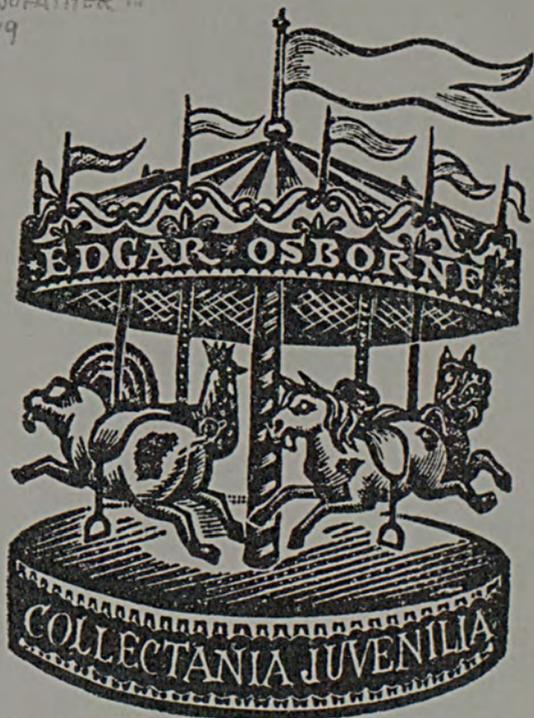


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*Frances Mitchell*

J. Mitchell

THE  
**GRANDFATHER :**  
OR, THE  
**CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS.**

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A Tale.

By E. SANDHAM,

Author of the "Twin Sisters," "School Fellows," and other  
approved Works.

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Second Edition.

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"Happiness and true philosophy  
Are of the smiling, social, kind."  
THOMSON.

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1819.

THE  
GRAND  
OF THE  
CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS

BY R. BARNHAM

Author of "The Two Towers," "The School of the Holy Spirit," and other  
works.

Second Edition

Printed and Published by  
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LONDON

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FLEET-STREET, LONDON.

1847

ADVERTISEMENT.

THE Author hopes that the title of her Book will procure it a kind reception from all her young readers. She can assure them that the few anecdotes she has selected from the Grecian History, are but as the meanest flowers in the garden of Literature; and to this study she would direct their attention, not as a task to be performed, but as an agreeable instructive amusement; and though

“The Grandfather” may then be laid aside for the knowledge it contains, yet the recollection that it was in the perusal of this book, that they first acquired an insight into so pleasing a recreation, may, it is presumed, secure it their favourable opinion, and their recommendation to others.

## CONTENTS.

---

- Chap. I.—Account of Mr. Wilkinson's Family,  
and their means of improvement.
- Chap. II.—Letter, with an account of Aristides.  
Remarks on his conduct.
- Chap. III.—Visit to the Nursery. Christmas  
presents.
- Chap. IV.—Letter, with Anecdotes from Grecian  
History.
- Chap. V.—Skaiting. Twelfth-day Amusements.  
Walk of the Children. Their Ad-  
venture; they bring home some  
Strangers.
- Chap. VI.—Kindness to the Distressed. Death  
of the poor Man; and Adoption of  
his Grandchild into the Family.
- Chap. VII.—Letter, with an Account of Ly-  
curgus and his Laws. Foundation  
of Sparta.

CONTENTS.

- Chap. VIII.—Generosity of the young Ladies.  
Family Secrets. Account of Thermopylæ; and extracts from the Travels of Anacharsis the Younger.
- Chap. IX.—Departure of George. Children's Quarrels; Punishment and Reconciliation. Kitty's Gratitude to her former Friends.
- Chap. X.—Letter, with an Account of Socrates.  
Conversation occasioned by it.  
Pleasurable Excursion of the Boys.  
Kitty introduced to more Friends.
- Chap. XI.—Epitome of the Grecian History.  
The Boys return to School. Separation of the Families.

THE  
GRANDFATHER;  
OR,  
THE CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS.

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CHAP. I.

“The touch of kindred too, and love he feels.”  
THOMSON.

MR. WILKINSON was the Grandfather of two families; and having a very considerable fortune, he devoted the largest part of it to their advantage and amusement, and in return he possessed the sincere affection of all his family. Though now far advanced in years, he had none of that sour moroseness, which too many young people are taught to expect from their older relations: his manners were such as endeared him to all his acquaintance; and there was a whimsical

singularity in his conversation and ideas, which made him interesting and agreeable. His memory also was excellent, and he often entertained his young companions with anecdotes of his childish days, to which they listened with pleasure. They often begged for a repetition of his stories, and the time for visiting their Grandfather was anticipated with satisfaction by all his numerous progeny.

He had lost his wife when young, and from that time had lived a retired life with two sons, who, except the time they were at school, were never from him. Their education was in a large, though not a public school, and each, with their father's approbation, married early in life, and were settled near him, on estates which he had purchased for them on their coming of age, and contiguous to his own, on which he resided, and which had descended from father to son through many generations.

His domestics, by whom he was universally beloved, were most of them as old as himself, and had grown grey-headed in his service; even the *young* gentlemen, as they styled the younger Mr. Wilkinsons, were remembered by them as children, and had often been to and from school under the care of the old butler, who now considered himself as equally responsible for the safety of their children, whenever they were in the house; and was never so happy as when they sought his company for a walk, or required him to give them an account of what their fathers used to do when they were boys.

