

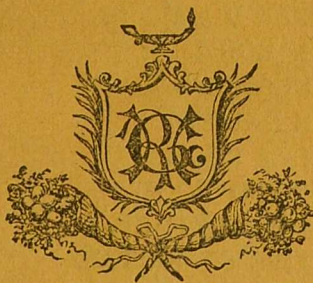
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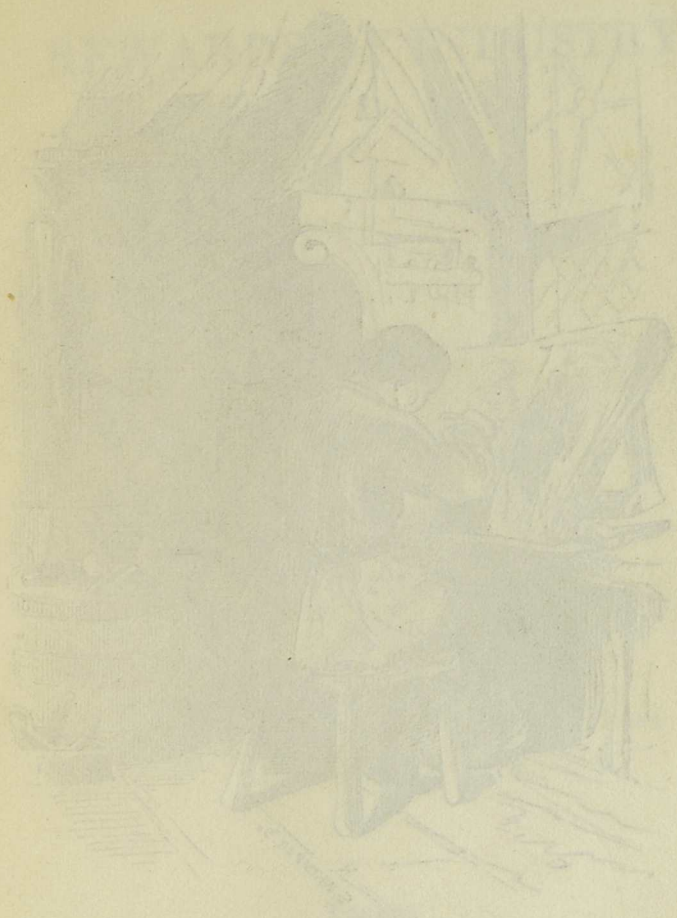
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Jonas working at the masterpiece.

THE
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THE REWARDS OF INDUSTRY.

CHAPTER I.

THE TINKER.

ALL who know Altenheim, which is a small town in the Duchy of Baden, must know the good townsman Jonas Jordan, who lives in the old house, in the corner of the market-place, close to the Great Industrial School. I will tell you his history.

Jonas was the son of poor people. His father, named Thaddeus, a working tinman, underwent much distress. He did not fail in industry, or honesty either, but he was often short of work. He understood his business tolerably, but many understood it better. That was bad ; but it was much more so, that he married a showy girl who squandered his money in finery, liked good eating and drinking, but was not ready to work, and would rather gossip out of doors than make herself busy within. Such ways sadly spoiled his house-keeping. When this wife died, she left her husband the little boy Jonas, and also some debts. Thaddeus was forced to settle his accounts, and dispose of his stock of brass and tinned iron for a small price. He then worked for a couple

of years with other tradesmen, as a journeyman, but found it hard work to maintain himself and his child. He thought a good deal about what he should do, and then resolved to try a new plan, and went to speak to his neighbour the belt-maker Fenning. This Fenning was a good sort of man, only too ready to drink, and to turn into the public-house of an evening. This made his head often heavy, like that of many other working-men, and made his purse light, and his cares grow day by day. Thaddeus had observed truly, that Fenning's business was going the wrong way. He went to him, and said, 'neighbour, I see you have pretty things to sell, but not customers enough to buy. There are few of us tradesmen that are getting forward, now. The manufactories abroad cut off our market ; jews and pedlers go about everywhere. We must exert ourselves. Let us buy a hawker's license,—I will go about the country with my best lamps and spoons, tin cans and basins, and if you will allow me a reasonable profit, I will take your buttons, and buckles, and belts. So may I do business for us both. There will be sale enough of our goods, if I can take them round to people's houses, instead of their coming for them.'

The proposal pleased Fenning, and the agreement was soon made. A few days after this, Thaddeus drove before him a well-packed barrow from village to village ; and with him trudged, barefooted, but happy, the little Jonas. He soon found customers, for he was ready in speech, and knew how to recommend his goods. The cottagers' wives gave him

plenty of kettles and saucepans to line and repair ; he was a good hand in giving old things a new face. His barrow returned to be filled, again and again, till at last, he exchanged it for a cart drawn by an ass. He was no longer the travelling tinker, he was now a travelling tradesman. He was gladly seen wherever he went. But in spite of his many customers, this same travelling tradesman lived as poorly as a poor tinker. In summer he took his scanty meal in the open air. A draught from the spring washed down his dinner of bread ; a barn or stable served him for a sleeping room, yet both father and son prospered by these excursions in the country. Little Jonas, exposed to all sorts of weather, was as blooming as a rose ; he was shabbily clad, but kept very clean, otherwise you might have taken him for a beggar's child. But his father strictly forbade him from either asking, or accepting alms, if offered. He often bade the child repeat the verse—

“ To live by begging bread is base ;
Thieving leads to dire disgrace.
Gain your bread by honest labour ;
God will bless the good endeavour.”

‘ But I am such a little boy, father ; ’ said the child one day ; ‘ how can I work ? And you are poor, still, after all your work. It is only the great folks who are rich, and they do nothing. Is that quite right ? ’

Thaddeus was surprised at his son's question, but he answered, ‘ Yes, it is all quite right,—God's will

is right ! The Almighty has made some rich, and some poor, that one may help another. Some help with their money, and some with their labour. If all men were rich, what could they do then ? Each man must make his own shoes, and weave his own stockings. Do you understand that ?

Jonas answered laughing, ‘ That would be strange enough, father. Only it seems to me hard that one should have so much, and another nothing.’

