

The nobleman's son.

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THE NOBLEMAN'S SON.

THE

LIFE AND ADVENTURES

OF

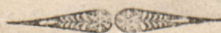
DR. JOHN G. VON LANDSBURG;

ONLY SON OF

ARTHUR VON LANDSBURG,

BARON OF WORMSTALL,

HANOVER AND HESSEN CASTELL.



HALIFAX, N. S.

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1845.

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PREFACE

TO MANKIND IN GENERAL,
BUT MORE ESPECIALLY
TO THOSE INDIVIDUALS,
WHO MAY BE PLEASED TO PERUSE WITH
ATTENTION

THE FOLLOWING PAGES,
IS THIS HISTORY SUBMITTED,
BY THE AUTHOR.

PREFACE.

The reader will find in the following pages a true account of the author's adventures, and providential deliverances, in times of difficulty ; and a great variety of vicissitudes by land and water ; of his splendour and poverty, health and sickness ; his experiments as a practitioner in medicine, and a full and correct account of his life.

If the author may not be commended for the beauty of his composition, he hopes to be pardoned for that, on account of the benefit which this publication is calculated to bestow upon mankind.

He trusts that it will convince all classes of men of the omnipotence of that Being who made and governs the universe ; of his superintending providence, and what mankind have to undergo before they are called to eternal rest. And, it is a source of happiness to the author to reflect, that while some are spending their days in mirth, others in following hard after the empty shadows of renown, he is able to sit down at the advanced age of 63 years, and write that which may prove beneficial to his fellow creatures.

Various histories have appeared since the Press has become the almost universal organ of information—some of which have been greatly embellished by figures of fancy to give popularity to their works ; others have greatly detracted from their true merits, by leaving out the essential parts through imbecility or delicacy, not wishing to offend the sensitive ear ; but, the author can state, that his little work, however simply written, his experiments and experience, are honestly transmitted to future generations.

The opportunities which his medical practice has afforded him from time to time, and from a variety of circumstances, conversations and observances, yield him more genuine knowledge than he could have derived from all the books in the world.

He trusts that no part of his history will offend any one of the ladies and gentlemen who may participate in his prosperous practice. As a Surgeon and Physician he has had many opportunities afforded him to discover hidden things which persons unacquainted with the like could scarcely believe. Wherever he has been called to a patient, he first endeavoured to make himself thoroughly acquainted with the disposition, temper, foibles, manner of living, state of the body and mind, and the origin of the distemper before he attempted to administer medicine. And, whatever discoveries he has made into the secrets of nature, as displayed in the human system, he is willing to communicate, for the benefit of mankind: therefore he is determined to give a full and correct statement of both good and bad, mysterious and plain, of all that have occurred under his notice. He dreads no punishment in this world; and so long as he meets with the approbation of a good conscience, he hopes through the merits of the Redeemer, at last to gain the haven of unmolested security. Thence, he trusts he shall look back and see that he has not lived for himself alone, but in his humble way has endeavoured to wring a drop from the grapes of experience into the fountain of knowledge, for the benefit of future generations.

THE NOBLEMAN'S SON, &c.

CHAPTER I.

The Village of Wormstall.—First Impressions.

I was born in Wormstall, Hanover. At the age of six weeks, I was placed under the care of my Grandmother, who cherished me in my tender infancy, and whom, my readers will excuse me, for calling, 'mother;' as I knew no better for many years. Her situation was in a village called Paele, in the dominion of Landgraf, Hessen Castel, about one day's journey from Hamlon City. It was a beautiful Village of about three miles in length. A small river passed through the middle of it, which fertilised the banks upon which the houses are built on each side. The soil was rich and had been cultivated with industry and great nicety, so that the whole Village abounded with orchards, gardens and plantations. Presenting to the eye one of those situations of rural happiness, which the greatest monarch might envy. Our dwelling was situated about the middle of this beautiful Village. It was surrounded by almost all sorts of fruit trees; and not many yards from the house was a bower formed by nature, studded with every description of trees; from the sturdy oak

to the most pliable sprout. Here, it seemed to my young mind, as if all the birds endowed with notes of melody assembled to render praise to their Creator. Into this bower I would often softly creep to listen with enthusiasm to the songs of the feathered choir. The hawk sailing into the sky was a mark of untrammelled freedom, and I longed for the same power to trace the pathless air, and at one glance, view lake and ocean, and waving meadows.

In these employments my youthful hours passed sweetly and swiftly along. No troubles damped my joys, except those which extract the sigh from all mankind, the cravings of an immortal mind. To dissipate these I would paint pleasure of all kinds on the parchments of imagination, little knowing that the hard world of realities would destroy all their lustres.

CHAPTER II.

An Extraordinary Incident.

It was a fine afternoon, that my mother said to me, 'come my darling, put on your hat and we will stroll through the orchard, when I will see if I can find you a ripe plum.' Ready at any time to attend to the wishes of so intelligent a mother; and pleased with the thoughts of a plum from her hand; as it added a richness which one of my own gathering would not possess, I on

with my hat, seized her by the hand, and we proceeded upon our pleasant stroll.

After she had got me the promised plums, and had for some time been viewing the fruit, the grass and the waving grain, through which, as I admired them, she tried to point out and impress upon my young mind, the goods of the divine being in ordaining those blessings for his creatures, she began to feel uneasy; and we prepared for home.

We had proceeded but a few steps, when, our ears were pierced with most appalling cries, as of some person in distress.

Upon turning our eyes towards our nearest neighbour's house from whence the sound proceeded, we observed Mr. Conrad Lepky, for this was our neighbour's name, writhing before his door, as if undergoing the most bitter lashing: and at the same time not a soul near him. Presently his wife and son-in-law came out and dragged him into the house; his cries still continuing though fainter and fainter till they at last died away. Upon the first sound of these unnatural cries, my mother dropped upon her knees, clasped one arm round me, while the other supported him, and in this position stood trembling like an aspen leaf, for some minutes after they had dragged him into the house. As for me, I stood, Belshazzar like, with my eyes rivetted to the spot; and for ought I know should have remained there still, had not my poor old soul-quaking mother, regained power to speak to me.

The reason of this strange state of consternation into which we were thrown will be obvious, when I lay before my fair readers, some of the features of the characters of this singular man. He was about 56 years of age, a well proportioned, and at a short distance, good looking man; but when closely inspected, his eye and forehead seemed of that character which gives rise to suspicion. He had a tongue tipped with all the oratory of a keen lawyer; and he would handle words as nicely as a merchant would china. He always had plenty of money, and no one knew whence he obtained it, as his resources were but few. He could perform any feat he set himself about. If any sort of animal was sick in the village, all that was needed, was to send for Mr. Lepky; he would lay his hand upon the beast, mutter a few broken words that no one understood but himself, and the beast was immediately well. Whatever finery his wife or family wished they had only to hint it to him, and it was certain to return with him after a walk out in the evening, though he was never known to go or send to a store for such things. These and the like manœuvres possessed people of suspicion, that he must be assisted by the Old Chap, or some of his satellites; so that all the village stood in awe of him, and neither high nor low cared to offend him, lest direful consequences might ensue. So it was, the notoriety of this character, and the singularly torturing situation we had seen him in,

without any known cause for it, that brought the old lady and myself into such fearful consternation. After we had come to ourselves a little, the old lady tremblingly took me by the hand, and we made the best of our way home. Upon entering the house she said to Jenny, our cook, "I believe from my heart, that OLD NICK has been giving Mr. Lepky a sound lashing. Many of the village think it singular that Satan should chastise so faithful a subject, unless it might be for his doing the previous Sunday, what he had never been known to do in his life, to stand and listen to the parson's prayers as he was passing the house. But of this singular character we will hear more by and bye.

CHAPTER III.

Singular Phenomenon.

I was now sent daily to the Village School and made rapid progress in the first rudiments of education. As a love of learning had been instilled into my mind from earliest infancy by my old mother, I applied my mind closely to study; and by this means won the esteem of my teacher; and my desire to please gained the good will of all my fellow students.

One day a most singular phenomenon of nature was experienced in the village, while I was attending school, it so strikingly displayed the

charactar of that Being who, "walketh upon the wings of the wind," that I submit it to the reflection of my fair readers.

The day was fine and clear, the sun shone with his usual brightness, when not a cloud obstructs his lustre, till about 4 o'clock, P. M., when a most dreadfully black cloud was seen rising in the west. It spread instantaneously over the firmanent; the heavens were clothed in blackness, and people were obliged to quit their business on account of the darkness.

The wind with hideous roar whirled round and round the place; lightning spread itself in sheets through the village; and the thunders crashed as if the heavens had been provoked to discharge all their magazines of vengeance at once upon the earth, to destroy it; the rain fell in torrents, and what will be almost incredible to my readers, though perfectly true, immense quantities of fish of various sizes, were hurled from the clouds, during that storm. The ground for about nine or ten miles in circumference was completely specked with fish. The immediate cause of this singular occurrence was a matter of wonder to me. But leaving this for my readers who are better versed in the phenomena of nature than myself to determine, I will continue to lay before them some of the most prominent features of my variegated life.

CHAPTER IV.

Induction. Presents from my Father. Mysterious occurrences. Confinement without Food. Leaving Home.

Under the parental care of my old mother, six of my early years had been spent. My childish sorrows had been drowned in her sympathizing love; my joys enhanced by her participation, and all the anxieties and irritations of my mind were quietly hushed into submission by the soft whisperings of reproof that fell from her tongue.

These sunny days, however, were not to last long: fatality had marked out a far more uneven path than this for me to tread the iron-bound shores of time.

Whilst eager in the prosecution of my studies one day, Mr. Conrad Lepky entered the school, and after speaking a few words with the teacher, he turned and said to me: youngster, you are to go to my house to-night; your father has placed you under my care, where you will be well taken care of whilst you continue to go to this school. Your father has sent you a beautiful French pony, and an equipage just suited to your taste, that will make you appear as beautiful as Flora when the sun first decks her after a long and dreary winter. The thoughts of my father's presents, and the mighty swell I was to cut in my new dress, and mounted on my pony, at first pleasantly tickled my ear and

heaved my bosom with anticipated pleasure. A moment's reflection, however, upon the bug bears of Mr. Lepky's divinations and super-human actions, sent a thrill of horror through my veins, and I wept bitterly.

If indeed a message from my father had stated that he had agreed with the foreman of the lower regions for my lodgings it could not have been less welcome. However, there was no alternative; my father, whom I had never seen, had made arrangements, and I must comply. He had fallen in with Mr. Lepky's oily tongue, which had not failed to expatiate largely upon the necessity of his having his son removed from the indulgences of an old grandmother, in order to consult the advantage of his education and his future honour.

His harangue had the desired effect. The oil from his tongue completely destroyed the friction of the old Baron's suspicions, and without further inquiry an agreement was made for my residence in the family of the evil genus. The pony and dresses were sent by him, and upon their arrival he had repaired to the school house. With a sorrowful countenance, and a mind loaded with fearful apprehensions, I proceeded to my new lodgings. My usage at first was as good as heart could wish, but all the conveniences for pleasure that wealth is able to bestow could have availed me nothing, so long as Mr. Lepky's

unnatural actions tortured my mind with fear and filled my imagination with all the hedious forms of his more accomplished comrades.

Here he would sit down by himself alone, and appear to converse very freely with some one, and not a soul near him; nor would he know that any one was watching his manœuvres.

The time at which he had the most conversation with his invisible friend was when he particularly stood in need of sums of money. On one particular occasion, he seemed to have a sharp, unfriendly debate with his invisible banker; and in this state of irritation, his passion raised his voice higher than he was aware of, and I gathered some of his discourse. Unluckily for my fears, my bedroom was off the room in which he generally held his soliloquys or discussions; and as the bed-room had no windows in it, three panes of glass were placed in the upper part of the door to give light to the room. Here by standing upon the stool that was placed to put my clothes upon, I could discover all that passed in the room. Upon hearing his usual low tone, that I never could understand, this evening, I crept softly out of bed, and after I had fixed my stand and taken it to make discoveries, I observed that his countenance indicated that all was not right with his friend. His eyes darted fire, and his voice began to raise louder. Presently he rose from

his chair, with his face toward the front window, and his arm extended: 'Now,' said he, 'what has my going to that funeral, or the few tears which natural affection wrung from my eyes, to do with our bargain?' He then paused long enough for a short answer, and then added, 'If that be the case, you have violated the engagement.' He paused a moment more, and said again with a smile: 'If so, all is right.' The speaking then stopped, and Mr. Lepky went directly to his draw, pulled it out, and began to count money. I then crept softly into my bed again, but the terrors of this strange sight had driven all sleep from my eyes, and in fact I dared not close them, for fear his enraged fiend might come and carry me off. From this time I became more and more wretched. I got no sleep scarcely; my appetite left me; I became histericy, and had it not been that I fell in with my old mother one day as I was returning from school, who persuaded me to go home with her, I should have died. Under the old lady's kindness, in a few days, I recruited very much; but my joys were of short duration. As soon as he had detected the road I had taken, he came and took me by force, not heeding the cries of my mother; but carried me to his house and locked me in my bedroom. The remainder of that day I spent in crying and praying, without food, and without any body coming to let me know

whether my imprisonment was for a few days, or weeks, or for life. The dismal night was passed in the same manner, and I know not how long I should have been compelled to stay there, had he not left for Hanover the next day upon business. My old mother, knowing my case would be desperate, resolved that die or live she would attempt my rescue from the hands of so inhuman a wretch. Accordingly she came, and finding Lepky gone, ordered her servant to break open the door ; after which she took me by the hand and we proceeded for her home. We had, however, gone but a short distance when we met Mr. Lepky returning. He immediately called to his servants, and being superior in numbers to my mother's, took me again by force, and remanded me to my prison. Here I spent another bitter night. Next morning a stranger entered my room with a new suit of clothes for me. He said he was my father's servant,—that my father had been informed of my ill-treatment,—that he had proposed new lodgings for me, and that he had come to conduct me to the place. This seemed too much to be reality. For a moment I thought I was in a dream. Another look at the clothes, and a glance at the servant, convinced me I was awake. I sprang to my feet, and with eagerness seized my clothes and put them on as quickly as my excited condition would admit. This

done, we left the house ; and I doubt much if the poor manacled whiteman, surrounded by savages, with the wood pile at his feet, and their torches lit to commit his body to the flames, would exult more at the prospect of deliverance than I did as I strode out of this dwelling of Satan.

