

LUCY GRAHAM, BY A LADY.

It was at a late hour, on a gloomy afternoon, in the month of November, when the wind was blowing...

It was on emerging into one of these openings, which bore marks of the recent labour of the wood-cutter, that I perceived, not far distant, a twinkling light...

"My father will be home very shortly," she replied, "and I am certain, will make you welcome to his fireside..."

"I thanked the kind-hearted maiden for her offer, and having complied with it by placing the poor animal in a state of comfort, I returned to the house, and dismounted myself of my travelling gear..."

"My companion, meanwhile, had seated herself on the opposite side of the fire, and maintained a modest silence. After a pause of a few moments, I commenced a conversation by enquiring the name of the book, which still lay upon the table before me..."

"I am glad to hear it," I rejoined, "and I doubt not you find it a delightful companion, as a most blessed companion!—It cheers my solitary hours, and enables me to bear up under trials which would else have crushed me to the earth..."

"I raised my eye to the youthful countenance of the speaker, to see if there was aught there betokened the touch of sorrow, but the deep lines of care and grief, had not traced on her fair brow, though I fancied the expression of her gentle eye, which I so much loved to gaze upon, indicated that it, and which is rarely seen in the countenance of one, who has not tasted the bitter cup of suffering..."

"And has this young creature," thought I, "already begun to pass through the valley of affliction? I should like much to know the nature of her distress..."

his good-will in other ways. I was pleased to find his manners gradually softening, and his interest evidently excited on other subjects, and he often expressed the pleasure he experienced in meeting with any one who could converse like me on these subjects...

I accepted of this permission, ungraciously as it was, and opening my sacred volume, I read the 3d chapter of St. John's Gospel, where the necessity of a renewal of the heart before it is possible to gain admittance into the kingdom of heaven, is so clearly and beautifully set forth...

I stretched myself on my cloak before the fire, and slept until the evening light summoned me to depart on my way. I took leave of my host with many kind words and wishes, and of his sweet young daughter, with a deeper interest than to transient intercourse had permitted to my acquaintance with the neighbourhood...

"The animal creature seemed to sympathize in the revival of its sister kingdom to life and beauty. The fleet and graceful deer bounded occasionally across my path, full of vivacity and glee, the nimble squirrel climbed among the boughs of my head, and gazed in conscious admiration on his elevated position, and the feathered songsters poured forth their most enchanting melody..."

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"I regret exceedingly that my time will not allow of any delay," I answered, "as my business is urgent, and I have been already detained beyond my wish, by the state of the road, but as I intend returning this way, in the course of a few weeks, I will endeavour then to stop, and do as you desire..."

"I discovered in him no deficiency, either of natural sense or of information, but a state of mind in bitter and determined hostility to gospel truth, which displayed itself in a refined and subtle manner, and which, I thought, had been in him since he was a child, and which, I thought, had been in him since he was a child..."

expressive countenance; the full powers of consciousness had remained, but to render the bitterness of that cup of agony more intense, more unmitigated, "It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God..."

"No mortal hand can give me relief," he answered, in a hollow voice, "my hand, both in soul and body, is too deep for any earthly physician to heal. I have not many hours to live, I feel, for human strength cannot longer endure what is appointed for me to suffer..."

"Your bodily disease may be too much aggravated for relief," I resumed, "but it is not too late to apply to the great Physician of Souls. Remember that even in the hour of death, his mercy is not exhausted..."

"There is none for me—there can be none for me," was his reply, "I would not ask, if I could, for mercy from a Being, whom I have defied and hated, when I am on the point of death. Do you think I could be moved by a prayer that was prompted by dread alone? No! I will not—I cannot pray. I will die as I have lived, and bear the curse I have drawn upon my own head..."

"Several years passed away, and my thoughts often reverted to the scenes I have related, but they were not the scenes I had expected to find. The delay of my appearance, which I had last seen her, led me to suppose that she had probably soon followed her father to the tomb, and I felt, that in such an event, there would be little cause of mourning to her whose brief existence had been so full of joy and peace, and in which she had been so happy..."

"I could not resist their united entreaties to remain until the next day, though I had only proposed to spend an hour or two. At sunset the husband returned from his labours, and the young man, who had been so long absent, returned home, and I discovered kind tokens of piety and good sense with those I had observed in his mother. In the evening I complied with the request of the family to unite with them in the evening service of the church, after which we enjoyed some religious conversation until the hour for retiring..."

"On the following morning I took leave, with regret, of this interesting household, with whom I shall probably hold no more earthly intercourse, but whose members I humbly trust to meet that 'house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens'..."

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MR. R. S. SUTTON, Attorney, 179, KING STREET, TORONTO, March 3, 1842.

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