‘ You cannot understand it : ’ replied his father. ‘ We might say truly, God *gives* nothing to men, he *lends* things to them only, for their life-time. When a man dies, he must give up all. The king or the beggar, all are alike then—but the souls of men must go to judgment, and answer to God for the use they have made of their lives on earth. Alas, then, for him who has thought only of himself, and never cared to do any thing for the good of others ! We are told that in the future life, he who was the richest may be the poorest, and he who is the lowest in this world, may be the highest before God. Can you understand ? ’

The child nodded assent ; but presently said, ‘ Is there any thing that I can do ? I am so little, I have nothing to earn, and nothing to give.’

The father laughed, and said, ‘ do you see that robin with the straw in his bill ! Is he not much smaller than you ? and yet he is at work, and is making a nest for his young ones. Do you see the sparrows in the street, how they pick about ? Do not you sometimes hear the wood-pecker in the wood, how he pecks and

hammers at the stem of the tree with his beak ? Go work for your living, like them.'

Jonas rubbed his forehead and answered, almost with tears ; ' Father, I am willing, but what can I do ? '

' Listen, boy. It is now spring. Hunt for black-thorn blossoms, elder flowers, roses, sage, marjoram, and thyme—gather these wherever you are allowed to go. We can sell them to the chemists. In summer we will gather baskets of wild-fruits, and take them from house to house. So shall we earn money. In winter, we will gather and dry the wild grasses for the saddlers and upholsterers ; and collect osier twigs for the basket-makers. Thus we shall get perhaps cheese to our bread, and a bit of meat to our potatoes. Only begin ! I will give you a light little barrow, and what you want besides.'

The father was not joking with his little son. Jonas was an apt boy, and the plan was soon put in practice. The little fellow would go about all day long, and his business turned out well. Sometimes he got halfpence, sometimes half-worn clothes were given him ; and he learned more and more to help himself along in the world.

CHAPTER II.

THE SEPARATION.

THADDEUS JORDAN soon thought of another way in which he might turn his wandering life to good account. In some of the villages which he visited, he got acquainted with very poor people, day-labourers, who had much trouble in getting bread enough for their families. He advised some of these persons to collect feathers, bristles, rags, bones, and the like ; others to seek for wholesome herbs and roots, which he taught them where to find. He bought these stores from the poor people, laid them by, and sold them by degrees to tradesmen, button-makers, cutlers, paper-makers, apothecaries, dyers, &c.

People began to think that Thaddeus was getting money. Still both he and Jonas, though clean, were coarsely clad. They spent but little in eating, and were content if they had enough. They tasted beer seldom, wine never ; and as for spirits, would not drink a glass, if it were offered them. ‘The man is a niggard, a miser !’ So said many a ragged fellow ; ‘whatever does he do with his money ? Buries it in the ground, may be !’

Thaddeus let people talk as they would, and went on in his own way. He knew enough of the world. He who knows but little good of himself, is apt to think evil of his neighbours. Thaddeus was accustomed, whenever he came to the town, to add his

savings to a little sum which he had in the Altenheim Savings'-bank. This fund was laid up in his son's name, and he looked on it with fatherly anxiety. He had also helped Master Fenning forward. The belt-maker's business had prospered, through the industry and honesty of his friend the hawker.

Thus it went on for some years ; but it could not last for ever. Thaddeus began earnestly to wish that his son should learn some kind of trade, and not continue this wandering life.

A man may take to a way of life, in extremity, which he is far from thinking the best. He spoke of the matter with his friend Fenning, who declared himself quite willing to take the youth as apprentice, and with a grateful spirit declined to receive any fee. Thaddeus would pay, however, and as life and death are uncertain, he drew up the form in writing. When this was settled, he took his son with him for the last time on a journey.

It was truly the last time ! for Thaddeus fell ill on the way, and it was well that his son was there to comfort him.

As he could not travel further, he was carried back to Altenheim in a farmer's cart, and taken to the hospital, where he lay many days quiet and resigned on the sick-bed. At length, when he felt the approach of the angel of death,—he sent to Fenning's house for his son. He bade him farewell, and gave him his last blessing. Then he held out to him a little sealed box, and said, 'take this, Jonas. This was gained honourably in summer-heat and winter-

frost. This is your inheritance. Do not break the seal till your apprentice-days are over, and even then, do not, unless you are in want.' Jonas took the little box, kissed his father's hand in great sorrow, and promised, in all respects, to obey his commands. 'I die content,' continued the father, 'as I have lived content. Live and die so, my child. I will tell you what has been my best rule of life; I have proved it:—"pray and work!" Yet remember; to earn by labour is only half the matter. The next, and the hardest, is *to save*. Who can help those people who from morning till night are filling a barrel full of holes, so that all runs out?'



‘In the first place, put by a penny against the day of need, for need will come, sooner or later, into every house. Therefore every one should be able to make a stand against unnecessary expense. When you have won this spare penny, then work on industriously ; that is to say, gain a *help*-penny for others ! God hath not placed you in the world for your own sake alone. After you have won your *help*-penny, then may you labour for honour, for independence. So, my dear child, pray and work ! Prayer has been called being one with God. A man cannot join himself in spirit with his Father in heaven, when he is at discord with His children, hates them, speaks evil of them, and leads them to destruction. Other men are, like you, the children of God. Be just towards all, and be kind to as many as you can. Prayer on the tongue will not profit, if ill-will have possession of the heart. Now go, may God’s blessing rest upon thee with thy father’s !’ So spake the aged Thaddeus. He also took an affecting leave of his friend Fenning, and earnestly recommended poor Jonas to his care.

‘That was not necessary ;’ replied the belt-maker with tearful eyes ; ‘indeed, it was not necessary ; I know well how much I am indebted to your friendly help ;—I will strive to make it good to your son.’

Thaddeus extended his feeble hand, and said, ‘I know it well. You are just in your dealings with all the world, only alas ! not so towards yourself. Do not take it ill, that I am anxious about my Jonas. You are too fond of an evil spirit.’

Master Fenning was astonished, and thought that the sick man was wandering in mind. 'What is it you think of me?' cried he, 'what evil spirit do you speak of?'

