



Arnold Webb

for when the great  
scorer comes to write  
across your name

He marks not that  
you won or lost  
but



THE  
HISTORY  
OF  
**LITTLE BOB;**  
WITH  
MEMOIRS  
OF THE  
CAMELFORD FAMILY.

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By MR. TAYLOR.

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TO  
RICHARD HEIGHWAY KIRBY,

IN THE HOPE  
THAT IN HIS ADVANCING YEARS,  
HE WILL,  
DULY APPRECIATE THE CHARACTER  
AND EMULATE THE CONDUCT OF

LITTLE BOB,

THIS PRODUCTION IS DEDICATED  
BY HIS

AFFECTIONATE GRANDFATHER,  
THE AUTHOR.



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&c.

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CHAPTER I.

**D**ISTANT from the Borough of Evesham, in the County of Worcester, about four miles, in the pleasantest spot of the delightful vale, which takes its appellation from the before-mentioned town, is situate Abbotsfield Park, the hospitable residence of Sir Philip Camelford, Baronet; on an eminence in the centre of the park stands the family mansion, an an-



cient fabric, but which the uncle of Sir Philip, and his immediate predecessor in the title and its extensive domains, had modernised, by the addition of a new front and two elegant wings; the occupier of it, at the commencement of this history, was in his forty-seventh year; early in life he had married a most exemplary woman, the daughter of an eminent West India Merchant, of the name of Lowdon; their union was promissory of every felicity which this variable state could produce: but who can decide on the inscrutable designs of Providence? little more than three years had elapsed when it pleased that Providence to affix an incurable wound in the breast



of Sir Philip, by depriving him of his beloved consort, who expired in his arms after giving birth to a second son, his eldest being at that period nearly two years old.

It may naturally be imagined that this event was a severe shock to the feelings of the unhappy widower; the inestimable virtues of his deceased lady were his greatest consolation; and as he had always made the precepts of religion the rule of his conduct, those precepts were summoned to his aid; dark and heavy would have been his troubled soul, had not that heavenly balm been instilled into it; in the first paroxysm of his grief he thus expressed himself, “lovely, my



departed Maria, was thy form, lovely and fair was thy angelic mind, Oh! why did I ever know thy worth, why must I now that worth deplore? Oh! Death—thou cruel spoiler! how often hast thou caused the tear to flow, the heart-breaking sigh to heave! many hast thou made miserable, and who can escape thy dart of woe? whom can I now call my friend, or from whom can I now hear the sound of joy? in thee the friend has fallen; in thy grave my every joy is laid.—No, not every joy; how can I behold these darling cherubs, who smile unconscious of the loss they have sustained, and say every joy is departed; for your sakes, helpless babes, for your sakes I will strive



to support my irremediable loss, for never, never shall a step-mother usurp authority over my beloved boys, never shall your adored mother's memory be insulted by my again entering that state which it has pleased Omnipotence to dissolve; that power who suffers not a sparrow to fall to the ground without his awful fiat, will administer consolation to your widowed father, and enable him to bear his affliction with fortitude and resignation."

Thus did Sir Philip bewail his departed lady, and as he had foreseen, a proper resignation to the dispensations of the divine will, in a short time operated as a soother



of his sorrows, in a few months his accustomed placidity returned, and that urbanity which had endeared him to his whole neighbourhood again shone conspicuous; but his manners were ever after tinged with a melancholy, deemed by those who were but slightly acquainted with him, as an austerity, to which he was a total stranger.

But as we are not now entering into a history of Sir Philip Camelford or his sons, it may be only necessary here to observe, that his eldest son, who bore the name of his father, was, at the period we are now speaking of, on his travels; the youngest, who had suc-



ceeded by his grandfather's will to his immense estates in Jamaica, was then in that island, where he had about five years before gone to be put into possession of them, and had in pursuance of that will assumed the name of Lowdon, having in conformity to the request of his grandfather at his baptism received the Christian name of Henry, that being the name borne by himself; from that period the old gentleman had determined on making Henry his heir, on the consideration that he was judiciously actuated, the paternal estate of Sir Philip being as usual entailed on the eldest son.



## CHAPTER II.

**T**HE premises in the foregoing chapter being necessary to elucidate some parts of the succeeding pages, it now remains that we should proceed to give some account of the hero of our tale, which doubtless our young readers are anxious to enter on, we therefore proceed to gratify their curiosity as follows.

It was in the month of July that Sir Philip Camelford was returning from London in his travelling carriage, accompanied by Pritchard,



his valet, an old and faithful domestic, who from upwards of twenty-five years attendance on his excellent master was by him esteemed more as a valued friend than a dependant, two grooms also attended their master as outrides; at the distance of about eighty miles from London stands the Obelisk, termed the four-shire-stone, from its being placed on the spot of ground where the four Counties of Gloucester, Worcester, Oxford and Warwick terminate; advancing at a slow pace up a gradual ascent in the road, the ears of the Baronet caught the following exclamation, uttered in a tremulous infantile voice, "Pray mammy don't beat me no more, indeed I



did not do it for the purpose," issuing from a lone cottage at the side of the road, "You lie, you lie, you little villain, I'm sure you broke them for mischief's sake, and I'll break you of such tricks, or I'll break your stubborn heart," was the reply, accompanied with a repetition of the blows which he had previously indistinctly heard; the Baronet's heart was cast in nature's softest mould, and he could not hear the plaintive tones of distress without endeavouring to administer consolation to the sufferer; he ordered the drivers to stop, and jumping from the carriage, proceeded to the cottage, followed by Pritchard; on his entrance he perceived a strong muscular woman brandish-



ing a doubled cord over her little victim, an interesting boy apparently about four years old, down whose cheeks the tears were chasing each other in rapid succession, and whose little hands were held up supplicating mercy. Sir Philip placed himself between the accused and the enraged being who had assumed the distinct characters of jury, judge and executioner; whom mildly addressing, he requested to know the cause of her anger, "Cause" says she, "cause enow, but I'll have the worth of the turkeys out of his little mischievous bones," and seizing the arm of the child in her left hand, her right was again raised to inflict a further castigation on the writhing culprit, this



Pritchard prevented by hastily snatching the boy from her powerful grasp, whilst his master thus addressed the virago, "Good woman it may be that you are inflicting an unmerited punishment on this little fellow, at any rate it is an unmerciful one, pray inform me what is the nature of the fault he has committed? it appears to me that if you had, as you certainly ought to have done, fully investigated the business before you proceeded to punishment in the cruel manner you have done, his fault would probably have proved a venial one, or at least such as should have mitigated the extraordinary rage you have evinced; and let me tell you it dishonours a man to



give way to ungovernable fury, how much more so, does it appear disgraceful in a female, particularly when that female is the parent of the defenceless being who is the object of that fury.

“I does not know” replied the dame “what right you has to ax me no questions about the matter, and I shan’t answer none of um.” She was proceeding, with a most vindictive countenance, in her harangue, when happening to cast a look towards the door, she perceived the carriage and retinue of the Baronet, which her rage and the employment she had just been engaged in, prevented her having before recognized; her features im-



mediately assumed a more relaxed placidity, she dropped a courtesy to Sir Philip, and continued her speech in the following words, “To be sure, your honour, I could not help being in a passion, for Bob is a sad naughty boy, it was but on Tuesday last that he pulled up the best currant tree that I had in the garden, and now he has broke all my turkey eggs—a little girl who sat sobbing on a stool interrupted her mother, crying out whilst her eyes overflowed with tears, “It’s no such thing, mammy, ’twas our Joe, that pulled up the currant tree, and I seed him with my own eyes, but you would not believe what I sed, and beat poor Bob then, and he was no more to



blame nor I was, and if dad had bin comed home, he wou'dn't ha let you, so he woudn't, but ever sence he has bin gon'd up beyand Lunnun a mowing, you have dun'd nothing but beat poor Bob, and if I takes his part, then you beats me too, and all for 'cause you loves Joe better than we, and you knows you do, but I loves Bob's little finger better ner Joe's wholed body; but I seed Joe pull up the tree, and I seed him go under the hedge and get all the currants off on it, and then he comed and tell'd you that poor Bob did it; but Joe's a wicked lying boy, thof he's my brother, and you believes all his lies, and kisses him for telling um, so as its any thing against Bob, but my dear



Bob's a good boy, and always says Our Father ater me when we goes to bed and when we gets up, and that's what Joe never won't do, but makes a hooting all the whilst we be a saying our prayers."

During this address of little Nanny's the face of the mother again resumed its angry form, and she burst out with the most virulent language against the commisserating girl, the whole of whose speech had been interrupted with sobs and tears, and the poor girl would have met the chastisement of the cord, had not Pritchard snatched the weapon from the hands of the enraged parent, who having again caught a glimpse of



the laced jackets of the postillions, was so much softened as to inform Sir Phillip that *little Bob* had broken the whole of her turkey's eggs, thirteen in number, on which the old one had been sitting several days, and would probably have hatched them on the following day, the product of which would at Christmas have sold for more money than would have paid the rent of an orchard and garden in her husband's occupation.

“Now, good woman,” said Sir Philip, “as your passion seems to be in some measure allayed, let us enquire into the merit of this accident, for such, it strikes me, it will undoubtedly prove. Come here *little*



*Bob*, and tell me the truth, but beware how you utter a falsity, and should your tale exonerate you from blame, you shall have no cause to repent it," saying this he took the child on his knee, who was perfectly clean and neat; for to do dame Cooper justice, we must allow that a want of attention to cleanliness, was not amongst the number of her faults, and had it not been for the irritability of her temper, she would have made a good wife and mother.

*Little Bob* being placed on the knee of the Baronet felt at first rather diffident, but a few encouraging words from the latter soon removed his bashfulness, and he



informed his audience, that his mammy having sent him into an out-house to bring in some sticks for the fire, he had inadvertently pulled one from the pile, which brought down with it a large block of wood, unfortunately the turkey's nest was placed directly under the spot, and the block fell immediately upon it, which, of course, crushed all the eggs, and led to the severe bastinado poor Bob had received.

The catastrophe being thus fully explained, Sir Philip addressing himself to dame Cooper, whose rage had now given way to a copious shower of tears for the loss of her turkeys, spoke to her in the following words; "Good woman,



you are not perhaps aware of the sad effects which may, nay, do often result from the intemperance of passion; many instances may be produced wherein it has terminated fatally, not only to the unfortunate victim of it, but also to the enraged object who has been the slave to it; an ignominious death, at the hand of the common executioner has sometimes, and I am sorry to say, not unfrequently been the melancholy result of suffering passion to get the better of our reason, and when that has been the case how many have had reason to lament the exercise of its dictates for the remainder of their lives; in the present instance what might not have been the consequence of your



ungovernable rage, you might have steeped your hand in the blood of your own offspring, and how, if you had escaped punishment in this life, would your last hours have been embittered by the reflection that you had been the murderer of your own child.



## CHAPTER III.

**D**URING the whole of Sir Philip's exordium Mrs. Cooper frequently interrupted him, with "yes, Sir,— to be sure Sir," and similar expressions, whilst her tears, if they did not evince contrition, at least proved that her heart was not destitute of some small degree of feeling, but which the violence of her temper would too frequently suspend; on the termination of his address she sobbed out, "well, thank God, Sir, I han't kilt poor Bob, for if I had, as you says, Sir, I couldn't a



died easy on my bed, howsomdever, Sir, you bees mistaken about his being my own child, for he's no child of mine, but some bastard brat as my husband brought home, when he comed from soldiering in the malitia, and I doesn't know who he belongs to, nor what his name is, only as how we calls him *little Bob*, but I does think he be one of our Dick's bastards, but he could tell you more about it, only he be gone into Assex I thinks they call it, for the hay season, but as that is pretty well over I expects him home in two or three days, and if you comes this way again, I dares say our Richard will tell you all he knows about un, and I was a thinking yesterday to take un to the over-



seers of Yarborough, for we be in that parish, and I knows if I don't do it afore our Dick comes home, he woun't let me do it at all, for he's main fond of the brat, and I'm sure its as much as we can do to find victuals and clothes for our own two children, and then there's that Joe is gone out a bird's nesting, and by and bye he'll come home with his clothes all tore off his back, thof to be sure he's a clever boy, and can play at trap-ball and sing a song with the best of them." "Yes," replied little Nancy, "and if he should tear all the clothes off his back, what will you say to him, mother? nothing but dear Joey you shou'dn't do so, and then kiss him for doing it, and as for his



singing, he never sings any of the  
sams that our quire sings at church,  
but nasty songs, that its a shame  
for any body to hear ;” her mother  
snubbed her, and threatened to  
beat her if she did not hold her  
tongue, but Nancy perceiving she  
had a protector in the grand gen-  
tleman, who had her favorite still  
on his knee, could not be intimi-  
dated, till he told her it was not  
becoming to speak disrespectfully  
to her mother, when she replied,  
that “ she loved her mammy dearly,  
but she could not bear to see her  
beat *little Bob*.

