they found means to politely evade them. The only friendly intimacy which they formed was

with an American family, who were, like themselves, Loyalist, and resided about a mile above Kingston, on the bank of the St. Lawrence. There was in this family a young lady, about the age of Matilda, who, though handsome and well accomplished, was yet in every respect inferior to her. A strong intimacy soon took place between these young ladies, and they sought each other's company as much as they could; and this was the more natural, as they both led rather secluded lives. Several Military Officers were very assiduous in their attentions to Matilda (particularly one by the name of Fitzgibbon) when they had an opportunity, which, however, was but seldom; for over and above the vigilance with which her reputed parents watched over her, she herself studied to avoid them. Often

did Mrs. W. surprise Matilda in her room in tears, and when asked the cause, she said she could assign none farther than that she frequently had an unaccountable depression of spirits which she in vain endeavoured to conquer; and that she felt a presage of some dire calamity hanging over her. Mrs. W. endeavoured to rally her spirits by every means she could think of.

Since Mr. W's family had been at Kingston, they had heard nothing from their much esteemed friend, Capt. Clifford, nor was this to be wondered at since every part was so guarded on both sides of the river. Matilda had now attained her 16th year, and was beautiful and engaging in an unusual degree. Her accomplishments had been regularly progressing, and were now highly finished. She played with un-



common skill on the various musical instruments in which young ladies are usually instructed, and her vocal performance was, if possible, still superior. Fitzgibbon had contrived to be in her company three or four times, and was so delighted with her that he demanded her in marriage of Mr. Wilson, who threw no particular obstacle in the way of his suit, but merely said that such a step required reflection, and that he would give him an answer soon.

On Mr. W. mentioning this proposal to his wife, she said that from the attentions which she observed Fitzgibbon pay to Matilda, it was only what she expected, but that she was confident her consent would never be obtained, even were they disposed to exercise their influence, which neither of them would of course do in a mat-

ter of such vital importance ; that from what she had observed of Matilda for some time past, she was fully convinced that her affections were engaged, and almost certain that Captain Clifford was their object ; she firmly believed that there was not an individual on earth whom Matilda could love, but him ; and that it was also evident from what they witnessed, that that gentleman was in love with her. Mr. W. readily agreed with his wife in her opinion, and said he had made similar observations, and that there certainly was no one to whom he would so much wish to see Matilda united as Captain Clifford ; at the same time remarking, that they could not permit her to be married to any one without first making her intended husband acquainted with her history, which might possibly

induce him to change his opinion, but this disclosure it would be prudent to defer to the last moment. Mrs. W. said she would mention Captain Fitzgibbon's proposals to Matilda, though she already was certain of her sentiments, and then they could communicate her answer to him, which would save them the disagreeable necessity of equivocation, which to the ingenuous mind is always painful. Accordingly Mrs. W. cautiously communicated Fitzgibbon's offer to Matilda, when they were alone, which they very frequently had been since their removal to Kingston, for the governess had remained behind them as house-keeper to Mr. W's. brother. Matilda appeared much astonished, and after a pause, said she felt much obliged to Captain Fitzgibbon for the honor he intended

to confer upon her, but it was totally out of her power to accept his offer, or indeed that of any other gentleman whatever; but here she stopped for a moment, and said she had no wish to alter her condition; that she considered herself as being too young for a change in life, of so serious a nature, and she wished these her sentiments to be communicated to Captain Fitzgibbon as being her unalterable determination. Mrs. W. represented to her husband Matilda's answer, which he accordingly communicated to Capt. Fitzgibbon the next day, who, upon being made acquainted therewith, appeared to labour under mortified pride, rather than disappointed love. He assumed a haughty sullen air, stood for an instant in silence, and, wheeling round in a most contemptuous manner, left the store.

It being now the fall of the year, Mr. W. was necessitated to go to Montreal for his winter's supply of goods, and his American friend (a Mr. Willard) of whom mention had been made as residing about a mile above Kingston, accompanied him. The day previous to Mr. W. departure, he settled with the officers of a regiment which was about to remove to York, such accounts as he had with them. The day following Mr. W's. leaving home, Mrs. W. received a note from her friend Mrs. Willard, containing the unpleasant intelligence that Miss Willard was seriously ill, and earnestly begged for Matilda's company for some time. Painful as it was at all times for Mrs. W. to part with her, it was more particularly so at this time, her husband being from home ; nevertheless the pre-

sent was a case wherein the common feelings of humanity were called upon loudly, and those of friendship still more so. The horse was accordingly put to the caleche without delay, and she took her departure, under the greatest anxiety on account of her friend, attended by the servant man. On her arrival, she found her friend, Miss W. indeed far from being well, but much better than she anticipated, and in hopes of a speedy restoration to perfect health. Matilda spent the day with Miss W., and used every means she could think of to amuse her, being well aware, that from the inexplicable sympathy which subsists between the mind and its earthly tenement, the state of the one has a very material influence upon the other.

In the evening Matilda took leave

on her return home, in the same conveyance by which she had come in the morning. She was then in a state of mind more than usually cheerful, so delighted was she at the favourable turn which her friend's illness had so suddenly taken, and left a promise of repeating her visit the next day. Matilda proceeded on her journey homewards, enjoying an agreeable train of ideas, only clouded a little by not having heard any thing of Captain Clifford; but her confidence in his fidelity was unlimited, so that the only source of her uneasiness was the uncertainty of his personal safety. When the caleche was at a turn in the road, about mid-way home, and the most solitary part of the way, all of a sudden a man muffled up in a great coat, started from behind a tree, and seized the horse's

bridle. The servant seemed to think of nothing but his safety, for he instantly leaped from the caleche and ran off, leaving Matilda unprotected. The stranger desired her to dismount and accompany him, which, if she did, she need not be under any apprehension, for no harm should befall her; to which mandate, Matilda could only reply by a loud shriek, and fainted. He took her out of the caleche, and was proceeding with her in his arms towards the river, where a boat was in readiness to receive them, and to convey the unfortunate young lady to some secluded retreat which the ruffian had in view, when he was arrested in his progress by an unknown person, who having heard a scream, concluded it proceeded from some person in distress. The betrayer of Matilda ordered this humane, but to



him, unwelcome intruder, not to approach at the peril of his life, which menace was met by the reply, " Cowardly villain, (for such I take thee to be,) prepare to meet thy fate from the hands of a man who is ready at all times to relieve oppressed innocence, and to punish the guilty." They both were provided with swords, and a dreadful encounter took place, being good sword's-men; but the ruffian fought with such fury, as to lay himself open to his adversary's attacks; and on one of these occasions he received a severe wound in the body, and immediately fell. The stranger then ran to the assistance of the lady, who by this time had partially recovered. He eagerly inquired who she was, and how she came to be in the power of the villain who was carrying her off, and what was the cause

of it? These questions were answered in a few words. The darkness of the night prevented Matilda's features from being observed; but her brave deliverer, upon learning her name and hearing her voice, made no farther inquiries, but immediately put her in the caleche, and seating himself by her side, drove (by her direction,) to Mrs. Wilson's House. He found Mrs. W. under the greatest anxiety on Matilda's account, and seeing him bring the persecuted maid in the room in a state of almost insensibility, (and being a stranger wrapped up in a great coat with scarcely any part of his face visible) she fainted. Such stimulants as the house afforded were resorted to, which proved effectual, and she was speedily restored to animation. The first use she made of her reason was to en-

quire to whom she was indebted for the restoration of her child, to which the stranger replied, that she should ere long be informed on that head ; but in the meantime he desired to know by what means she had heard of the fatal accident which had befallen Matilda. She said the servant man had arrived a little before them, and had given the alarming account of himself having been dragged from the caleche, and knocked down by an unknown person, and that he was in a state of total insensibility for some time ; on his recovering he found the caleche gone, he knew not whither, and no person being near at the time, he had no idea of Matilda's fate. The stranger inquired if the servant was in the house, and being informed that he was, he ordered him to appear ; the moment he entered the

room, the stranger drew his sword, and in a firm and resolute tone, declared that he would instantly plunge it in his heart, if he did not without the least prevarication, confess the whole of the treacherous part he had acted, and who they were who bribed or in any way instigated him to do so. The culprit was so much alarmed, that he fell on his knees, and said that Captain Fitzgibbon was the person, and he alone—that he had for some time past held out to him strong temptations to betray Matilda, by letting him know when she went from home, &c. ; that he had resisted all his offers of money, but he had prevailed upon him to do, what he had done (and for which he was now heartily sorry) by threatening to impress him for a soldier ; but solemnly protested that he had received no re-

ward for his treacherous action. The servant was desired to withdraw, but upon the peril of his life not to quit the house, nor to hold conversation with any person upon what had happened, and the disgraceful part he had played; an injunction scarcely necessary, for the fellow, though weak and timid, was by no means an hardened villain, and really had, as he said, resisted all the temptations of money; but the dread of being forced in the army, so wrought upon his fears, that he lost all sense of duty, and regard, for the fate of others. Mrs W. and Matilda, being now somewhat composed, the stranger threw off his great coat (or rather cloak) in which he had hitherto remained most completely enveloped, and to their inexpressible surprise and joy, they recognized their highly valued friend Captain Clif-

ford, who had now the second time rescued Matilda from the most horrible situation in which a virtuous woman can be placed. Their protestations of gratitude were warm and strong, but fell far short of their feelings, to these no language could do justice. Matilda fell on her knees, and was proceeding to thank him in that posture, when he lifted her up, pressed her ardently to his bosom, and placed her on the sofa : a shower of tears of gratitude came to her relief ; and spoke more eloquently for her than the most refined and studied harangue could have done. Capt. Clifford, informed them that he had made many fruitless attempts to get a letter conveyed to them, and being ordered by the American government to repair to New York, he could not think of quitting the country without first see-

ing them, (since correspondence by letter was impossible) that he had hired a boat at all hazards, and, to use his own words, "Came this day to do the happy deed, which gilds my humble name." He further said, that painful as it was to him, he must bid them adieu before day light, his boat being waiting for him at a small Island in the river, and were he to be seen and recognised on the British territories, his parole would be considered as forfeited, and besides the time allowed for his appearance in New York was but short, and would not admit of the least delay; that since he had been here, another strong reason for his speedy departure had unfortunately occurred, in the fate of Fitzgibbon, who, there was every reason to believe was killed, and of course strict scrutiny would be made

after the person who had deprived him of life. These cogent reasons were perfectly satisfactory to the ladies; however, much they might regret their existence, they reconciled themselves to the Captain's departure. He however held out to them the cheering prospect of a speedy termination of the war, which would place him in the enviable situation of being at his own disposal. While Matilda was engaged in preparing some refreshment for Capt. Clifford previous to his departure, Mrs. W. related to him Fitzgibbon's passion for her adopted, and the reception it had met with. This gave him the most lively uneasiness, for he feared that though he was strongly persuaded that Fitzgibbon himself was past making any further attempts against Matilda, yet some of his partizans might, and he