'The love of drink!' was the answer: 'that is indeed an evil spirit. When it enters in, the understanding departs. Wine brings you joy while you are drunk, and sorrow as soon as you are sober: wine drives away a trifling care, but it brings you soon a far greater in its place; it makes your head heavy, and your purse light.' This brings our work-people to destruction, that they will go every evening to the ale-house, and care more to please the host than their wives and children at home. From wine they get to brandy. That has fire enough to burn stomach, heart and brain. Brandy is a poison which by degrees ruins the constitution, and brings to nought honour and peace, health and respectability. First, a man says, 'I take only one glass, and that does no harm.' Soon he thinks a little more will do him good! Friend Fenning, beware. You often say, spirits are a *slow* poison,—a man may drink and yet live to be old. And yet spirit is a poison, sure enough; it makes fools of gray-heads—it makes men stupid, and brutish, and childish before their time.'

Master Fenning looked down, sadly troubled in mind, for he knew his own weakness but too well. Thaddeus did not wish to grieve him; he stretched out his hand towards him, and said: 'Take it not ill, that I have spoke thus, dear friend; I meant it for your good. Dying men must speak the truth.' Three days after this, the good Thaddeus died.

CHAPTER III.

THE APPRENTICE.

BEFORE we enter on the period of Jonas's apprenticeship, it may be well to explain some peculiar customs. In England, as well as in Germany, apprentices were formerly bound in strict servitude to the masters of whom they learned the craft by which they hoped to maintain themselves. They were, in all things, to obey their master's orders, and work for him ; and he was, in return, to teach them his craft or trade. At the end of the term—seven years, usually in England, an apprentice received the certificate which allowed him to enter the "Company," or Guild of his trade. Carpenters, tailors, grocers, coopers, and almost every division of tradesmen, formed different clubs or companies which had laws of their own, and some forbade any of their members from leaving the trade in which he was brought up. An impassable gulf separated the mercer from the grocer, and the draper from the fishmonger ; and, however, unsuccessful one trade might prove, the man apprenticed to it was not allowed to have recourse to another. A boy who laboured at the plough till he was twelve years of age, was to continue that labour for life. In Germany it was a general custom for a workman at the end of his apprenticeship, to travel about for awhile, seeking work of the same kind in other cities of Germany, and sometimes in neighbour-

ing countries ; for the expense of which, he was generally assisted by the common fund of the company. There was, probably, more reason for this custom in Germany than there would be in England. The very great extent of country which bears the general name of Germany, and in which the same language is spoken, is divided under many different governments ; and there is no one great capital city like London, giving in many ways an example, and setting fashions to the rest.

The apprentice who lived and learned just in the same place where his great grandfather had lived,—would, it was thought, know very little of the improvements going on in the world, if he did not travel ; but the custom had also its disadvantages, and many a workman got into idle habits, owing to leaving the restraints of home, and going among the idle and depraved. Now, let us return to

JONAS, THE APPRENTICE.

Jonas mourned for his father long, in silence. He was now an orphan boy ; with no relation to counsel or to love him—the apprentice and pupil of the belt-maker. There was but little pleasure for him indeed, for some time, in this house. The single servant was a cross elderly woman, who seemed to have quarrelled with all the world, and to have a sort of strange pleasure in chiding and grumbling. She managed all her own way. Jonas must bring her water, clean the shoes and the plates, fetch meat and vegetables from market, or run to Mr. Wester's shop

for half an ounce of snuff. Two fellow-apprentices who worked with the master, wanted his help also, teased him mischievously when they were gay, and gave him cuffs when they were cross. He complained once of this to his master, but he only consoled him by saying, 'This is 'prentice life, you simple boy. An apprentice must be obliging to all. Every one has to rough it, in turn.' Fenning was a mild man, and wished Jonas well ; but he was without any information, quite uneducated, and very thoughtless. The exhortation which he received from Thaddeus on his dying bed, had at first, much influence over him. For a time, he left off drinking spirits entirely. But soon again, he tried a little glass, from a little he again took more, and thus he went back to his old bad ways.

Jonas submitted to his fate. What could he do ? He thought continually of the pious precepts which he had received from his father. His only joy in the house was Fenning's child, little Martha, who was five years old ; when he played with her, he forgot all his trouble, and the child, too much neglected by her father, found Jonas her best friend. Jonas was fifteen years old, when he commenced his apprenticeship. But he could scarcely read, and much less write. He had learnt to reckon in his head, pretty well, when he went about with the barrow. But now he felt ashamed when he saw how much better many little boys knew all these things. Glad would he have been to go to school ! He said so to his master, and promised to be very industrious. But the old

servant said she could not manage without him, and his master said, 'Never mind, you are to be a belt-maker, not a learned man.' There was no help for it.

We need not wonder that many workmen make no progress. Without knowledge, even of the most necessary kind, and too early taken from school—they are put to business, which they learn mechanically, as they are taught mechanically, and can make no further advances, because they are wanting in examples and information. Meanwhile, Jonas learned what his companions could teach ; to make buttons and buckles, and to gild and silver them, also knife-handles and spoons, and to prepare the tin plates for the soldiers' caps. 'This is skill enough to get an honest living by ;' said his master.

It was well for the youth that he did *not* learn some things ; the other lads would have taught him bad language, if he had not remembered his father's commands ; and the old servant would have taught him stories about dreams, witches and ghosts, if he would have listened to such stuff.

Wester, the tradesman, to whose shop Jonas went for the old servant, was a friendly good-hearted man, who had known old Thaddeus, by whom he had been assisted in his business. He now took kindly interest in the orphan boy, allowed him to come to him on holiday afternoons, and instructed him in reading, writing, and accounts. Jonas felt that this was real kindness, and Wester and his wife became almost as fond of him as if he had been their own child. So passed five years ; then Jonas received his discharge,

—was one of the trade—and according to custom, must go on his travels. He had long wished that this time might come. His travelling bag was soon packed up and ready. He did not wish to take with him the precious little box which his father left him, but trusted it to his honest friend Wester, when he parted from him. He could have trusted Fenning's honesty, but that man was so addicted to drinking, that he neglected both his trade and his house, and could scarcely find employment for one journeyman. Jonas was not grieved at parting from his master, but he was sorry to part with the little girl of ten years of age,—Martha. She threw herself round his neck, and wept much at the separation, for she lost in him her only play-fellow, her only friend in the house.

‘Farewell, farewell!’ cried Jonas, ‘Weep not, for God will protect us! We shall meet again, I trust, after a few years.’

CHAPTER IV.

THE APPRENTICE'S RETURN.