The mother of Nancy being by  
this time restored to a sufficient  
degree of calmness, Sir Philip ad-



dressed her thus, “Mrs. Cooper, for that I understand is your name, I trust what I have before said to you, has been in some degree a mean of shewing you that passion not only distorts the human mind and reduces it below the level of the brute creation, but, that it is also highly offensive to Almighty God; I flatter myself you will not again give way to it, more particularly as it is my intention to remove the present object of it from your sight, and save you the trouble of making application to the overseers of Yarborough; I can also make some allowance for your late intemperate heat, as I am persuaded it has, in some measure, proceeded from a jealousy of your husband;



how far that jealousy may be warranted, it is impossible for me to decide; but of this you may rest assured, your little inmate in exchanging his abode, will have no cause to lament; and should he hereafter, when his faculties are more enlarged, prove himself not unworthy of my protection, if he has any gratitude for that you have heretofore afforded him, he will not remember any unkindnesses he may have received from you, but on the contrary, will endeavour to make your life more comfortable than you have done his; here are five guineas for the loss of your turkeys, my name is Sir Philip Camelford, of Abbotsfield Park, about twenty miles from this spot, when your



husband returns, desire him to come to my house, I want to hear a farther account of this interesting boy, therefore if you will have the goodness to let him have his hat, and put him on another pair of shoes, if he has them," for his toes were peeping out of those he had on, "I will thank you."

Mrs. Cooper looked at the gold with astonishment, and telling Sir Philip *little Bobby*, as she now termed him, had a change of bettermost clothes, begged she might be allowed to wash his face, which still retained the marks of his tears, and dress him in his Sunday clothes, this was assented to, and taking *little Bob* by the hand, she led him



up stairs to a small but neat bed-chamber, where, after having equipped him in a neat printed calico dress, she soon introduced him to his future protector, who again took him on his knee, and after having kissed him, with a degree of affection little short of parental, asked him if he would go and live with him? with all the innocence of infantile attachment to former habits, he replied, "Yes, but will you take my dear Nancy, and shall daddy come to us, when he gets home again? Sir Philip assured him that he should often come and see Nancy, and that his daddy, as he called him, would come and see him in a very few days, but that for the future he would be a daddy to him.



“Ay,” says he, “I’m sure I shall love you, because you stopt mammy from beating me, but I must love my ’tother daddy, and I shall always love him too, dearly, dearly.”

The parting between Nancy and her adopted brother was affecting in the extreme, they hung on each others necks and mingled their tears together, “my dear Bobby,” and “my dear Nancy,” were the only words they could utter, and Pritchard was compelled by a gentle force to separate them; when the Baronet putting another guinea into Nancy’s hand, and telling her it was to buy her a new frock, with humid eyes repaired to his



carriage, his faithful valet bearing *little Bob* in his arms slowly following him.



## CHAPTER IV.

**T**HE parting sorrow of *little Bob* was soon, by the motion of the vehicle, and the warmth of the weather, lulled into a peaceful slumber; when Sir Philip thus addressed himself to his faithful attendant, "Pritchard I have had long trial of your fidelity and attachment, I will own to you that the case of this interesting child has warmly affected me, an undefinable something endears him to me; my two sons are now absent from me in different climates, it is possible,



may probable, I may never see Henry again, his engagements in Jamaica will detain him in that island some few years longer, the nature of the climate too is such, that I tremble for his safety; you will say perhaps, that a residence of five years in it, must have injured his constitution to it, but how often do we hear of those whose residence has been double the length of his, becoming victims to its fatality? Philip is now in Italy, that voluptuous country has undermined not only the constitution and the fortune, but the morals of many an Englishman, and they have returned from it vitiated, debilitated, and impoverished in every sense of the word; should this



be the case with my eldest son, with him who is to be the future supporter of the honors of an ancient family, how much shall I lament that I was ever so far biassed by custom and fashion as to allow him to go to that luxurious region. The moment I saw this child, something whispered to my heart, that he would be a future solace to my declining years, and the idea instantly struck me of taking him under my protection: I have so done, and, Pritchard, I confide him to your superintendence; your acquirements are superior to your station in life, your attainments, your moral character, but above all, your religious principles have secured for you a place in my esteem, and I



have long considered you more as my friend than my attendant; this, I trust, my conduct towards you has fully evinced, but the opinion of the world, and its customs, however they must be at variance with our wishes, must be submitted to; retain then professedly in public the office of my attendant, but be assured of this, I shall ever consider you what you have always proved yourself, one of the most valuable of my friends; to your care, therefore, I consign this boy, nor have I the shadow of a doubt, but you will inculcate into his mind the precepts of religion and moral rectitude.

Without the aid of fulsome adulation or unmanly submission, the



faithful domestic assured Sir Philip that he should ever be observant of his wishes and commands; "say not commands," replied Sir Philip, "requests I am certain will always be sufficient to insure every wish I may form; and I trust implicitly to your faithful and long tried attachment."

A sudden jolt of the carriage awaked *little Bob*, just as it entered the town of Evesham, and it being the market day, he was astonished to behold such a number of people collected together; he had seen carriages, horses, and parties of soldiers pass on the road, from their cottage, but he had never seen an assemblage of so many



persons together in a manner stationary, and for some time he viewed them with mute admiration, nor did he at first recollect with whom he was, till Sir Philip taking him from Pritchard's knee and placing him on his own, with the kind conciliating language in which he spoke to him, brought to his immature recollection the events of the preceding morning; at the Crown Inn his worthy protector ordered some biscuit for him and a glass of weak wine and water, and after a continuance of about an hour proceeded on their journey to Abbotsfield Park, where they shortly after arrived.



## CHAPTER V.

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**T**HE situation of Sir Philip Camelford's seat having been described in the first chapter of this work, it is unnecessary to enlarge on it here, suffice it to remark that the extent of the building, the magnificence of the apartments, and the elegance of the furniture were equally objects of *little Bob's* admiration; nor were the number of the domestics less surprizing to him; a child of four years old, who had been for the last two of them the humble inhabitant of a mean cot-



tage, whose population was confined to the small number of five persons, must naturally feel astonished at suddenly becoming the inmate of a large elegant mansion, inhabited by more than thirty persons, many of them uniformly dressed in splendid liveries, and who had all assembled to receive their much honored principal ; his infantile ideas were confused in the extreme, and he could only hang on his protector's neck, which he clasped with both his arms, and burst into tears ; Sir Philip charmed by this token of his sensibility, pressed the interesting boy to his bosom, whilst the humid chrystal glistened in his eye, when removing him to the arms of the worthy



Pritchard, they ascended to the eating parlor, where further refreshment having been furnished to our little hero, Mrs. Langton, the respectable housekeeper, was desired to attend her master, who, with a suitable charge, consigned his engaging protegee to her care for the night.

The following morning the Baronet held a consultation with his faithful Pritchard, the result of which was that their young charge should continue his usual appellation of *little Bob*, till the arrival of Richard Cooper, which Sir Philip concluded would not be protracted many days, convinced as he was that the attachment between that



person and the child was mutual, and as such would speedily bring him to the park, and whose arrival would probably elucidate some parts of Bob's former history ; thus much having been determined on, Mrs. Langton was ordered to introduce our hero, who on his entrance instantly ran to Sir Philip, placing himself between his knees, and looking affectionately up in his face exclaimed, " my dear 'tother daddy, you would not let mammy whip me, and Bob loves you dearly, and you gave me cakes and nice sweet small beer, not such as mammy used to give me, and you let me ride in the coach, and brought me to this fine house, and all the fine gentlemen and ladies



as be in it, and this good gentleman as comed in the coach with us, and I loves him too, and I loves this gentlewoman for letting me sleep with her in a fine bed, and for giving me nice bread and butter and sugared tea, and I loves you all three dearly, dearly, better nor all the folks at Yarborough but my dear Nancy and daddy."

The affectionate simplicity and artless innocence of this untutored address, visibly affected the Baronet, and he expressed himself to his housekeeper under extreme agitation to this effect; "Mrs. Langton, the emotion you perceive in me I can no ways account for, the first sight of this interesting child



created in me a warm attachment to him, which I am persuaded will only terminate with existence; it is my request that you will provide him with apparel more becoming his present situation, the selection of it I leave to your better judgment, only premising that the expence of it may not be made an object, by this, I do not mean to imply that it is to be fantastically fine, let every thing be plain but good, I know you too well, Mrs. Langton, to suppose you need further instruction from me;—Pritchard will undertake every charge of him which may not fall in with your department; I would wish you to attend to his reading, as I find he has been initiated into the first ru



diments of education; but above all, and this I am convinced I need not press on your attention, I would request you to instil into his infant mind a due regard to religious duties, the precepts inculcated in early life are seldom obliterated; let it be your care then to form his now ductile mind to principles of morality and virtue; this office I am pleased to observe you are eminently qualified for, and as such I confide him to the care of yourself and Pritchard.

Mrs. Langton having made a suitable reply to her worthy master's instructions withdrew, accompanied by her young charge, under whose care we shall for the pre-



sent leave him, whilst we introduce to our young reader another personage, to whose humanity *little Bob* had been materially indebted.



## CHAPTER VI.

THE person spoken of in the foregoing chapter, was no other than Richard Cooper, the late nominal daddy of *little Bob*; five days had elapsed since the departure of the Baronet and his protegee from the cottage near the fourshire-stone, without any tidings arriving therefrom, but on the sixth Sir Philip was informed by his footman that a person wanted to speak to him, whom he ordered to be shewn into the library, where he was then sitting with our hero be-



tween his knees; on the servant introducing a tall finely proportioned man, neatly but plainly dressed, *little Bob* sprung from the knees of his protector, and running towards the stranger flew into his arms, which were extended to receive him, exclaiming “ Oh! my dear daddy! my dear daddy!” Richard returned the embrace of his little friend with ardent emotion, and it was some minutes before either could utter another syllable; after the effusions of affection between them had a little subsided, Richard in a respectful manner apologized to Sir Philip for the apparent rudeness of his behaviour; the Baronet assured him he considered that it need no apology, and having with his accus-



tomed suavity desired him to be seated, after a few caresses from *little Bob*, and enquiries after his old favourite Nancy, Sir Philip rang the bell for Mrs. Langton, whom he requested to take her pet, as he was now become, into the garden, being impatient for the elucidation, which he had flattered himself Cooper could give of the mystery which attached to Bob's origin; Mrs. Langton consequently obeyed the commands of Sir Philip, when being left *tete-a-tete* with Cooper, after some preliminary conversation, and ordering him some refreshment, that worthy man, in language which his station of life seemed unequal to, proceeded to give the Baronet all the information in his



power respecting his protegee, in the following words.