Therefore impressed upon Mrs. W. in the strongest terms, the necessity there was of being much on their guard; and on no occasion to allow Matilda to go abroad without either herself or Mr. W. accompanied her. The clock now struck one in the morning, which admonished the Captain that the time of his departure had arrived. He took some refreshment, and was ready to take his leave, but the parting between him and Matilda, was truly affecting; to attempt to describe it would be useless—an idea of it can only be formed by those who have been placed in a similar situation.

After Capt. C. had left them, Mrs. W. and Matilda were under the greatest anxiety for his safety until he got to his boat, and at some distance from Kingston; for they feared that a most rigorous search for Fitzgibbon's mur-

derers, as they no doubt would be termed would take place, and Capt. C. had to pass the very spot where the encounter took place. These reflections gave them the deepest concern, and though they retired to bed, it could scarcely be called to rest; especially with Matilda, who spent the time in painful reflections upon the past, and gloomy presages of the future, particularly as regarded the safety of Capt. C. Mrs. W's affection for Matilda, ever on the alert to promote her happiness as much as in her power, and to alleviate her miseries by all those nameless little attentions which, though apparently insignificant, yet have a great tendency to soothe and heal the lacerated heart, slept in the same room with her, in order to afford all the comfort and consolation she could. Towards daylight, Matilda fell

into a profound sleep, which lasted until a late hour in the morning. On her awakening, Mrs. W. found her much refreshed and composed. Though late in the morning, Mrs. W. had also kept her bed, not having been able to sleep during the early part of the night, and being also desirous of having some conversation with Matilda when she awoke. When Matilda arose, Mrs. W. after some kind inquiries after her health, &c. addressed her as follows :  
“ Oh ! dear Matilda, how very plain and evident it appears, that Capt. Clifford is an instrument in the hands of Providence for your preservation ; he has now twice rescued you from impending ruin, and that too at times when you had no other hand to help or eye to pity ; and but for him your situation would have been such as makes me

shudder to think upon, and must inevitably have brought us all with sorrow to a premature grave." Matilda said she was well aware of the nature and extent of the obligations which she was under to that incomparable man ; she observed at the same time she never could reward him for the services he had rendered her, were she even to devote the remainder of her life for that purpose ; that he had twice saved her life, or rather her honor, which was far more dear ; in doing which he had exposed himself to the most imminent danger, and what was distressing to her above all, she did not know but at that very moment he might be suffering in the severest manner on her account. Mrs. W. begged of her to banish from her mind such gloomy reflections, and to confide in that all-wise and

merciful Being who wields the destinies of the universe, and whose almighty arm had been twice extended in so remarkable a manner for her preservation. They then, on their knees, offered up their joint prayer for Capt. Cs.' safety, and afterwards went about their respective employments. Matilda found, for the first time, how necessary her friend (as she had hitherto only considered him) had become to her, so much so that he seemed to be a part of herself; and that he was much more dear to her than even the warmest friendship could indicate; in short, she discovered that he held an uncontrollable sway over her heart; and that it was impossible for another person to find a place in the shape of a lover, so that to any other suitor she might well adopt the language of Clarinda to Burns:

Friendship's sweet and sacred joys  
My heart was formed to prove ;  
There, welcome, win, and wear the prize ;  
But never talk of Love.

Mrs. W. had been informed, and communicated to Matilda that Capt. Fitzgibbon had been found by his men, about twelve o'clock last night, lying on the road wounded, and that they had conveyed him to Kingston, where hopes of his recovery were entertained ; but no one could form any idea how he met with this accident, and that he himself observed the most profound silence respecting it. It was therefore evident that their own servant was, besides the parties themselves, the only persons in the world, who had the least knowledge of the transaction, and as to him the part he had acted in the tragedy was of such a nature as made

it very unlikely that he would ever mention the circumstance ; besides which, he knew not who Capt. Clifford was, had never seen him, nor heard his name mentioned, neither would it be possible for him to recognize the Captain should he at any future period see him, he having been so perfectly disguised on that evening, that the servant could not have had a distinct view of his features, nor was the fellow in a state of mind well suited to making minute observations. Therefore, under the different views that could be taken of the case. Capt. C. seemed to be in perfect safety whatever might be Fitzgibbon's fate.

Breakfast being over, the servant man made his appearance, and threw himself upon his knees before the two ladies, and said he was penetrated to the heart with the most unfeigned com-

punction for what he had done, and that when he looked back upon his conduct, it appeared to him almost unaccountable how he could join in such an atrocious plot ; but the dread of being impressed, with which he had often been threatened, so preyed upon his mind as to deprive him, in a great measure, of his reason ; and induced him to do an action disgraceful to manhood and which he should ever deplore to the latest moment of his existence. Mrs. W. and Matilda, notwithstanding the heinous nature of his offence, felt for him, as, from what they had known of his former conduct they were fully persuaded that his fears must have been greatly practiced upon before he had given his approbation and assistance in the manner he had done ; they desired him to compose himself, and go about his



work as formerly, and as he valued his own safety and also theirs, to be silent as to the unfortunate occurrence towards every person whatsoever, and they would use their influence with Mr. W. when he returned in his behalf. Soon after this event, Mr. W. arrived from Montreal, and on being made acquainted with what had taken place during his absence, his surprise and indignation were raised to the highest pitch. The first emotion which he felt was to inflict upon the servant man the most severe punishment, that the case would admit of, but upon reflection aided by the intercession of the two ladies, and on hearing his man's candid confession, and unequivocal expressions of sincere penitence, his resentment vanished, and gave place to a sentiment of pity for the poor deluded being, who had not firm-

ness to undeviatingly follow the path of rectitude, and confide in Him who knows the most remote source and spring of all our actions ; and who, whatever interpretation our fellow mortals may put upon our conduct, cannot be deceived. This reflection ought to be the source of much consolation to all who labour under difficulties and misfortunes, while they are conscious of having acted from the best of motives, for it is not in this probationary stage of being that virtue is to meet with its reward.

In the course of three weeks, Fitzgibbon was so far recovered as to be able to join his regiment at the upper posts, and was no more heard of at Kingston. He, however, carried with him a just memorial of his improper conduct, and it is to be wished that

every unprincipled wretch who endeavours to carry misery and disgrace into a virtuous family, may meet with a like reward.

The late occurrence raised, if possible Captain Clifford still higher in the esteem of Mr. Wilson, and he much regretted not having seen him, in order to have again thanked him in person; and what particularly vexed him was, the impossibility, under existing circumstances, of so much as thanking him by letter; but he anticipated the time that they might meet again, when the state of affairs between Great Britain and the United States would permit.

For upwards of a year, nothing particularly demanding notice, occurred to Mr. W's. family. It continued to be the seat of domestic comfort and happiness.

Mr. W's. business went on in an increasing and satisfactory manner, and occupied his whole attention. Mrs. W. and Matilda superintended their own department, with that cordiality and harmony which had ever subsisted between them ; the latter continuing to make regular advances in her various studies, and also to improve in personal attractions, as she gradually emerged from the tall, but imperfectly formed girl, into the full and complete symmetry of womanhood.

In 1783 peace was established between Great Britain and the United States. About this time Mr. W. received a letter from his brother, announcing the death of their father at Albany, and containing an earnest request of their mother for Mr. W. to visit her in order to the settlement of some

family affairs. This intelligence, though an event to be looked for by the established order of nature, (Mr. W. senior, having attained to a mature old age) nevertheless spread a gloom for a time throughout the family; for whatever reason and philosophy may say, human nature must and will feel, when its tenderest bonds are burst asunder. As soon as Mr. W. could devote his mind to business, he made the necessary preparatory arrangements for going to Albany, and, accordingly set out on his journey, taking Mrs. W. and Matilda with him. They arrived there all well after a very agreeable trip, and found the old lady in as good health and spirits as could be looked for, which were not a little improved by the arrival of her long absent son and his family, none of whom she had ever seen

but himself. She was particularly struck with Matilda's fine appearance and attainments, to whose history she was a stranger, and of course never doubted the reality of her reputed relationship, the more especially as Mrs. W. was a very handsome woman, and such as might in every respect pass for the mother of Matilda.