FIVE or six years passed before Jonas returned from his travels. And when at length he arrived at the gates of Altenheim, and with a light heart beheld its streets once more, how changed and strange the place seemed to him! The streets were so narrow, the market-place seemed so small. Formerly he

knew all the people whom he met in the streets ; but it was not so now, and the people did not know him. He had grown tall and strong, and was very sunburnt ; his countenance was graver,—he was a man now.

It was once the custom in Germany, for every craftsman or mechanic, on his return from his travels, to execute some work of art with his own hand, as a proof of the proficiency which he had attained. This was called his *master-piece* : it was only after giving this proof of skill that he could become a *master*. Jonas therefore sought for Master Fenning. He thought to give his old master a pleasant surprise, and he wished to prepare the master-piece which should prove his skill in the same work-room where he learned his business as a saddler and belt-maker. He found the house, but it no longer looked the same ;—he knocked ; a clerk answered the summons.

‘Does not Master Fenning live here ?’

‘The belt-maker ? He has been dead some years ; quite different people live here now.’

‘Dead !’ cried Jonas, and left the house with a saddened heart.

He took the way which led to Wester’s house, fearfully, lest his old friend also might be no longer living. But his heart leaped with joy when he beheld that good man standing just as he used to do, before the glass door of his shop. Jonas took off his hat and bowed, but Wester looked at his dusty and travel-stained dress, and knew him not.

‘Oh, good Master Wester!’ cried Jonas, smiling, ‘have you quite forgot the Jonas Jordan whom you used to know so well?’

Wester stared with astonishment; but when he found that it really was Jonas whom he beheld, he held out both hands, and greeted him very warmly, then led him into the house. Mrs. Wester was delighted to see him. She showed the way to the neat bed-room, in which she invited him to rest that night, for he must be their guest, she said, and eat with them, till he had made arrangements for his work elsewhere. And when, after a few days, he removed to another lodging, he was still in the habit of spending one evening in the week with these friendly Westers. He had many curious adventures to relate to them from his travels, and he wanted to hear what had taken place in Altenheim in his absence. He heard of poor Master Fenning’s last days. That unfortunate man had become more and more addicted to drinking, so that he by degrees had lost all his business, and was reduced to great poverty. When he died, his daughter was taken to an orphan school, but was dismissed from that as soon as she was old enough to go into service. The Westers knew no more than this, and Jonas felt very sorry for the poor friendless Martha.

Thus did many weeks pass away before Jonas, with all his industry, could execute the master-piece by which he hoped to enter into the rank of a master workman. Saddlers have frequently to engrave harness-plates; so the task which he had to undertake

was to engrave a tasteful design or coat-of-arms at his own expense, and to be all the work of his own hand. He did this very carefully, and made a beautiful piece of work, which received much praise ; and he was admitted into the *guild*, or company, of his trade. This was done with a great deal of form and ceremony. There was a band of music and feasting,—and this cost money. Jonas, now a master, had to pay for this. Just when he was going to need all his savings to set himself up in business, he was sorry to have to squander any part of it thus. And what could he do with this coat-of-arms, which had cost him money, and which no one was ready to buy ? It was in vain that he had begged to be excused from executing this useless piece of work. It was an old custom, and some of the trade thought it well thus to limit the number of working-masters by throwing some difficulties in the way.

Meanwhile Jonas had received the precious little box left him by his good father, from his friend's safe keeping. Yes, this was a treasure for him ! The money laid up in the Savings' Bank ten years ago was now increased by interest and compound interest, till it amounted to more than £130. The box contained the little book, in which was an account of the money which poor Thaddeus had saved by years of toil, and bequeathed to his only child. But he was sorry to find that, in spite of all his care, there were many expenses to be paid out of this. His tools, and the materials which he wanted for his business were expensive. He took an appren-

tice, but as he was the son of very poor people, he was kind enough to take him without a fee. He would have been glad to have put some part at least of his inheritance back into the Savings' Bank, but he must provide something for the wants of the first year, when he might have few customers, and no stock in trade.

His little dwelling was in strict order, but very economically furnished. Six rush-bottomed chairs and two white deal tables, a stove and a clock, were all the furniture of the sitting-room ; in the sleeping-room there were two little beds, one for him, and one for the apprentice, both with neat white curtains.

CHAPTER V.

THE MARRIAGE.

JONAS had met with Martha, the poor daughter of his master Fenning, whom he loved so much when she was a little girl. He happened to meet her when she was offering herself to be servant to a proud neighbour of his with whom he knew she could not be happy. He persuaded her not to make that engagement, and Martha found a kind home for a time with Mrs. Wester. All that Jonas heard of Martha was to her praise. She was small, and not pretty, but she was neat in her appearance, and very sensible and modest. His old affection for her

returned ; or rather, instead of loving her as he used to do when she was a little girl, he now resolved that she should be his wife.

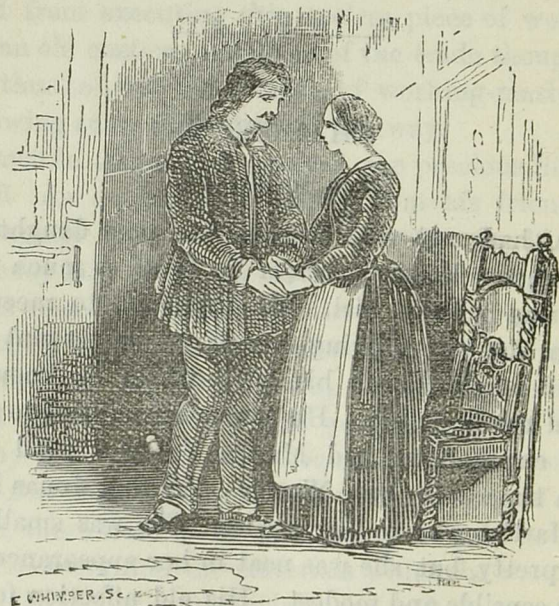
‘Martha,’ said he, one day, ‘could you bear to live *poorly* with me ?’

‘Rather poorly with you than richly elsewhere ;’ said Martha.

‘Martha, I will work for you ; will you save for me ?’

‘I would be sparing of all, except my trouble !’ said Martha.

‘Then, dear one, give me thy hand ! Then thou wilt be mine ?’



‘Did I not love you eight years ago, when I was a child?’ said Martha; ‘and yet now,—no, it ought not to be, Jonas.’

Jonas was startled, and cried—‘Ought not to be? Oh why do you say so, Martha?’