“ In relating to you, Sir, the event which placed the dear boy, now under your protection, into my care, it may not be unnecessary for me first to give you a short account of myself. I am the son of a respectable though small farmer, who rented something less than an hundred acres of land, near Campden, in the county of Gloucester, his family consisted of four sons and five daughters, at early ages myself and brothers were sent to an excellent day-school in that town, of which, I trust, for the three years which I continued at it, I did not make an unprofitable use, well knowing my



father's confined circumstances and large family, would prevent his doing any thing more for any of us than giving us a tolerable education, for myself, particularly, as I was the youngest of his sons; it is with pain that I am constrained to say two of my brothers did not act up to the example their father held out to them, one having entered himself on board the *Alert* frigate at the age of eighteen, and the other, associating with characters of bad principles, was about the same age convicted of theft, and transported to Botany Bay; my second brother, at my father's decease, which happened about eleven years since, succeeded to the occupation of the farm, and I continued with him, as-



sisting him in the business, nearly four years, during which time I married a neighbouring farmer's daughter, the person you saw at fourshire-stone cottage, who, notwithstanding the detestable light in which she must have appeared to you, Sir, is by no means an unfeeling woman, but a violence of temper, together with an uncontrollable degree of jealousy in her disposition, has embittered many hours of my life as well as her own, and I do assure you, Sir, she has since the day you called at the cottage, sufficiently suffered for her indiscretion; she told me all that had passed that day, and, as Shakspeare says, "she made a blushing 'cital of herself, and chid her truant disposition,"



nor would she suffer me to leave her without a promise of soliciting your pardon."

Here Sir Philip interrupted honest Cooper, by assuring him that he not only forgave her, but was thankful that by her means he had been put into the possession of the darling boy, who he trusted would be a solace to his remaining days.

"I ought, Sir," continued Cooper, "to apologize to you for interrupting the information you appear so anxious to receive, by a panegyric on my wife, but I trust your goodness will excuse it, and I will now resume my story without again interlarding it with unnecessary remarks."



## CHAPTER VII.

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“NOT to fatigue you, Sir Philip, with circumstances that are foreign to the affair in which you feel an interest, I shall briefly relate that about the period last mentioned, I had the misfortune to be balloted for the militia; unable myself to raise a sufficiency to hire a substitute, which at the period I am speaking of could not be procured for less than fifty pounds or guineas, and as neither my father-in-law or brother were able to assist me without great inconvenience to them-



selves, I was under the necessity of enrolling myself, and leaving my wife and the little girl you saw at the cottage, then about nine months old, to the protection of her father, who having some few months before buried his wife, found in her an useful substitute in the domestic management of his household establishment; and about seven months after my departure she was delivered of a son.

“Soon after joining the regiment I was made a corporal, and being expert in the exercise, and a tolerable scholar, at the end of three years was promoted to a halbert; little more than two years since our regiment was in quarters at **Dover**,



and the principal part of the duty of it was to prevent smuggling ; one night in the month of June, I was ordered on this duty with twelve men under my command, about one o'clock in the morning we heard the dashing of oars, the sound put us on the alert, I gave the word to prime and load, and we then laid ourselves down flat on our faces ; the night being a remarkably light one, from the moon being nearly at the full, and very clear, we perceived the boat making for the shore, and were cheering each other with the hope of taking a good prize, when all on a sudden we heard the boat strike on a sunken rock, and she instantly bilged ; our hopes of prize money



now gave way to the desire of rendering assistance to the poor drowning persons who had been on board; myself could not swim, but several of the men threw off their clothes and swam to rescue, if possible, a fellow creature from a watery grave; their endeavours succeeded so far as to bring two sailors on shore, who in about a quarter of an hour recovered, myself waded nearly up to my chin without seeing any of the unfortunate persons approach near the spot, and was turning my back to retreat, when I saw what I took to be a small bundle close to me, but not within my reach, and a step further would probably have disabled me from rendering further



help to any one; I had taken my sword with me, and taking the point in my hand I by twisting it about entangled the hilt in the bundle, and by this means got it within my reach, I then made for the shore with it, holding it above my head that it might not receive further damage from the salt water; on reaching the shore I sat down to examine what I had got, when, judge my surprize, Sir, to discover that it was a child.

“ I instantly undressed it, and chafed its naked body with my warm hands for a long time without any visible effect of re-animation, and was beginning to despair of its recovery, when the little in-



nocent heaved a gentle sigh, this caused me to re-double my efforts, and in a short time it opened its eyes and uttered a faint cry; a part of my comrades then coming up with the two sailors, who were then recovered, we wrapped the child in one of the men's jackets, my own clothes being drenched with the sea water, not having given myself time to take them off when the accident happened.

“I enquired of the sailors how they happened to be at sea in so small a boat? but they were too much exhausted to be able to inform me, my men therefore by turns supported them to our quarters, but I would not trust my pre-



cious charge out of my own arms ;  
on our arrival there I requested a  
soldier's wife, who washed for me,  
to take care that he was properly  
treated ; and as it was now six  
o'clock, I went to the surgeon of  
the regiment, and requested he  
would go with me to the child,  
without hesitation he accompanied  
me to him, and to his assiduity and  
skill I felt myself indebted for the  
perfect recovery of *little Bob.*



## CHAPTER VIII.

“**LITTLE** more,” continued sergeant Cooper, “now, Sir, Philip, remains to be related, but as I fear my long tale has exhausted your patience, I will, with your leave, retire for the present, and at your leisure attend you again.” Sir Philip assured the worthy fellow, that so far from being fatigued, his anxiety to hear the remainder was now greater than it had yet been, and begged him, if he did not find himself unequal to it, to continue his story, and bring it to a conclusion then.



Cooper therefore proceeded;—  
“ When I found the child perfectly restored, I requested Mrs. Bew, which was the name of the soldier’s wife to whom I had entrusted him, to provide him some clothes, for which I gave her money, not having the inclination to liquor which some of our men had, and filling also the office of regimental clerk, I had from the emoluments of that, and my sergeant’s pay, a decent income for a foot-soldier; in fact, I had made many remittances to my wife, and was at this time in the possession of some pounds.

“ Having ascertained that my little boy was in a fair way of doing well, I repaired to the two unfortu-



nate seamen, whom I also found perfectly recovered, and from whom I obtained the following account of their misfortune:

“ They informed me that they had been about eight months prisoners in France, that on an exchange, they had, amongst others, been shipped on board a cartel brig, a lady and her child had taken the opportunity of embarking in the same ship, but they had never heard her name mentioned; when they were about mid-channel an alarm of fire was given, the accident happened from a boy carrying a lighted torch into the hold, where some oakum and other stores of a combustible nature were stowed;



every endeavour was used to subdue the destructive element, but all exertion was vain, as the fire continued to gain on them, and it had nearly reached the powder room, when the master ordered the only two boats on board to be lowered, the largest of which himself and his crew, with as many of the lately redeemed captives as she would carry entered;—the smaller boat, the mate, themselves, and the remainder of those on board, to the number of seventeen, got into with all the rapidity their distressed situation suggested; just as they were preparing to push off, the lady appeared on deck with her child in her arms, who in the confusion of the moment, had been totally for-



gotten, as they were reposing in the cabin when the accident happened ; they were received into the boat, although it was already overloaded, and before they had left the vessel five minutes, she blew up with a tremendous explosion, and instantly went to the bottom ; the fate of the other boat they were ignorant, as she had left the ship some time before themselves ; of the result," continued the narrator, " you are acquainted, and had it not been for the persevering humanity of yourself and your men, three unhappy individuals would, with their more unfortunate companions, have been consigned to a watery grave, as our exertions at the oar had fatigued us so much, that we



should have been incapable of reaching the shore by swimming."

"The melancholy relation of the poor sailor, filled my eyes with tears, and I resolved, if possible, to ascertain the fate of the poor female; for this purpose I related to my colonel the distressing catastrophe, and requested his permission to be absent from duty for this purpose, my request was no sooner made than granted, with many commendations on my humanity, which it would not become me to repeat; this permission I had not a doubt of receiving, as the colonel was very partial to me, and had in many instances given me proofs of the estimation he held me in, for



my attention to the duties which my situation necessarily required.

“ I lost no time in making the necessary enquiries after the unfortunate female, but all my endeavours were unavailing, so that I conclude she became food for fishes; but as at low water I was walking on the sands near where the unfortunate event took place, I perceived at some distance from me, on a shelf of a small rock, something that attracted my attention, divesting myself of my clothing, I waded to the spot, where I found a small leather trunk, with the initials, M. C. in brass tacks, on the lid, this I took possession of, and returned to my quarters



with, it was locked, but I forced it open, the contents were only a few small female parts of dress, most of which had the same initials marked on them as those on the box, with some articles of clothing for a child, and a locket set with pearls, and enclosing a lock of hair, which locket I now deliver into your custody; there were also some written papers, but the writing was so defaced by the sea water, that it was impossible to decypher a whole word in them; those papers I have still preserved, but did not bring with me, as it would be impossible to trace any thing from them, however, Sir, they shall be forthcoming whenever you wish it, whether they have any relation to *little Bob* or



not, it is impossible to determine, as it also is to whom the box and its contents belonged.

“Under the care of Mrs. Bew, with what little attention I was myself enabled to pay him, my charge in very little time became as much endeared to me as he would had he been my own, and perhaps you will think it unnatural in me to assert, that he is more so than my own son; I endeavoured to gain from his infantile prattle some account of himself and his unfortunate mother, which I am persuaded the poor lady must have been, by his frequently enquiring for mamma; his often pronouncing the word *Bob*, gave me every reason to con-



clude that was his name, in consequence of which he has since been known only by the name of *little Bob*.

“ It only remains now, Sir, to inform you that about seven weeks after the events I have been relating, on a field day, as I was examining the loaded piece of one of the men, by some accident it went off, and the charge entering my right hand, shattered it so much as to compel me to submit to the amputation of my thumb; I thank God, none of my fingers were materially injured, so that I have still the use of my hand, but as this event was in some cases an obstruction to the performance of my



military duties, and entirely disabled me from keeping the regimental accounts, I obtained my discharge, and returned into Gloucestershire, bringing my adopted child with me.

“ My wife, son, and daughter, I found with her father, but as he had now a sister of hers capable of managing the family, and he did not choose to be incommoded with the child I had brought home, I took the cottage, together with an orchard of about three acres, from which I generally make as much cider as brings me in from twenty to thirty pounds yearly, and have resided there from that time, regularly going to assist, during the



hay season, a farmer, near West-Ham, in Essex, who married my eldest sister; at this place I was when you, fortunately for *little Bob*, was attracted to the four-shire-stone cottage.

“The unreasonable jealousy of my wife would never allow her patience to endure a recital of what I have now related to you, and her attachment to her own son, and enmity to *little Bob*, has been such, that although I have used every persuasion in my power to induce her to listen to it, I never could prevail on her to hear it, till since he has left the cottage; and I am convinced the lecture you was so good to read her, which she has



repeated to me with tears, has removed her prejudice to him, and wrought a thorough reform in her own temper, so that I have a reasonable hope the remainder of our lives will be materially happier.— *Little Bob* has been instructed by Nancy and myself in reading, we have also taught him the Church Catechism and some short prayers; and I trust, Sir Philip, you do not find him an indocile child.”



## CHAPTER IX.

**E**XTRAVAGANT were the praises which Sir Philip lavished on the humanity and attachment of the cividant sergeant to the little orphan; he thanked him repeatedly for the interesting communication he had made him; assuring him that he might depend on his looking out something better for him than the four-shire-stone cottage; “till when, my good friend,” says he, “accept this as a small token of my esteem,” opening his writing desk, and taking from it a bank note of the value of fifty pounds, and presenting it to



the worthy Cooper, who could not without much entreaty be prevailed on to receive it, saying “ he had merely performed a duty which humanity and religion dictated.”

The Baronet then rang the bell for Pritchard, whom he addressed in these words. “ Except yourself, Pritchard, I have never met with one person so worthy as the man I now recommend to your friendship, I have not a doubt you will find him highly deserving of it; take him with you to Mrs. Langton’s room, and I will defy the world to produce three more exemplary characters; I need not remind you that Mr. Cooper must stand in need of refreshment, be it



your care to see that he has every thing he wishes ; let him enjoy the society of his little darling, the child whom his humanity rescued from a premature death ; and detain him with you as long as he can make it convenient to be from his family ; but, remember, Mr. Cooper, I must see you at least once again before you leave the park, which at any rate must not be till to-morrow or the following day."