CHAPTER V.

Journey to Wonstorf. Introduction to my new Guardians. Advice on Education.

When I got into the yard, I found my pony saddled and standing by the servant's horse, and we mounted : and I fancy my looks and gestures showed Mr. Lepky and his family, that instead of regret at leaving, a more pleasant emotion operated upon my mind. As soon as I got into the road, my pony being in too good trim to bear the high spirits my mind had sent into my leg, set off with the speed of the wind ; and before my attendant could overtake me, I had gone two or three miles. When he got near enough he called out for me to hold up, which done, I found my pony was foaming and sweating very much. He remonstrated with me upon my uncouth riding ; but whenever my mind would revert to Mr. Lepky's talking to his clovenfooted banker, or myself confined in that dreary bed-

room, my nerves would at once be strung, my heels would be against the poney's sides, and away he would bound like lightning: the faithful servant following hard after, crying, "Spare the pony!"

Then I would rein up, and take it more moderately for a few minutes, and so by fits and starts I annoyed my servant, and worried myself and my beast till night. We put up that evening at an inn, where we were well accommodated. I retired early to rest, and spent, what might be compared with my former situation, a happy night. Next morning we mounted again, and about noon we arrived at Wonstorf, a small town about 12 miles from Hanover. My father had agreed with a man by the name of Luderson for my lodgings whilst I followed my education-course. After we had refreshed our horses at an inn, we proceeded to Luderson's house. We found the family at home, and after the servant had delivered a letter to Mr. Luderson from my father, and when he had hastily examined its contents, he turned, and with a smile that carried a friendly affection to my mind, invited me to take some refreshment. Accordingly I did, but not feeling very hungry, I thought it a good time to examine the features and countenances of my new guardians. Mr. Luderson was a good-looking man; his forehead, his eyes, his mouth and his tongue, all possessed that easy grace that wins the affection of a stranger. But, as I was quite young at the time, I shall

not be able to give as exact account of his features as I can those of his wife, as his did not leave the same lasting impression on my mind. As for her looks, they were afterwards so indelibly reverted on my memory by her cruel actions, that should I attain the years of Mathuselah, and undergo all the afflictions of Job, they never could be erased. It appears to me I can see the little, old, humpbacked, tyrannical wretch sitting in her arm-chair now, just as plainly as the first day,—there are her two eyes, about the size of two pepper corns, and much the same colour, under a pair of squinting coverings, flying hither and thither, and carrying their unhappy influence into the mind of every person whose eyes might come in contact with them. There is her forehead, bevelling from her eyebrows to the crown of her head, as if scared at the flash of her eyes, and so had receded from them; her teeth by frequent gritting had lost their covering, mouldered away and fallen out, so that her peaked chin and nose seem to incline towards each other like a pair of nutcrackers. The mouth is compressed out of shape for the want of the ivory gritters, and the wrinkles at the corners, gave it an unpleasant aspect; it was case hardened to a smile, unless at the misfortunes of those in higher stations than herself. To give my fair readers a detail of every particular of this woman's features, would engross too much time for the object of my present work. What I have laid before

you will give you to understand that my new situation was not so inviting as I had anticipated, though the apprehensions were of a different nature from my former situation. After we had dined, and I had listened awhile to the pleasing conversation of Mr. Luderson, I felt a desire to ride about town a little, to make myself acquainted with the beauties and deformities of the place; to go into the school and observe the manners, looks, actions, dresses and studies of those who were afterwards to be my companions; and at the same time to drive off those hysterical feelings and notions my former unhappy situation had imposed upon me. To affect my desires, the servant soon had the horses cleaned and prepared for a ride. We rode slowly about, the better to have a fair view of every thing that attracted my notice, for some time. The spacious buildings of ingenious architecture; the cottages of the lovers of rural felicity, who, as it were, endeavoured to bring country to town, were all objects of admiration and pleasure to my young mind, and they completely dissipated the melancholy of my former unhappy situation; and the unfriendly appearance of any new mistress.

After feasting my eyes upon novelties for a short time, we called at the house of Mr. Withersock, chorister of that parish, to whom my father had addressed a line with a requisition for him to have a paternal eye to my usage. Soon as he had read the letter, his countenance

changed, a sort of dark cloud passed over it, that for an instant eclipsed the smile that generally played about it, which gave me to understand that my apprehensions at Mr. Luderson's house had not altogether been unwarrantable.

A moment's pause, and the chorister said to the servant, 'I am astonished at the Baron's not pitching upon a more suitable place for his son; although Mr. Luderson is a man of the most tender sensibilities, and one who is highly prized by all that know him; yet his wife on the contrary is not such a woman as should be entrusted with the tender and affectionate care that should be taken of a child.'

'No (replied his lady) if the Baron knew what an ill-natured, tyrannical wretch people represent her to be, he would disdain trusting her with the care of his boy.' Such epithets bestowed upon my new mistress, from a source I might place confidence in, stung me most bitterly, and tears began to find their way down my cheeks. The chorister observing this, changed the discourse to one that would be more likely to make me contented with my new situation, 'Come hither to me,' said he, 'that I may examine your countenance. It strikes me, there is something in your features the commonality do not observe. I thought so,' said he, after pretending to examine them as critically as a banker would foreign bills; 'doubtless you have talents, if cultivated with education, which will fit you for one of the first walks in life. 'Now,

my son, if you would attain to respectability and honour in the eyes of men of sense, you must have a sound mind, stored with all the treasures of education and virtue. If you depend upon your father's riches to ensure these for you, you will certainly be disappointed; all the retinue that attends ignorance will clog the wheels of time, and hinder them from rolling you easily along, and when you attain your majority, and your riches have lavished all power to plaster you with marks of distinction in the eyes of men of refinement, you will appear like one of Tom Pane's volumes did to me the other day: most beautifully dressed, painted and gilded outwardly; but when inwardly investigated, it appeared a dark mass, tending to lead into a labyrinth of misery. Remember, my son, in growing to the stature of a man in mind, you will have to surmount enormous difficulties, and coming impossibilities. You will have to undergo the lashes of your mistress' tongue, while her eyes will dart daggers at you; often when the hurricanes of temper blow high, you will get a box in one ear to teach you law, and another on the other ear to teach you gospel. Knaves will taunt you if you do not assist them in roustery, and fools will laugh at you for puzzling your head with study, when you are likely to be very rich some day, which will make up for all deficiencies. Your own evil propensities will beset you hard to give your young mind up to pleasures with a plea that you are too young to give

up the glittering pleasures of folly, for the grave employment of study that when you grow older you will take more pleasure in study, and consequently give up your mind wholly to it. These and ten thousand other difficulties you will have to encounter. But what are they? What are the petulant cuffs of a surly mistress; the taunts of knaves, or the pleasures of childish folly, in comparison to the honors and pleasures you will reap by and bye from a sound education? Go then, my son, and pay no attention to the petty trifles that come in your way, but patiently stick like a bookworm to your studies; be obedient to the commands of your overseers; pray frequently to God to give you grace and wisdom to conduct yourself discreetly in life, and I hope I shall see you grow to a man of piety and virtue; one whose head will reach the clouds in point of knowledge, whose eyes will extend to the utmost parts of the earth; and whose voice will command the admiration and love of millions.

CHAPTER VI.

A Termagant. Unparalleled ill Usage. Prospects of Escape.

After the Chorister's lecture, which had somewhat reconciled my mind to my lot, we

bade them good by, mounted our horses, and started for my new lodgings. When we got into the yard, and had seen my pony taken care of, I turned to go into the house. As I turned, I espied the surly face of my new mistress at a back window. She had seen us coming, and was chagrined at my making a better appearance, as she thought, than the darling of her heart, a young grandson much of my age, and for this reason was standing at the back window gnashing her old gums with envy. On first sight of her, that unfriendly influence of her eye, sent a cold chill of horror over me, that curdled the blood to my toes. I knew not whether to lay down and die under my hard fate, or to go into the house; a moment's reflection, however, set me to rights. The Chorister's compliments upon my talents, and the conspicuous station I was going to fill, rushed into my mind and spread new life through my veins, and I determined to undergo any hardships fatality might impose, if I could but attain the summit of distinction after which the Chorister's lesson had taught me to aspire. Casehardened by my new resolution to the influence of this Torpedo, I entered the house. The servant then gave to Mr Luderson the directions and injunctions of my father; and after wiping a tear that forced itself down his cheek upon leaving me, bade me good day. My eyes strained after him for some moments, after he was out of sight, whilst my mind indulged in

the lonely situation in which I was left ; without a father, as I had never seen him ; without a mother, as I had been deprived of her by the crafty insinuations of Mr. Lepky ; and without a friend except Mr. Luderson, and he was obliged to be the most of his time from home upon business. Then a torrent of tears gushed out, but were soon checked by my resolution of stoic apathy. The next morning I repaired to the school, and commenced my usual routine of studies. At school by my good behaviour and my love of literature, I soon won the esteem of my teacher, who often favoured me above my real deserts, on account of his knowing my advantages at home were but few. The school was conducted by three teachers—viz., the Rector of the parish, the prelate, and the Chorister.

Months rolled away, and I still continued my studies at school. My kind and faithful teachers took all imaginable pains to forward my education, and as there were no pleasures in my home, I was forced to seek for them in the school room ; and I have often thought since, that my mistress' barbarity to me, served to facilitate my improvement, though decidedly from no good will of hers. I made rapid strides in the branches of education, but a constitution of iron could not have sustained long under the treatment I received from Mrs. Luderson. My poor lacerated back was not allowed time to heal from one lashing to another. It was in vain to endeavour to please her. She was one of those people who pitch upon some

certain creature, let what will irritate them, to vent their spleen upon.

I once knew a blustering fellow, who, as is generally the case, was a notorious coward. He was afraid of every thing in the shape of a man's trowsers, if it was not intimidated by his blustering words. When he was not in liquor he even stood in dread of his wife's pantalets. Well, whenever any thing irritated him, when not intoxicated, he would always fly upon his dog and beat and kick the poor creature almost to death. But when any thing raised his passion in his drunken hours, the liquor armed his courage against the fear of woman's trowsers, and he would invariably pitch upon his wife instead of the dog, and abuse her in the same manner.

Now, I was the object Mrs. Luderson had taken for a malice target, and no matter what enraged her, my poor back had to pay the roast.

The servant girl pitied my suffering condition, and sometimes related to Mr. Luderson the brutality of his wife towards me. He remonstrated sharply with her, but it only tended to make her ten times worse when he was absent, which unfortunately for me was a great part of the time. Seeing that the master's kindness served no other purpose than to subject my back to the revenge which Mr. Luderson's chiding called forth, I begged her to say nothing more to him about it, till Providence saw fit to remove me to some more hospitable place, or till I had suffered my last.

Time moved heavily over my head now. My cheeks had lost the rich blood that mantled them when with my old mother. My eyes had sunken in my head; my forehead was deathly pale, and my whole frame wasted almost to a skeleton, and I was scarcely able to crawl to school.

Something had gone wrong with Mrs. Luderson one morning, to make amends for which I was sentenced to a day's fasting. I fed as well as I could upon my books, and they are rather dry food for a child of nine years old, when, through an untruth of her grandson's, I was sentenced to fast till morning. This was, as I thought, rather tough; but there was no alternative. I went to bed with a heavy heart, and after praying that God would take my life, cried myself to sleep. The next morning, Mr. Luderson, having to leave home early upon business, had said some hasty words about breakfast being delayed. After he had gone this began to pique her vanity; she had me called out in the room for something respecting it, and after applying the hickory to my back, I was sent to school without breakfast. Without ceremony or answer I started as fast as my enfeebled condition would admit. Under the pressure of my stripes, my hard fate, and my raging appetite, my hopes gave way to despair, and I cursed almost every thing but my Maker.

When I had snailed along in sight of the blithe faces of my companions, a gleam of hope

flitted across my mind which broke the cloud of despair, and I wept most bitterly. When I arrived at the school house door, the first one I met was a son of the Reverend Dedaking with a large slice of bread and butter in his hand. This, as may well be imagined, looked very tempting to me, and I asked him for half his lunch. 'Take it all,' said he, as he reached it to me, and before I could thank him for it he was off like a fawn across the fields to his father's, to get another slice for himself. I soon devoured my pleasant morsel, sorry only that it was not larger, or that I had not the same sort of parents as Henry Dedaking. Presently Henry returned, and school was called. I had studied but a few minutes, when the teacher called me out, and told me to go home with Mr. Dedaking's servant, who had come for me, and was standing at the door. I went along with her, wondering what the good old prelate could want of me. The mystery, however, was soon solved. When I got to the house Mrs. Dedaking hurried out to meet me, caught me in her arms, carried me in, and sat me down to a table loaded with every refreshment that my starving condition called for. I ate eagerly, whilst the big tears that spontaneously rolled down my cheeks testified my gratitude for the unexpected kindness. After I had finished my meal she asked me several questions respecting my usage, and after being answered, she added: I will speak to his Reverence that something be done to alleviate

your present sufferings. I thanked her heartily for the kindness, and with anticipations of better days, returned again to the school.

CHAPTER VII.

Another change of Residence. Happiness enjoyed from kind treatment. Favorable opportunities afforded for the study of Physic and Surgery.