‘Do not be in haste, Jonas. Do not act against yourself. I have nothing—I am quite poor. There are other young women whom you might marry, who would bring you a portion. Would you not then be happier?’

‘Oh say not so!’ cried Jonas; ‘be satisfied that I love you, and wish to live for you and with you.’

‘So be it then!’ said she, modestly; and gave him her hand.

A few weeks after this, Jonas and Martha, accompanied by Mr. and Mrs. Wester, appeared at the altar, to bind themselves by the solemn vow of love and faith. They were simply clothed. Passers-by might not notice them, but they looked respectable and becoming,—he manly and firm, she modest and quiet. To make the day festive, Jonas had ordered a little treat in one of the prettiest public gardens outside the town. He led his bride and the two guests into a retired arbour covered with honeysuckle and vine, where stood a table, on which were vases of flowers and good simple food, but not expensive dainties.

‘This is well!’ cried Jonas, embracing his bride; ‘welcome, dear guests. With joyful hearts and plenty spread before us, we want no more. Gay weddings with feasting and dancing may make a short pleasant holiday; but many squander on those

occasions more than ought to be spent in a twelve-month, and that makes a bad beginning.'

'Well spoken, Master Jordan !' said Master Wester cheerfully. 'Our young tradesmen might learn the truth of that, if their heads were not even more shallow than their purses.'

They spent a cheerful, happy afternoon.

The next day Jonas took Martha round the house, explaining everything to her. First, he led her into the little shop, told her the name, use, and price of every article, and showed her the book in which he put down all the sales which he made. He took her into the work-room, showed her the materials of all sorts, the store of wood, the cellar, and lastly, the kitchen, where the diligent apprentice had already lighted a fire on the clean hearth. Plates and dishes for the use of the little household were all ranged in order.

Martha set to work directly to prepare the breakfast, and Jonas declared that the porridge she made was the best he had ever tasted.

Then Jonas gave her his keys of the clothes-presses, &c., and gave her money for housekeeping, telling her exactly how much he could afford to spend. He laid before her a blank paper-book, and desired her every day to write down all she spent. For he thought it quite right to know at the year's end exactly what every article had cost. He had another account book himself for the expenses of his business.

They then began their regular course of life. At five in the morning they rose, both in summer and

winter ; the beds were made, the rooms swept, and at seven, after a morning prayer, they took their breakfast ; then they separated for their work. At ten they took a piece of bread, and at twelve they dined ; then again to work, till a light supper at six o'clock, followed by two hours more labour, concluded the day. At nine they were in their chamber. Sunday was the only holiday sacred to devotion and rest. This quiet active life suited them well. Martha made no visits, except at Wester's ; Jonas frequented no alehouse clubs. Instead of this he did not grudge himself a little occasional expense to give a treat to his wife and the well-behaved apprentice. But although Jonas was now provided with tools and materials of all sorts, and set up as a master-tradesman ready for orders, few orders came. Still he did not despair.

'We must manage,' said he, 'as well as we can. He who cannot climb the hill may yet live in the valley. If silver money is scarce, we must make the most of our pence. Pence will make a pound in time.'

To increase his trade, he began to deal in many small wares, such as suited his kind of business ; and sometimes, according to the custom of the country, he or his wife carried them to the market of Altenheim, or had a booth in the neighbourhood at the time of the annual fair, and they found that they increased their gains in this way.

Jonas had learned this way of doing business with his father in his youth. The other tradesmen were

apt to look contemptuously on him, but he did not mind that.

‘We must begin humbly,’ said he ; ‘pride often goeth before a fall. He who would mount a ladder must begin from below.’

And by degrees his business improved, and well was it that it did so, for at the end of the year, there was a dear little guest in the house—a little baby boy. Jonas was delighted with his little son ; whom he named William, after good Master Wester who went to the christening. Thus they lived on, industriously and quietly for seven years, when they removed to a small house in the corner of the market-place. As Jonas was removing the wooden chest, which contained the great coat-of-arms, in its gilt frame, which he had executed as his master-piece, to show his skill in his art, the thought struck him that he would send this costly piece of work to the Prince, as a present. He dictated a letter which Martha wrote, for she had learned to write better than he ; and they sent off this great work, which no customer was likely to buy, but which might at any rate show the Prince, what sort of things Jonas could do.

A fortnight after this, a large letter was brought to Jonas ; this letter explained that his Highness the Prince, had received the humble offering with satisfaction, and that Jonas might style himself, “Saddler to his Highness,” and put the same as a trade-sign, over his door.

The good couple were puzzled to think what good would come out of this. Then they both laughed

heartily at their own embarrassment, for they had not thought of setting up any sign over their door. 'But his Highness is right!' said Martha; 'for who knows now that we live here in the market-place? We want to be known, so let us put large letters on our house.'

'It may be well,' said Jonas; 'but I had rather the Prince had let it alone, for it seems all nonsense.'

The gilt letters were painted however, and these, and still more perhaps, the neat articles exhibited for sale, attracted the eyes of passengers, and brought customers to the shop, though the name of "the Prince's Saddler," caused some envy and ill will among others of the same trade. So they went on, working industriously, and living carefully, some years more. They had days of joy, and days of sorrow, for life is full of light and shade, by turns. Some of their sorrow was caused by the death of their kind friends, the Westers; first, Mrs. Wester died, and after a few years, the good man her husband, leaving a little girl. Wester was in his latter years much embarrassed by debts which he had taken upon himself with more kindness for others, than prudence towards himself. Martha soothed the last hours of his life, by saying that she would be a mother to the little Christiana, whom he left behind him.

CHAPTER VI.

THE TRADESMAN'S SON.

IN the meantime, the only son of Jonas and Martha was growing up, a fine, strong, active youth, simple and hardy in all his habits, and obedient in all respects to his father's wishes. Although he was ready for any sort of work, and dressed in common clothes, he did not play about the streets, and kept no company but such as his father approved. Whatever other people might have to say, Jonas resolved to do by his child, as his father had done by him—the best he could. He brought his boy up to be industrious in the school, and in the workshop ready and obliging in all ways. As soon as William reached his sixteenth year, he was taken as an apprentice in the saddlery-business. At the same time, he attended the higher class at the Town-school, where he had a good place through his diligence and desire for improvement. Jonas had received but little schooling himself, and scarcely knew what was meant by the words *Algebra*, *Geometry*, *Arithmetic*, &c., but he was by no means the man, as too many of his fellow-townsmen were, to withdraw his son from any means of instruction, from the fear lest his boy should excel him in learning, or know too much.