Agreeable to his instructions, Pritchard conducted his newly acquired friend to the housekeeper's room, where he found that worthy woman and his *little Bob*, who, as was always his custom when they met, ran to spring into his arms,



clasp him round the neck, and exclaim, "my dear daddy, my dear daddy;" and this he now did whilst the tear of affectionate joy sparkled in his beautiful dark eye; nor could the eyes of his three adolescent friends refrain from accompanying him in the humid exhalation.

The emotions of the heart are not unfrequently beheld in the eye; such was the case of the four individuals who were now seated in Mrs. Langton's room, and I may venture to predict, that had an uninterested observer entered it, he would have concluded that four more happy beings did not exist than those which he would at that instant have seen before him.



Not to detain my young readers too long from the continuation of the history of the little hero, in which doubtless they feel an interest, I shall only observe that Richard Cooper, after having partaken of every hospitality which Abbotsfield Park afforded, on the second day after his arrival there, returned again to his cottage; rendered now much more peaceful, since the altered disposition of his wife's temper, than he had ever before known it; nor did he fail at proper opportunities to enforce the precepts which Sir Philip's discourse with her, had inculcated into her now rational mind.

Under the superintendance of



Mrs. Langton and Mr. Pritchard, *little Bob* daily improved in his learning, and evidenced a disposition fraught with an emulation to improvement far above his years ; in less than three months, he was become scholar sufficient to read to Sir Philip, several of Mrs. Barbauld's productions, and other little tracts of a similar description, inasmuch that, at Christmas, his patron presented him with a very handsomely bound Prayer Book, which he constantly took to church with him, and could read the psalms and other parts of the liturgy with uncommon precision for a child of his years ; and improbable as it may appear, it is no less true that he could repeat by heart no less



than eleven little poems, such as the "Beggar's Petition," "Jane and Lucy," &c.

Master Robert, as our hero was now, by Sir Philip's directions, called, had been, accompanied by his friend Pritchard, to whom he had in an extraordinary manner endeared himself, once to see his old associates at the four-shire-stone cottage, where the meeting between him and his beloved Nancy was affectionate in the extreme, they hung on each others neck with all the ardour of undisguised and undissembled regard; his patron had furnished him with suitable presents for each individual of the family, and when he presented a neat



gown-piece to Mrs. Cooper, and told her his good papa, which he had been instructed to call Sir Philip, had sent it her, with his thanks for having been the means of bringing them acquainted, she burst into tears and cried out in an agony, "Oh! what a sad wretch was I to treat such an angel with the cruelty I did, I cannot forgive myself, though my dear Richard and your good papa, as you call him, have both pardoned me, but God has brought good out of evil, for if I had not been a beating you he woudn't never ha' known there had been such a sweet child in the world."

"My wife, Sir," says Cooper, ad-



dressing himself to Mr. Pritchard, “never ceases lamenting her conduct towards that dear boy, though I tell her to forget it, as no one will ever reproach her with it, inasmuch as it has in an especial manner conduced to his advantage, and will, I trust, one day lead to a discovery of his parents, whom I have never doubted were persons of distinguished rank in life; but come Dolly, this gentleman can confirm the assurances I have given you that Sir Philip has no animosity against you.”

“So far from it,” replied Pritchard, “my master has commissioned me to tell you Mrs. Cooper, that he was confident that although your



mind was clouded by passion, when he first saw you, when that cloud was removed he could discern the emanations of an excellent heart; and give me leave, on my own account, to remind you of a line, which will, I am sure, tend to console you, 'A broken and a contrite spirit, wilt thou not despise, O Lord!'

Master Robert, taking out his handkerchief, wiped away the tears from the good woman's eyes, and kissing her, said, "indeed, indeed you shall always be my dear mammy, and I love you now better than ever I did, almost as well as I do daddy and Nancy, and I will soon come and see you again, and bring



you another new gown, and twenty other things.”

This affectionate address administered to the poor woman's comfort, and she soon became calm enough to enjoy Robert's society, and with the assistance of her daughter to spread on the table a cloth white as the drifted snow, on which was placed some nice brown bread, with a cream cheese and butter of her own making, from the cow that was then grazing in the orchard; she likewise drew a pitcher of excellent cider, the product of the apple trees that were growing in it; when after refreshing themselves and taking an affectionate leave of the family, our hero and his preceptor departed for Abbotsfield Park.



## CHAPTER X.

**I**N the fourth chapter of this history we left Sir Philip Camelford's heir apparent in the luxurious climate of Italy; in the summer of the following year to that in which our hero had been introduced to the mansion of Abbotsfield Park, letters arrived from both his sons; that from Philip announced that he should depart from Palermo in the month of August, it was written in a constrained stile, as in fact all the letters he had received from him during his residence in the capital of Sicily had been, tinged also with



a shade of melancholy for which his father could by no means account; yet, throughout the whole of them, they were couched in the most respectful and dutiful language.

The dispatches from Henry Lowdon, his second son, after saying that he had concluded all his mercantile concerns, and should return to England by the first convoy, gave him an account of a dreadful fire which had happened in the neighbouring island of Barbaboes\*, in the following words.

“This fatal fire was occasioned, as is generally the case, by not tak-

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\* This event actually took place at Bridge Town in that island.



ing proper care of the candle at bed time. It began in a warehouse filled with combustible merchandize, and broke out in the dead of the night. Such is the bad police of Bridge Town, where this lamentable occurrence took place, that they are not provided with any sort of watch\*, and the first notice received, was from the house on fire. The young man by whose negligence it happened, saved his life; but after running some time about the streets, with marks of distraction, disappeared, and has not since been heard of; but the master of a vessel, who lodged in the same house, was burnt, and his fate has

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\* This neglect has been since remedied,



something particularly unfortunate in it, for on receiving the alarm, instead of going through one of the windows next the street, which he might have done without difficulty, he attempted his escape from one in the back part of the house, to which the fire was driven by the wind, and the poor man jumping upon a red hot pavement, was literally broiled to death. A long succession of dry weather prepared every thing like touchwood, for receiving the flames, and an uncommonly strong wind gave fury and rapidity to them, so that various parts of the town were lighted up at the same time; thus those who had at first thought themselves out of danger, and were gone from home



to assist their distant friends, were presently called off to secure their own effects, which by the time of their return were half consumed by the rapacious element.

“The flames were now bursting out from all parts, the shrieks of women and children, and the confusion of the multitude of terrified negroes, afforded such dismal scenes of distress as no other country ever saw. The rum ran about the streets like a river of liquid fire, and conveyed the flames to distant parts which would otherwise have been secure; the sugar melted and flowing, was no less pernicious in propagating them; and other merchandize, such as cotton, tar, &c. helped



on the combustion. Those shops which were filled with iron manufactures for plantation and shipping uses, added an intensity to the heat that nothing could equal, and no endeavours could quench.

“ On every side were marks of the most deplorable distraction ; some were running furiously about the streets ; some with more sedate but more melancholy distress, were walking near the place where their all was at stake ; others with fixed attention, stood looking at their burning houses, viewing the progress of the fire from one room to the other ; but all uniting in one exclamation that they were totally ruined.



“The fire continued to carry every thing before it through several streets, till it came to an old churchyard of considerable extent; here it was concluded this miserable ravage must end, and those whose habitations were situate to the windward, were congratulating each other on their escape, and endeavouring to alleviate the distress of their neighbours, by assurances of present relief and future assistance; but they were soon called off from this generous and humane intercourse; the wind, which had all along blown violently, was now become relentless; just at this period it shifted from N. E. which is the usual course of the trade-wind in this part of the world, to S. W.; the



flames, almost decayed, received fresh vigour, and drove on to the back parts of the town with a fury not to be opposed, and every one concluded that the whole town must now be involved in one general ruin; the sick, decrepid, and infants who had been before removed to what had been considered places of safety, were again hurried from their retreats, and some died while this pious care was executing.

“ Many families who have hitherto lived in affluence and even splendor, are by this dreadful visitation reduced to the extremity of poverty and wretchedness, almost all have families of children, and



the distress of the town and neighbourhood is indescribable; and it is shocking to see almost every one depressed with the deepest melancholy; the whole loss can not be computed, but it is immense.

“Many of the unfortunate sufferers are arrived in this island, and the foregoing account has been related to me by one who was an eye-witness of the dreadful calamity, and who has lost his whole property in the horrid conflagration.”



## CHAPTER XI.

**N**OT long after the receipt of the before-mentioned dispatches, Robert and his friend Pritchard had strolled through the park to a farm house belonging to one of Sir Philip's tenants; the latter having some business with the farmer, Robert remained at the door talking with a little boy, son of the farmer, about three years older than himself, but from an accident which had happened in his infancy about his own height, the child was rather deformed with a protuberance projecting from his shoulders; they



were amusing themselves with tossing a ball to each other, when a smart dressed lad, attended by a footman in livery, came up to them, and in a familiar manner asked little Tom “if the soldiers were coming?” who replied that he did not know there were any expected; “Oh!” rejoined the young gentleman, “I thought you had belonged to them, for I perceive you carry the drum at your back:” the ill-timed sarcasm did not escape the animadversion of Robert, who told the little coxcomb, “that it was very unbecoming to jest on the misfortunes with which it hath pleased Providence to afflict any of his creatures, that he could not tell but himself, however he might now



pride him on the proper proportion of his person, might sometime, by the decree of that Providence, be reduced to the same state of deformity that poor Tom was ; besides, as a gentleman, instead of insulting those beneath him, it was his duty to administer to them his pity and commiseration for any defects they might labour under ; for, Sir," continued he, " you ought not to despise the meanest of mankind, and I would advise you always to remember, that a wasp may sting an elephant."

" And who are you, you little impertinent puppy, " replied the young fop," that dare to dictate to me ? do you know that my name is



Tranter, and I shall not submit to insults from such a little monkey as you are;" at the same time extending a small stick which he had in his hand, to inflict chastisement on our hero, but which Tom observing, he snatched it out of his hand, and though by no means in point of size or strength able to cope with him, yet with considerable agility he tripped up his heels, and laid his neat limbs in a soft bed of mud, which fortunately for him, though it dirted his smart jacket and pantaloons, prevented his receiving any injury from the fall, which might otherwise have been the case.

Pritchard, who had beheld the



whole of the contest from the window of the parlour in which he was seated with Farmer Arable, now made his appearance, and telling the boy that he was sorry he had met with such a disaster, but that he must attribute it to his own overbearing disposition, requested that he would come into the house and suffer Mrs. Arable to clean his clothes; this the young spark indignantly refused, and with many threats against Robert and Tom, walked off in dudgeon accompanied by the servant.

On their return to the park Pritchard related the whole of this event to Sir Philip, who was charmed with the behaviour of his protegee; but



at the same time expressed his apprehensions that young Tranter would by some means seek to be revenged on both Robert and young Arable.

Mr. Tranter, the father of this youth, had originally been a miller, in which capacity he not only ground his corn, but also “the faces of the poor;” having acquired some property, he commenced speculator in the article which he formerly only ground for hire; by an unwearied application, aided by some lucky purchases, he increased his wealth, and by an extensive and fortunate speculation, in a season when that necessary of life advanced in an unexpected and rapid manner to



an exorbitant price, he realised such a sum as enabled him to purchase a considerable estate in the vicinity of Sir Philip's. This man, notwithstanding his immense wealth, had not acquired the habits or manners of the gentleman, but was purse-proud and overbearing; is it to be wondered at then, that his son should conceive himself entitled to adopt "*airs*," however he might be deficient in *the graces*? this youth had all the haughty demeanour of his father, to which was added a natural propensity to what that foolish parent called proper spirit, but which ought justly to be termed mischief.

The day following the one on which



the above related encounter happened, Sir Philip was informed Mr. Tranter desired to speak with him, he was of course admitted, and after the usual salutations, the Baronet requested to know what had procured him the honour of Mr. Tranter's visit? the reply to which was in the following words.