A few days after this, being about Christmas, one fine morning Mr. Luderson said to me, "George, you need not mind going to school to-day; dress yourself in your uniform, and you and I will have a walk." Then turning to his wife, who stood looking daggers at us, he said, "And you, get every thing in readiness for him. On account of your cursed manœuvres the Baron has ordered him home, and from this time forward I shall not have the trouble of bringing home every fall £20 sterling for his board." Though shaved to the very core of her malice, she knew too well the irreconcilable passions of Mr. Luderson when too far provoked by her insolence, to say an aggravating word; so the only way she found vent to her revenge was in a stream of brine from the fire balls each side of her nose; a means she invariably resorted to in case of failure in any malevolent gratification. In this unenviable frame of mind I bid her farewell, wondering what object she would find to

wreak her vengeance upon when the former target should be out of her reach.

Being so disappointed, and my anticipations so much blighted in my former remove, I dared not now flatter myself with any bright prospects, but remained hoping and fearing, pleased that I had got clear of this brutal woman, but afraid I should fall into the hands of another Lepky. One moment my imagination would paint some beautiful situation where happiness itself might fix its home; another my home would be fixed in some haunted solitary cavern, surrounded by Lepkies and Mrs Ludersons.

Thus I got over the ground without speaking or hearing a word from Mr. Luderson, my mind undergoing a multiplicity of affections, till at length Mr. Luderson turned into the door of a large drug shop. It was owned by one Doctor John H. Lohman, Physician and surgeon of the 6th Infantry Regiment. Not finding the Doctor in his store, we passed through into his private apartments. Here we found him seated beside his lady, enjoying all the comforts a few leisure moments from his extensive practice would permit. After the usual salutations, we were invited to be seated, but Mr. Luderson said he could not possibly sit till he first made known the object of his present visit. 'I have been informed,' said he, that you are very desirous of obtaining a fine boy, and

I have brought one just suited to your desires in every particular. I want your answer whether you will accept of him or not.' The Doctor's lady immediately tendered her hand to me, saying, 'Come here to me my son, I will take the best of care of you, and see that you have every thing your little heart can wish.' 'Well,' said the doctor, 'if that be the case, I must put up with it, willing or unwilling.'

Here now opens a new era of my life. The raven wings of adversity receded, and the silver-tipped wings of prosperity hovered over my path for a season. The next day I had all my effects removed to my new lodgings, and I began once more to enjoy the sweets of life, after having drank a full draught of its bitters. The Doctor had in his employment a journeyman and two apprentices. They were all three very clever fellows; and as I was the only child in the family, I was idolized by all in a short time. My affections were soon so wrapped up in these men that every spare moment from my studies I employed in the shop, weighing out, packing up, and selling medicine. Such was the interest I took in their company and employment, that after eight months had elapsed the Superintendant said to the Doctor that I was of as much service in the shop as any of the apprentices, and that I seemed to understand every particular as

well as the best of them. The Doctor had observed this, and watched with pleasure my aspirations for his profession. He supplied me with books, and spared no pains to instruct me into the nature of physic and surgery; and my deep attention and researches realized to Doctor Lohman his highest expectations.

The Board of Doctors at Hanover supported a great number of invalids, who, after death, were brought to an operation house for dissection. To avail themselves of every facility for gaining a knowledge of their profession, doctors and apprentices invariably met to search out the origin of the various maladies to which the human system is subject, in order to be possessed of means to prolong the lives of our fellow creatures suffering in the same manner.

Here Doctor Lohman would not go without I accompanied him. He would also take me with him to Gutting College, where, being an inspector, he had to spend six weeks every term to examine those intending to graduate in physic and surgery. The time was not ill-spent; I gained a hoard of miscellaneous knowledge.

CHAPTER VIII.

Introduction to Gutting University. First operation in Surgery. A remarkable Case.

Time passed on, and the Doctor, finding that I showed no inconsiderable amount of tact and genius in detecting and describing the various maladies of the human frame, took me to visit a number of his patients. To test my studies and observation he would employ me to investigate the nature of the disease, and to prescribe the most effectual remedy. After examination and prescription, if in accordance with his opinion, I was immediately set to administering accordingly. The Doctor had such an extensive practice that he could not obtain sufficient time for recreation; consequently his constitution began to give way under the fatigue. I was therefore sent to a number of his patients, with whom my administrations proved successful. Being but about fourteen years of age, I was now hailed by all that knew me as the little doctor.

The next term the Doctor went to preside at Gutting College he took me with him, and after examination by the board I passed as being qualified for a practitioner in physic, surgery, &c. I continued now to attend a great part of the Doctor's patients; highly gratified with the success attending my ex-

periments, and fired with ambition from the plaudits I received.

A woman died who had been supported by the Board of Doctors for fifteen years, and the body was brought to the operation house for dissection. Doctor Lohman happening to be in ill health that day, recommended me to act in his stead. He accordingly gave me a letter to the superintendant. I thanked him for the conferred honour, and with feelings of gratitude to him for having placed the prerogative in my young hands, repaired that evening, at the appointed hour, to the place of inspection. Upon presenting the letter to the President, he addressed the audience as follows: 'Gentlemen, the body you are about to see dissected is that of a woman forty-one years of age; she has received her maintenance these fifteen years from our Board; she was thought when about twenty-one to be in the family way, but by the examination of brother Ralf, who attended her, the supposed pregnancy was found to consist of false conception; such as all his skill was unable to remedy.' He continued, 'I have the pleasure of nominating Doctor Lohman's representative to perform the operation, and Ferdinand Wincell to act as clerk.'

The President then resumed his seat, and the operation commenced by examining the exterior of the corpse.

Not a rib was to be seen or felt on account

of fatness. On a minute inspection a small cavity was found at the extremity of the two middle ribs. Upon passing the knife from the breast downwards, it laid open about four inches of solid fat, quite similar to pork. The kidneys were completely covered with fat, so as to be hid from view. In the fœtus was found every part of a child—heart, liver, lights, &c.—but so small as to be scarcely perceptible to the naked eye. By running a small pipe or leader from the fœtus to the hole between the ribs we discovered at the extremity of the two middle ribs, which by discharging had so long continued her existence. When the examination was over, and the corpse put into a coffin, the President addressed us as follows: ‘Doctor Sunderson and I have often visited the old maiden during her illness: she seemed to complain of nothing more than a shortness of breath at times. We have minutely examined the corpse during dissection, and are of opinion that this false conception took its growth when she was twenty or twenty-one years of age; that this pipe leading from the fœtus has discharged the emanations of the fœtus, and that so long as it was kept open and free to discharge, the patient was easy; but as her dense flesh increased the passage became partially stopped, and occasioned shortness of breath; and at length the fat had entirely stopped the discharge: consequently the patient could not survive.’

Six flambeaux were then lighted, and we attended the old maiden's last remains to the narrow house appointed for all living, and there deposited them to rest in the icy embrace of death, till the last trumpet shall call her, to live and sing, when death itself shall die.

CHAPTER IX.

Change of Profession. Appointment by Commission in the Army. Military Preparations.

I still continued in the doctor's employment, and I suppose should have ended my days in that town, had it not been for a whim of my father, that beset him, to procure me a commission in the army. One afternoon upon my return from a visit to a patient, I found Mrs. Lohman looking very dejected. Upon inquiring the cause, she said she had received a letter, purporting that we are to be deprived of our George. "Your father (continued she) has purchased a Lieutenant's commission for you in the 7th Infantry Regt., in Capt. Puffinder's company, and you are to join your regiment next week. This was heavy tidings to me, but I knew that unless I complied with the wishes of my father, I should forfeit his respect, and probably lose his favour. I requested Doctor Lohman to obtain an interview with my father upon my aversion to purchasing laurels of honor, at the expense

of my fellow creatures' blood, or epithets of glory, to obtain which, must extract the bitter groan from the orphan, and wring the living flood from the bereaved widow.

The doctor availed himself of an opportunity next day to converse with the Baron upon it, but to no avail. The baron said he had never seen me, but if he had not been wrongly informed by all my teachers, I was possessed of more than ordinary abilities; that he hoped by giving me a commission in the army, in time I would be distinguished as a general; at least he would give me a fair trial before he would abandon me to be servant to any other than my king and country.

Finding him inexorable in his determination, the Doctor asked him at what hour next day would it be convenient for him to receive a call from his son. 'It will be time enough,' was his answer, 'when I have given him his commission.'

The Doctor, finding him so unmoved in his determination, returned home, though dissatisfied with the idea that I should be compelled to enter into a sphere of life uncongenial to my own inclinations.

There being no alternative, I commenced to learn my military exercises, and make the necessary preparations for entering, not knowing what moment I might be called upon duty, as it was at the time of the revolution in France.

The King and Queen of France had been put to death, and times continued so troublesome,

that soldiers were quartered in every town and village, ready for hostilities. As nothing of a very hostile nature happened, I was not called upon for about three months. These were the happiest months of my life. From six till seven in the morning I was exercised in gymnastics; from seven to eight in soldiery; the remainder of the day in physic and surgery, and attending Doctor Lohman's patients; and two evenings in the week at dancing school.

CHAPTER X.

The Anonymous Letter. Departure from Wonstoff to join the Regiment. Arrival at Hamilon. Introduction to an interesting family.

One afternoon, upon returning from a sporting party with some of my companions, the doctor's lady handed me a letter which disturbed my mind for some days. The contents were as follows:

WONSTOFF, 9th March, 1793.

DEAR SIR,—Sorrowful my heart feels that I shall not have an opportunity of again seeing you. I am obliged to leave town immediately and in all probability shall never behold you again. If I do, it is not likely you will ever detect the author of this letter. I saw you at the ball, in the dancing room, not long since, but had not the pleasure of being introduced to you. I was, however, pleased with your personal charms

so much, that I hope you will pardon the unknown to say they have inflamed my heart with a passion which time will not be able to erase. Doctor Landsburg, go out into the world that it may see your merits ; and unborn ages will blow the trumpet of fame over your mouldering bones. Remember that man was born,

High to bear his brow,

To drink the spirit of the golden day,

And triumph in existence.

You have both talent and capacity, and if you do not go out and exert them, the fault will be charged to you at the day of reckoning. All who know you applaud you. But whilst surrounded by coquettes, belles, and admirers, remember there is a heart that loves you as dearly as it does the blood that gives it life. But I have not time to write more, the post is ready, and I must go. I bid you farewell. C. R.

Who the author of this singular and flattering epistle could be, I was altogether at a loss to determine. Had I known the precise evening referred to I might have ascertained ; but the many balls I had attended during the winter, and the variety of strange faces I had seen, rendered the attempt fruitless.

My solitary moments were haunted a great deal with the thoughts of the unknown. Sometimes I would amuse myself with the poet's painting of some innocent creature, whose relentless father had exiled from the object of its love, to wear away an unhappy existence. It was

then my fair correspondent would come floating through the silvery clouds of imagination, and appear to my young mind in all the angelic forms of the beautiful; and a sort of fairy-land enthusiasm infested my mind with desire to see the more interesting reality.

The wings of time sped me along in the Doctor's and his lady's affections, and I often wished those days might last forever.

On a beautiful afternoon in the pleasant month of June the Doctor, his lady, and myself, were sitting in the summer house, making the most of every hour, as the certainty of parting endeared us to each other, the Doctor said to me, 'I believe your father has married a lady of immense fortune, but I believe her disposition is such as mars his own happiness as well as that of his only son.' 'Is she not possessed of an amiable disposition,' I enquired. 'I fear not,' said he, 'and it is a great pity for the Baron, he is one of the best of men.' 'If that be the case, I am sorry for my father, but as for myself, it is not in the power of her inimical qualities to do me much injury. 'Herein you are deceived,' said Doctor Lohman, 'were it not for the Baron's wife you would be in his castle this very day.' Whilst the Doctor was uttering these words a servant entered and said that a soldier with a two-horse waggon had arrived from Hamilton with orders for me, and awaited my pleasure. 'I lay my life,' said Mrs. Lohman, 'this is to take our George!' The Doctor made no

reply, but we started from the house. We met the soldier at the door, who gave the Doctor and myself each a letter. Always eager to know the best and worst, I instantly opened mine and found it to run thus :

MY DEAR SON,—In my solicitude for your welfare, I have thought it advisable to procure you a commission in the 7th infantry regiment, under Captain Puffinder. I hope your line of conduct will be such as to merit the approbation of your superiors, and the love of your inferiors. By the many accounts I have received of your conduct, I flatter myself to see you in time elevated to a situation of honour in your country's service. You will be expected to join your regiment in Hamilon on the 10th August next.

Your affectionate father,

A. VON LANDSBURG.

The purport of the Doctor's letter was to supply me with whatever I needed preparatory to my joining my regiment. Every thing was supplied accordingly, and I left the Doctor's residence in the midst of tears, and arrived at Hamilon on the 9th of August.

Upon my arrival I was met by an old gentleman named John Riderson. After he had introduced himself to me, he said that the former lieutenant stationed there had resided at his house, and that receiving a captaincy in the cavalry, he removed to Hanover, and that as they were obliged to have one in war time, if I would

accept, I should be welcome to his apartments. I very willingly accepted the offer, thanked him for his kindness, and we proceeded. A word to the servant, a snap of the whip, and we were in front of a spacious and most beautiful edifice, the house of Mr. Riderson. After giving directions respecting my baggage, I was ushered into the house. Here I was cordially welcomed by Mrs. Riderson, who was awaiting my arrival with her husband. They were just the people I wished to meet with. They were sensible, amiable, virtuous and wealthy; in a word, they possessed all the accomplishments that make society pleasant and agreeable.

Compliments and congratulations upon my new sphere of life being over, Mr. Riderson and his lady invited me to look at my apartments. Those I found neat and commodious, and just suited to my romantic taste. In a short time supper was announced, and we took our seats at the friendly table. 'I wonder,' said Mrs. Riderson, 'where our Caroline is?' 'Most likely,' said her husband, 'she is where she spends the most of her leisure moments, in the room with her grandfather.' By this I ascertained that there was another branch to this little group of happiness.