William attended school therefore at convenient hours, during the four years of his apprenticeship,

and worked also for his father sometimes on holidays. He could do all this, without becoming a bungler in his own business, for even before his apprenticeship began, he had learnt something of work. His skill in drawing was a great assistance to his father in many ways, he could cut out patterns in paper, and contrive new ornaments in saddlery-work.

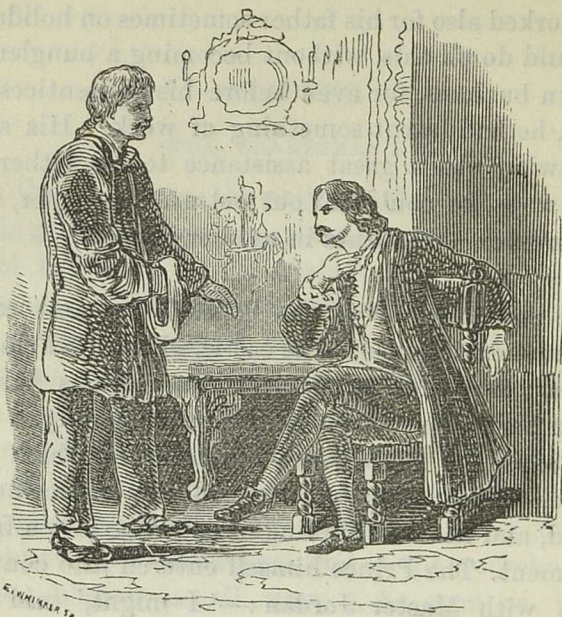
One morning, one of the Prince's servants came and summoned Jonas to the castle, where the Prince's secretary wished to speak with him. Jonas hastily put on his Sunday clothes, and quickly obeyed the summons. He found that the contract which the Prince had for some years for saddlery had come to an end, and he was thinking of entering into a fresh agreement. The Prince himself entered into conversation with Master Jordan:—'I might,' said he, 'easily obtain what I want from other countries. What do you say to that?'

'Only,' replied Jordan, 'that I think your Highness means too well by your own people to take your subjects' money and send it into foreign parts for things which you might buy as well in your own town.'

'Well, Jordan,' said the Prince, smiling, 'but then it comes to this,—will the workmen of this town do my work as well as they do it elsewhere?'

'Let us try that, please your honour.'

'Certainly; I grant you that your town's-people can do things in a strong, solid way; but they are apt to be awkward and clumsy, and without taste.



Now, how is it that in other workshops they do their work so much better than here ?’

‘ Because in those manufactories and workshops, people are appointed who have learnt more, and been at better schools than we can attend here ;’ said Jordan.

‘ But what ails our schools ?’ asked the Prince.

‘ Please your Highness be it for want of money or masters, our present schools are bad. Our sons can learn the ancient languages in them—the tongues which men spoke a thousand years ago, but they learn nothing of that which present life makes needful. We want to learn more of what is practice, how

to reckon and to measure, about metals, and steam engines, and mechanics—Yes, Sir, I have a son myself—had he not learnt by himself at home, and out of books, he would know but very little yet.’

The Prince said, ‘We will think of what you say. But now, Jordan, what say you to the contract? I feel confidence in you.’

‘I truly thank your Highness; but I do not deserve so much. There are many of my business who are certainly as good workmen as I. If I should receive such a great mark of favour, it might cause much ill will.’

The Prince patted Jonas on the shoulder and said, ‘Well and good, Master Jordan; but, what have you to propose?’

Jordan was silent for a few minutes, and then answered; ‘If your Highness please, I will put down the price at which I would furnish each article required, according to the directions given. Afterwards you might decide in favour of the best offer you receive, persons being appointed as inspectors of the articles, to judge them according to their goodness and value.’

‘That is sensibly said,’ replied the Prince; and he took a friendly leave of the saddler, who hurried home well pleased to tell all he had to say to his wife and son. It was done according to the plan which Jonas had advised as being the fairest among the master tradesmen. After an open competition, according to announcement in the newspaper, they were at length informed that the contract was given

to Jonas. This increase of business was most acceptable to him, for he had been tempted to purchase his house before he had quite money enough to pay for it, and had been at considerable expense in giving his son all the advantages he could. Jonas sometimes used to say 'It is well to lay up treasure in the head and heart; that is more lasting than what we put into iron chests.'

He now set hard to work to prepare for this increase of business. He engaged artificers to assist him, and shared some of the business with deserving tradesmen in his own line. Martha now attended market no longer, but was occupied with writing letters for him, and keeping accounts. William helped much by his plans and drawings. The orders given by the Prince were soon executed, but Jordan's general business was much extended, and his wares had risen in general repute. Still he remained a simple, industrious man, as careful and diligent as he had always been.

CHAPTER VII.

WILLIAM BEGINS HIS TRAVELS.

WILLIAM was now twenty years old, he was one of the trade-company; he must travel. The young man often thought of this with a heavy heart, although he was pleased to think of travelling. But he had lived so constantly with his father and mother; that

it seemed very strange for him to go away from them, and the lively Christiana in the house, poor Wester's daughter, she was like a dear little sister to him. And when the evening before his departure came, his father felt very anxious and gave him many directions for his safe conduct in life: 'Dear William,' said he, 'you are a good youth *now*, oh remain so, be mindful of your parents,—mindful of God! Then will it be well with you. People talk,' continued Jonas, 'of the profits of trade; but to many it is not profitable. Many persons carry on their business here badly,—therefore it is said, go and learn elsewhere. But travelling is of no use, if people do not make good use of their eyes to observe what is useful. We do not want to go abroad just to see green trees, and gay houses, we can see them at home.'

William wrote from time to time to his parents, and constantly informed them when he changed his place of residence.