Mr. Wilson had been at his mother's some time, busily engaged in settling his father's affairs, and was beginning to think of returning to Kingston, when one afternoon Matilda proposed to Mrs. W. to take an airing in her grandmother's pleasure waggon, to which she readily consented. They rode some way into the country, the weather being fine, and the prospect around enchanting. As they were returning, and descending the hill behind the town, all of

a sudden the horse took fright, and darted off at full speed, nor could the utmost efforts of the driver restrain him. Before he had gone far, the wheels of the waggon came in contact with some logs which were lying on the side of the road, and was overturned in an instant, and Mrs. W. thrown out into the middle of the road, much bruised, and one of her ancles dislocated; but Matilda was less fortunate, for she had already fainted, and her clothes become by some means or other entangled about the seat of the waggon, so that she was dragged along with it, for the overthrow of the waggon only frightened the horse still more and made him increase his speed. Just at the moment that her destruction appeared inevitable, Providence again interfered in her favour in a singular manner, and

as on former occasions, by a most singular event. The horse had gone but a little way after the overthrow of the waggon, when a gentleman, at the imminent risk of his own life, as must be evident, sprung from the side of the road, seized the horse by the bridle, and with one powerful effort threw the animal on his side, he then cut the traces &c. so that it was soon disengaged from the waggon. By this time Mrs. W. had somewhat recovered, and forgetting her pains in her anxiety for Matilda's safety, she made an effort to rise and go to her relief, but found she could not stir one step on account of her dislocated ancle. The gentleman had no sooner separated the horse from the waggon, than he gave his attention to the unfortunate individual in it, and at the first glance exclaimed, " Oh ! my dear Matilda, and



do we meet thus again." It was Capt. Clifford who was that far on his way back from New-York, whither he had repaired in obedience to orders, as before noticed. He took Matilda, who was still in a state of insensibility in his arms, and carried her to the other lady, who to his astonishment he found to be Mrs. W. and her surprise was not less in finding their much esteemed friend Capt. Clifford to be once more with them at a most critical and perilous moment. Matilda still continued insensible, and excited the most serious apprehensions in both Capt. C. and Mrs. W. for her life. Just at that time she shewed symptoms of returning animation. She soon recovered so far as to be able to discern objects, but what was her surprise on finding that she again owed her life to the same person who

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had on two former occasions extricated her from still worse situations. For some time she thought she must be bewildered, it was so like the realizing of a romance, that she resisted at first the evidence of her senses. Capt. C. dispatched the servant to town for another horse and waggon, but with strict injunctions not to go near Mrs. W. Senior's, and to avoid, if possible, seeing Mr. W. for fear of creating an alarm, which might have done much injury, but could effect no good. Capt. C. assisted Mrs. W. to the broken Waggon, where she could sit with more ease, and on his taking Matilda in his arms for the same purpose, she gave a loud scream, and again fainted, which alarmed the Capt. and Mrs. W. greatly, for they now feared that she had sustained some serious injury. The servant by this time had re-

turned with another horse and waggon, in which the unfortunate ladies were placed (Matilda in Capt. C's arms,) the man drove cautiously towards the old lady's house, who, on their arrival, they found to be absent, a circumstance which was not regretted, as they hoped to be a little recovered and in order before her return, and consequently alarm her the less. A Doctor was immediately sent for, Matilda being still insensible, who however had partially recovered before he arrived, but could make no use of her right arm. The Doctor found that it was dislocated at the shoulder, and on examination of Mrs. W's ankle, it was also found to be dislocated. She generously desired him to attend Matilda first, as she believed her sufferings to be greater than her own. Both dislocations were set and

the unfortunate ladies put to bed, and a composing draught given to each of them, which threw them into a profound sleep.

During these operations, both Mr. Wilson and his mother were absent, and soon after the ladies had gone to bed, and felt the effects of the opiates which they had taken, the former arrived, and on perceiving Capt. C. he embraced him with indiscriminate joy, which however, was soon damped on learning the particulars of what had in so short a space of time occurred; the first impulse produced by this information, naturally was to visit those, to him, so very interesting, but on being told they were asleep, and that there was every reason to believe there was no real danger to be apprehended in either of their cases, he became composed, and

grateful that it was not worse : he conversed with Capt. C. on the providential manner in which he had so often been the means of saving this seemingly devoted young lady. The subject was deeply interesting to them both, and they agreed that there was something very inexplicable in it. A fit opportunity now occurred for Capt. C. disclosing to Mr. W. his sentiments which had hitherto only been avowed as those of friendship. He accordingly informed Mr. W. that having been discharged from parole, the first use he had made of his liberty was to pay him and his family a visit, and that he had but lately arrived at Albany, on his way to Kingston for that purpose, when he had so unexpectedly fallen in with Mrs. W. and Matilda in the disagreeable situation in which he found them. He then

frankly owned the honorable and ardent affection which he had long cherished for Matilda, but had never openly declared his sentiments on account of not having his liberty, which he had now fortunately obtained. He remarked, that from the most singular manner in which he had been made the instrument of rescuing her, he was of opinion, nor could he relinquish the idea, though it might be deemed a superstitious one, that their fates were interwoven together. Of one thing, he said, he was certain, that whatever advantages and enjoyments the world might offer him, without her he would find it to be only a barren waste. He farther remarked that he had not made his passion known to Matilda in an open manner, though indeed, from emotions which he was unable to conceal, she might have in-

ferred the true state of his heart, as he conceived it was his duty to first make his wishes and intentions known to her parents, and should he have the happiness to obtain their approbation, then let his fate rest with the object of his affections entirely, for he abhorred the idea of the least compulsion being used on such occasions.

Capt. C. then observed, that he was the only son and heir of a respectable and worthy gentleman of Bedfordshire, in England, who possessed a large estate in that county, besides which, he had considerable property in the funds ; that he very lately received a letter from his father, desiring him to return home without loss of time, he being in bad health ; but that even filial affection and duty could not induce him to return to

England, until he had first ascertained the issue of his attachment to Matilda.

Mr. W. listened to him with mixed emotions of delight and regret, highly pleased at the prospect of so honorable and advantageous a settlement for his adopted daughter, for whom he had done so much, and on whose account he had felt so much anxiety, but he was too honest and honorable a man to suffer her to be married, especially to a man of Capt. C.'s grade in society, without first disclosing to him her eventful history, for he still entertained a latent hope that her parentage might yet be discovered by some means or other; he however dreaded the effect which such a disclosure might have on Capt. C. After a pause (which was to Capt. C. a moment of the most painful suspense, for he clearly perceived that



there was some impediment or other in the way of the attainment of his wishes) Mr. W. said that he trusted Capt. C. would give him credit when he assured him that he was duly sensible of the honor which he proposed conferring upon him and his family, and that to see Matilda united to him would afford to Mrs. W. and himself the greatest pleasure, but he lamented to say there was a certain mystery attached to that young lady, which had been hitherto concealed, he felt it to be his duty to mention before he parted with her for life, though he feared the disclosure of it might alter Capt. C's sentiments towards her. This avowal astonished Capt. C. very much : what could this mystery be ? The exalted idea which he had formed of Matilda, and which idea was fully warranted by

what he had observed of her, forbade the suspicion that it could have reference to any indiscretion on her part ; he therefore, replied to Mr. W. that his passion for Matilda was of the most honorable and disinterested nature, and that he could not conceive what mystery there could be attached to her that could make the least impression on his mind, for, whatever it might be, he felt assured that no fault of hers was connected with it. Mr. W. then narrated to him, every circumstance connected with Matilda's history, the effect of which upon the generous and magnanimous Clifford, was only to attach him, if possible, still more strongly to her. It afforded him much satisfaction now to have it in his power to give her the most decided proofs that his passion was free from mercenary views. He assu-

red Mr. W. that what he had disclosed to him, had no tendency whatever to lessen Matilda in his esteem, but rather the contrary, for he thought he now felt a still more lively interest in her fate than ever ; and taking Mr. W. by the hand, he in an extacy of gratitude, expressed in the most glowing colours, the sense he entertained of Mr. and Mrs. W's conduct towards that unfortunate young lady ; for though she had indeed been singularly fortunate in falling into the hands of persons of such rare worth, yet in the first instance she had been unfortunate, and it made him shudder to think what her fate would have been, had it not been for them ; for where are the persons to be found in this callous and unfeeling world, who, though they might have made an effort to rescue an infant from the fangs of the ruthless sa-

vage, would have subsequently acted towards her as they had done. Capt C. enquired whether Matilda was acquainted with her own history, and on being informed that she had not the least idea of it, he said it would be better not to undeceive her, at any rate for the present; that the moment she was sufficiently recovered, he could wish to have their nuptials consummated without delay, and take her home with him; for though, as he had already said, he had never made an open and direct avowal of his affection for her, yet he thought she could not be ignorant of it, he was greatly deceived if he did not hold an interest in her heart. Mr. W. said that both himself and Mrs W. from what they had noticed, were of the opinion that he was the only man on earth who was in any way interesting to her in the light

he mentioned, and he believed no other person ever would be. Capt. C. said that a handsome legacy had been left him by his grandmother, which, joined to his half pay, would be ample provision for him and Matilda, independent of any one : and again repeated his determination to marry her the moment she was well ; but on perceiving that the prospect of so soon losing Matilda, was painful to Mrs. W., Captain C. changed the subject for the present. Capt. C. having learned from the servant (who was in attendance upon Matilda,) that she was still enjoying a profound sleep, as also Mrs. W. he was about to retire for the night, to a hotel, but Mr. W. would by no means permit him to leave his mother's house, where a good room was provided for him, and to which he now retired to

meditate upon his beloved Matilda, and the strange events connected with her. Sometimes his fancy would represent her as the only child of wealthy parents whom the savage had deprived of their greatest earthly enjoyment ; and at other times the child of some unfortunate pair, who may have sold her to conceal their shame ; but whoever she might be as to parentage, she had become so interwoven with his existence, as to be far dearer to him than all the world besides ; for her mental endowments and personal charms were such, as he had never before seen combined in the same individual ; and the singular part he had, by the unerring, though inscrutable ways of providence, been appointed to act towards her, rendered her still more dear to him ; so that all things considered, Captain C.'s love

for Matilda, might be safely pronounced to be of the most elevated and refined description ; and such as bade fair to be productive of more than an ordinary share of felicity. Previous to retiring to his room he privately gave the servant a pound note, and desired her to let him know when Matilda awakened, and to bring him a faithful account how she was. After a considerable time, in mediation on the past, present and anticipations of the future, he fell asleep, in the enjoyment of which we shall leave him, wishing him pleasant dreams.