Presently a beautiful young lady entered the room, but on setting eyes upon me a rush of blood mantled her cheeks, and she left the

room without saying a word. Mrs. Riderson made some apologies about the giddiness of young girls, and ended by saying that she had never known her Caroline to act so during her life, and then followed Caroline to know the cause of such strange conduct. Presently Mrs. Riderson returned, and we conversed during the remainder of the evening. It was a long evening to me, for I had seen the reality of my fairy-land dreams, and could not rest easy till I should have an interview with her.

Eleven o'clock announced the necessity of seeking tired nature's restorer, and I was shown to my bed-room; but little sleep visited my pillow that night.

CHAPTER XI.

Leave of absence. Singular recovery from a Trance. The unwilling Bride. Intrigues, Intercepted Letters, and Fatal Consequences.

The next morning while the stars were still reflecting their light upon the earth, I was awakened from a stupor into which I had fallen, by a song in a sweet voice accompanied by the piano. The first verse I remember to have been:

When stars are in the quiet skies,
Then most I pine for thee;

Bend on me, then, those gentle eyes,
As stars bend on the sea.

The enchanting music, the sentimental lines, and the graceful form I had seen the evening before, brought all my visionary moments into memory, and I fancied I had fallen among superior and celestial beings. The bell, however, soon disturbed my reverie by announcing breakfast.

Upon entering the room my eyes met the gaze of the young musician, who made a low courtesy, wished me the utmost happiness my new acquaintances and their town afforded, and apologised for the abrupt manner in which she had left the room the evening before. She said that on hearing a strange voice in the room, her grandfather had jokingly said to her that her cousin William had arrived from Hanover, and that being so disappointed in her glee to see him, she scarcely knew what she did. This turn answered very well; but suffice it to say, that from that time forward Caroline and I became life-bound companions.

Next day I appeared on parade, accompanied by the adjutant, who presented me as their Lieutenant; and afterwards I was invited to dine with Captain Puffinder, to whom I had letters of recommendation.

Shortly after this, a letter from my benefactor Doctor Lohman, assured the board of

Doctors that I was worthy of a place in their fraternity. A meeting was accordingly called and my name enrolled in their register. Not an operation was now performed without my being notified to attend; so that the circle in which I moved afforded both pleasure and profit.

Eight months flitted over my head, like the passing of a pleasant evening. Letter after letter from Dr. Lohman and his lady urged a visit from me, and I determined to spend a month in Wonstorf. Accordingly I obtained a month's leave of absence. But to go without the object whose presence constituted my earthly paradise would be a tiresome visit, so I solicited Caroline's company, which, after the acquiescence of her father and mother, was granted, and our coach being got ready we started for Wonstorf. Here we were received with the most heartfelt welcome.

Whilst staying at Hanover, a singular circumstance happened which may not be unworthy of notice on the present occasion. As I before stated, the King of France had been put to death. This united the powers of Europe against the revolutionary cause, and the streets of Paris often streamed with innocent blood. Every young man that could be found was pressed into the service. Among others, the son of a wealthy farmer was pressed, who fell sick in a few days, of pleurisy, and in a short time, to all appearance died. He was

kept three days and nights, and then taken to the grave to be buried with the honours of war. The coffin being put into the grave, the Captain gave orders to fire. The word was obeyed, but to the dismay of every one present the sound had not left our ears when the coffin opened and the young man sat upright, and every one but the soldiers took to flight. As soon as the first emotions of supernatural horror passed over me, I stepped to the side of the grave, and took him by the hand. He looked at me in a state of bewilderment and said, 'My God, what are you doing with me here?' He was then brought to the barrack in the midst of rejoicing, when he soon recovered; but could give no account of his trance other than he had been in a sound sleep.

We had spent nearly a month in Wonstoff when we were invited to attend the solemnities of a marriage between a young nobleman and a lady of Rickling, not far from Wonstoff; the name of the Nobleman, father to the bride, was Casperious. We arrived at the castle about four o'clock and the ceremony was to be performed about eight. The groom was a handsome young man, and seemed to possess necessary accomplishments. The bride, who had been a school mate of mine, seemed greatly emaciated, and though an elegant girl, the child of sorrow could be detected on her brow. After the performance

of the ceremony we spent the evening in innocent amusements, and then all retired to rest.

In the morning I was roused from my sleep by the sound of great lamentation in the castle. I instantly sprang to my feet, and while in the act of dressing myself, Caroline rapped at my door to know if I was up. As soon as I opened the door she stared very wildly at me and said, 'Good God, the bride is missing, and no where to be found.' As soon as we had got down stairs, and out of the castle, we found the inmates in the garden gathered where they had found her shoes and some of her outside clothes; and upon a lily-bush they found the psalm book with a letter in it. By the letter they apprehended some melancholy spectacle, and after they had searched about two hours they at last found her corpse floating in the moat that surrounded the castle. Casperious, his wife, and eldest daughter, were almost distracted with grief. The young married nobleman ordered his coach and left, but first handed a note to Doctor Lohman. The body was brought to the house, and after examination was found to be in a state of pregnancy. We could not in common courtesy leave the castle after this unfortunate occurrence, so we concluded upon staying till the next day. The following afternoon, about sundown, a deep thrill of horror passed over

us, when we saw Casparious running with his sword in his hand, and Rector Wencill and a number of others following hard after, trying to stop him; but he still continued running, crying at the same time, I will have his life. Seeing the young man running and crying in this appalling manner, I jumped over a drain and heard the sound of a pistol. Coming rapidly to the place we saw a man lying in his own blood, with his brains scattered around him. Casparious eldest daughter, Louisa by name, threw herself upon the corpse, crying, oh Phifer! I will die with you. It was with great difficulty that we got her hands loosed from the corpse. The body was then brought and laid upon the ground within the castle gate. A letter was found in his pocket of which I took a copy; and as I was well acquainted with that unfortunate gentleman, I feel mournfully pleased to lay before my readers the cause of his unhappy end. He was a student at Wonstoff in my time. He had finished his degrees at College, and was awaiting a vacancy as rector of some parish. He often preached in the church at Wonstoff, where his labours were well received. As however no vacancy occurred, he was employed by Casparious as a teacher in Greek and Latin.

Casparious had two daughters, the eldest named Louisa, and the youngest Maria. Now both these young ladies contracted a strong

desire for the handsome Phifer; but as Maria was more beautiful than her sister, his whole affections were placed upon her, and he resolved to make her his companion.

Casparious had also a French lady to teach his family the French language; her name was Madame du Point, she was a woman who was every way calculated, as regards mental acquisitions, to be intrusted with the instruction of young ladies. Du Point was possessed of a pleasant address, and fascinating charms; but possessed also rather much intrigue, and, as the servants said, her master was always very loving to her. Phifer and madame du Point were accounted as belonging to the nobleman's family. Phifer being what you may really call a handsome young man, was more admired and courted than he himself wished to be. The two daughters of Casparious made all endeavours, each one for herself, to gain the heart of Phifer. But as the youngest was most amiable in the sight of Phifer, he solicited her father's consent to their marriage. The nobleman replied, that he was worthy of one of his daughters, but that the oldest must be married first; and if you will, and she is satisfied, I will give you my consent. Phifer did not make any reply, so that Casparious took it for granted that he intended to marry Louisa. This came immediately to the ears of Louisa, who went flying to Madame du Point, to tell her the good

tidings. Madame duPoint loved Louisa more than Maria, so that Louisa was taught to show all the freedom towards Phifer that the bounds of modesty would admit. However all their machinations did not avail; Maria had received a full atonement of love from Phifer, and they were bound by the strongest vows for life. Meanwhile Phifer was called to be Rector of a parish in Hanover, and he left these two girls bathed in tears; Louisa lamenting to Madame du Point, that Phifer had not appointed the day that they should be united forever. Maria, too, fully believed in her heart that Phifer would never have Louisa; but would, as soon as he was ordained, come and take her from the castle, to be his wife. Casparious fully believed that Phifer would take Louisa for his wife, and so looked out for a match for Maria; and he succeeded so rapidly that Phifer had no time to make any preparation to take his Maria from the brink of destruction. Letters of love were received from both of these young ladies, and he answered them both, but very differently. To Louisa his address was 'Friend,' but to the other, it was, 'My dear and well beloved Maria.' Du Point received all the letters, and after reading, she gave Louisa's letters to her, but Maria's she placed in the hands of her father. This caused the Nobleman Casparious to hurry on the nuptials, which should forever put Phifer

out of possession of his well beloved Maria.

Phifer received an answer to all the letters he wrote Louisa, but Maria's letters were embezzled so, that he received but one from her, which complained bitterly of his not answering hers. Phifer, surprised at such intelligence, sat down and wrote the following letter to her, and gave it to his servant with orders to give it to no one but herself. 'My Dear and well beloved Maria, I have written you six letters since my stay in Hanover, and it seems you have received none of them. Would to God I knew the name of the young nobleman that your father is desirous of having you united to, I would communicate to him our union and intentions. However, God is our witness, that nothing shall ever separate us except death ! And if he with his relentless hand shall take either of us, it is my ardent prayer that we may both leave this heartless, unfeeling world at once ; and, that while our bodies shall moulder in the dust, our souls may be forever united in the kingdom of unmolested society and everlasting repose. But, Dear Maria, I have projected a plan that may facilitate our union. Meet me next Monday afternoon precisely at 4 o'clock, under the willow where we have spent so many delightful moments. I will be prepared to escort you to my dwelling when we will have a re-union formed, that all the enmity and malignant desires of a

father, shall never be able to dissolve. I remain yours till death, C. PHIFER.

The servant arrived with the letter on Thursday, and the young nobleman to be united to Maria had arrived the evening before. The servant entered the door, and enquired for Lady Maria, upon which he was told by Madame duPoint, that Maria was not to be seen, that if he had any letters for her, she would give them; but the servant being true to his trust, said that he must see the lady Maria, if she was alive, if he died in the attempt. Finding the servant determined in his resolution, M. du Point sallied out of the room, and presently in came Louisa, who enquired what his urgent business was with her. The servant however was not to be gulled in this manner; he told her that he had nothing to say to her, but he believed it was her sister. If it is Maria you want to see said she, I am the person. "I beg pardon, said he, my master told me yesterday that Maria's hair was black; and with all the chicanery you are possessed of, I am certain that you could not turn her hair red in one day." "Who is your master?" said she, "the Rev. Mr. Phifer." Maria happening to be passing through the gallery at this moment, and hearing the name that was sacred to her, immediately flew down stairs, and stared about as if bewildered. The servant instantly handed

her the letter, saying, "you are the one I want, and not one with red hair."

She took the letter tremblingly, and told him to be seated and await an answer. She then retired to her room, and perused the contents of her letter as fast as floods of tears would permit. When she had finished, she turned, and almost frantic with grief, said to her maid, "Good heavens! Catharine, what shall I do?" The poor maid though drowned in tears of pity, knew as little what to dictate as the frantic Maria. There being however no time to consult, she sat down and wrote the following:

"Dear and ever beloved Phifer,---My tears have done their last office! my brain runs wild, and my heart trembles when I say to you, that I am lost forever! Oh! my loved Phifer! pray for your lost Maria! In a few moments more I shall be forever doomed to the raven wings of awful despair! Oh my adored Phifer! Could I once more embrace you, I would leave this unfriendly world satisfied! But all hopes are gone! In a few moments more the hand of a hardhearted father will give me over to be united to another! Were it not that I am strictly guarded, how quickly would I fly from the open and almost closing jaws of destruction, to embrace my dear Phifer. But there is no deliverance now! Fatality has consigned me to ruin! Oh Phifer follow me, and I believe God will pardon our offences, and show to the world that love can

conquer death ! My brain is confused, I know not what I will do, I bid you farewell ; and in death remain,
 MARIA PHIFER."

This letter arrived to Phifer on Friday, and he determined at once to be avenged upon the unfeeling and detestible Casparious. Sunday being now at hand, and as he had to preach two sermons and attend to sacrament, he resolved not to go till the ensuing Monday. Meanwhile he neither eat nor slept, but sauntered about in melancholy and despair. On Sunday he delivered his two last sermons, which were admired by all his hearers, as being sublimity itself. After he had finished his last sermon, and about to leave the house, he happened to cast down his eyes and saw lying on the floor a note addressed to himself. The purport was as follows: "Phifer, are you not a scoundrel and a vagabond ! The destroyer of my honor and of my family. If there be a drop worthy to be called man's blood in your veins, let it exert itself. Meet me to-morrow at 4 o'clock, P. M., with sword and pistols, that I may have revenge for the destruction of my daughter.

Signed, CASPARIOUS."

Stung to the centre by the irreparable loss of his intended, of whom he believed Casparious, her father, to be the murderer, a stygian die passed through his veins, and he sent his servant immediately for a pair of pistols and sword. As soon as they came he loaded his pistols, and they started for Wonstoff ; thence he repaired

on foot to that fatal and deplorable spot, where we found him weltering in his blood, as I before denoted.

I shall now leave the unfortunate Phifer for a few moments, and turn to the last act of the unfortunate Maria. After the clock had announced the hour of eleven, the evening of her marriage, we all repaired to our beds, after the new married couple had retired, the unhappy Maria said to the young nobleman, Will you favour one request I have to make? With all my heart replied he. Will you keep a secret for me till to-morrow? Yes, all my life if you desire. No longer than till morning, said she; and she related to him all that had transpired between her and Phifer, The young nobleman dismayed and cut to the heart at the conduct of her father, said to her, And why did you not tell me this before? You will excuse me sir, when you remember that I never was allowed a moment with you alone; and that when I begged for our union to be postponed another week, it was not granted me by my father. After she had calmed the frantic state, into which blasted hope and disappointed pride had thrown him, by her mildness, she begged to be excused an hour, in order to write to Phifer concerning her union with another. She then rose and wrote the following lines which were afterwards found in the Psalm Book :

‘Dear Father, your aversion to my union with my loved Phifer, has, for these three months

past wrung floods of tears from my eyes; but the fountain has at last run dry. For a few days back the darkest melancholy, and deepest despair have prayed upon me, but to-night a gleam of hope beams upon my path, and seems to light my footsteps into the dark subjects of futurity. My brain is hot and wild, but my heart feels assured that though my sins are many, they are all washed away in the blood of the sinners' friend, and that in a few hours I shall be escorted by angels to the peaceful realms where sin and sorrow are known no more. I should blame myself and my dear Phifer, had he not solicited your consent to our marriage. But no, my sister being eldest should have the honor of being first, and yet you afterwards insisted upon my being first, and that to an entire stranger. My dear mother entreated you with tears to give consent, and fatality could not then have accomplished my ruin! Your hateful Maria now bids you farewell with this her last request! After my body is found, and my beloved's days are ended, if a coffin is not granted us, lay us both in the ground to moulder to dust. And your Maria indulges a hope, that God will pardon our offences and receive us both into everlasting life.