For they always wished to know where he was, and how they could direct their letters to him. Jordan had furnished him with a needful supply of money, and his anxious mother assisted him also. He stayed but a short time in most towns—just saw what was most curious, and passed on. But he made a long stay in Nuremburg, and in Munich, and then went to London, where he found employment at once in a large manufactory. Nothing troubled his father so much as that the young man should change his kind of employment, and some-

times engage himself with a brazier, sometimes with a whitesmith, and sometimes with a saddler. 'Jack of all trades is too often master of none!' cried Jonas; 'the old proverb says, let the cobbler keep to his last; I trust my son will not turn out a bungler at the end.' But William was not one of that large class of pleasure-seeking travellers, who travel on in the love of change, seeking pleasure and gathering no profit. Wherever he went, he worked his way; his wants were few; every holiday was well employed in reading or seeing something worth seeing, and he kept a written journal of all that he saw. Many who observed his discretion and the good turn of his inquiries, gave him valuable information; and he sometimes got into conversation with clever sensible people, who took pleasure in assisting him. And if the thoughtless ones among his fellow-journeymen derided and ridiculed the grave workman from Altenheim, and called him the *learned saddler*,—it did not signify. He was not angry, but let them laugh if they wished. 'But I daily find from my experience,' he wrote thus to his father,—'that but very few of the travelling workmen really gain the advantage looked for. For most, the trial is full of danger. How should those who go out unprepared by education or good habits, improve by this wandering life? Men's eyes must be open—they must know what to look for, or they will not see. It is in vain that many go from one set of lodgings to another, from one town to another,—they fall everywhere into the same beaten track; now and then, they get hold

of some trade-secret out of their masters,—get some *knack* which the master would willingly have kept to himself, that is all. And then for the character, there is great danger in travelling. In every town there is a set of drinking, idling, card-playing people ; with such every new-comer may easily get acquainted, and among such he too often becomes a prey. Believe me, father, there are but few who derive all the benefit they might from their travels ; taking the world as a school of life, where all have their good and bad days, and where by degrees, and by experience which is sometimes painful, they may gather knowledge for the future.’ Meantime, William had taken a very profitable situation in an iron-foundry in London. He sent his father the sum of £200 which he had saved during his stay, and his employer, Mr. Dalton, recommended him next to take a good situation in Paris with a friend of his. William wrote to his father of all his good fortune and changes of residence, and mentioned that he had received a present of a gold watch ; but that he had preferred to go on wearing the silver one which his father had given him years before,—a gift on the Christmas tree.

This pleased Jonas much—finding that his son was not growing such a fine gentleman as to despise his old silver watch. ‘It needs a firm head to bear unaccustomed good fortune:’ said the father, ‘William is a good lad.’

CHAPTER VIII.

THE BIRTH-DAY.

ALTHOUGH Jonas Jordan had prospered much in business, since he received the contract from the Prince, and supplied the troops with accoutrements, he still continued to live in a very simple, frugal manner. Some of his acquaintance thought him covetous, but he was not so, his helping hand was often employed in secret.

Although, generally, no holiday-maker, he was accustomed to keep all the birth-days of the members of his family : his own, his wife's, his son's, and Christiana's. These were always celebrated with some little treat.

His own fifty-second birth-day had now arrived—and it was Sunday : when he met with a great surprise. He was busied before breakfast, clearing away, and was singing according to his daily custom, a morning hymn :—

“Awake, my soul ! and with the sun,
Thy daily stage of duty run :”

when he heard a sudden cry, and hastened towards the sitting-room, fearing that something amiss had happened. Christiana met him at the door, saying, ‘a strange gentleman is come, who has seized hold of mistress.’ Jonas did not stop to hear more, but ran forward and saw a tall well-clothed young man, who clasped Martha in his arms.

‘Why boy! William! who would have thought of your coming thus, like a thunder-bolt upon us?’ said Jonas, and joined in the hearty embrace. There was such confusion of thought in that first surprise, that all spoke at once, and no question was properly answered. Father, mother, son, Christiana, there they all were again together; that was all—that was enough! Soon the cloth was laid for breakfast, and after they had quietly sat down, there came a more delightful feeling of happiness. William was delighted to see that the five years of his absence had not appeared to lessen his father’s strength and freshness, and that his mother looked well, and almost as young as before; while his parents were pleased to see in him the improved strength of manhood.

There was much to ask,—much to hear on both sides; one thought alone gave a shadow of sorrow—that William had only come for a visit, and must return, after a few weeks, to Paris.

TRADES COMPANIES.

Some time after this there was a great stir in Altenheim on account of a general assembly of the trade-masters, who were called together by the Prince. They met in the townhall, but they could not conjecture the reason for their assembling. Jonas was among them.

The minister then explained how desirous the Prince was to raise the character of the tradesmen. Great changes had been made in France, Switzer-

land, Prussia, and in some other states—old distinctions had been removed—and trades no longer in those countries formed guilds or companies.

‘It appears to us, friends,’ said the minister, ‘that customs like those which served for a time to protect trade are now rather a hindrance than a help. Now, from the progress of knowledge and the arts of life, very great changes have been made in the way of manufacture ; new powers are called for and employed. Those who work by hand cannot enter into competition with machinery in the beauty, elegance, and cheapness of the articles they produce. Can we forbid the use of superior articles ? Ought we to give a monopoly and privilege to our workmen to be the sole producers of our articles, and thus force all our people to buy of them ? That would be to exercise injustice towards many for the sake of a few. The public is not below the working-class. Workmen are but a part of the great community. My friends, great changes have taken place by degrees. In old times, those labourers who cultivated the soil were bondmen : they could not change their way of life. Now, they have equal rights with townspeople. A weaver can change his business, if he wishes it, and go into the country to till the soil ; in like manner, should not a countryman be able to take business in a town without being restrained by the laws of a trade-company ? The towns receive from the villages the supply of food which they need,—all should enjoy equal justice. I do not deny the benefits which your guilds and companies had

at one time. We think that time is passed ; but we desire to discuss this question with you, and to know what you think on the subject.'

The minister paused, and looked round for an answer. All were silent. After a little time, he called on Master Jordan to give his opinion.

'Truly,' said Jonas, 'this is a weighty matter—as full of difficulties as a hedgehog is of prickles. Let us adjourn the meeting, and make up our minds when we meet again.'

The other tradesmen assented, and the meeting broke up, to be reassembled in a short time. There was much disputing about the matter in the town of Altenheim. Although for a long time there had been great complaints of want of trade, now there was much talk of rights and privileges.

At length the minister sent again for Jordan, and asked for his well-considered opinion on the matter. Jonas said that he thought all restrictions on industry unjust ; he would have trade open to all alike, town or country-people. But he thought it would be well to have a law forbidding any one to trade who had not furnished himself with a patent. And he would have this patent depend on some proof of sufficient industry and skill. No feasting or foolish expense should be required of him who claimed to be a *master* of his business.