Mr. W. on returning to his bed room, found Mrs. W. just awakened from a refreshing sleep, and tolerably free from pain. He related to her all that had passed between him and Captain C. which afforded her the greatest satisfac-

tion, and she took to herself no small degree of credit for her sagacity and penetration in having so long ago foreseen and predicted what had now come to pass ; she said that dear as Matilda was to her, and unwilling as she was to part with her, she now felt amply rewarded, by the brilliant prospects which opened to Matilda's view, for all the anxiety and pain she had undergone on her account. She had the highest opinion of Capt. C. before this frank avowal of his sentiments, but had, as well as Mr. W. strong apprehensions that when he was made acquainted with Matilda's history, it might effect a change in them ; but now that she found her fears on that head to be unfounded, she was in raptures with him, and considered him the only man living who was worthy of her much admired



adopted daughter. She however was decidedly of opinion that it would be highly improper to let Matilda part from them in ignorance of her true history, for Mrs W. still entertained the most sanguine hopes that something or other would occur, to elucidate the mystery which had so long hung over her, in which case she would assuredly blame them; and though she was aware that the disclosure would be truly distressing to Matilda, and to throw anew into the greatest perturbation, her so often harrassed feelings, yet she could not consent to allow her to leave them in ignorance. Mr. W. could not avoid subscribing to the correctness of his wife's ideas, and said that he had ever been of the same opinion on that head, but that Capt. C. had expressed a wish to have her kept in ignorance, no doubt from a desire to spare her feelings from

the shock they must receive ; but that he would again talk to him on the subject, and did not doubt but on reflection he would coincide in their opinion.

The next morning Capt. C. was early on the alert, and the moment he saw the servant who waited on Matilda, (whom he had enlisted into his service by the pound note) he eagerly enquired after her ; and was informed that she awoke about midnight, and that the first words she made use of was to enquire whether he had left the house, and on being informed that he had not, she was evidently, (notwithstanding her attempts to conceal it,) much delighted ; but that she had, since she awoke, complained much of pain in her shoulder. The Captain immediately ordered the Doctor to be sent for, who soon arrived, and on examin-

ing the various symptoms by which Matilda was affected, he pronounced her to be in a high fever, and gave it as his opinion that there was considerable reason to fear that a mortification had taken place, owing to assistance not being procured in proper time. This intelligence, it may readily be believed, affected Captain Clifford in the extreme. His affection for Matilda was of the most ardent nature, and he possessed a highly sensitive mind. Such was the effect produced upon him by the danger with which his beloved was threatened, that he was desirous of avoiding company, refused sustenance, and appeared like one tired of existence. Mrs. W. had been more fortunate, for her accident was mending very rapidly, and her solicitude, (as well as the old lady and Mrs.

W.'s) was divided between Matilda and Capt C., for it was evident that should it please the Almighty disposer of events, to remove Matilda's immortal part to "another and a better world," he would not survive her long. Every time the Doctor entered her room, Capt. C. watched his coming out, and was affected according to the information which he received. On the sixth day after the accident, the servant informed Capt. C. in the morning, that Matilda had been uncommonly weak during the past night, and had often repeated the name of Captain Clifford, but that when interrogated as to her wishes, she was silent; and that Mrs. W., though still far from being well, had sat up with her all night. This was too much for poor Clifford to bear—he went to his room without utter-

ing one word, and was observed to shed tears.

On the seventh eventful day, the Doctor came out of Matilda's room, with a smile upon his countenance, and said that the fever had left her, and that there was now little doubt of her recovery, though it must be expected to be but slowly ; and that the inflammation in her shoulder had greatly subsided. This welcome report was immediately communicated to Captain Clifford, who was at that moment in absolute despair. This intelligence so exhilarated his spirits, that he flew out of his room, and taking the Doctor by the hand, made him confirm the agreeable news he had heard ; which he readily did, with a smile he could not constrain, on perceiving the great change wrought on the Captain in so

instantaneous a manner, for he really appeared, (as indeed he almost was,) like one beside himself for joy. On perceiving that the Doctor took particular notice of the frame of mind he was in, he endeavoured to excuse himself, by saying, that from his long intimacy with the family, he took a most lively interest in every thing that concerned it; and that he well knew that on the life of his patient depended all the earthly comforts of the parents, if not their lives. The Doctor, however, was no stranger to the true cause of the Captain's extreme solicitude, for he had heard Matilda repeat his name frequently during the delirium occasioned by the fever.

Five days afterwards, Matilda was able to quit her room, with her arm in a sling. To attempt a description of the

pleasure experienced by both her and the Captain, at the first meeting, (after being to all appearance on the point of a final separation during their mortal existence,) would be fruitless. The Captain was transported beyond measure, and being in the presence of none but commnn friends, he was at no great pains to disguise his feelings ; and indeed a feeling of uncommon joy pervaded the whole family. As to Matilda's tender and affectionate reputed mother, she had, from the moment she was able to enter her room, scarcely ever quitted it, though still far from being well.

During three weeks which Mr. W. and family remained at Albany, after Matilda had thus far recovered, Capt, C. had many opportunities of enjoying her company unrestrained, for there

was now a cordial understanding between him and all the members of the family. As he became gradually more familiar with her, he discovered she possessed a fund of knowledge he had no idea of; and became if possible more enamoured. He freely declared his affection for her, how long he had entertained it, being since he first saw her in the Indian's arms, that he had solicited the approbation of her parents to their union, and had obtained it; he mentioned his parentage, and prospects in life, and concluded by saying that his happiness or misery was entirely in her hands. Matilda's reply was such as became her, and confirmed the Captain's fondest hopes; from that time during their stay at Albany, many were the happy interviews which this youthful pair had together.



Captain Clifford communicated to Mr. and Mrs. W. the happy result of his suit with Matilda, and requested them to give their sanction to their union in her presence. To this they readily assented, but represented to him the compulsion under which they felt themselves to make her acquainted with her history as far as they knew. The Captain said he had no objection, but on the contrary he thought on reflection it would be but right ; and that his motive for proposing secrecy was to save her the perturbation of mind, which such a discovery must unavoidably occasion ; but that it would be their duties to soothe her feelings as far as they could. It was accordingly agreed upon that Mr. W. should undertake the unpleasant task of disclosing to his reputed daughter (now to be so no longer, though no less dear to him) this long

concealed secret. The next day, after Matilda had arisen and taken some breakfast, Mr W. called her into a room, and there recounted to her every circumstance connected with her coming under his care. She listened with composed attention until he had done, and then raising her head, she gave a wild and bewildered stare, and fainted in the chair where she sat. Restoratives were resorted to ; after some time animation was restored, but owing no doubt to her having been but merely in a convalescent state after her late accident, this fresh shock had so overpowered her feelings that she was quite exhausted, and it was deemed prudent to put her to bed, to obtain repose : and her affectionate friend, (now no longer mother) Mrs. W. attended her, in order to console her all

she could. Matilda's state of mind at this time was wretched in the extreme. She looked upon herself as an outcast in the world, and one that had been born to be a torment and burthen to herself and others; the gloomy presages which her former perils had so often given rise to in her mind, now seemed to be realized. To be deprived of parents, and without the consolation of knowing who her parents were, whether respectable or infamous, she knew not, was distressing in the extreme. Her truly worthy friends Mr. and Mrs. W. had ever performed towards her all the duties of the best and tenderest of parents, and she was well assured, that while they had life they would most gladly continue to do so; but still they were not her parents, and she must now look upon herself in the humiliating light of a mere dependant; and

what perhaps gave her the most lively emotion and keenest pain of all the train of reflections which this disclosure had given rise to, was the certainty (for such she deemed it) of now having no chance of attaining the fondest object of her heart, and which she conceived, and reasonably too, she was so near attaining—that of being united to the only man she had ever met with whom she thought she could love. That he should now deign to look upon her in the light he had formerly done, she thought impossible, and the idea of forever bidding him adieu, was unmixed misery.

While she was revolving in her mind this painful train of ideas, Mrs. W. interrupted them, by asking her how she felt. Matilda said she was extremely weak in body, and almost distracted in

mind. Mrs. W. assuming a particularly serious air, said, "My dear daughter, (for such I must claim the privilege of ever esteeming you) I hope you are ready to confess that ever since you attained the years of reflection, you have always had reason to look upon me and Mr. Wilson as your friends, (now you know us not to be your parents) and if ever we have shewn ourselves worthy of that name, rest assured that we are not less worthy of it at this moment; and as such I conjure you to confide in me, and let me know your undisguised sentiments, in regard to Capt. Clifford—can you love him with that affection which you ought to possess in order to warrant your becoming his wife?" After some hesitation, Matilda said, it could now be of little moment what her sentiments in that

respect were, as beyond all question he would think no more of her, after being made acquainted with her unhappy history; and that it was impossible to conceal it, as she never would consent to deceive him. Mrs. W. begged of her to be perfectly at ease in regard to Capt. Clifford's constancy, for he was acquainted with her history some days ago, and that he protested in the most solemn manner that, if possible, you were now more dear to him than ever; since, should he be so fortunate as to possess your entire affections, you must be convinced that he was not actuated by mercenary views in soliciting them. Matilda could scarcely believe what she heard, and bursting into a flood of tears, she candidly confessed to Mrs. W. the state of her heart regarding Captain Clifford. Mrs.