Signed, MARIA PHIFER.'

Having finished this letter, she rose to see if her husband were asleep. She found that he was so. She then dressed herself in her wedding clothes, and did as I have mentioned before.

The two corpses were put into a handsome coffin, borne to the place where the shoes, clothes and prayer book were found, and there interred. The lilac tree was transplanted, and placed at the head of their grave. The last time I visited the spot, I found a large flat tomb-stone over the grave, with the names of the unfortunate lovers thereon engraved, together with some elegant verses, briefly recording their melancholy tale.

As soon as the funeral was over, the company departed, leaving behind them a scene of utter despair. Louisa went raving mad, and died six weeks after. Her father never did any more good. Madame du Point, as I have been informed, returned immediately to her own country.

CHAPTER XII.

Return to Hamiton. Introduction of a Coquette. Under orders to March. Promotion.

Having taken an affectionate leave of Winstoff, my dear Caroline and I rapidly progressed on our way homewards. Deeply impressed with the melancholy and tragic scenes which we had just witnessed, we both sat silent for some time. "I wish," said Caroline, at length breaking silence, "that we had not been there." "Well," said I, "my dear Caroline, could I have fore-

seen that such a wedding would lead to so melancholy a funeral, we should not have been pained with the sight of either; but, instead thereof, have both spent a few days in Hanover." "Only for your sake, my love," replied she, "do I wish that we had not been there; for, then, I should not have felt so miserable about my heart. Poor, dear Maria is constantly before my sight, and also that handsome, but most unfortunate young man, Phifer." She could say no more: her heart was full, and she could only find relief in tears. After a short time, she returned to comparative composure, and thus proceeded: "I have told you, my dear George, that Maria was the best young lady in the sewing school, and that I loved her above all others. Did you not see how she came flying to meet us, as soon as we alighted from the carriage? "Yes," replied I, "and did you not observe, my dear Caroline, that she whispered something in my ear?" "Yes" returned she, "what did she say to you?" "She said that she wished for an opportunity to speak with me alone, before 6 o'clock." "Yes," rejoined Caroline, "she requested me about that time to desire you to walk as far as the little bower. Madame de Point, who was present, immediately volunteered herself for one of the party. Maria looked at me, but I know not what she meant." "I believe," said I, "had Maria been able, at that time, to reveal to me her engagement with Phifer, the dreadful events which have just occurred would never have come to

pass. "Oh" said Caroline, "she wanted to speak with you privately, in order to tell you all; but Madame de Point, or Louisa, being always present, she was prevented."

The carriage stopped, and we found ourselves before the door of Caroline's uncle. A very imperfect account of the dreadful events which I have just narrated had, I found, reached Hanover and Hamilon; and I learned that most of the gentry of the place had been anxiously waiting my return, to hear the particulars thereof. The house was in a short time filled with gentlemen and ladies. A gentleman connected with the newspaper press also made his appearance; and, as I endeavoured to satisfy the curiosity of the company assembled, by a minute and circumstantial account of all I knew about the fatal wedding, he took down every word of my painful story as it fell from my lips, and the next day the whole was in print as I have herein laid it before my readers.

The next morning Caroline and I left the city, and having been politely requested by Mr. Buores, the printer, to take his daughter along with us to see her friends in Hamilon, we cheerfully consented to make her the companion of our journey thither. Her name was Lucy. She was a lovely, captivating young lady, polite and well educated. In a word she would have been an ornament to any gentleman's house. She knew well how

to excite an interest in her behalf, in any company into which she might be thrown ; and to inveigle the affections of any young man, whose heart she might be desirous to gain.

Half way to Hamilon, we stopped to dine and refresh our horses. Dinner being over, I went to see that our servants were not neglected; found them comfortably seated at table, and earnestly and happily engaged in discussing the good and wholesome fare which had been placed before them. I then returned to the ladies, and was about to resume my former seat, but Miss Lucy rose, saying, "Come and sit here with us ;" and immediately found myself seated between the two ladies. Miss Lucy had an apple in her hand. She said she could not find in her heart to eat the whole : she must give me half. At hearing this, all the blood in Caroline's body, I think, gradually mounted to her face : she however, said nothing. Lucy, then, cut the apple in two, handing me one half of it ; and the remaining half she divided equally between herself and Caroline.

Just as we had finished our dessert, a servant came to announce to us that our carriage was ready waiting. We descended without delay, and resumed our seats therein. Miss Lucy then immediately asked me if I was acquainted with Lieutenant Hempell. "Yes," replied I, "he belongs to the third Regiment." "Well," said she, "that Regi-

ment has been, for a long time, in Hanover. It was there that I became acquainted with him." "He is a fine young man," observed I. "I have heard that he will soon be made a Captain of the Grenadiers." "So I understand," said she, smiling. Here Caroline significantly pressed my foot with her own. "Ah!" said I, "I see how it is: Mr. Hempell is your well-beloved, your chosen one." I admit," replied she, "that, when resident in Hanover, he paid his addresses to me." "Has he never visited you, or written to you, since he left that place," enquired I. "No," said she, "I believed it is with Mr. Hempell according to the old saying,

'When I go to another city,
There I find a heart of pity.'

Just then, as entering into Hamilon, and passing the Sentry, we observed four officers, coming dashing along at full speed. Two of them were passing us on the right, and two on the left. "Hallo!" cried I, "whither are you flying, so late in the day?" They pulled up, and one of them proved to be our identical Mr. Hempell. 'It is well you are here,' said he 'or your Regiment would have met you on the way.' 'Why so' enquired I. 'Tomorrow morning, at 8 o'clock, every man who is a soldier must be prepared to march.' 'Be it so,' returned I, 'but since such is the order of the day, there will be abundance of weeping amongst the fair ones

of the city.' 'Well,' said Hempell, 'I believe, at any rate, no soft eyes will be blinded with tears shed for my absence.' 'Don't say so,' said I, 'close by my side sits one who will be very apt to disprove that assertion.' 'Good heavens!' interrupted he, 'surely it is not Lucy!' 'The very same,' returned I. Hempell overjoyed at having this accidentally encountered his *chère amie*, determined to return with us to the city. His brother officers continued on their route. We parted from Hempell and Lucy at her uncle's door.

I have already given my readers some little insight into the coquettish character of Lucy, and slightly exposed the arts she practised to ensnare the hearts of those whose love or admiration she desired to gain. It would be rather premature to dwell further upon this subject here; but let my readers have patience, and they will, by-and-bye, find, as they advance in my history, that Miss Lucy was no less than an original and veritable heroine.

As soon as we were alone, Caroline said to me. "I pity Lucy: she will never be Hempell's wife." Just as she had spoken these words, we were informed that our carriage was horsed to proceed. We entered it. On looking out of the window, I observed Captains Poffender and Pohlman. The former said, "I have been expecting you at my house." I gave a nod of acquiescence, and away we went like lightning through the streets, and there we

were. Thence I went to my Captain. Entering the yard, I found all the officers of the Regiment assembled in a body, waiting for the Governor's aide-de-camp. He appeared in a few minutes with the general order, which was to the effect that the First, Third, and Ninth Regiments were to march on the 2nd September, and that the Seventh was to continue in garrison to recruit. The aide-de-camp handed me a small piece of paper, with the following words written thereon: "To Lieutenant J. George Landsberg. You are requested to appear tomorrow morning at 11 o'clock, at the Governor's house. J. R.

At the moment of my receiving this paper, Capt. Poffender was standing close by me. He took the notice out of my hand; read it; and then said, "Come home along with me." We accordingly went to his house. There he asked me what I thought they wanted with me. "That is more than I can tell," replied I. "I will tell you then," said the Captain. "Doctor Herman, being too old for active duty, has applied for his discharge, which will be granted him, and the Governor purposes to appoint you head Surgeon to the Regiment in his stead, Doctor Herman himself having recommended you as the fittest person to be appointed his successor. You, however, may do as you think proper—accept the appointment or not: there will be no compulsion." "But," said I, "what would you advise me to do?" "Why," replied the Cap-

tain, "if I had learned the profession, I should feel very happy to be in your place; then my income would be greater, and my service easier. After supper, I went to my lodging. Caroline met me, anxious to know whether I was to leave or remain with her. She was rejoiced to hear the good tidings that our Regiment was to continue in garrison, whilst the rest were to march to rejoin the army.

The next morning, at the appointed hour, I repaired to Government House. There I found Mr. Herman, who shook me kindly by the hand. "Sir," said he, "you have been sent for hither, in obedience to the command of His Excellency the Governor, in order that you might be informed that I have received my full discharge, and have recommended you, Lieutenant Landsberg, as the most fit and proper person to be my successor, because I have found you more capable of discharging the duties of a Surgeon than any other individual attached to the army, in that capacity, with whom I am acquainted." Objections had been made with regard to my youth; but they approved very much of my talents and abilities. At last a few lines were sent in to the Governor; and in a few minutes His Excellency honored us with his presence. In fine, I was that day, the 24th August, 1796, appointed head Surgeon of the Seventh Infantry Regiment; and every one who knew me was surprised to see me in uniform with a epaulette upon each shoulder.

On my return home, I found my Captain in the parlour, in conversation with my very good host and hostess. They all warmly congratulated me upon my advancement; and a few bottles of good wine had their natural effect in warming, strengthening, and expanding our hearts.

Caroline was proud and jealous before; but now she became ten times more so. If I were three hours out of her sight, she thought me gone for ever.

The next day, I gave orders for my Doctor's new uniform, and wrote a letter to my father, making him acquainted with my unexpected advancement. In return I received 20 doubloons and a very fine young horse. I also wrote to Doctor Lohman and his lady. The Doctor replied without delay, in a very feeling and complimentary style; and, with his letter, I received a handsome gold watch, a present from himself, and a valuable gold ring, as a token of friendly remembrance from his Lady.

CHAPTER XIII.

A visit to the Home of Childhood---An astonishing Revelation---Predictions of a Fortune-teller.

As soon as my new uniform was made, I went to the Barracks to visit the ten companies of the Regiment. Respecting such as were sick, I gave orders to the Surgeon of each com-

pany. Shortly after this, I took leave of my dear Caroline and my friends, and went out to pay a visit to my mother.

I arrived at the village on a Saturday evening, about 5 o'clock. Not a soul knew me, as I and my Servant rode along the street. At length we came opposite to the house of Mr. Lepky. The old gentleman was standing in the gate-way. I pulled up my horse. "Good evening, Mr. Lepky," said I. The old man was thunder-struck: not a word came out of his mouth. I turned my horse, and rode onward to my mother's. Servants came out immediately to take charge of the horses. A household servant conducted me into the ante-chamber, and said, "Sir, who shall I tell my mistress you are?" "Miss," I replied, "tell your mistress that her son is come to see her." The girl stood stock-still, and stared at me, half smiling. In the mean while my aunt Charlotte came out. She made me a low courtsey. I approached her, took her by the hand, and kissed her. With my mode of salutation, she seemed not at all displeased; but yet it was evident that she knew not what to make of me. Both she and the girl stood in silence. I was impatient of the longer continuance of our mute interview. "Where is my mother?" said I. "Good God!" exclaimed my aunt Charlotte, throwing her arms about me, and kissing me, "Art thou alive?" "Yes," said I. "Did you hear that I was dead?" "Indeed we did,—

five years ago. Stop here a little. Let me apprise your mother that you are still alive, and prepare her for your reception: she was bewailing your early death, only a few days ago." Off she and the servant went. In a short time my aunt Charlotte returned. "Come to her yourself; she will not believe me." I was proceeding to obey, but my mother met me in the passage. It was plain she did not recognise me. She shook hands with me, and kissed me. She wept, but spoke not. She turned, and motioned me into the parlour.

Here, in order to account for so singular a reception in my mother's house, I must interrupt my narrative by a needful explanation.—My mother had not seen me for years. When I parted from her, I was quite a little boy; and now I appeared before her a full-grown young man, clothed from head to foot in the finest uniform, with a gold watch in my pocket, a gold ring upon my finger, and a pair of the finest gold epaulettes upon my shoulders. Add to this, that it had been stated for truth that I died six years before, and the disbelief and surprise of my mother and aunt will be easily accounted for. After my identity had been fully established and admitted, the whole household abandoned themselves to joy, almost extravagant. The whole night was spent by my mother and my aunt in hearing and relating what had passed, on both sides, since my leaving the maternal roof. But of all that my mother related to

me, what surprised me most was to hear her say that, as soon as she heard of my death she wrote to my mother. "What mother?" asked I. "Your mother," said she. "And where is she?" demanded I. "I am," replied she, "your grandmother; but your mother and your aunt Mary reside in Amsterdam." "God bless me," exclaimed I, "and how long is it since she went to that city?" "You were, then, only seven weeks old," replied my grandmother, "when she went thither, and left you to my care. You shall know all; you shall be made acquainted with every particular, if you can only remain with us for a few days." "That may not be, mother," said I. I must absolutely leave you in the morning."