'But if I may speak,' he continued, 'of that which, I think, has most hurt our trading people, I should say it is the general want of education. Our youth are taken from school before they have learnt

anything well—they enter into apprenticeship, just to serve a certain time, more than to profit by the teaching they receive ; and thus, instead of improving their business, they remain bunglers all their lives.’

The Prince at length announced perfect freedom of trade, and the old guild-companies were dissolved.

The tradesmen murmured, but were somewhat consoled when the funds which had been accumulating for so many years were to be divided among them. Jordan alone raised a warning voice against this breaking up of the joint fund. In vain he said,

Better build schools with the money, than divide and squander it. Build industrial schools for your children that they may become more apt and handy than we have been, and better able to compete with strangers. Let them add *head-work* to *hand-work*, I say a hundred thousand times, or you will find there will be but scanty gains for them by-and-by.’

The people neglected his advice,—they knew not the real value of learning. Jonas was greatly mortified, for he had taken this matter much to heart. He had hoped that perhaps the government might have done something for general education ; but the Prince’s money was wanted for the improvement of palaces, monuments, and picture galleries.

Jordan was full of thought for a time ; at last he made his plan, and announced to his wife his intention of opening a large room as a Sunday-school.

‘Maybe the town-council will give us benches, tables, and desks,’ said he ; ‘the expense of the

teachers I will meet myself. Rulers, pens, and ink-stands I must buy, or beg of my neighbours.'

The work was performed accordingly ; and the school prospered so well, that in six years its success was undoubted.

Many of the townsmen who at first scouted the undertaking, sent in subscriptions afterwards. The school was opened without any pomp ; Jonas was no friend to fuss and parade. Instruction was given, without pay, not only on Sunday afternoons, but also on two evenings of the week. Besides those teachers whose services were engaged, others voluntarily came forward to assist in giving instruction in writing, ciphering, and drawing, and in various branches of natural history. Instruction was also given in singing in parts. Instead of foolish drinking songs, the youth learned to raise their voices in the praise of the Highest of Beings, or in celebrating the beauty of their Fatherland. Nor was this all. By presents from private collections, a little library was got together of profitable and interesting books, which the most industrious scholars were allowed to take home to read. There was also a small collection of busts and models.

CHAPTER IX.

WILLIAM SETTLES AT ALTENHEIM.

AND now at length the happy time came when William Jordan returned to Altenheim, not as a passing visitor, but to make it once more his home. With the savings of past years, and with the knowledge gained in foreign parts, he set up a bell and brass foundry,—the first manufactory of the kind ever seen in Altenheim. He employed many journeymen under him, but he had much to do; for his own vigilant eye was over all, and he made models or drawings of the forms which he wanted to have cast. He willingly gave instruction in drawing and modelling in his father's school.

And now William resolved to marry, and he did not look about for the gayest or richest bride that he could find, but fixed upon Christiana Wester, who had kept his mother company during his long absence, and whom he knew to be a very good girl. He feared at first that his parents might be disappointed that he should take a portionless bride, but it was not so; Jonas and Martha loved Christiana, and thought that her good qualities were a portion of themselves.

And when the marriage took place, the happy party withdrew from church to the same pleasure-garden, and to the very same arbour, in which Jonas

and Martha had held their simple wedding-feast nearly thirty years before. There the newly-married pair and their parents assembled with a favourite teacher of William's youth, and some worthy persons with whom the Jordans had for some time been intimate.

It had been agreed that William and Christiana should have rooms in the house of the parents, so that they might continue to be a comfort to them in their declining years.

And now when they returned home, and the bride and bridegroom entered their own apartment, what a surprise awaited them ! The room had been handsomely furnished—there was a sofa, a writing-desk, curtains—all new ; and a letter which the head journeyman presented to William explained the mystery. This was a wedding-present from the Prince, who wished to show his respect for the Jordans, both father and son, for their great respectability in business, and the efforts they had made to improve the character of the working-people of Altenheim. It may seem rather strange that the Prince should interest himself in the marriage of a saddler ; but in Germany there are princes who have only a few thousands of subjects, and are not richer than some English country gentlemen.

It was hard to say which was the most pleased by this kind mark of respect, the father or the son.

All the work-people had been well regaled in honour of the day, and they sang a pleasant chorus before the house.

The wishes which both Jonas and William had long felt for the higher instruction of the working-class were at length fulfilled by the Prince, who set up an excellent school of art, in the plan of which he consulted William's experience and observation. Excellent teachers of geometry, arithmetic, drawing, and geography were appointed, and also of the French and English languages. Master Jonas set on foot a 'working-man's association,' by which he hoped to bring to bear the advantages of the old guild companies without their faults.

He thought that it would be well for the masters to meet together occasionally to discuss the state of trade, the improvements which might be made, and the proper relation between masters and journeymen or apprentices. Other advantages were afterwards added: at a yearly exhibition of trade, under appointed inspectors; a sick-club for the journeymen, and a fund for the benefit of their widows and orphans. By William's exertions also, other advantages were added to the great school. A garden and some acres of land, and a teacher of husbandry, so that good instruction might be given in agriculture.

A richly endowed convent having fallen into the hands of the government, it was resolved to erect in its room, a school where some hundreds of young girls might be instructed in the useful arts of life.

The good effects of all these institutions were felt more and more, and the most after an interval of twenty years, when a new and improved population

were rising up. The advantage was much felt in Altenheim, where a fourth part of the people had been of the poorest class. While the town flourished from the improved industry of the townsmen, the villages were enriched by the increased value of their land, and the people became everywhere improved in the neatness and respectability of their habits. Some old folk still murmured, and thought that things were better when they were young. There are always some who dislike changes of any kind.

Master Jonas, when seventy years had silvered his hair, was still strong and hearty, happy in the love of his good Martha, of his children and grand-children ; esteemed by his townsmen, and honoured by his Prince. He often related the events of his early youth, how he had gone about with his father, Thaddeus the tinker ; and when he beheld the vast improvements which were going on around him, he rejoiced to think that he had contributed to them. ‘ Have I not always said,’ he would sometimes repeat, ‘ an understanding head ; a feeling heart ; an appetite which is easily satisfied ; and industrious hands—have *these*, and fear not, your work will prosper !’



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