W. continued with her for some time longer, using every argument and persuasive she could think of in order to soothe her agitated mind on the subject of her parents, and strongly encouraged her to hope she would yet obtain some information concerning them. She now became much more composed, and begged of Mrs. W. to go to her bed and not fatigue herself farther, for she should soon be disposed to sleep ; that though she had received a most severe and unexpected shock, yet it would be particularly ungrateful in her to repine, who had such singular marks of divine protection shewn her, and who possessed such friends as she did. Mrs. W. much delighted to find Matilda restored to composure and rational reflection, bade her good night, and retired. On her joining Mr. W. and the Captain,

she found them, particularly the latter, in the utmost impatience to know all, and every thing about Matilda. Mrs. W. assured them that she had left her much better, and disposed to sleep ; at the same time she gave Capt. C. a gentle hint that he was the Doctor who best prescribed for Matilda's case. This added to his impatience to see her, in order that he might assure her of the unchangeableness of his affections. Mr. W. blamed himself much for not having postponed this discovery until Matilda had acquired greater strength, but it was done unthinkingly, and from the best of motives ; there was now, however, good reason to hope that no evil consequences would result from it.

Early next morning Mrs. Wilson visited Matilda, and found her continuing to recover slowly—acquiring strength by



degrees, and also becoming more serene in mind, but nothing like cheerfulness was yet perceptible. Mrs. W. urged her to rise and take some breakfast, telling her that the Captain was burning with impatience to see her. She, however, begged to be allowed some time longer to repose and recruit her spirits before she could think of seeing any excepting Mrs. W. and requested that her compliments might be given to Mr. W. and the Captain, and hoped they would not take it amiss if she took a little more time to recover her strength and spirits ; she solicited a few drops of laudanum to assist her to sleep, which Mrs. W. gave, and she soon fell into a slumber.

At breakfast, Mrs. W. informed the Capt. and Mr. W. of the state in which she found Matilda, that she appeared very

desirous of farther repose, and had taken an opiate for that purpose.' Though they were both under much anxiety to see her, yet they were pleased to hear of her disposition to sleep, as from that recuiter of the exhausted frame they hoped for her company again soon. The day was spent by Mr. W. and Capt. Clifford in rather unsuccessful attempts to amuse themselves.—They conversed, they read and walked, but a visible degree of uneasiness pervaded all they did and said; many and anxious were the enquiries after Matilda, who continued to slumber until past noon, when she awoke, and conversed with Mrs. W. and also Mr. Wilson's mother, who had been so affected by these distressing and strange events, that to use her own words, she scarcely knew what she was doing. She said

she looked upon the storm as gone by, and hoped for fair weather ; and told Matilda not to brood over the 'past but to look forward to the happy prospects which lay before her ; and by her jocular remarks she more than once extorted a smile from the fair maid.

During the night Matilda rested well, and next morning was much recovered in point of strength, and composed in mind. She arose pretty early, and joined the family at the breakfast table.— The first use she made of speech, was an attempt to express to Mr. W. the sense she entertained of his more than fatherly conduct towards her. He interrupted her, by begging she would never feel herself under any obligation to him, for he had only done what he conceived to be his duty, circumstanced as he was, not having children of his own,

and possessing the means to succour the unfortunate. He said, had he done otherwise, he would have thought himself unworthy of the blessings he possessed, and still more so of the name of a christian, for the rich are only stewards, and ought to view themselves as such, and act accordingly ; then, assuming a more than usual serious air and tone of voice, he added, therefore, my dear Matilda, whatever grateful sentiments you may feel, and I am well assured that such you do feel, for any benefits you may have experienced from me and Mrs. W. let them be solely directed towards that unerring and gracious Being, who has so miraculously protected you at moments when relief seemed impossible ; and who furnished me with the means and disposition to render you the services I have done. I be-

Heve Matilda, you are aware that on no occasion am I in the practice of dealing in high sounding but empty compliments, and never did I feel less disposed to do so, than at this interesting moment; therefore I again repeat, that what we have done for you, we felt to be our duty, and we delight in it. Singular indeed has the hand of Providence been extended in your favour, and it behoves you in a special manner to devote your life to the service of that God who has so remarkably pointed you out as the object of his care. You are aware, I believe, of the sentiments with which this worthy gentleman, Captain Clifford, regards you; and I trust he will not suspect me of an intention to flatter, when I say, that he is the only man in all the circle of my acquaintance, to whom I could, with-

out the least reluctance, wish to see you united ; besides, an over-ruling power seems to have destined you for each other.—In thus speaking my own sentiments, I know I speak those of Mrs. Wilson also. Our approbation has been by you both solicited ; you have it in as cordial and unqualified a manner as you could possibly wish, and may God bless and make you happy in his service : for remember it is there and there alone that happiness is to be found.”

Both the Captain and Matilda were not a little affected at this serious discourse.—The latter covered her face with her handkerchief, and remained in silence, but absorbed in eloquent tears. In order to give a more lively turn to the scene, Mrs. W. senior, with much adroitness, introduced as a topic of conversation, some of the most interesting

occurrences in the neighbourhood, and the breakfast went on, and satisfaction sat on every countenance, save that of Matilda ; who, though she was far from exhibiting signs of discontent, was deeply involved in thought.

Breakfast being over, every one quitted the room as if by a simultaneous impulse, except the Captain and Matilda. He renewed his protestations of the most ardent and unalterable affection, and said she wronged him much, if, for one moment, she conceived him capable of being in the least altered in his sentiments towards her, in consequence of the singular events comprised in her history, none of which were in her power to prevent : he declared that he should be unworthy of her, were he possessed of so mean and selfish a dis-

position ; and that it should be the chief business and delight of his future life to soothe her sorrows, and make her forget her past misfortunes ; that as she had been pleased to designate him her deliverer, he hoped soon to lay claim to the more endearing terms of guardian and protector. Matilda said that such elevated and noble sentiments could only spring from and have birth in a mind highly cultivated ; but she begged of him to reflect that she was poor, and had not a shilling in the world.

At this instant Mr. W. entered the room for a book which he wanted. He apologized for the intrusion of which he had been guilty. The Captain begged he would not think so, for he observed that he had arrived at a moment he very much wished to see him, and desired he would be seated. The Captain then,



in a good-humored strain, told him that he had been laying close seige to Matilda, who had as yet held out against all his artillery, and he feared that unless he received reinforcements he should be compelled to abandon the enterprise, however reluctantly. At this military sally, Mr. W. laughed heartily, and said, that owing to his total ignorance of military tactics, he could not assist him in the way of a seige, but that if he thought any thing could be done by negociation, he could perhaps be of some service, were it only to carry dispatches. Mr. W. said, that laying jesting aside, there was a circumstance of some moment, which, owing to the agitation he had been in of late, he had neglected to mention, which was, that it had ever been his intention to treat Matilda as his own child in point of for

tune, and which he was ready and willing to do. The Captain returned him his sincere thanks, both for himself and Matilda, but said he wished for her and her alone, and in order to prove that his assertions were sincere, he must pointedly refuse to receive one farthing with her ; especially as his income was more than sufficient for all their wants. Mr. W. however was determined on having his intention carried into effect, and said he should take it very unkind of the Captain if he objected to it ; and that if he was absolutely refused, he would even, however reluctantly, withdraw the sanction he had given to their union ;— that he had the money in readiness, and could spare it without retrenching in the least on his own comforts, or inconvenience to his business, it being in the hands of his brother, from whom he had

just received a letter desiring him to come or send for it whenever he pleased. This threat was sufficient to silence all the Captain's opposition batteries, and he said, "Heaven forbid, Mr. W., that that should be the case; do as you please: I only wish it to be understood that I do not desire any such thing. I however trust, my worthy friend, that I am sensible of this additional proof of your goodness, and I will take upon me to say that my beloved Matilda is likewise so."

All difficulties being removed, or rather this single point being acceded to on the part of the Captain, for it constituted the only obstacle to be surmounted, the following Monday (this being Wednesday) was nominated as the happy day.

Matilda's history had not been made

known to Mr. Wilson's mother, nor did he think it prudent to do so. The old lady was very rich, and had evinced the most fond partiality for Matilda, and also for Captain Clifford, whose gallant exertions in Matilda's behalf, had raised him high in her esteem, of which Mr. W. was well assured, and which induced him to keep his mother in the firm belief that Matilda was her grandchild, in the hope that she might find a place in the old lady's will, and with the same paternal views he solicited her approbation of the match, which was readily granted, together, with an assurance that at her death, a clause would be found in her will, nothing to their (the Captain and Matilda's,) disadvantage.

Monday arrived, and all necessary preparations having been made, the mar-

riage was consummated, to the entire satisfaction of all concerned ; immediately after which Mr. W. presented his fair ward with one thousand pounds, as her marriage portion. The beautiful and accomplished Matilda, appeared peculiarly interesting on this occasion ; a calm, placid and unruffled satisfaction was conspicuous in her expressive countenance, equally distant from hypocritical coyness and unbecoming joy. Happiness now seemed to be within her reach, and she fondly hoped that dame fortune had at last become tired of persecuting her, and was at length disposed to make atonement for her past severities.

About a fortnight after the marriage, as Mr. Wilson was sitting one evening at a window in his mother's parlour, he saw two Indians pass on the street,

the features of one of whom he was certain were familiar to him ; and though he could scarcely account for the curiosity which urged him forward, he could not refrain from following them ; and on his coming up he was most agreeably surprised to discover in one the identical person who had, about fifteen years before, sold Matilda to him. The Indian likewise recollected Mr. W. appeared to be much alarmed, and seemed anxious to get away, but Mr. W. assured him he had nothing to fear, and that he only wanted some information respecting the child he sold him. With some difficulty the Indian was prevailed upon to accompany Mr. W. to his mother's house, and on perceiving Captain Clifford in regimentals, he became again much agitated ; but on being re-assured that no harm was

intended, providing he would give a faithful account of all he knew about the child, he recovered himself, and said he would tell them the truth, without any deception whatever. His relation was as follows : That one evening, in the month of June, fifteen years ago, as he and his Squaw were paddling their canoe along the bank of the (Cashe Scopea) great river Saint Lawrence, in Lower Canada, he found the child playing at the mouth of a small river that emptied itself into the great one, with a (misina higgon) book in her hand, full of pictures ; and that she was so intently occupied with the pictures, that he had her in his arms before she observed his approach. He put his hand upon her mouth to prevent her cries from being heard by the persons in the house, which was some dis-

tance from the river. At this part of the Indian's narrative, the tears came in Captain Clifford's eyes, but he commanded his feelings and said nothing. The Indian proceeded to state, that the bank of the river being a considerable height in the vicinity of where the house was situated, he easily concealed his canoe from the view of the inmates, by keeping close in shore until he had paddled some way on the river, and doubled a point, which entirely intercepted the view from the house, and prevented all possibility of being seen from that direction, he then crossed to the opposite side. He said he had never been in Lower Canada before or since, and could therefore give no account of the place where he found the child, though he would know it again if he was to pass that way.