After breakfast, I took an affectionate farewell of my grandmother and aunt, and set out on my return to Hamilon. About four miles from that place, I came up to an old woman, sitting by the road side. She asked alms of me, and I cheerfully put my hand into my pocket and drew out a small sum, which I gave to her. Heaven bless you! exclaimed she. You are now, continued she, in the most fortunate and happy period of your life. Don't be in a hurry, my dear Sir: I have something to tell you, if you will be pleased to hear me. During this short address, she eyed me, as I thought, with a look of compassion. I intimated that I was ready

to hear her. Well, Sir, said she, in a short time your life will be in danger: you will, however, recover, but will lose that which is dearer to you than life itself. That fine dress which you wear, will, ere long, be turned to different hues. Good and ill-fortune will follow you, in quick succession, as the clouds speed after each ether in the sky. By land and sea, you have to travel; and, in a distant region of the world, you will spend your latter days in peace and comfort. When her prophecy was ended, I gave her another piece of money, and then rode slowly on to the city.

Arrived at my lodgings, I related to Caroline what had passed between me and the old woman. She did not like the story, nor imagine who the old woman could be. Meanwhile I attended to my duty. Every morning a written report was brought to me by the Surgeon of each company. If any were dangerously sick, I attended myself, having, at all times, an apothecary to make up the medicines according to my directions. Thus passed away one year, without the occurrence of any thing remarkable, worthy to be remembered, except one accident. A corporal, for a wager, had drunk half a gallon of brandy in one draught. In the act of swallowing the last mouthful, he fell down; and a blue flame issued from his mouth. He died, and by a post mortem examination I

found that his liver and lights were all covered over with large and small pustulous bladders, filled with green and blue pus. The throat and the tongue were also covered with small pustules of a like nature. The whole internal part had a bluish cast. His days were ended in the 54th year of his age.

CHAPTER XIV.

The Nobleman's Son spends an happy life with Caroline. He was called to Lady Gladlender. His sickness and trance in the revelation of his soul's absence. His recovery. Carolines sickness and death. His grief and sorrow for the loss of his best companion. He is advised to go along with the 4th Regiment of Soldiers upon a wonderful expedition.

Caroline was now my best companion, and at times was of great service to me; her parents treated me as their own son, and we lived a very happy life. In the month of April while laying in my bed one night I felt chilly and cold, and could not rest very well; the servant came to my bed room, telling me that a servant from Major Gladlender was waiting for me to accompany him to his mistress, who had taken very ill. I knew that Lady Gladlender was in the family way, and immediately rose and proceeded to her house, but trembled violently with a cold shivering while proceeding thither. On arriving at the

scene of action I found every thing in readiness, and had not time to complain of my own sickness, but went to work and delivered the lady of a son. After this, being about six o'clock in the morning, I put my cloak about me and proceeded home. As soon as I entered my lodgings I prepared and took some medicine and immediately went to my bed. Caroline, on being informed that I was unwell, came to my bedroom weeping, saying that she too had been sick the whole night. I told her that I wanted to see Dr. Lohman. In the meanwhile her father and mother came in with sorrowful hearts. Caroline wished to stay with me, but was persuaded by her mother to take a little rest. She looked at me, her eyes filled with tears, and said, Dear George, I will come again bye and bye and attend on you. But, alas! I never saw her again. The fever increased violently upon me, and the next day the Governor and his Lady, and all the gentlemen and ladies of the city, visited me. I was seized with delirium, and had fallen into a sound sleep for 48 hours. When I awoke I felt sorry to see the gentlemen standing around me, for I had been in a heavenly paradise; and had seen the Lord God and Jesus Christ sitting gloriously upon the throne, and thousands of Angels around him, singing the sweetest of melody. As I awoke I was much surprised to find myself removed out of that heavenly city, and

still an inhabitant of this earth. Doctor Lohman, who had been sent for by orders of my dear Caroline, attended upon me, and was assisted by the other doctors; under such good hands, I gradually recovered. I many times enquired for Caroline, and did not know the reason why she did not come to see me; being so far recovered that I could sit up a few hours in the day, Doctor Lohman now told me that I was out of danger, and apologized for leaving me, as his professional duties required his immediate return home. I thanked him for his kindness and attention, and begged him to tell me why Caroline did not come to see me? My dear sir, he replied, your Caroline is no more. On hearing this astounding intelligence I bursted a blood-vessel, but could not weep; my heart was withered, and the world had no longer any charm for me. Doctor Lohman bid me farewell and departed. My host and his lady continued to treat me with unabated kindness; but were inconsolable for the loss of their only child.

After this my health began to improve, and I was able to return to my duty. Nothing, however, could draw me from the melancholy state into which I had fallen; I frequently took a walk to the burying-ground to view the grave of the darling of my heart; and it never failed to produce a soothing influence on the depressed state of my mind.

About this time, four companies of my regiment were ordered upon an expedition. The

Governor and my friends advised me to go with them, hoping that the journey would make an improvement in my health, which was in a very decayed state. I accepted the offer, and the four companies, with drums and fifes, marched out of Hamilton on the 13th of October. Not one of the officers knew the nature of the expedition, except that we were to march to Osnaburg. After a few days' march, and when within eight miles of Osnaburg, we met two men on horseback. The commanding officer immediately commanded a halt. I put spurs to my horse and rode up to the two gentlemen; one was an elderly looking man with a pleasant countenance, and the other a fine well-bred young man, who shook hands with me and asked if I would be so kind as to get a soldier to ride his horse, that he wished to travel on foot awhile. Our companies were marching two deep in a straight line to Osnaburg. I asked the young man why we were travelling that way, there being no road? He replied, that the forest on our right was infested with a den of thieves, which very much surprised and startled me. In a short time we were close upon the place, and orders were given for the troops to load.

Upon this piece of woodland our detachment took its station. The last soldier was ordered to stop, and remain where he was standing until further orders; we then marched on, leaving a soldier at every gunshot distance, until the whole neighbourhood was surrounded, for the circum-

ference of three miles, so that the last man was stationed within gun shot distance of the one whose position had first been assigned him.

The wood being thus surrounded, an officer and ten men were ordered as a patrol around the village, while the commanding officer, myself, and the two strange gentlemen, with a strong guard, entered, sword in hand, into the woods. It was now midnight ; the moon was of little use to us, on account of the sky being very cloudy, and as our guide could not make out the road to that small hill, which he said he had seen once before, we were compelled to halt. Meanwhile, we heard at a distance some gun shots, but could not then ascertain from whence they proceeded.

At daylight we pursued our journey, and about mid-day came to the place we were in search of ; it was a large round steep hill, ornamented with many small trees, and instead of the strong hold of a horde of brigands, it looked in its beauty as the dwelling place of the children of peace. The young man went on before us, grasping his trusty sword in one hand, and loaded pistol in the other. Our advance was conducted with such caution that we were not discovered until very near the base of the hill, when we were assailed by musket balls from the heights, which however, passed over our heads without doing mischief, our party having approached so near, that the brows of the hill protected us from danger. The command-

ing officer seeing we were not strong enough, sent an extra post to guide the three companies to the scene of action; and in a few minutes after their arrival, everything which ornamented the hill was levelled with the ground.

There being now no more danger to apprehend, the young man led us slantingly around the hill, for at least a dozen times, before we came upon the summit, which comprised a level of about thirty feet in circumference. On the north side we found a hole, about eight feet round, which was the entrance to the den or cave of the freebooters. Four of the vagabonds we found, who had been literally riddled by the balls of our musketeers, and their limbs shot off. The number of these concealed in the cave, it was impossible to ascertain. At the mouth of the cave we made a pause, and held a council as to what steps should next be taken. Without ladders or other means for effecting an entrance, we were for some time at a loss how to decide; we finally concluded on a stratagem, which was, to form an effigy of a soldier, and let it down by a rope; on doing which, one of the brigands discharged a blunderbuss, and to carry out our deception we immediately drew back our man of moss, &c. We then placed sentries in every direction, and the remainder of our detachment were quartered in the adjacent village, the church of which being occupied as the rendezvous of our head quarters,

where the commandant, myself, and the other officers were stationed.

The reader will recollect a reference made to several shots which were heard during our march the preceding night. These were fired by some of the patrol party, who had fallen in with three of the mountaineers, and wounded them while in the act of attempting their escape. The wounded men were afterwards found out to be ringleaders of the gang. On searching their pockets, each was in possession of a whistle, but no weapons could be found about them. The next day two of them died from the effects of their wounds.

CHAPTER XV.

Miss Lutey Bouers in the disguise of a Gentleman. Her heroic exploits. Her journey to Swollo: a melancholy narrative. Attack on the Post Waggon by Highwaymen. Her capture and escape. Second attack on the Hill by the Military. Description of the Brigands' fortifications.

We remained at the village several days, in order to mature our plans, and make preparations for a second attack on the Hill. And here it may not be amiss to give the reader some account of the strangers by whom we were guided to the abode of the Brigands. Of the old gentleman, I have nothing particular to relate; he was a Burgomaster. The young stranger, however, turned out to be a great *Heroine*, disguised in male attire. It was

Lutcy Bouers. Shortly after we arrived at the village, she came to me in her own dress ; and it will not be wondered at when I assert that I was greatly surprised to see her in that part of the country. It was the first interview I had with her, and I was much pleased to see her, after the pleasant ride we had together from Hanover to Hamilon ; and on expressing my surprise and pleasure she related the following account of herself :—

“I was, (said she) a long time with my uncle, where you left me. At last I received a letter from my aunt, inviting me to make her a visit to Swollo, she being indisposed. I wrote a letter to my parents to get their permission ; my request being granted, I made ready for my journey, and finally set out by post, with another young lady and two gentlemen, who were passengers in the post waggon. We rode on as far as the upper side of the woods, when we saw the postman shot down by a pistol ball, and immediately after the two gentlemen and young lady fell dead alongside of me, the waggon having been surrounded and attacked by eight robbers. You may think, justly, that I was half dead with fright, while witnessing the melancholy spectacle of my companions lying before my eyes weltering in their blood, and myself at the mercy of these lawless desperadoes, who stripped their victims and took all they could find on their persons, besides what the wag-

gon contained. One of the villains, looking at me, said, 'I will give that nymph a poke, and send her off,' at the same time raising his poignard. 'No,' said another, 'we stand in need of her, as a housekeeper,' and they all asked me if I was willing to go along with them, if they would spare my life? I immediately complied, and one of them was appointed to take me to their place of safety, and as we were going off, the ringleader said to him, 'take this bundle with you, and we will manage the rest.' We left them to work, and the man I was indebted to for my life, conducted me as far as the entrance of the cave. On our route he spoke very cautiously to me, and I studied to give him such answers as would appear satisfactory to him. I stood at the mouth of the cave; my companion put his bundle on the ground, kneeled and looked down the hole, and in looking around me, in the hope of making my escape, it seemed as if a voice told me to give him a kick, and send him headlong into the cave; and controuled by the impulse of the moment, I suited the action to the suggestion, so completely, that I have seen nothing of him since. I then took his bundle in my hand, and how I came down the hill, I do not know myself; but God was my guard and my guide. It being evening, I concluded to stop as soon as the increasing darkness would render my concealment secure; and therefore, having

found a convenient place, I sat down to await for daylight. Oh ! it was a dismal night to me ; the weary hours seemed to linger as if the wheels of time had ceased to move. To sleep, I dare not, if I felt so inclined ; and the strangeness of my lonely situation, together with the recollection of the horrid scene I had so recently witnessed, and the watchfulness which appeared to be so necessary in the circumstances I was then placed, instead of inducing me to seek tired nature's repose, awakened in my imagination the most painful sensations, and every sound caused by the gentle breeze playing among the trees was magnified by my own conceit to the approach of some midnight desperado in search of a victim, whereon to glut his blood thirsty propensity. But however painful the feelings, which were thus occasioned by my imaginary fears, their intensity was greatly heightened, about midnight, when I heard some one walking a short distance from my place of concealment. Although but for the space of time sufficient to allow the receding footsteps to die in the distance, it seemed to me an age. The crisis, however, was passed, and during the remainder of the night, which was a period of intense anxiety, I continued to watch with the utmost vigilance, praying for the approach of daylight. The auspicious period at length arrived ; and with feelings of gratitude to high heaven, for thus far preserving me,

and a prayer for future protection, I resumed my journey.

“ I travelled with the utmost rapidity thro’ the wood, cautiously looking around me, for fear of being molested ; at the same time not knowing which course to pursue. But God guided me ; and at last in emerging from the woods, this village was presented to my view. Feeling, at this time comparatively safe, I made up my mind to see what was in the bundle. [Here is a remarkable instance of curiosity ; the predominating characteristic of woman. A few hours previous, and the agony of mind consequent on the dread of again falling into the hands of the ruthless brigands and assassins, absorbed all her powers, and stilled every desire except that of being freed from her perilous situation ; but scarcely assured of her safety, and before taking advantage of the happy retreat which the beautiful village so unexpectedly offered, curiosity is aroused from its lethargy, and she must needs examine the contents of the bundle ! But I must let Miss Lutcy continue her own story.] Upon opening the bundle, I found it to contain a suit of men’s clothes, and 150 dollars in money. I then withdrew behind a hedge, with the determination of changing my attire, the thought having instantaneously occurred to me on viewing the contents of the bundle, partly for the ensuring of my own safety should my late captors be in pursuit,

but more particularly with a view to assist in apprehending the freebooters, and thus put an end to their depredations. On trying on the clothes, I was greatly delighted to find that they were in every respect an admirable fit ; and being thus disguised, my fears and anxieties gave place to feelings of a more chivalric nature—I was resolved to play the heroine.