“There is a boy, Sir Philip, who I understand you have undertaken to support, but whom I am told is some beggar's bastard, or something of the same sort or kind, this boy, or beggar's brat, or vagabond, or vagrant, or whatever he may be, has dared to insult, and abuse, and reproach my son; whom he as good as told was no gentleman, and com-



pared him to an elephant, or a wolf, or a wild beast, or some such ravenous animal; now I am come here, Sir Philip, to desire, and demand, and request, and command, that you will order this said, and afore-said boy, into my presence, that I may, with this cane, which I have brought for the purpose, inflict on him that chastisement, and beating, and whipping, and flogging, that his conduct has merited, and deserved."

"Mr. Tranter," replied Sir Philip, "if the boy, who I am proud to say I have taken under my protection, had transgressed the rules which civility and politeness require, I should have lamented the circum-



stance perhaps more than you, but when I find that his conduct on the occasion you allude to, was not only meritorious, but to the highest degree exemplary, but which I doubt not has been misrepresented to you, instead of suffering punishment to be inflicted on him, I shall most certainly reward him for the noble and honourable conduct he displayed on that occasion."

"And so then, Sir Philip, you encourage, and abet, and support this little miscreant in abusing, and insulting, and reproaching, and bellying his betters; I see he has cajoled, and persuaded, and prevailed on you to believe that my son was in blame"—



“No, Sir,” interrupted Sir Philip, “the information I have received of the transaction, has not been from him, but from my own valet, who was both an ear and eye-witness of the affair, from the commencement to its termination, and I am sorry you compel me to observe, that if correction is necessary to any one, it is your son it should be inflicted on.”

The newly dubbed esquire was now too much exasperated to attend to what the Baronet might further have said, he therefore snatched up his hat, most unceremoniously slammed the door, and departed.



## CHAPTER XII.

Not long after the events recorded in the last chapter, Robert was one afternoon walking in the park, attended by Neptune a Newfoundland dog, who was very much attached to him : at a distance by the side of the canal, which ran through the park, he perceived some person angling ; he was making his companion vault over a stick which he carried in his hand, when chancing to turn his eye towards the canal, he saw the person fall into the water, in the act of landing a fish which he had caught: Robert immediately



ran to the side of the canal, and throwing his stick to the spot where he saw the person sink, at the same time encouraging Neptune, the sagacious animal dived, and almost instantly re-appeared, having seized him tenderly by the collar of the coat, in which manner he bore him to the margin of the canal, and Robert laying himself flat on the bank, extended his arm to its utmost reach, and with the exertion of the sufferer, himself safely landed him on the greensward; but what was his surprize when he found that the person he had rescued was no other than the individual Master Tranter.

So far from expressing gratitude



to his preserver, for the service he had rendered him, he in a surly manner only said "thank you," and having received little injury except a good ducking was going away, when Robert, with the most insinuating address, requested he would go with him to the house and have his clothes dried, intimating also, that it would be necessary for him to take something to counteract the effects of his accident; with much persuasion, and feeling himself chilly in his wet clothes, he was prevailed on to accompany our hero to the mansion; in the hall they were met by Mr. Pritchard, who having heard an account of the accident, led young Tranter to Mrs. Langton: that good



woman ordered a bed to be warmed, and conducted the dripping youth to it; where, after administering to him some wine whey, she desired him to compose himself to sleep, and repaired to Sir Philip to relate to him the adventure; but in this she had been forestalled by Pritchard, who, with many encomiums on his favourite, had minutely related every particular.

No time was lost in dispatching a servant to apprise Mr. Tranter of the accident that had happened to his son: with whom that gentleman returned to Sir Philip's. Widely different was his behaviour now, to what it had been on his former visit; he loaded the Baronet with thanks,



uttered with all the tautology for which he was remarkable; he hugged Robert in his arms, called him a little angel, and the preserver of his boy; and as soon as he had given vent to his emotions, desired he might be conducted to his son, to whom he was shown by Mrs. Langton and Robert.

Not all his foolish fondness for the youth could prevent his rating him for falling into the water, observing that he was sure it was his own fault; but Robert assured him it was not, and described to him the manner in which the accident happened; he then blamed him for fishing, telling him that if he wanted fish, he had money sufficient to pur-



chase all the fish that were in the canal; after much discourse of the same kind, his apparel having been previously sufficiently dried, he desired him to dress himself, which when done they descended to the parlour, in which Sir Philip was sitting, where he again poured forth his acknowledgments for the services he and his protegee had rendered him; and would then have taken leave in a rather more courteous manner than he had done on the former occasion, but Sir Philip requesting him to take coffee with himself and his boy, they consented and resumed their seats.

Had Edward Tranter been judiciously treated by his parents in



his earlier age, instead of being indulged in every little whim and caprice that his fancy suggested, it is probable, he would not in his twelfth year, have been exhibited in the character of the "*Spoiled Child*;" nature had done much for him, she had given him an open ingenuous countenance, and a naturally good disposition had been perverted by parental indulgence; he had never known what it was to be contradicted, and had in consequence habitually contracted a supercilious turn of ideas, which tended to embitter his own comforts, and those of all who were connected with him: his late accident, and the complacent behaviour on that occasion of the boy he had in-



sulted, had occupied his thoughts during the time he lay in bed, and banished sleep from his eyelids; and when Robert, after taking their coffee, took him by the hand, and said he hoped he felt no inconvenience from that accident, something like shame oppressed him, and he could not help mentally asking himself, "should I have acted thus towards him had circumstances been reversed? a proof that though improper management had injured his temper, it had not debauched his principles.

On their departure Edward affectionately took his little preserver's hand, thanked him for the humane assistance he had afforded



him, apologized for his former conduct towards him, and intreated him in future to consider, that no one held him in higher estimation than himself.

About this time a farm of Sir Philip's became vacant by the decease of the occupier, who having left no immediate representative, the Baronet determined on placing Richard Cooper in it; as such he entered into treaty for the purchase of the crop, live and dead stock, together with all the farming implements; as soon as he had concluded this business, he dispatched Mr. Pritchard and Robert to announce to his former patron that it was his wish he would enter into



the immediate occupation of the farm. It may naturally be supposed that such an advantageous offer was accepted with gratitude by that worthy man, who in as short a time as possible removed to Thistle-down farm, situate at the distance of a short mile from the park, and adjoining that occupied by farmer Arable.

The arrival of his two sons was now looked forward to with anticipated pleasure by Sir Philip; and in the latter end of the month of July a post-chaise and four was seen to enter the gates of the park, and in a short time Mr. Henry Lowdon was, after an absence of nearly seven years, enfolded in the



arms of his affectionate father; long separated friends will easily appreciate the emotions felt by these attached relatives on their meeting, which no description of, would barely do justice to; when these emotions had in some measure subsided, Sir Philip introduced his protegee to his son, at the same time giving him an abbreviated account of so much of his history as he had learned from Mr. Cooper; Mr. Lowdon was charmed with the interesting countenance and ingenuous manner of our little hero, whose introduction seldom failed to conciliate immediate attachment.

Not many weeks, after the arrival of Mr. Lowdon, had elapsed, when his brother also appeared at



the park; he was dressed in full mourning, and his "brow was the title page that spoke the nature of a tragic volume;" which communicated its mournful influence to both his father and brother, and so affecting was this meeting, that the tearful eye of each denoted their feelings to be most sorrowfully acute: moved at the apparent grief of his best friends, Robert, who at the interesting interval entered the parlour, burst into a flood of tears, and running to Sir Philip, exclaimed, "Pray do not weep so, my dear papa, or you will break poor Robert's heart."

The tremulous yet musical voice in which these words were uttered,



caused Mr. Camelford, whose back was towards the speaker, to turn, and no sooner had he fixed his eyes on him, than, with the exclamation of "Good God! what is it I see?" he fell senseless in his chair.

It was some time before he could be recovered, and the first words he made use of, were, "where is that interesting child? who is he? and whence did he come? let me instantly see him;" for Robert had by Pritchard been removed from the room, on the fainting of Mr. Camelford. Sir Philip requested his son to calm his agitated spirits, and having insisted on his taking a glass of madeira, which in some measure benefited him, told him that when



his mind was a little more calmed, he would relate all he knew of the child; "Oh! no delay can I admit of," returned Mr. Camelford, "this instant must I know all that concerns him, he is the perfect resemblance of one dearer to this heart," placing his hand on his breast, "than all the possessions this world can bestow; now, my dear Sir, now, let me instantly be informed of all you know of him, and if my surmises are just, you will relieve the bosom of your son of a part of the anguish with which you behold it afflicted.

Being thus urged, Sir Philip repeated the relation which Cooper had acquainted him with, during which his son was agitated to the



highest degree, and when he came to that part which mentioned the locket; “let me see that locket before you proceed further,” interrupted he his father, “that will either confirm or annihilate my earnest hope;” the locket was not long in being produced, when Mr. Camelford with extacy exclaimed, “he is, he is, my son! deprive me no longer of a sight of the only pledge of my beloved Matilda’s affection! This request was of course complied with, and on the admission of the child, the enraptured father caught him to his breast, crying out, almost suffocated with agitation, “come to my arms, dear resemblance of a sainted mother, receive the affectionate embrace of an afflicted and



yet joyful father, thou art, thou art my child! and whilst life remains I will cherish thee as the greatest blessing an indulgent Providence can bestow. Unite with me my father, my brother, and my dear new found child, in returning thanks to that Almighty Power who has preserved thee to be a blessing to thy father, grandfather, and uncle, for such, I trust, thou wilt ever prove."

The agitation which this affecting scene had caused to the parties interested in it, made it necessary that some time should be allowed to calm their disturbed feelings; Sir Philip therefore refrained for the present to request an elucidation of the mystery which appeared to at-



tach to the circumstance of little Robert being his grandson; he therefore proposed they should adjourn to the dining parlour, and partake of that meal, which the foregoing events had delayed beyond the usual hour, after which he presumed his son would be sufficiently composed to give him the desired information.

As Sir Philip had conjectured, soon after the cloth had been removed, and each had drank a glass or two of wine, Robert sitting close by his father, who would not be separated a moment from him, that gentleman addressed the Baronet in the following words.



“ You may, perhaps, my dear father, recall to your recollection that in the first letters I sent you from Italy, I mentioned my having been introduced to the notice of the Duke of Salerno, and that the cause of our intimacy had originated in my having rescued him from the murderous dagger of a bravo ; in the encounter I had received a wound in my right side, which at first put on an alarming appearance ; I was put to bed at the Duke’s palazio, and the most eminent surgeons which Palermo could furnish, were called in to my assistance ; the Duke had a daughter somewhat younger than myself, who attended me unremittingly during my confinement ; it was my



fortune, call it good or ill, to engage her affections, and such was the beauty and virtue of that inestimable girl, that I soon felt the full force of her charms, and a mutual attachment was the result.

The Duke was a nobleman of the most unblemished honour, his gratitude to me for the service I had rendered him was unbounded, and had I been of the same religious persuasion as himself, I had not the smallest doubt he would have consented to our union; but he was a rigid catholic; in every other respect no man had more urbanity, but when religion was the topic he was a confirmed bigot, and as such we were firmly con-



vinced would never consent to his daughter marrying a heretic; under this persuasion, soon after my perfect recovery, I prevailed on Lady Matilda to consent to a private union, and we were married by the chaplain to an English regiment which was then in Sicily.

“Do not, my beloved father, charge me with disobedience in contracting a marriage without your consent, or concealing it for so many years from your knowledge, I trust, the reasons I shall give you will exonerate me from every appearance of disingenuity.

“A few months after our marriage, my dear Matilda informed me



that certain circumstances would preclude the possibility of concealing it much longer from her father, unless by some contrivance she could be removed from Palermo; I thought of numerous expedients, all of which she superceded, by suggesting as the one best calculated to avoid suspicion, her pleading to him ill health, and requesting his permission to retire to a country seat of his, about forty English miles distant from the capital; this expedient appeared the more practicable, as the Duke had noticed with concern her altered looks, and he readily consented to her request.

“ In this seclusion she was deli-



vered of a son, to the knowledge of which her own maid and an ancient female domestic, who had nursed her in her infancy, only were privy. The Duke held the post of first lord of the bed-chamber to the king, which required his constant personal attendance on his majesty, he therefore had not an opportunity of visiting his daughter, so that our secret was in no danger of being discovered, nor has it been, the Duke to this day being ignorant of our marriage.