He observed that the house appeared to be a very fine one, and farther stated that in order to prevent detection, during the time he had the child, he never went near the shore where there were people in view, and that whenever he did land he took care that it was in a solitary place, and generally made his Squaw remain in the canoe with the children ; but when they went to Mr. Wilson's house, they were on the point of starvation, not having had any food for three days, as he could find nothing to kill ; and that had they not landed he believed they would have had to eat one of the children. As he pronounced these words, Capt. C. started from his seat violently agitated, which alarmed the Indian so much that he also rose, and was so much frightened, that it was some time before Mr. W.

could prevail on him to resume his narrative ; which he at last did, and farther stated ; that afterwards he was induced to join the Americans against the English, and was now on his return from New York, where he had been receiving his presents for the services he had rendered. Mr. W. next asked him what had become of the book which he found in the child's possession, to which he replied, that he had always kept it about his person ever since, as he believed it to be sacred, and had been his guardian in many dangers ; on so saying he took it from an inside pocket of his coat, carefully rolled up in birch rhind, and presented it to Mr. W. At the first sight of which Captain Clifford rose from his seat, again under the greatest impatience to see its contents, in the hope

that it might throw some light on the mystery which he was so anxious to penetrate into. On opening the book, they found written on the first page, "Matilda Milford, born in Lower Canada, on the 22nd May, 1764." They examined every page of it with care, but could find no more writing. It consisted of pictures of animals, &c., neatly executed, for the amusement of children. They next inquired whether the Indian would accompany them to Canada, on being well paid, but this he resolutely refused to do, declaring he would suffer any thing rather than do so; and as he was under the protection of the American government, they of course could use no coercive measures with him; they were therefore obliged to let him depart, and

were not a little thankful for the information which they had obtained.

Mr. W. and Capt. Clifford agreed to have the book lying on the table when the ladies should return (they were out walking during the time the Indian had been in the house) to see whether Mrs. Clifford, (for so we must for the future term her) would have any recollection of it, or rather on seeing her name, what effect it would have; for it was hardly to be supposed she could have any recollection of it. It was accordingly placed on the table with some of the engravings exposed to view, and when the ladies returned, Mrs. Clifford threw her eye on the book, and taking it up, she said, "Oh what a fine little book," and instantly began turning over the leaves; when she came to the page

on which her name was written, she looked with astonishment, and turned pale. Captain Clifford on perceiving this, immediately related to her the whole of the Indian's narrative, which affected her considerably ; but she expressed much satisfaction at the recovery of the book, and said she would ever esteem it as a treasure. She also was pleased that the Indian was gone before she returned, as she said the sight of him would have been truly painful to her.

It was now high time for Mr. and Mrs. W. to return to their establishment at Kingston, and Captain C. and his lady proposed accompanying them, partly from the desire they had to enjoy their society as long as possible ; and partly with the view, and in the hope of obtaining some farther information in

Canada respecting Mrs. C.'s parents, now that they had their name. This proposition was very agreeable to Mr. and Mrs. W. and preparations were made for their journey, the whole party anticipating much pleasure from it; when their happy anticipations were of a sudden frustrated by a letter which Capt. C. received from his brother-in-law (who was married to his only sister) announcing the death of his father, and urging his immediate return to England to take possession of his large and valuable estate, the affairs of which much required his presence; several of the leases having expired, and no person on the spot possessing authority to renew them; or in other respects to superintend the tenantry, so that confusion and disorder were beginning to appear. Though

this intelligence put Captain C. in possession of a fortune which might be almost termed princely, (he being heir to a large sum of money in the funds over and above the estate,) yet these advantages were lost sight of by him in the unfeigned grief he felt at the loss of the best of parents : in which sorrow his beloved partner sincerely shared, as also did his friends Mr. and Mrs. W. ; for so strong were the ties of friendship in this little circle, that whatever gave pain to any one of them, affected the whole. This news from England gave quite another turn to Captain Clifford's determinations, which were now to proceed to England without delay ; and a gentleman (an acquaintance of old Mrs. Wilson's) happening at this moment to arrive from New York, informed him that there was

an English vessel lying there, which would sail for Liverpool in a week or ten days, he resolved on setting out for New York immediately. The preparations which he had to make were but few and soon accomplished, and taking a most affectionate leave of Mrs. W. senior, they commenced their journey to New York, accompanied by Mr. and Mrs. W. whose regard for the Captain and their daughter, (as they still considered Mrs. C.) would not allow them to part until they saw them on board the vessel which was to convey them to England.

They arrived at New York all well. On their way, and in that city itself, they observed many proofs of the desolating effects of war, which to the reflecting and feeling mind are truly painful to behold. To see the fairest and



finest productions of nature and art, all blended in one common ruin by "wild war's deadly blast," is a melancholy proof of the evil passions to which human nature is heir.

Captain Clifford on going on board the vessel to engage his passage, was most agreeably surprised to find an intimate acquaintance of his and his lady on board for the like purpose. He invited them to partake of his lodging until the vessel was ready to sail, which they accepted; and accordingly went on shore with him. He introduced them to Mrs. Clifford, as also to Mr. and Mrs. W. as his particular friends. This gentleman's name was Wilmoth. Mrs. Wilmoth was an agreeable, and handsome young woman, possessing an uncommon share of vivacity and sprightliness of temper. After a short

acquaintance with Mrs. Clifford, they became much attached, and each congratulated herself on having such a companion for the voyage. One day after dinner, the whole party were enjoying an agreeable conversation, and Mrs. Wilmoth was playing off her amusing wit with much sprightliness, she said to Capt. Clifford, that he was about to transplant the fairest flower in all North America to English soil, where she hoped it would take root and flourish. Mrs. Clifford felt the point of the compliment, and replied that whatever merits that exotic might possess, she already knew of an indogenous flower which would eclipse it.

After about a week spent in the most pleasant manner at their lodgings on shore, they received a communication from the Captain of the vessel, saying

that he was ready to drop down to Sandy Hook to wait for a fair wind, and desiring them to repair on board. The painful hour so often dreaded by both Mrs. Wilson and Matilda had arrived. They must now part, and perhaps for ever. Their parting was really affecting to behold. They clung to each other, neither of them being able to utter a word ; at last Mrs. Wilmoth dragged Mrs. Clifford away, and hurried her on board ; and Captain Clifford also experienced the keenest poignancy of feeling at parting from his much-valued friends. Mr. and Mrs. W. who were also affected in the highest degree, immediately left New York with heavy hearts, and proceeded on their way to Albany ; carrying with them however the inexpressible consolation arising from a con-

consciousness of having done their duties, and had the assurance of Captain and Mrs. Clifford visiting them next summer, providing nothing occurred to prevent it ; at all events, if they lived, they were sure to have letters from them. These reflections afforded them consolation. They remained a few days with Mr. W.'s mother at Albany, and then proceeded on their way to Kingston, where they arrived safe.

Mr. W. had the satisfaction of finding that his clerk had conducted the business in his absence with strict propriety ; and he farther had the pleasure of finding his brother there waiting his arrival, and that he had brought with him the full amount of what he owed him, according to their bargain. We must now return to Captain Clifford, and his fellow travellers.

On the 24th September 1783 they weighed anchor, and with a gentle breeze from north-west, proceeded to sea, and were soon out of sight of land. This was a new scene to Mrs. Clifford, and one which interested her much. She viewed the American continent with intensity, as it gradually sunk below the horizon; the awful expanse of ever rolling water around her, filled her mind with admiration and awe; and naturally led her to reflect, in a more than usually forcible manner, upon the incomprehensible attributes of "the glorious architect divine." The gentle breeze with which they commenced their voyage, soon became what seamen term a "stiff gale," which so increased the rolling and pitching of the ship, as made poor Mrs. C. soon feel that most disheartening and disa-

greeable nausea, sea sickness, to the no small amusement of her companion, Mrs Wilmoth ; who, having crossed the Atlantic several times, was proof against it; and though she was most sincerely attached to Mrs. C. yet sea sickness, like the toothach, never meets with commiseration; therefore, she fired many a witty shot at Mrs. C. This squeamishness, however, soon wore off; and Mrs. C. enjoyed the passage well, though rather a rough one, they having encountered much bad weather and contrary winds, which protracted the passage to forty days. On arriving at Liverpool, Captain Clifford hired lodgings on shore for a few days, in order to give Mrs. C. an opportunity of recovering from the effects of the voyage, for though she suffered less than was expected, yet a sea voyage to one unaccustomed to it, invari-

ably leaves certain sensations of fatigue behind. Mrs. Wilmoth was also anxious to enjoy her friend's society as long and as much as possible, therefore took lodgings in the same house. These ladies had become much attached to each other during the short time they had been acquainted, and their parting was painful to them both ; but part they must, for Mr. Wilmoth's residence was in Norfolkshire, and Capt. Clifford's in Bedfordshire ; however they parted with mutual promises of corresponding by letters, and visits the moment they had their affairs so arranged as to admit of leaving home ; the party who was first so situated was to pay a visit first. With this understanding they proceeded on their respective routes. Captain Clifford, before leaving Liverpool, wrote to Mr. Wilson, giving intimation of his and

Mrs. C.'s safe arrival there, together with their friends Mr. and Mrs. Wilmoth ; and promising a more full and detailed account of every thing relating to himself and Matilda, when he got settled on his estate.