“ I accordingly entered the village as a young gentleman, and calling at a private house requested the inmates to provide me a breakfast, as I was almost starved with hunger. I told the woman I addressed, that if she would oblige me in this instance, I was willing to pay her well for it. She replied that she was not prepared to entertain me, but I could be enabled to get anything I wanted at the house of entertainment close by ; but I told the woman a plain breakfast was all I wanted, and if she could supply me with a cup of coffee and some bread and butter, I would be well satisfied. The woman consented, and after a short delay, a breakfast comprising all I required, with two or three articles of more substantial food, greeted my longing eyes, and revived my failing energies. Whether my disguise was insufficient to prevent suspicion, or interest in my behalf had been awakened in the woman, I know not ; but she eyed me with the keenest scrutiny, and put so many questions to me, that I began to think

she knew me. I however carried out the deception, and after paying her for my breakfast, made the necessary enquiries as to the most direct road to my own home. The answer I received was that I was ten miles out of my road. I then inquired if I could be conveyed home by a chaise or waggon? and promised if her husband would undertake to take me I would pay him liberally. She then called her husband and I agreed with him to carry me to Swollo, where my uncle lived.

“ The next day we set out on our journey, by first having paid one half of the expense before leaving the house. I found the driver a very agreeable man. We were four days on the road; but I was all the time uneasy in my mind, thinking all we met on the road were robbers, and as we came close by the city in which my aunt resided I was at a loss how to act. I did not want the man to know I was in disguise, and I was not prepared to appear before my aunt, fearing her apprehension for my safety, would induce her to frustrate all my schemes for ferriting out the mountaineers, as soon as my intentions were made known. Under these considerations, my plan was at once taken. I ordered the man to drive to the first tavern in Swallo, and having paid him off and sent him on his way home, I went on pretence to take a walk, about a mile out of town; and concealing myself behind some

bushes off the road, resumed the habiliments of my own sex. Thus equipped, I directed my course to the residence of my aunt, and acquainted her with all that befel me, with my determination to aid in the discovery of the robbers, by conducting the officers of justice to their cave. My resolution, instead of being met by her disapprobation, received her fullest consent, and she advised me to wait upon the Burgomaster, and relate my own story. The fear of presentation being thus removed, I cheerfully made my way to the Burgomaster's residence, who concurred in the policy of my aunt and myself, for me to adopt the disguise, as it would render our journey to the military station less hazardous. Accordingly we set out for your head quarters ; where we arrived in safety. The rest you know."

Lutey Bouers having completed her story, retired to her own lodgings ; where by her invitation, I shortly after repaired to spend the remainder of the evening in a social tete-a-tete.

The few days we staid at the village were judiciously occupied in preparations for effecting a thorough extermination of the horde of blood-hounds, by whom the hill had been inhabited for a number of years. After the subject had been deliberately investigated, and the most plausible means decided on, the officers and under officers received orders

from the commandant, what they were respectively to do, previous to a second expedition to the abode of the freebooters. It was agreed upon that the Hill should be levelled to its base; for this purpose all the pick-axes, hoes, shovels, and crow bars which could be found, were required. Accordingly the whole village was scoured by our party, who found little difficulty in procuring whatever the inhabitants had of the kind, as soon as our object was made known to them; for the prowess of the robbers was long known in that vicinity, and in many cases individuals had suffered heavy pecuniary losses from burglars and highwaymen, besides, in some instances, which were accompanied with loss of life. But notwithstanding the contiguity of the Robbers' cave to the village, it was never found out, nor even suspected, until the occurrence of the event related by Lutcy Bouers.

The preparations having been made, our little battalion, with their arms, ammunition, and implements, proceeded on their march of extermination; and in six days from the time of our first attack we again found ourselves in front of the Robbers' fortifications. A halt was made, and no sound was heard for a few seconds, save that of the sentinel's step, as he advanced and receded. But the pause was short, and the silence momentary; and the hill which then towered above the surrounding scenery was now destined to be among the things that were.—

The command was given, and every implement put in motion, guided by the strong arm and the willing heart; the earth appearing to sink at every delve, until the rotundity of the summit was transformed into a horizontal surface of but a few inches above the aperture by which communication could be had with the interior of the cave.

So far, our operations had been carried without interruption; but the falling in of part of the hill was a signal to the brigands (who were heretofore secure within the immense excavation) for attempting a defence. Accordingly, a grumbling noise within intimated to our party that work of a more serious nature was soon to be expected. In this respect they were not kept long in suspense; a few more feet of earth having fallen in, gave the assailants, and besieged a view of each other—and the remainder of the work of demolition was not accomplished without bloodshed. Another short cessation, and the work of death began. A battery of canon was discharged by the brigands from the inside, which killed and wounded a number of our party, and brought down on their own heads, the remainder of the earth which had formed a roof to their cave. The first effects of this onset having subsided, our men advanced to the margin, and a general skirmish ensued, during which the operations of the workmen were continued; and shortly after the freebooters had been effectually silenced, the task of levelling the hill to its base was completed.

Our next step was to take possession of the place and secure prisoners. An entrance being thus effected, we immediately set about searching the premises. On removing the earth which had fallen in, we discovered the bodies of 26 men and an old woman ; and under a large boiler we found a pretty girl of about 10 years old, just alive, the daughter of one Mr. John Beuler from Hullberstadt. She had been stolen away from her parents, and confined in this cave for upwards of two years.

The cave was round ; it contained ten canons, placed at regular distances from each other, between every two canons were ten muskets ; these were all so arranged, that a pipe being placed so as to communicate with their respective touch holes, a simultaneous discharge could at any time be produced, by the tube being previously filled with gunpowder. The cave was divided into several apartments. Among other things we found large quantities of gold and silver coin, plate of various descriptions, and 267 gold and silver Watches, with down and feather beds, linen, superfine clothes, silk and cotton of all kinds. These were distributed amongst our detachment, after awarding Miss Lutcy Bouers one third. The balance, allowed to each soldier 340 dollars prize money.

In calling the roll, it was ascertained that six of our men had been killed, and 15 wounded. Having so far fulfilled the object of our campaign, we returned to our quarters, buried our

dead with military honours, and dressed the wounds of the sufferers, and conveyed them to Hamilon. Miss Lutcy Bouers was comfortably conveyed to her home in a coach, which I hired for the purpose; for which service, she insisted on forcing upon me a liberal reward.

Thus was accomplished the extermination of a band of ruffians, who had inflicted their barbarities on the surrounding country for a number of years, with impunity. I will now leave Miss Lutcy Bouers for the present, to enjoy her well earned honours and renown; but in a more advanced stage of my narrative, will again bring her before my readers, as a sojourner with myself—strangers in a strange land.

CHAPTER XVI.

Return to Hamilon. A curious Bird. The first letter received from my Mother, with several presents. Advised not to leave the Army. A visit to my grandmother. Old Lepky. First interview with my father. Return to the Garrison.

Notwithstanding the exciting scenes I had enacted my part in, since the death of Caroline, the gloom which preyed on my mind was still unabated; and on my arrival at Hamilon, the melancholy incident was of anything more deeply impressed on my imagination. Every familiar object which presented itself to my view, recalled some occurrence in which my lovely Caroline had participated with me. My first

inclination, after exchanging congratulations with friends, was to visit the grave of the dear departed, to which place I felt frequent inducements to repair. One morning early I went to the burying ground, and my attention was rivetted by the beautiful appearance and delightful warblings of a strange bird, which was sitting on the head-stone of Carolines' grave. Not wishing to affright the lovely songster from the hallowed spot, I remained at a distance for a long time, and finding that my engagements for the day made my presence necessary elsewhere, I had to return, without approaching my favoured haunt. The next day I repeated my visit, and finding the feathered warbler in the same occupation, I returned home to acquaint my hostess with the incident. She related what I had told her to her husband, who advised me to go again the next morning, and if I again found the bird in the same occupation, I would certainly hear some agreeable intelligence. I accordingly went next morning, and to my great surprise, found two birds sitting on the head-stone, warbling most beautifully, sometimes alternately, and other times simultaneously. The appearance of these birds surpassed in loveliness anything of the kind I had ever seen before. I felt as if I could not withdraw myself from the vicinity in which I was walking; and at length attempted to approach nearer the sacred precincts—but my hair upon my head began to rise: still I advanced although feeling conscious

that my presence beyond a respectful distance was an intrusion. I however continued to approach, and after allowing me to become almost within arm's length of them, they flew off to the next headstone. On my having retired a few steps, the birds returned to the grave of Caroline, and resumed their delightful employment; in which occupation they were engaged when I withdrew from the grave yard; but although my visits were frequently repeated, my feathered harbingers were never again to be seen.

About six weeks after, as I returned one morning from my usual walk to the burying ground, I experienced a most happy feeling; the gloom seemed for the moment dissipated, and my usual spirits and serenity of mind resumed their controul, and the same happy disposition prevailed, as in the days when Caroline was by my side. On entering the house, I found an elderly man awaiting my return; he had by his side a pack similar to those carried by pedlars, and in his hand a small package. He arose, on my entering the room, and informed me that he was a travelling post-man, from Amsterdam; that he was directed to deliver a letter to me with a small trunk. His errand surprised me, and I told him that I had nothing to expect from that quarter. "Well, (he replied) if this letter does not belong to you, I must have been misinformed," at the same time putting the letter into my hand, which I

found was addressed to me, and immediately opened it. The contents were as follows:—

“ Amsterdam, 4th September, ———.

“ MY DEAR AND BELOVED SON,

“ Nothing in this world, has made me so happy as the last letter I received from your grandmother, informing me that you were alive. Oh how I long to see you! if it is in your power to get leave from your regiment—was it but for one month, but I fear I'll never see you again. I have sent you a small present, I did not know what to send. Your grandmother wrote me that you were dressed like a prince; but accept this small present as it is the first; your aunt Maria sends her best compliments to you, and believe me that I am your affectionate mother.”

I then opened the trunk, and found a handsome silk pattern for a waistcoat, and blue silk velvet for a pair of pantaloons, two silk handkerchiefs, and a small gold watch, not larger than a Spanish dollar. I was prouder of that present than all the money I had in the world, as it came from my mother, who I had never seen to my knowledge; I treated the postman well, and asked when he would return to Amsterdam? He replied not before the spring of the next year. I asked him then if he would let me know a month before the time he expected to go? he replied, “with God's will, I go on the 1st June;” “well, (I answered,) I will be ready to go along with you.”

Need I stop to acquaint the reader with the feelings prompted by the fond anticipations of at length beholding the beings, of all earthly objects, who claim our highest esteem and veneration? These feelings can only be imagined by such as have been placed in similar circumstances; and therefore no description, however vivid, could be appreciated, by any except such as have never known their father and mother from infancy to manhood; and to such, a description would be unnecessary—for their own conceptions will enable them to form the most correct idea of the effects which the anticipations I then so fondly indulged, produced on my mind. The distance from my residence at that time to that of my father, was not more than one day's journey, and although I had never seen him to my recollection, still he otherwise performed all the duties toward me which a son had a right to expect from his parent. My mother at that time, was living at a much greater distance from the place where I resided, and my journey there would occupy the space of eight long-summer days.

Not having any direct intercourse with my mother—and from the age of six weeks, and during my juvenile days, being under the controul of my grandmother, of whom the reader has been informed—I did not feel the natural attachment for any other parent than her, with whom my earliest recollections

were associated, until the letter had been perused: then a new feeling was created within me, and the opportunities thus held out excited a degree of pleasure which was only increased as the time for my journey to Amsterdam drew near. I counted the days as the time for my visit shortened, until the month of June came round, and so anxious was I to see my parents, that I could not for a moment cease to think of them; indeed, so great was the anxiety I experienced, that even the recollection of lovely Caroline, was almost driven from my mind, and consequently my visits to her grave became less frequent.

I now turned my thoughts on the subject of retiring from the army, in view of spending a long time, if not taking up my permanent residence with my parents; and having asked the advice of Capt Poffender, he told me it would be the worst day's work I ever did. I also consulted Doctor Lohman on the same subject, and received a similar reply. Finally I made up my mind to ask my father's permission, and after employing the old Doctor to do my duty while absent, I went off with my beautiful white horse, accompanied by my servant, to see my father at Wormstall Castle; but altered my course, in coming to the cross road, one of which lead to Harndoff, a village belonging to my father's estate; the other to Pole, where my grandmother resided—the latter road I en-

tered upon, feeling a strong desire to see my grandmother. As I approached that village I met a man on horseback, dressed in servant's uniform; and after passing me a few paces, he made a sudden halt, saying, "Excuse me sir, are you not Dr. Landsburg?" I stopped my horse, and replied in the affirmative. He then made himself known to me as the person who had conducted me on a former occasion, to Wornstaff; expressed himself highly pleased to meet me, and complimented my improved and healthful appearance.

He informed me, in answer to some enquiries, that he was still in my father's service; that he was just returning to Wornstaff, with the intention of going again to Hanover, where he had left my father, who intended to be back to his Castle during the following week. I then resumed my journey to the village, and arriving opposite Mr. Lepky's house, I dismounted, giving my horse in charge of my servant, ordering him to leave them both at my grandmother's stable, and say I would soon follow him. I then went into Mr. Lepky's house, where I found him in the act of turning at his Lathe, the noise of which prevented him from hearing my approach, so that I was enabled to stand behind him, and before he could perceive me, I touched him lightly on the shoulder. Mr. Lepky turned suddenly round, his chisel fell from his hand, and with amazement depicted

on his countenance, he stood staring at me, almost deprived of speech, from the surprise which my sudden appearance excited. I told him not to be alarmed, that I merely looked in to see him; but before he could recover from my unexpected intrusion, I walked off.