“ The child, after some time, I myself, accompanied by the old nurse, brought to Palermo, where I placed them in a pleasant lodging in the suburbs of the city; my



Matilda removed also to her father's palazzo, to which I was always a welcome guest, as the Duke's partiality to me was rather increased than diminished. It was the custom of my wife once at least in every day to visit our boy, where I generally met her; on one of those occasions she proposed to me a scheme she had adopted, by which she thought she should be enabled to enjoy a greater portion of his society; this was by having him laid and received at her father's door as a foundling; to be brief this plan was executed whilst he was in attendance on the king; it succeeded to admiration, and the old Duke soon became most fondly attached to the dear child; it may



be necessary for me to observe that I had previously had him baptized, according to the rites of the church of England, by the gentleman who married us, and had given him the name of Roberto, which was that borne by his maternal grandfather.

The most painful part of my recital now remains to be related, namely, that of my being for ever in this world separated from my adored wife. A party had been formed to sail in a Sicilian brig on the Mediterranean sea, and as the English fleet on that station was thought a sufficient protection, the Duke was prevailed on to allow his daughter to be one of it; I was at this time on a visit to the English ambassa-



dor, at his villa a few miles from Palermo; but what was my grief on my return to that city, at learning that the brig had been captured by an Algerine pirate, and carried into that detestable port; my agony on hearing this account was excessive, and had it not been for my valet Edmund, I should most certainly, under the derangement of intellect I then laboured, have committed suicide: this good fellow used every means to assuage the anguish of my mind, and offered himself, at the risk of being doomed to perpetual slavery, to go to Algiers in search of her and my child, who with her confidential maid had accompanied her in the disastrous voyage; but as I thought



this would be a futile scheme, I would not suffer the faithful creature to attempt it.

“It was necessary for me to visit the Duke of Salerno, who, I understood, was almost desperate for the loss of his daughter and the infant, whom he had warmly adopted, but how to appear before him in the agitation I was, without betraying our secret, which I knew would have augmented his distress, I could not tell, but, however, I needed not the precaution of disguising my feelings; the affliction in which I found him, prevented his noticing the extraordinary grief which I had not the power of concealing; but this good nobleman



attributed it to the attachment I felt for himself.

“ After the first paroxysm of our mutual distress had a little subsided, we consulted on the most proper means of proceeding for the recovery of our lost treasure, and the result was to apply to that first of heroes, Lord Nelson, and request his assistance; his lordship with all that native suavity which was his peculiar characteristic, ordered a vessel, bearing a flag of truce, to sail for Algiers, and demand the captives; but the ship returned with an answer under the Dey's own hand, assuring his lordship, on his honour, that no such persons, as those described, had



been brought to that port: a like requisition was also made to the Beys of Tunis and Tripoli, with no better success; and I then made the resolution never to leave Sicily till I had heard some tidings of my beloved wife and child.

“The Duke of Salerno, if possible, treated me with more affectionate regard than ever, and I was sometimes tempted to explain the degree of relationship in which I stood to him; and this I should most certainly have done, but was deterred, by his frequently lamenting that I was not of the catholic persuasion.

“After an affliction of three years,



I was about ten weeks since informed that a female wished to speak with me, but what was my astonishment, when she was introduced, at beholding Lucetta, the young person who had been the attendant of my lamented Matilda; my heart bounded with joy, I clasped the good girl in my arms, and exclaimed, 'ah! now I shall again be blessed! my dear wife, where is she, why did she not accompany you?' on looking in her face, I perceived the most woe-worn countenance that grief ever depicted; 'ah, mon signor,' she replied, 'you will never see my dear signora again, she is now in heaven, and oh! that the blessed virgin had taken me with her.'



“ I know not what passed for sometime afterwards ; and when I recovered my senses, most fervently did I join with Lucetta in her wish. When we were rather more composed, she told me that soon after being taken on board the corsair, a French privateer of considerable force made towards them, and after an obstinate engagement, in which the Algerine captain and the greatest part of his crew were killed, they were taken possession of by the Frenchman, and carried into Toulon ; here they were treated with respect ; but as being subjects of the king of Sicily, with whom the emperor Napoleon was then at war, they could not be sent home ; her lady, she said, happened at the



time to have a purse of English guineas, which I had presented her with, about her, which she had concealed from the pirates, and as that coin was current all over France, they had no apprehension of want.

“By accident they one day heard that a cartel was expected at Calais, to take home some English prisoners who were to be exchanged, her lady therefore applied for and received pasports, to allow them to take their passage in it, conceiving it more probable they might procure conveyance to Sicily from that kingdom than where they then were; in consequence whereof, they took the diligence from Toulon to Calais, where they arrived two days



before the cartel sailed. An accident, call it either fortunate or unfortunate," continued Lucetta, "happened just before we entered Calais, by the overturning of the diligence, in which neither my lady or the child were hurt, but I did not escape so luckily, as my leg was fractured in such a manner as to incapacitate me for the voyage: I shall never forget the lamentation my dear lady made on the occasion; she declared she would not leave me till I recovered, and I wish to the holy Mary, I had consented to her staying with me, but I insisted she should proceed on the voyage, and continue in England, where she would be in a



friendly country, till I was well enough to join her, and from which place she might write to yourself and his excellenza the Duke; my entreaties at last prevailed on her to consent to this plan, and having provided a lodging for me, with the attendance of a skilful surgeon, to whose care she recommended me in the most earnest manner, she gave me the greatest part of the gold she had, as also some jewels which she had secreted with it, telling me it was her intention when she reached England to make herself known to the Chevalier Camelford, and the Sicilian ambassador, through whose means she did not doubt of being enabled to



get me over to England, and to procure the means of returning to Sicily.

“But ah! Signor,” continued the poor girl, “that wished for event never took place, for the cartel was seen from the pier head to take fire and blow up, when it is supposed every one on board perished.”



## CHAPTER XIII.

**D**URING the recital of Mr. Carmelford's melancholy narrative, not a dry eye was there in either himself or his auditors, and when he had arrived at that part of it which concluded the last chapter, his feelings were so overpowered that he sobbed aloud, and was prevented for some time from proceeding in it; till having imbibed the fresh evening air from the window, and finding himself something recovered, he continued it thus.

“The agitation, my dear father,



which you now behold in me, is perfect calmness to that which possessed me at this part of Lucetta's distressing recital; we both wept most copiously, and I am of opinion our tears relieved us, at least they did myself, sufficiently to request she would inform me how she had supported herself for the three years since this lamentable event happened, which she complied with in the following terms."

' Upon hearing of the dreadful fate of my dear lady, which was indiscreetly reported to me by the woman engaged to nurse me, I went into hysterics, and it was some hours before I could be calmed, on coming to my recollection, I found



the surgeon and another gentleman by my bedside, whom I learnt was an abbe, and the curate of the parish; from the pious discourse of whom, I was so far consoled as to be persuaded to moderate my lamentation, though my grief admitted not cure; the surgeon on examining my leg found I had in my fit displaced the fractured bone, and it had put on such an appearance as betokened a mortification; shall I say to you signor, that I earnestly wished that to be the case, and I wickedly petitioned the Virgin to take me from this world of trouble and sorrow, but my prayer was not granted, and the pious priest to whom I made my confession, soon brought me to a more rational mode



of thinking; to this holy man and the humane surgeon I am indebted for my life, and I trust for a renunciation of my wicked wishes for death.

‘Thirteen weeks I was confined to my bed, and nearly as long could only move with crutches; at length after all my sufferings my leg was made a perfect cure of; and I now found my purse, which, when my sweet angel of a lady gave it me, contained fifty three guineas, was reduced to eleven and a few francs, without my having paid the surgeon’s bill; which, the next time Monsieur Savigné, which was his name, called on me, I requested he would let me have, and I would



endeavour to discharge it; the answer this humane man made me was ‘trouble not yourself, Mademoiselle, about such a trifle, any services I may have rendered you, are sufficiently repaid in the pleasure I receive from having made a cure of you, and I shall feel myself happy, if by any exertions of mine, I may be the means of restoring you to your country and your friends, but that I fear will at present be a difficult task, as the emperor has taken a violent antipathy to your king, for his opposition to the king of Naples, and accepting the assistance of the English; however, if you will make my house your home, till such opportunity offers, you will find in me a father,



and in my wife a mother, who is already from my description of your sufferings sincerely attached to you.'

'I thanked the worthy surgeon for his generous conduct; and the next day he brought Madam Savigné to see me, who repeated the invitation, and having discharged my lodging, I three days afterwards took up my abode in their house, where I experienced every kind attention from them both; I found Madam Savigné an amiable woman, she condoled with me on my misfortunes, and when I lamented my dear lady's fatal catastrophe would mingle her tears with mine.



‘Not to be prolix, Signor Camelford, I have now only to state that the noble-minded Savigné, assisted by the good Abbe, left no means untried to procure my return, either to Sicily, or if that could not be accomplished, to get permission for me to go in a cartel to England, but from a dispute between that country and France, respecting who were to be deemed the proper subjects, no exchange has taken place since the unhappy one, when lady Matilda embarked for Britain; and even had such an event taken place, I should have been unwilling to have accepted of it, after the dreadful disaster which happened to that beloved mistress.



‘ Three weeks since the Abbe heard of an American ship which was then in the port, and intended making Sicily in its course, he and Monsieur Savigné used all their exertions to procure a passport for my passage in her ; and after surmounting numberless difficulties, at length succeeded ; and, I am, I thank the holy Mary, again arrived in my native country.’

“ Thus ended Lucetta’s distressing recital, every sentence of which wrung my heart with anguish, nor was the poor girl less affected than myself ; we agreed that, the following day, she should wait on the Duke, and repeat to him her melancholy tale ; but I conjured her



to be careful not to let the secret of our marriage escape her, or that the child was her lady's, since that would only prove an aggravation to his grief; these instructions she punctually performed, and the poor old nobleman bore the recital of his daughter's death with more fortitude than might have been supposed."

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## CHAPTER XIV.

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“SICILY having now no attraction for me, I determined on returning to England, and in consequence of that resolution wrote the letter which announced such intention to you; I took an affectionate leave of the Duke, and had that nobleman known the degree of consanguinity which really subsisted between us, he could not have parted from me with more reluctance; he made me promise to correspond with him, and with the assurance of unceasing regard on both sides we parted.



It now only remains that I account to you why I have never before acquainted you with the events I have been relating. Aware of your attachment to the principles of that religion, by law established in my own country, I was at first unwilling to acquaint you that I had married into a catholic family, and that too without the consent of its principal, more especially as I had hopes my Matilda, whose ideas on that head were not so rigid as those of her parent, might have been persuaded to adopt those I myself professed ; and after that event might have taken place, the pleasure I should have had in introducing her to you as a daughter, would have been considerably en-



hanced. The accident that deprived me of that angelic woman, and my child, determined me in observing a continuation of the secrecy I had adopted, well knowing that a communication of that distressing event would have filled your parental breast with grief; and I could not bear the idea of causing affliction in the heart of the most affectionate of parents."

Mr. Camelford having concluded his affecting narration, his melancholy auditors sympathized with him, by the most tender and unequivocal tokens of affection; his son, particularly, hung round his neck, exclaiming, "Oh! my beloved papa, had but my dear mamma



been permitted to see this hour, how happy should we all have been, but as Providence has not allowed us to enjoy such a blessing, let us not fly in the face of Almighty Goodness by arraigning his awful fiat." This was uttered whilst his tears coursed each other down his interesting countenance; whilst his father expressed his astonishment that a child of his years should be endued with so just a mode of thinking, and have the power of uttering sentiments so appropriate to the melancholy theme they had been discussing.