Three days after leaving Liverpool, Capt C. arrived at his family mansion in Bedfordshire. The first person he met on approaching his house was his nurse, who was now in the capacity of housekeeper. She knew him immediately, and gave the most unequivocal demonstrations of joy at his safe return to assume the possession and direction of his splendid patrimony. The Captain introduced Matilda to her as Mrs. Clifford. The nurse approached her with much respect, and after regarding her with some attention, she turned to the Captain, and said, that she had often



heard it asserted that English ladies were the fairest in the world, but she now saw that other countries could produce equally as fine ladies as England could do—a remark which pleased both the Captain and his lady. They now entered the dining room, the splendour of which amazed the humble Matilda greatly. Never had she before seen any thing like it, and though she had been led to expect a handsome residence, yet she had no idea of such grandeur as she had already seen in the small portion of the house which had come under her notice. They had not been many minutes in the dining room, when the housekeeper entered, and informed the Captain, that all the servants were assembled, and were very desirous of paying their respects to him and his lady, which well-timed mark of

respect and attention on the part of the domestics pleased them both much, and he desired them to be shewn in. They entered in a body, and were received by the Captain with the greatest affability; he thanked them for this mark of respect, and said, that though he was a stranger to most of them, he hoped that they soon would be better acquainted; and added, that if he found them deserving, they should find that though they had lost a friend by the death of his late worthy father, they had found another in his son. He introduced Mrs. C. to them as their mistress, and ordered them abundance of every thing requisite to enable them to spend the remainder of the day in festivity. The housekeeper was busily engaged in preparing tea for the Captain and his lady, during which time he conducted her through

the principal parts of the house, all of which excited her admiration, but especially the drawing room, the furniture of which she said as far surpassed the flimsy trinkets of American furniture as solid silver did plated ware.

On sitting down to tea, a heavy sigh escaped Mrs. Chifford, which the Captain observing, enquired affectionately into the cause of it ; which she frankly owned to arise from reflecting upon the splendour she had seen, that it made her feel her own obscurity and insignificance, and (for she said she would not even conceal a thought from him) made her fear that he might one day or other censure himself, and consequently look down on her for the great sacrifice he had made, in preferring her to one who moved in the same rank of society with himself, which he was in every respect

so well entitled to. With considerable emotion, he entreated her to for ever banish such (as he thought) ungenerous ideas from her mind, assuring her in the most pointed and expressive language, that she did him great injustice in supposing he was capable of ever harbouring such ideas; and begged she would look upon herself in a true light, as the object of his choice, and as having been "culled from the glittering throng."

After tea, though they were both not altogether free from fatigue on account of their journey, they renewed their inspection in and about the premises, (as a lawyer would say) being both prompted by strong motives—the Captain from a desire to ascertain the condition which every part of his property might be in, and Mrs. C. from a wish to see every thing, because every thing was new and

highly interesting to her. After a thorough examination of the house, they proceeded to the gardens, where they continued their peregrinations while daylight served them.

They retired to rest at an early hour, being now well disposed for it; with both their minds occupied by meditation. The Captain reflecting upon his happy lot in having escaped so many dangers, and being now in possession of every earthly enjoyment his heart could wish for; and Mrs. C. equally occupied in reflecting upon the singularity of her fortune. Both were actuated by the most sincere attachment for each other, and the most unfeigned gratitude towards the All-wise Disposer of Events for the remarkable blessings bestowed upon them; but they were both alive to the responsibility under which these

marks of Divine favour placed them ; and after an earnest supplication for wisdom and prudence to conduct themselves on every occasion in such a way as should be acceptable to the author of the benefits which they enjoyed, they sunk into repose.

Next morning, after breakfast, Capt. Clifford sent a servant with a note to his steward, desiring to see him immediately. This was the first intimation which the steward had of his new master's arrival, and which he learned with much pleasure, thereby furnishing a proof of a faithful servant. He was indeed a most upright and worthy man, had been long in the employment of Captain Clifford's father, and possessed the esteem of all who knew him. He punctually waited upon the Captain, who was anxious to see him respecting some

affairs of the servants; and after some time spent in conversation, the Captain dismissed him, saying, that he would not sit down to the transaction of any business for a few days to come, as he wished first to visit his sister and brother-in-law; and that when he again had occasion for his attendance, he would let him know.

Capt. Clifford next conducted his lady to the Church of the parish, where the remains of his lamented parents were deposited. His mother had paid the debt of nature before he left England for America, but his father's tomb he had not yet seen. At the sight of these sacred spots, both him and Matilda were greatly affected.

On returning home, the Captain ordered his coach, and with his lady set off for his sister's, which was about six

miles distant from his own abode. They arrived there unknown to any one as they passed along the road, for his return was not yet published beyond his own domestics, nor had his sister and brother-in-law any knowledge of it. He desired his coachman to put them down behind the house, as he wished to take his relations by surprise; but his sister being at a window observed him leave the carriage, and immediately recognized him, consequently before he could reach the house, met him by the way, and embraced him with truly sister-like affection. Mr. Dalton, his brother in law, had also now joined them, and gave the Captain a cordial welcome to his native land. All this time, Mrs. C. stood by a silent spectator of the interesting scene before her, and which gave her a very favourable idea of the



new relatives with whom she was about to become acquainted. The Captain now introduced his lady to his brother and sister, the latter of whom reproached him with having been too tardy in so doing, which had been the cause of her being so long unnoticed by them, and for which she apologized to Mrs. C. who observed that no apology was necessary, for she had been highly gratified in observing the happy meeting of such worthy friends. The Captain good-humouredly remarked on the occasion, that the flowers of North America, were so much accustomed to sudden frosts, that they were not so apt to be affected by a cool breeze as those of England.

They were conducted to Mrs. Dalton's dining room, every thing in which indicated cheerfulness and plenty. It

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was now dinner time, and dinner was accordingly brought forward. After which, the whole party took a walk in the garden, the weather being fine, though late in the season, and the principal beauties of vegetation gone, was still very agreeable; and there they amused themselves until tea was announced.

During tea, Captain Clifford inquired of his brother-in-law the character of the different gentlemen in the neighbourhood, many of whom were strangers to him. This was a prudent and highly necessary precaution, which is but too little attended to by most people; for what is more common than to see precipitate and ill-assorted intimacies formed, which last but for a moment, and then terminate in lasting animosities and heart-burnings.

Mr. Dalton gave him a minute account of them, as far as he knew; and as report said, touching their circumstances, their characters for morals, their acquirements as regarded information, and their modes of living; specifying such as he would recommend him to form acquaintance with, and such as he ought to avoid. He said there was one gentleman, who lived at the distance of about twelve miles from the Captain's house, of a rather singular character, with whose society he was persuaded the Captain would be well pleased with, providing he could obtain his confidence and friendship; but that he lived a very secluded kind of life, seldom seeing any one, unless on business; that he had been only once in his company, on the occasion of an election, and that from what he then

saw of him, he was persuaded he was a gentleman of high mental attainments, and of a most amiable disposition, which was indeed his general character. He was a Sir William Milford, (at the mention of this name, Mrs. C. was visibly agitated, but it was observed by the Captain only), who had recently purchased a large estate on which he resided, and was reputed as being very rich. His beneficence to all in distress who came under his notice, was such as none but a man of great fortune could afford. He had been married, but was now a widower, and had a female relative for his house-keeper. It was generally believed that some family bereavement was the cause of the retired manner in which he lived; but however that might be, Mr. Dalton said, he evidently was qualified

to occupy a place in the first circles of society. This account of this singular, but at the same time most amiable character, raised in Captain Clifford and his lady a strong desire to be acquainted with him ; for they both felt as if they were somehow interested in the affair. The circumstance of the name was sufficient to excite this desire ; they were naturally ready to lay hold of every circumstance which held out the least prospect of leading to farther knowledge of Mrs. C.'s parentage, and who knew but this gentleman might be a member of the family. Capt. C. accordingly proposed to Mr. Dalton to accompany him to Sir William's and introduce him, as soon as he, (Capt. C ) had arranged some business of moment with his steward, and some of his servants.

Mr. and Mrs. Dalton would not allow the Captain and his lady to quit them that night; nor were they very desirous of doing it, though the Captain's presence at home was much wanted. The evening was spent in the most agreeable conversation on various topics, until a late hour, when they all retired to rest. Captain C. and his lady were no sooner alone, then he mentioned to her the intense impatience he was under to be acquainted with Sir William, for he said he felt a strong foreboding that from him some information would be derived respecting her parents; to which Mrs. C. observed, that so long a time had now elapsed without any satisfactory light having been thrown on the mystery, that she had but very little hopes of their ever being discovered; though

she could not help feeling a strong wish to avail herself of every event which held forth but even a possibility of leading to a discovery she so anxiously desired ; and she was therefore also very desirous to be acquainted with her namesake.

The next morning the Captain and his lady appeared at the breakfast table in excellent health and spirits. Captain C. requested his brother-in-law and his sister to accompany him to his mansion, and there spend some time ; particularly as Mr. Dalton could be of material assistance to him in the renewal of leases, &c., as he knew the character and circumstances of the tenants much better than he could possibly do. This request was readily agreed to, on the condition that the Captain and his lady should remain two days longer at

Mr. Dalton's, which they were necessitated to do, for opposition was in vain. These two days passed in the most agreeable manner, without any occurrence worthy of notice.