I was soon at the comfortable mansion of my grandmother, who, with Charlotte, were happy to see me, and congratulated me on the invitation I had received to visit my mother at Amsterdam. After spending a few days at my grandmothers, I left the village, with the promise of repeating my visit as soon as circumstances would permit, previous to my journey to Amsterdam. The morning I left my grandmother's, so great was my anxiety to see my father that I reached Harn-dorff that same afternoon. I had now but one mile more to travel before my journey to Wormstall Castle would be completed; and being informed by my grandmother that my aunt, (sister to my father, whom also I had never seen,) was residing near my father's castle, I determined to pay her a visit, presuming that she would receive me kindly,—in which presumption I was not mistaken. Accordingly, I stopped at a tavern, and had our horses rubbed down and fed; in the mean time I inquired of the landlord about my aunt, procured writing materials, and dispatched my servant with a letter addressed to "Mat-

musel Von Landsburg." The letter was immediately replied to, and forwarded to me by my servant, accompanied by my aunt's valet. On perusing her epistle, which contained a pressing invitation to wait upon her, I set off at once on foot, not having far to travel, for my Aunt's residence ; where I was received in the most complimentary manner. When I arrived at her mansion, the sun was just sinking in the western skies. I entered the house, and was received by my aunt, who cordially took my hand, and kissed me with a motherly affection.

She then took my hat, which was bordered around with gold, with tassels of the same metal attached to each side, [the fashion in those days] and after viewing my sword and uniform, she expressed herself much delighted at their magnificent appearance, and passed some high compliments on my personal attractions. At her invitation I seated myself by her side on a beautiful sofa ; and an interesting conversation was kept up between us ; during which she asked me a great many questions, and related to me a number of little incidents connected with my father's affairs, and other subjects, which although of minor consequence to the reader, were more or less important to myself. During this visit I was most hospitably treated, and I enjoyed a short span of happiness, which may be more easily conceived than described ; the

delicious wine exhilarating my spirits, already heightened by the present meeting, and by the fond anticipation of soon seeing my parents.

My aunt was a lady of high accomplishments, of a good figure, about middle size; she had black hair, and dark blue eyes, was about 40 years of age. Had been pretty, but her beauty was somewhat marred by the small pox. Her disposition was good in the extreme; her heart was open to the appeals of the unfortunate, and in her the poor and diseased found a benefactor. She was the only sister of my father; was endowed with abundance of this world's goods, having received her fortune from my grandfather, and held it in her own possession since his death. Her house, gardens, orchards, and appurtenances were in good order, and tastefully decorated. She informed me that she resided at the Castle since my mother's departure; but left for her own residence as soon as my father had married again. I learned also that my mother had been ill used by my father, and that he married again soon after she went to Amsterdam; that the money his new wife possessed, together with her great beauty, were temptations too strong for him to resist. But the change has not added to his happiness; and from what I could gather, he seriously repented the imprudent step. He still loved my mother, but his peculiar disposition prevented him from enjoying

the blessings which providence so abundantly bestowed upon him, and this last act instead of promoting his happiness, only tended to widen the breach, and erect an impenetrable barrier to reconciliation, between my separated parents. Unlike my mother, my father's new wife was of an unhappy disposition which every day appeared to extend its influence, creating discontent and confusion in every department of the domestic circle. Her dissatisfaction and chagrin increased, when she learned from my father, that he had a son by his first wife, while she was not, nor ever expected to be a mother. On receiving this intelligence, her curiosity to see me was excited to an unusual degree; nor would it be satisfied until she could trace me out, and without my knowledge, see me. Having learned that I was in Hamilon, she started from her father's castle, without the Baron's knowledge, and had her wishes so far gratified by seeing me on parade, sitting on horseback. She related to my aunt the result of her tour, and said that one glance was sufficient for her to know me amongst a thousand, I so much resembled my father in form and feature, and pronounced me the handsomest looking officer in the battalion. "When she was observing you," said my aunt "you was talking to an old officer, she told me the colour of your horse and described your dress, and the reason why I examined your hat and uniform so

closely this evening, was to ascertain if her description was correct, which I find to be in every particular."

Upon further inquiry, I learned that my father's lady was not at the Castle. After partaking of a princely supper, my aunt, in her usual kind hearted and frank manner, gave me a sketch of her own history and future intentions. She told me that she intended to go into a Cloister, and in doing so would make such a disposition of her magnificent property, as would be to her entire satisfaction. I informed her of my desire to leave the army, that I did not like a military life, and felt anxious to see and reside with my mother. My aunt endeavoured to turn me from my determination; but finding my mind so strongly inclined to give up a military life, she generously invited me to reside in her house, and that she would abandon the idea of retiring, and at her death I should be invested with all her right and title to the estates she then possessed. I promised to accept of her bounty, and after continuing our conversation for a short period, we parted for the night, and retired to rest.

The next morning my aunt showed me all her property, and gave me an account of her income and fortune, begging me at the same time not to leave my native country. I now made preparations to visit my father's castle, and after breakfast set out with my aunt for that purpose. We soon

arrived at the place, and on entering the Castle the Stewart personated my father, and as such received me with great cordiality; the stewardess, an elegant woman, also welcomed me—but after a short time I was undeceived, and being informed that my father was still in Hanover, I was resolved to await his arrival at the Castle. Before my father's return, I embraced the opportunity of going through his grounds, and examining the extensive fortifications by which his castle was protected, and also the spacious outhouses, stables, and other appurtenances belonging to his vast domain. The castle contained a large number of apartments, and was bounded by a large magnificent flower garden, besides orchards, containing fruit trees of every variety: all this highly valuable estate was surrounded by a ditch of considerable extent, filled with water, in which large numbers, and a great many kinds of fish were contained.—The Castle could only be entered by a draw-bridge. My father's retinue consisted of 20 maidens for the Dairy, 15 servant men, 10 boys for the purpose of attending the plough, besides a housekeeper, steward, coachman, lady servant, lockers, hunters, gardeners, herds men of oxen; sheep, cows, swine, &c. The ground in front and behind the castle was well shaded by pine and oak trees on each side of the paths, and the ground being kept cleanly swept, afforded an admirable promenade. Adjoining the castle ground, are immense fields,

and in the seasons of vegetation exhibit the waving grain of all kinds, as far as the eye can reach. A forest for sports, abounding with wild deer, &c., also belonged to my father's estate.

Having spent the day very pleasantly in the company of my aunt and the principal individuals of my father's household, I held some conversation with my aunt, who wished me to return with her until my father's arrival; but the stewards over-ruled her importunities, and urged me to remain at the castle, alleging that my father would not be pleased if I quitted his residence before he returned. Finding that the favourable impression which my society had made on all parties, produced a kind of rivalry among my hospitable entertainers, I concluded to accompany my aunt home, and return to the castle; she expressed much regret when I was about taking leave for the evening, and in order to satisfy all, I promised to visit her often, and dine or breakfast with her every day. The evening passed pleasantly off at the castle, where I found the company of the steward and his lady very agreeable. My fancy here took a wide range; the dreams of my youth seemed about to be realized, and I could not but think that all these accompaniments of rank and grandeur, which I have previously described, were mine.

In these anticipations of princely distinction, I spent the two following weeks; and so absorbed was my mind in these dreams of glory, that I scarcely ever thought of my mother or Caroline.

Early one morning a servant came to my chamber and informed me that my father had arrived during the night, and was desirous of seeing me immediately. I rose and lost no time in dressing in full uniform—a few minutes after I stood in the presence of my father.

It would be needless to attempt a description of the feelings which our meeting excited; they can only be imagined by those bearing the same relations in life, when acted upon by corresponding circumstances. The servant who preceded me opened the parlour door—I passed in, and saw an apparently young man standing by a China stove, with his hands on the back of a chair which stood before him—he was my father. I stepped toward him, and on making a respectful bow, he extended his hand, which I received and kissed. With a melancholy smile playing upon his countenance, he asked me in a gentle voice—“What is your request, my son?” I replied that I had received a letter from my mother, and was anxious to pay her a visit at Amsterdam, if it would be agreeable to him. He took the letter out of my hand, and while perusing it cast several glances at me.—After having read the letter, his countenance became more serious; he cast an anxious look upon me for a moment, and then in a slow measured tone he gave his consent, by answering—“very well, my son, I have no objections.” A short silence followed, and supposing our first interview was at an end, I began to prepare to

take leave of him ; at that instant, he cast a more cheerful look upon me, and said very gently, " Sit down, and wait till I return."

As soon as he withdrew, a servant entered, bearing a waiter containing breakfast, with dishes &c. for one person. He requested me to take my breakfast, and offered an apology for my father's absence, stating as an excuse, that he was very busy making preparations to return to Hanover, to which place he would proceed immediately. The disappointment I felt at this announcement deprived me of appetite, and the breakfast was removed, having scarcely been tasted. My father entered the room, soon after, and handing me a purse and some papers, requested me to accept them. I thanked him for his kindness ; and making a bow, bade him farewell. He grasped my hand, looked tenderly in my face, while with his other hand he held to his eyes a pocket handkerchief, and on his letting my hand go, and turning towards the window, I left the room—deeply impressed with the conviction, that I had seen my father for the first and last time.

The horses being ready, we rode slowly along, till we came to my aunt's ; there I examined the purse, which I found to contain 50 doubloons, and 2 double doubloons, with a check on the bank of Amsterdam, to draw quarterly, 40 guilders. I related to my aunt what had occurred, and she attributed the strangeness of my father's conduct to his sorrow for having married.

a second time. She felt convinced that he loved me from his heart, and was proud to hear of the fame I had so early gained, both as a physician and an officer. A lady informed her, she said, of my unbounded success in restoring the health of my patients, and of the remarkable rapidity with which I accomplished the cure of the wounded. In short, she learned that my abilities as a physician and surgeon were admired by the oldest doctors in the army, and my reputation was known far and wide, throughout the country. My aunt also informed me that she asked my father, why he did not take me home with him, or have more frequent correspondence with me? and he replied, that it would give him much pleasure to be more familiar with me, but circumstances required that he should act in the manner he had done.

I spent two days more with my aunt, and on my departure, promised to make another visit the next spring. Before taking leave of her, she gave me a very handsome present. We rode slowly along; and I could not refrain from every now and then looking behind me on the extensive property, which I believed in the course of time would be my own; but when my eyes could no longer rest on these numerous fields and forests, a kind of misgiving took possession of my feelings, and I experienced the sensations of one who had been suddenly deprived of his all.

We now quickened our pace, and at length

arrived at Hamilon, I rejoined my company, and found all well, and that nothing extraordinary had occurred during my absence. I felt a greater anxiety than ever to leave the army, and about the latter end of April waited on his Excellency to ask for my discharge. But he would not consent. This brought me to a stand for some time. Capt. Poffender still advised me not to leave the army; so I considered for some days and felt as a bird confined in a cage. My hostess, who I knew felt interested in my behalf, was very uneasy at observing my unhappy appearance, and from the fact that my Caroline was her daughter, she looked upon me more in the light of her son than in the capacity of a boarder; and therefore would not hesitate to make such inquiries of me, as her generous nature and maternal affection suggested. She asked me several questions as to the cause of my melancholy appearance. I gave her an account of my late visit, and said I would not feel satisfied until I could see my mother. She advised me to see Capt. Poffender and his lady that evening, and relate to the captain the result of my interview with his Excellency, on the subject of retiring from the army. I adopted her advice, and after partaking of a glass of wine with my visitors, I related my story—and in accordance with their advice, I resigned my commission, received my full discharge, obtained a passport, and made

other preparations for my intended journey, such as procuring a wardrobe suitable for a private gentleman, and other articles of minor importance.

My servant, who had previously obtained his discharge, not wishing to quit my service, prevailed upon me to continue his engagement as my valet, and knowing him to be a faithful servant, I was glad to comply with his request. About the time of his discharge he met with a serious misfortune, of which the reader will be informed hereafter. Having dispatched my trunks to my grandmother's, I took leave of Hamilton on the 20th May, 1793, after serving 9 months as lieutenant, and a further period as head surgeon and physician in the army. The money I possessed amounted to 1750 dollars, 70 of which I took out for my travelling expenses, the remainder I divided into four parts, and placed each part in a separate trunk with my wearing apparel.

I soon arrived at my grandmother's residence, where I spent three days. In bidding farewell to her and Charlotte, I was presented with a handsome sum to defray my expenses for the rest of my journey, my trunks having been sent on a day's journey in advance of me. I proceeded to the residence of the postman, from whom I obtained the letter and present sent by my mother, as before related. I found him, agreeably to his

directions, in the village of Overnwhoeren; he informed me he would not be ready to start until the 10th June, in consequence of not receiving a sum of money which was due to him. I inquired the amount, and wishing to proceed without further delay—and it was finally agreed that I should pay his expenses, and he was to accompany the post wagon in which my trunks were placed, in order to take care of them; and giving him two dollars as pocket money, he set off before us to overtake the wagon. I shortly after followed, with my servant, and found the postman and the trunks at the public house, in the village of Pruismenden. On learning that two post wagons were despatched from this village every week, and not wishing to risk sending all my property at one time, I sent but two trunks ahead, leaving the others for the wagon which was to follow, and ordered the postman to remain behind and take charge of them. I then proceeded with my servant, and having recovered my usual flow of spirits, I felt disposed to indulge in conversation with every person I met: and at the places of refreshment where I found agreeable company, I made up my mind to prolong my stay.—Nothing remarkable happened, during this journey, until we arrived at the district of Munster; in this settlement, the inhabitants are all Roman Catholics.

As soon as we came to the borders of Mun-

sterland we found the road very sandy and heavy for travelling—the road, however, is level, and runs in a straight line. A small cottage standing by itself with a cross affixed to it, attracted my attention—and dismounting from my horse, I walked up to it. On the cross was the representation of a man undergoing the agonies of crucifixion, with the blood apparently streaming from his hands, feet, and side. I cannot describe my feelings while viewing this mournful picture—I was overpowered with awe, reverence, and love; and in this frame of mind I took off my hat, and on my knees breathed a fervent prayer before this representation of the sufferings of our divine Redeemer; and on rising, stood for some time uncovered, contemplating His divine goodness in thus atoning for the transgressions of the world. I then advanced to the window of the cottage, and viewed the beautiful images representing the birth of our blessed Saviour, with the company of wise-men and shepherds surrounding the manger, and presenting their gifts. In continuing my journey, we met with similar cottages situated about ten miles apart, with appropriate representations.

END OF VOLUME I.