Time, the certain solacer of sorrow, did not in the present instance fail of conducing its aid to the alle-



viating that of the Camelford family; and a few months had in some measure restored that family to its usual state of placidity, when Mr. Lowdon received advices that the agent who superintended an estate, which, with his West Indian property, had descended to him, by the will of his grandfather, had absconded, after having received rents to the amount of two thousand pounds. This estate was in the isle of Thanet, near the bathing town of Margate; and it was deemed necessary that he should make a journey into Kent, to investigate the business; it was his wish that Sir Philip, his brother, and Master Camelford should accompany him, but a slight attack of the gout pre-



vented the former from accepting the invitation, especially as he was apprehensive the gloomy atmosphere of November would retard his recovery, and perhaps tend to inflame the disorder; nor could he be prevailed on to suffer his grandson to quit him; it was therefore determined on, that the two brothers should set off in their father's travelling chaise, and little preparation being requisite, they, on the following day, departed from Abbotsfield Park to London, where Mr. Lowdon had also business to transact relative to his concerns in Jamaica; and having taken post horses, they arrived at the Clarendon hotel the same evening.



As soon as they had completed their business in town, which only took up one day, they pursued their journey to Margate, and on Mr. Lowdon calling 'on his principal tenant, he was informed by him that the defaulter had gone from thence to Liverpool, at which port he had embarked in an American ship, and had probably by that time got into the Atlantic; so that any kind of pursuit would be unavailing: on further enquiry it was found he had converted the local notes he had received into Bank of England notes, at the Margate Bank, giving as a reason that he wanted to make remittances to his principal in Jamaica, having concealed the return of Mr. Lowdon, which he



had regularly been apprized of from every one in that neighbourhood.

What few documents he had left behind him were insufficient to elucidate the state of affairs, but they furnished abundant proofs of his nefarious conduct; and it was fully ascertained that the before-mentioned sum would by no means cover the deficiency, as, independent of the monies he had lately received, it was evident he had followed the same system of peculation the whole of the time he had been employed in the agency.



## CHAPTER XV.

**H**AVING arranged every thing in as correct a manner as the embarrassed state of the accounts would admit of, the two brothers departed from Margate; from which town they had proceeded but about three miles, when by the loss of the linchpin from the fore-wheel of the carriage, they had nearly met with a disaster that might have been attended with serious consequences; but fortunately on the wheel coming off, the end of the axletree rested on a heap of stones, which had been laid by the side of the road for the



purpose of repairing it; the gentlemen therefore alighted in safety, and perceiving a handsome house at a short distance from the road, a servant was dispatched there to solicit assistance; who presently returned accompanied by an elderly gentlemanly looking person, who requested the brothers to honour him with their company, whilst their servant returned to Margate to procure a new linch-pin; this polite invitation was with thankfulness accepted, on the part of the travellers, and they were ushered into a handsome well furnished apartment.

Whilst they were chatting with their kind host, whom they found to be a very intelligent man, on the

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topic of the war we were at that time engaged in with Buonaparte, they were surprized at hearing an Italian air sung in a most musical voice: Mr. Camelford turned pale, and in the next instant a blushing crimson flew into his face; he grasped the hand of his brother in an agitation which that gentleman could by no means account for; and exclaimed, "Oh! Henry, those words have conjured up in my mind recollections which, to preserve my peace, I have been striving to bury in oblivion; did you not hear that air? it was a favourite one with my dear departed wife, and I could almost fancy I hear her now; Pray, Sir," addressing himself to Doctor Lewis, the gentleman to whose hos-



pitality they had been obliged, "what is the name of the lady who has been singing?"

"That, Sir, I am unacquainted with," replied the doctor, "I am a physician, the lady you have heard is under mental derangement, she was placed under my care something more than three years since, by the countess of Gaywood, whose seat is a short distance from Margate, on the Ramsgate road, and who regularly visits her once a month; on my first taking charge of her, the disorder was in the highest state of irritation, inasmuch as to compel me to use gentle coercion, and the straight waistcoat; latterly she has appeared in a more conva-



lescent state, and I have now no doubt of her perfect recovery."

"That she is a foreigner, and as I should suppose from what I have collected during her raving, of some distinction," continued the doctor, "I have no doubt, but of what country I could never make out; she now sits for hours sighing and weeping profusely, from which I derive my principal hopes of her ultimate recovery, and her only amusement is singing, which she does incessantly, and, hark! she has now began another air."

They attentively listened to the sweet melody till it was finished; when Mr. Camelford starting up,



cried out, "it can be no other, it must be the voice of my dearly beloved Matilda; will you, my good Sir, allow me to see your patient? indeed I am deeply interested in your determination, for I am fully persuaded it is the wife I have long mourned."

"Young gentleman," replied the doctor, "let me request you will moderate your spirits, I will permit you to see the lady, but you must give me your solemn assurance that you will not, should it prove to be the person you so sanguinely expect she is, betray those emotions you have hitherto shewn; for should she meet with any sudden alarm, I tremble for the consequences, pro-



bably they would be fatal: at any rate, the irritation of her complaint would be increased, and her state of mind again become outrageous.”

The two gentlemen were then conducted into an apartment on the first floor, in one of the pannels of which was an internal window, with a green silk curtain before it; Mr. Camelford lifted up the curtain, but he had no sooner applied his eye to the glass than he fell senseless into the arms of his brother, and in this state, was, with the assistance of Dr. Lewis, conveyed to the room they had left.

Restoratives being administered by the doctor, he requested him to



take some light refreshment, and repose himself for an hour or two; “No, Sir,” he replied, “I can neither eat, drink, or sleep, till I have further information respecting my dear wife, for the poor altered emaciated object I have just beheld is no other; my dear brother, see that the carriage is ready, I will visit Lady Gaywood instantly, and learn all she knows of her; and, oh! my dear Sir, exert all your skill to restore your unfortunate patient; for ah! what a state have I recovered her in, almost could I wish that she had met a watery grave, rather than to have her linger out the remainder of her life in an imbecile existence.”

The carriage being now repaired,



and having received the doctor's directions to Lady Gaywood's seat, with a letter of introduction from him to that lady, the two gentlemen, instead of pursuing their road into Worcestershire, retraced their way back to Margate, where having procured four fresh horses, and ordering the drivers to use the utmost expedition, they set off at a rapid pace for Belmont Grove.

On their arrival, they were informed that her ladyship was gone to dine with a lady in the neighbourhood; but on Mr. Camelford telling the servant he had business of the utmost importance with her, which that letter would explain, putting Dr. Lewis's letter into his



hand, the footman requested the gentlemen to walk in, and he would order a groom to take the letter to her ladyship; who, he was sure, if the business was urgent, would return home; as the lady she was visiting was a particular friend, with whom his lady would not stand on ceremony.

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## CHAPTER XVI.

**I**MPATIENTLY did Mr. Camelford wait upwards of two hours, when the sound of wheels reached his ear, and running to the window he saw the carriage draw up, and two ladies alight from it, one whom he supposed to be about the age of fifty, and whom he imagined to be her ladyship, was a fine woman, rather inclined to *en bon point*; the other appeared about one or two and twenty, and was very beautiful. Only her ladyship entered the parlour, where the brothers were seated, and after politely welcoming



them to the Grove, said, " I find from my friend Dr. Lewis's letter, that I am honoured with the company of the two Mr. Camelfords ; early in life I had the happiness to be acquainted with Sir Philip and Lady Camelford, and I am particularly happy in receiving a visit from the sons of such estimable friends : it is many years since I have seen Sir Philip, my deceased lord having been appointed to a diplomatic situation to the court of Lisbon, soon after my marriage, where we resided some years, and since his death I have lived very retired at this seat. Dr. Lewis has partly informed me of the nature of the business which has procured me the honour of this visit, but my servant



informs me you have taken no refreshment, allow me to order in some wine and sandwiches."

"Madam," Mr. Camelford replied, "your ladyship must excuse my declining your polite offer till my enquiries are satisfied; I have made a resolution neither to eat or sleep till I have gained the information I expect to receive from your ladyship."

"I understand you," rejoined her ladyship, "you come to make enquiries after my poor maniac, Dr. Lewis informs me thus much in his letter, and I shall have pleasure in giving you all the information in my power respecting her."



“My brother,” said Mr. Lowdon, “is peculiarly interested in the fate of that unfortunate lady; he has an idea she is one with whom he is intimately connected, and your ladyship will confer an everlasting obligation on us both, by giving us the recital you have promised; though I must own my expectations that she will prove to be the person he supposes, are not so sanguine as his.”

“Not to keep your anxiety in suspense then,” replied Lady Gaywood, “nearly four years since, being in a bad state of health, my physician recommended sea bathing; disliking the bustle and confusion of Brighton, Margate, and other popular watering places, I



ordered a machine to be conveyed to a small fishing village near Dover, where I hired a neat cottage. It was my custom to bathe very early in the morning when the tide would serve: one morning as I was on the sands, just going into the machine, attended by my female servant, a fishing boat with two men in it came to land; they beckoned to us and requested we would come to them, as they had a drowned lady in their boat. Not having the ridiculous fears that some females of rank have, or pretend to have, I hesitated not to comply with their request; I found as they had said, a female in the boat apparently dead; however, I requested they would lose no time in con-



veying her to my cottage, where my medical attendant was in waiting; suffice it to say, that after two hours application, of the means directed by the humane society, signs of re-animation appeared; by persisting in his endeavours, the surgeon, after long exertion, informed me that the patient with proper attention would, he thought, recover; that attention I would not depute to another: I watched by her bedside the whole of the day and following night, only withdrawing myself to take necessary refreshment. After four days attendance, I had the happiness to find my patient out of bodily danger; but, alas! her mental powers were gone, I feared never to return; she raved



perpetually in Italian of “her child, her Roberto, and her Philippo.”

“ Ah! my lady,” interrupted Mr. Camelford, “ these names assure me it is my Matilda, my beloved, my angelic wife, whom you have rescued from the grave; but, oh! what a wretched state do I find her in, better had it been I had lost her for ever.”

“ Mr. Camelford,” said her ladyship, “ why will you distrust the mercies of Omnipotence; cannot that Providence which made me the instrument of preserving her life, also restore her mental faculties? for shame, Sir, recall the impious wish, and solicit pardon for having



imbibed it: but I beg your pardon, I have no right to dictate to you, your own good sense will, I am sure, do that office, and convince you of the impropriety you have been guilty of, and I make every allowance for your situation."

"Your ladyship will have the goodness," said Mr. Lowdon, "I am persuaded, to excuse the expression my brother has been betrayed into, his feelings have been acutely agitated, and I am assured, in his calmer moments, he will be convinced he acted wrong in arraigning the decrees of Providence."

"Now, Gentlemen," said Lady Gaywood, "as you have received



every intelligence I have to give, you will have the goodness to accompany me to the dining room, for to tell you the truth I left Mrs. Howard just as her dinner was placed on the table; and I will introduce you to my niece."

She then led the way, and on entering the room, found the young lady whom Mr. Camelford had seen get out of the carriage, to whom her ladyship said "Maria, my dear, give me leave to introduce the two Mr. Camelfords to you; gentlemen, this is Miss Everard."

The lady and Mr. Lowdon looked earnestly at each other, and the former said "surely, Sir, I have



known you before, though not by the name of Camelford, and if I mistake not, you are Mr. Lowdon of Spanish Town.

That gentleman assured her that she was not mistaken, but that the error arose from Dr. Lewis's letter, who hearing them call each other brother, concluded that they bore the same name, and as such, had announced them both by the name of Camelford to Lady Gaywood.



## CHAPTER XVII.

OUR young readers are doubtless impatient to hear something more of their friend, *little Bob*, as he has been formerly called <sup>as sl.</sup> <sup>em re-</sup> strain their curiosity for <sup>with</sup> <sup>short</sup> time and it shall be satisfied <sup>for</sup> the present we must confine <sup>which</sup> a little longer in Kent, and we will then take a flight into <sup>V. S.</sup> <sup>cester-</sup> shire.

Lady Gaywood insisted on her two visitors taking beds at Belmont Grove <sup>advising</sup> them that on that condition <sup>therefore</sup> would on the follow-



ing day accompany them to the house of Dr. Lewis; matters being thus arranged, they spent as comfortable an evening as the frequent allusion to the situation the sad invalid would allow; Mr. Lowdon and Miss Everard, it appeared, had been acquainted in Jamaica, where her faring brother, Gaywood's brother, conducted a considerable planter; she on the affairs of that island furnished a considerable fund for conversation, and prevented their dwelling too much on distressing subjects.