On the third day, after breakfast, they all took their departure in Captain C's coach; and on their arrival at his mansion, they found a number of the gentlemen of the neighbourhood in attendance, having been informed of his return to England and having also been informed by the factor (to whom Capt. C. had written from Mr. Dalton's) of the day on which he proposed returning from his brother-in-law's, they had assembled to welcome him to their neighbourhood, and to congratulate him on his entrance to the possession of his paternal estate. The factor was also in attendance, with a great num-



ber of the principal tenants, who had come for the same purpose. The Captain received them all, with an easy and agreeable politeness, for which he was distinguished. He desired Mr. Dalton to lead the gentlemen to the dining room, where he would join them as soon as he had given some necessary directions respecting his tenants. He shewed the tenants into a large hall, and ordering a good and substantial dinner for them, he left them to the care of the factor, and joined his brother-in-law and his party. The tenants were delighted with the reception they had received from their new landlord, and said he was the very image of his worthy father. As to Mrs. C. she did not so immediately concern them, but they allowed her to be extremely beautiful, and said they did not

think that any country except England could have produced such a beauty.

A splendid dinner was served up to the gentlemen. The amiable mistress of the mansion presided at the head of the table, and by her fine appearance and engaging manners, gave an agreeable zest to the entertainment. The Captain and Mr. Dalton exerted themselves to please their guests, in which they were most completely successful, for every one of them was in raptures with their new neighbours (the Captain and his lady ;) and gave them pressing invitations to visit them, as also Mr. and Mrs. Dalton. The Captain was not sparing of his wines, and the party were not backward in doing homage to them. At a rather advanced hour in the evening, they took their departure home (to use a sea phrase) " in

good sailing trim ;" well pleased with their entertainment and with themselves.

The next day the Captain and Mr. Dalton began in earnest as to business. The first thing they took in hand was the factor's accounts, which after a rigorous scrutiny, they found to be perfectly correct, and bearing every stamp of honesty, and an anxious wish for a faithful discharge of duty. He had in his hands a considerable sum of money, which he paid over to the last farthing. The Captain understanding that he had a large family, and but a moderate salary to support them with, made him a present of one hundred pounds, and added forty pounds to his yearly wages : at the same time assuring him that while he continued to conduct himself as he had hitherto

done, he might depend upon finding in him a friend.

In the course of ten days, Captain C. and Mr. Dalton, with the valuable assistance of the factor, had got every thing arranged to their entire satisfaction; but he had a large sum in the funds, under the management of a broker, so that a journey to London became necessary, to which he was the more inclined on his lady's account, being desirous of shewing her the huge metropolis of Great Britain; but before undertaking that journey he wished to spend a short time on his estate, in order to cultivate an acquaintance with his neighbours. The two ladies, Mrs. Clifford and Mrs. Dalton, had now been constant companions for some time, and a strong degree of friendship had taken place be-

tween them. Every day they rose higher and higher in each other's estimation, and often would Mrs. D. when alone with her brother, (the Captain,) tell him he might think himself amply repaid for all the dangers and privations he had gone through in America, in the treasure he had brought with him. This was harmonious music to the ears of her brother, who was infinitely delighted with, and more fond of his Matilda than all he possessed besides.

Mr. and Mrs. Dalton still continued with their friends, for the ladies had become inseparable ; and ten days had now been spent in paying and receiving visits, from the principal families in the neighbourhood. The Captain and Mr. Dalton were concerting measures for waiting on Sir William, who

had hitherto been passed over in the course of their visits, as he lived at some distance ; besides which his singular habits made them postpone their visit to him, until they should be perfectly at leisure ; for, in the event of finding him in a communicative humour, and showing a disposition for their acquaintance, it was their intention to extend their visit accordingly ; and to invite him to the Captain's the next day, when they might enjoy his company unmolested, the formal routine of visits having for the present, been gone through.

As they were on the point of putting in execution this concerted visit to Sir William, an elegant coach, (drawn by four handsome bay horses, with a driver, footman and a servant, in livery,) drove up to the mansion, and

on Captain Clifford going out to receive the visitors, whoever they might be, was greatly surprised to find his friends and companions on the voyage from America, Mr. and Mrs. Wilmoth, who wishing to give the Captain and his lady an unexpected visit, left their home without giving them any previous notice by letter as they had promised. Mrs. C. perceived her friends through a window, she ran with speed to receive them—their meeting was a happy one to them all. There was a strange gentleman, somewhat passed the meridian of life, who had come in the carriage with Mr. and Mrs. W. whom, Mr. Dalton perceiving, whispered to Captain C. that the stranger was Sir William Milford; and whom Mr. Wilmoth introduced to the company as such, and as the uncle of Mrs. Wilmoth,

adding that as he resided in the Captain's neighbourhood, he was anxious to form an acquaintance with him ; and said he doubted not but they would soon become friends. This was looked upon by the Captain as a particular fortunate incident, to have the person he was so desirous of becoming acquainted with brought to his door, and that too by a mutual friend. Upon Sir William being introduced to Mrs. Clifford, he no sooner had a view of her features, than he started back with amazement, but recovering himself, he begged they would excuse him, for Mrs. C. so very strongly resembled a friend of his, who was now no more, and so suddenly and forcibly brought her to his recollection, as had made him for an instant, forget himself. This rather disconcerted the whole



party for a short time, but on Mrs. C. it produced an effect for which she could not account.

The time was passed by the gentlemen in conversing on various subjects, and by the ladies in their own way, until the dinner hour arrived, when they all adjourned to the dining room, and partook of a dinner, served up in the first style of elegance, during which Sir William eyed Mrs. C. with most particular intensity, and paid great attention to every thing she said and did; but when he learned that she was a native of Canada, he seemed to take a particular interest in every thing that concerned her : he asked her many questions about that country, which she answered to the best of her knowledge. The Captain and his lady told their friends, Mr. and Mrs. W. that they expected to have the pleasure of their

company for a week at least ; and that Sir William would do them the honor to continue with them also. To which he said that he felt himself so agreeably situated, that he should not throw any difficulties in the way of so very gratifying an invitation ; and Mr. and Mrs. W. also readily gave their concurrence. Dinner being over, the party adjourned to the drawing room, in one of the windows of which was lying the little book which had been recovered from the Indian at Albany. It happened to meet Sir William's eye, and he took it up carelessly and opened it at the beginning. On recognizing his own hand writing, and well recollecting the book to have been in his daughter's possession at the time of her disappearance, he turned round in a state of agitation not to be described,

and exclaimed, "how came this book here? can any one inform me!! it did belong to my dear but long-lost daughter, Matilda Milford, whose loss I have so long lamented!!!" Mrs. C. was standing close to Sir William at this moment, and on hearing these words she flung her arms around his neck, and had just strength to exclaim, "Oh my father," and fainted. The consternation of those present may be better conceived than described. All were amazed except Captain C. who was in some degree prepared for such a discovery; he therefore was much less surprised than the rest of the company. As soon as the ladies had recovered a little from the violent agitation in which they had been thrown, they flew to Mrs. C.'s relief; and by the aid of stimulants she soon recovered, to

the enjoyment of felicity she had never before anticipated. Not the shadow of a doubt could remain as to the identity of the parent and child. Sir William embraced the Captain in the most affectionate manner, and said that what he had endured on Matilda's account was now amply repaid in finding her, and such a son-in-law. He then recounted to them the manner in which Matilda was lost, with a circumstantial detail of his own sufferings, and the death of her mother. After tea, he requested Matilda to relate to him, and their common friends and relatives present, her history, from the earliest moment of her recollection, and according to what she had been informed by her preservers, which she did as herein related.

After which, at the earnest request

of his daughter, he favoured the company with a few particulars of his adventures since his return from Canada to his native country, which are as follows. After spending many years in England, daily expecting some tidings of his dear Matilda from those whom he entrusted with the sacred charge, but could not receive the smallest information respecting her, and his melancholy still continuing with a debilitated state of health, he was advised by his friends to visit the continent of Europe, as a change of scenery and cheerful company was most likely the best means to divert his mind from the pressure of grief which preyed so much and so constantly on him ; therefore he undertook the journey, accompanied by a trusty servant, and after spending two years in visiting every

place worthy of notice on the European continent, he took his passage in a ship on his return to his native land, highly gratified with the beauties he had seen, but little or nothing relieved from the pressure of his grief. One night as they were proceeding along the Spanish coast, they were suddenly attacked by an Algerine Pirate, which they resisted with every means in their power for a length of time, during which period both the Captain and mates were killed, being always foremost in leading their men to action ; he then was under the necessity of assuming the command, and after a desperate engagement of two hours, they had the satisfaction of not only defending themselves but of taking the pirate, which to their utter astonishment had only four men alive when she struck ; their

own loss was likewise very great, nevertheless they had a sufficient number of men left (the weather being very fine and wind fair) to navigate both vessels to Dover, at which place they arrived safe without encountering any farther molestation. On their arrival there the King was made acquainted with the heroic action, and as a reward for Mr. Milford's meritorious conduct on the occasion, he conferred on him the honor of knighthood, with a pension for life. This relation gave great satisfaction to all present, particularly to the sweet Mrs. Clifford, who felt more on this occasion than my feeble pen can express.

Witness reader, the once poor and forlorn Indian's Captive has now become the adored wife of a gentleman of the first standing in society, both

for personal accomplishments and wealth, and is likewise the sole heiress to an immense property by her father, all which blessings, we hope she will be grateful for, and appreciate their value in a true light.

They are now enjoying all the happiness which this transitory world can afford; therefore it would be the next thing to sacrilege to again break in upon their repose, consequently, we shall bid them farewell.





1. The first part of the document discusses the importance of maintaining accurate records of all transactions. It emphasizes that this is essential for the proper management of the organization's finances and for ensuring compliance with applicable laws and regulations.

2. The second part of the document outlines the specific procedures that must be followed when recording transactions. This includes the requirement to use standardized forms and to ensure that all entries are supported by appropriate documentation, such as invoices and receipts.

3. The third part of the document discusses the role of the accounting department in the overall financial management process. It highlights the need for close communication and collaboration between the accounting department and other departments within the organization to ensure that all financial data is accurately recorded and reported.

4. Finally, the document concludes by reiterating the importance of maintaining accurate records and following the established procedures. It encourages all employees to take responsibility for their own financial reporting and to report any discrepancies or errors immediately to the accounting department.