As it had been determined on the foregoing evening, the whole party after breakfast, set off for the house of the worthy physician. When arrived there a company of



place respecting the method in which they proceed towards his patient. The doctor advised that Mr. Lowdon, between whom and his brother there was a strong family resemblance should by Lady Good be conducted to her; to that lady she paid attention, and as she spoke Italian, had conversed with her in abstracted sentences, when a lucid interval of a few minutes, which was sometimes the case, admitted of it; at which times she seemed more partial to her ladyship, than to any other, and at her request would sometimes sing to her.

Her ladyship and that gentleman were therefore by the doctor taken



to her apartment; on their entrance she earnestly gazed at Mr. Lowdon, and heaving a deep sigh, exclaimed "Jesu Maria;" but the emotion was momentary, for she immediately turned to Lady Gaywood, and began singing; her ladyship attempted to draw her attention towards herself, but in vain, she continued her air, and tying up a ribbon she had in her hand fixed it on her left side, then sat down and wept.

Dr. Lewis would not allow her visitors to remain longer with her, but wished them to see her again in about two or three hours, when it was not improbable, they might find her ideas better arranged, and it being a clear frosty morning the



party resolved during the interval to take a stroll towards the sea.

On their return, the doctor, accompanied by the same two of the party who had before seen her, again visited the forlorn Lady Matilda; it was proposed that Mr. Lowdon should take an opportunity of displaying the locket formerly mentioned, and which his brother had constantly worn suspended by a ribbon, to her notice, if an opportunity presented; they found her still employed adjusting the ribbon they before had seen in her hand; she looked intently on Mr. Lowdon, who begged she would permit him to examine her work, she gave the ribbon into his



hand, which he, after pretending to admire, adroitly slipped into his pocket, and substituted that to which the locket was attached, in its stead, and returned to her; at first she gazed on it with mute attention, when uttering a shriek, with the exclamation, "Deo Gracioso!" she sunk into a swoon: Dr. Lewis desired every one would leave the room, except the female who attended her, and himself, which of course was complied with.

Some time elapsed before Dr. Lewis joined them, and when he did, he gave them the following account:—"Her fainting fit," said he, "continued about a quarter of an hour, on opening her eyes she



looked earnestly at the locket, which she had retained in her hand, and I could perceive that her eyes were a good deal divested of the wildness they had before exhibited ; I suffered her to ponder some time intently on the locket, when perceiving a favourable moment, I took her hand, and asked how she found herself, she did not immediately reply, but seeming to recollect herself, answered hesitatingly, I cannot tell, I have strange ideas, I have seen a ship on fire, I thought I had lost this locket, ah ! my poor Lucetta ! she then resumed her wanderings, and talked incoherently of the Duke her father, and falling out of a boat ; and concluded as she al-



ways has been accustomed, with the names of Philippo and Roberto. She now appears more composed, and I would advise that your ladyship and Mr. Lowdon should again see her, after you have partaken of a plain family dinner with me ; but I must decidedly prohibit Mr. Camelford from seeing her this day ; to-morrow, perhaps, I may be more conformable to that gentleman's wishes."

All according with the propriety of the doctor's plan, it was unanimously agreed to be adopted ; and towards evening, they again repaired to the lady's apartment ; she appeared much more collected than they had yet seen her, she replied with precision to some questions



put to her ; and on Lady Gaywood asking her, if she knew Mr. Lowdon, she again viewed him with attention, and replied, “ he is very like my Philippo, but no, it is not him, he had black piercing eyes, and this gentleman’s are blue. Lady Gaywood requested she would allow them to take coffee with her, to which she assented by a gentle movement of the head ; and the doctor having whispered her ladyship not to lead her into much conversation, the repast was almost a silent one, till on Mr. Lowdon requesting a little more sugar, she raised her eyes with a degree of rapidity, and said, “ how much alike to the voice of my dear Philippo, but no, he has blue eyes,”



and again assumed her abstracted inattention.

On their retiring, Dr. Lewis remarked to them, that he had never seen her so rational, and that his expectations of a speedy recovery, he had great hopes, the morrow would realize; when it was his intention to introduce Mr. Camelford to her, from which, as she was in some degree prepared, by the sight of Mr. Lowdon, he had the happiest anticipation; but he must request that gentleman to be extremely cautious and guarded, and not to suffer his feelings to betray him into any excess either of joy or sorrow, declaring that in such an event, he would not be answerable for the consequences.



## CHAPTER XVIII.

AGREEABLE to the determination of the foregoing evening, Mr. Camelford was substituted for his brother in the morning's visit; Lady Matilda did not at first notice the exchange, both being similarly dressed, and nearly of the same stature; when fixing a penetrating look on his features, she exclaimed, "it can be no other, it is my beloved Philippo!" and sprung into his arms, the tears fast streaming down her palid cheek. "This is well," said Dr. Lewis to Lady Gaywood, "this copious shower of tears will assist



nature, and we shall soon have a perfect renovation of mental recollection.

Enfolded in each others arms for some time, the agitated pair continued ; when Mr. Camelford assuming as great a placidity as his disturbed feelings would admit, led her to her seat, and drawing another chair, placed himself by her side, still holding one of her hands in his. With an expression in her countenance, to which it had long been a stranger, she said, " I have had some dismal dreams, am I now awake? is it my own Philippo that I behold? or do I still continue to dream ?



“It is your own Philipppo,” said Mr. Camelford, “and you are my beloved Matilda, dearer, much dearer to me than when the priest first joined our hands; but compose yourself, my love, let not the happiness of this meeting overpower you; take this glass of hartshorn, and be assured that a long continuance, I trust, of perfect happiness awaits us.” Dr. Lewis requested he would leave Lady Gaywood and himself with his patient for some little time, when he should be again admitted; when she cried out with a vehemence that alarmed the doctor, “Oh! no! no! no! not till he has answered me one question, where, where is—you know who



it is I would enquire for, where is the dear pledge of our loves, our beloved Roberto ?

“Assure yourself, my Matilda, our dear boy is safe,” replied her husband, “and is at this instant with my father, at Abbotsfield Park, where I left him happily situated but a week since ; and to which place, as soon as my dear wife is able to support the journey, I will convey her ; where she will be received with affectionate attention by Sir Philip, who will, I am sure, be proud of his daughter.”

Fearful that a longer conversation might be prejudicial to his patient, the doctor again urged the propriety



of his withdrawing for a short time, and Lady Matilda was left to the attentions of her two kind friends. No fears of a relapse were now entertained by her medical attendant, provided her mind was kept unagitated; and the event confirmed the correctness of his judgment. After arranging her dress, she joined the two brothers and Miss Everard in the parlor, and the remainder of the day was spent with the utmost harmony; and on the respective parts of the two persons most interested, with a delight undescribable.

It was thought proper that the convalescent should not again be in the room which she had inhabited during her malady, to prevent her



recurring to former circumstances ; she was therefore removed to an airy room on the other side of the house, which commanded an extensive view of the Surrey and Sussex hills, and as a gentle frost had set in, the prospect, though at the latter end of November, was cheering, and by no means unpleasant : here the two ladies accompanied her, and conversed on such subjects as they thought would draw off her attention from occurrences which might operate too powerfully on her newly recovered faculties : whilst the gentlemen arranged future proceedings. A week at least, the doctor remarked, would be necessary to her relaxed state, before any attempt at removal should take



place; and it was resolved that Mr. Lowdon should take a hired chaise, and proceed into Worcestershire, to make Sir Philip acquainted with the interesting events that had taken place, leaving their own carriage for the conveyance of Mr. Camelford and his lady; but on this arrangement being made known to Lady Gaywood, she put a decided negative on it, by saying that Mr. Lowden should take his own carriage, and that she would convey Mr. and Lady Matilda Camelford in her coach to Abbotsfield Park, and that her niece should accompany them: as the former gentleman and Miss Everard had been much left *tete-a-tete*, by the attendance of the other parties on the in-



Gaywood, the present happy issue to former calamities had been obtained.

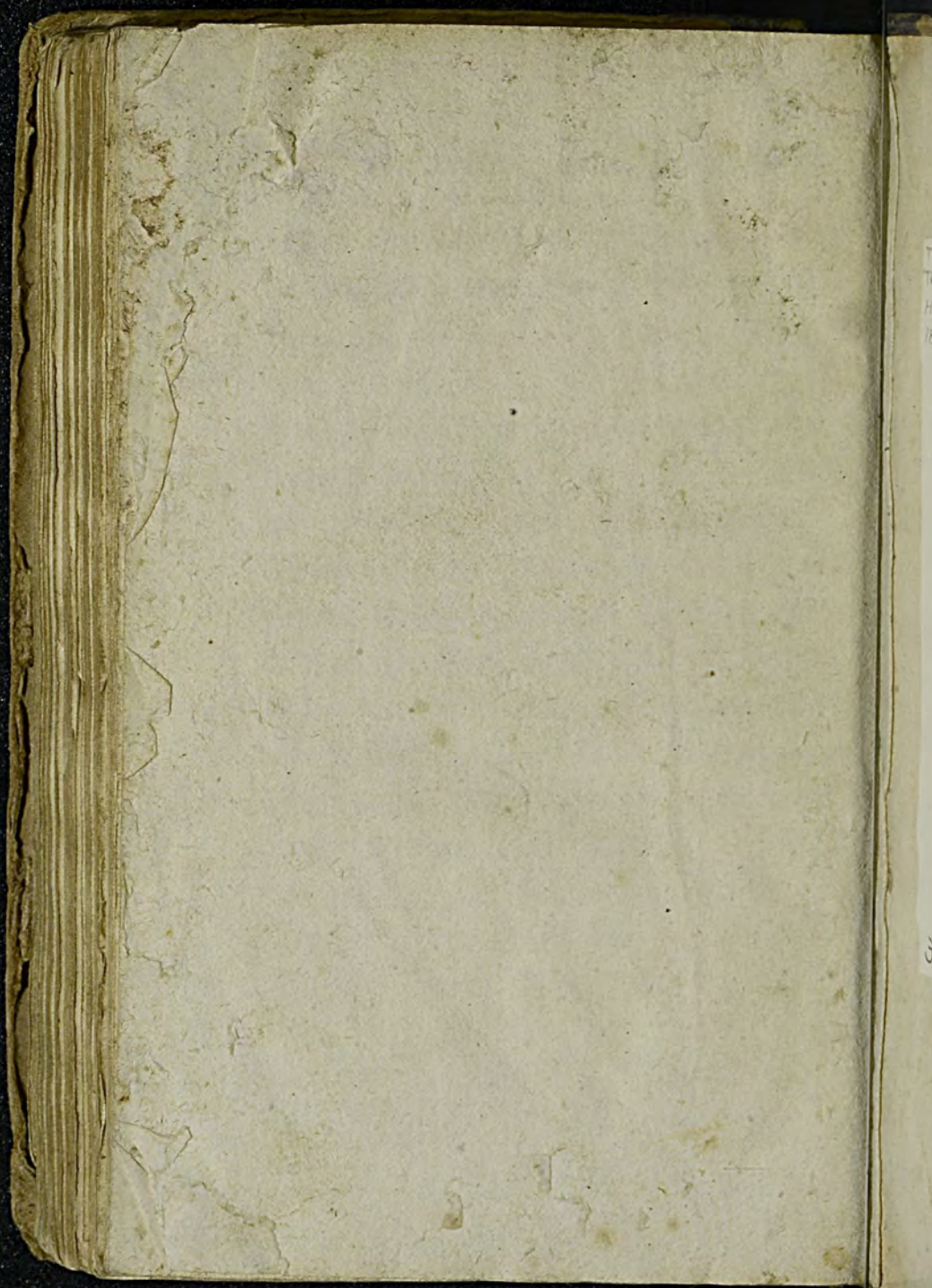
The little hero of these pages continued to exhibit every virtue that his juvenile years had predicted: Master Tranter was quite an altered young man, and was become one of his warmest admirers; in short so much was he honoured and respected, that the whole county of Worcester rung with the praises of **LITTLE BOB!**

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