Mr. John Wilkinson was the eldest son, and had married a lady of fortune and superior education, yet she was more anxious her daughters should obtain a thorough knowledge of what was useful, than that they should shine in exterior accomplishments.

Their family consisted of two boys, and

three girls; the youngest of whom was ten years old, and the eldest seventeen: their brothers, Thomas and William, were at an excellent classical school, where they retained that affection for their sisters and cousins, which in a family so united as theirs might reasonably be expected.

The young ladies were placed under the care of a well-informed governess, from whom they received a more valuable education than the best masters in music, drawing, and dancing could have given them; and these accomplishments they were contented to learn, from country professors. Of music they knew but just enough to amuse themselves, and their younger cousins when they spent a winter evening together; and except that Myra, the second girl, having shewn a taste for drawing, was allowed a master in that art, none other attended his lessons, as both Mr. and Mrs. Wilkinson thought it useless

to have their children taught that which they had no genius for, and therefore would afford them no pleasure when learned. The education they received from Mrs. Maitlane, which was the name of their governess, was such as rendered them capable of amusing their companions by their conversation, without having recourse to the instrument, or cards; which are generally produced to hide a deficiency of knowledge in every thing else. History, chronology, and geography were their favourite studies; and reading, writing, and arithmetic, their principal amusements.

The children of the younger Mr. Wilkinson, who had married the daughter of a farmer in the neighbourhood, and whose amiable manners amply compensated for her want of fortune, were more numerous; being four boys, and four girls. Ellen, the youngest of the latter, was in her fifth year, having two brothers younger

than herself. The eldest boy was sixteen, and a midshipman in the navy; while the other son, Ferdinand, was at school with his cousins. Caroline, Emily, and Jane, were brought up at home, on the same plan as the eldest Mrs. Wilkinson's children, and under the care of Mrs. Maitlane's daughter. Caroline was fourteen, and the two others, twelve and seven; but as I suppose it may be agreeable to my young readers to have a more circumstantial account of each family, it may be seen in the following list:—

*Mr. John Wilkinson's children.*

Sophia, aged .....	17 years
Myra, .....	15
Thomas, .....	14
William, .....	12
Charlotte, .....	10

*Mr. George Wilkinson's children.*

George, aged.....	16	years.
Caroline, .....	14	
Emily, .....	12	
Ferdinand, .....	9	
Jane, .....	7	
Ellen, .....	5	
Charles, .....	3	
David, .....	1	

Making in the whole thirteen children, and to have all these in his house together, was one of the greatest pleasures the old gentleman could now enjoy. It was for this reason, that the whole, or part of each vacation of the boys were spent with him. At their Grandfather's both families met twice a year; and at these times Mrs. and Miss Maitlane were looked upon as kind friends, joining in the general joy, rather than instructors; nor were the hours of attendance on them so strictly

regarded as when they were at home. Mr. Wilkinson's mansion was large enough to receive all the party; and one wing of it was set apart for the reception of the younger children, and their servants. Here their fond Grandfather often visited them, and felt an increased satisfaction on observing the union between the two families, which was inculcated and promoted by the parents of each.

In the summer holidays the boys were scattered over the farm, talking to the bailiff or some of the various men who were employed in it; and when they met at dinner each vied with the other in giving the best account of what was going on to their Grandfather; whose attachment to his husbandry and patrimonial estate, could only be exceeded by that which he felt for his children's children, and whom he hoped

would long enjoy it after him. "I would have them know every tree upon it," said he; "and there should not be a young oak, whether sapling or planted, since they were able to remember, that they should not know its age, and how it came where it is." The girls also from their infancy were perfectly acquainted with all the most beautiful spots near the house; and had often, at different times, walked over every part of the estate, with Mrs. Maitlane.

It was generally the daughters of Mr. John Wilkinson, and Caroline, and Emily, with these ladies, who made the walking party; unless joined by either of their mothers; and not seldom had they walked a mile or two before breakfast.

The younger children were more immediately under the care of their servants; but every day after dinner, they also made their appearance in the great hall, in which

the whole family took their meals, with as many of the younger ones as were allowed to dine in the parlour at home. The windows were to the ground, and opened on a lawn before the house. These were thrown open whenever the weather would permit; and it was considered rather as a compliment than otherwise by the old gentleman, if any of his tenantry or work people stopped, as they passed the house, to view him thus surrounded, like the ancient patriarchs, with all his family about him. After they had eaten as much fruit as they liked, the children all went upon the lawn, where also their Grandfather's easy chair was carried, and he sat watching their various sports, with as much pleasure as those who were engaged in them, while the parents of each party beheld the scene with double gratification as they perceived the pleasure it afforded him.

All was gaiety and hilarity, nor were the children of the labourers excluded from their sports, if they happened to be near the place, and looked with a wishful eye to be allowed to join them.

Mrs. Maitlane was the widow of an officer with whom Mr. Wilkinson had been well acquainted; and who was killed in an engagement with the enemy, leaving Maria, their only daughter, then about seventeen, destitute of fortune. He had given her an expensive, but not a useless education, as it now enabled her to take the charge of the younger Mr. Wilkinson's daughters. Mrs. Maitlane's income was only her pension as an officer's widow, and she found in the family of Mr. Wilkinson, an asylum from the mortifications she might have met with in the world, and sincere friends in every branch of it. At the same time, she and her daughter could reflect with satisfaction, that they were giving them an equal proof of

friendship in the office they sustained, and rendering themselves useful members of society.

I have before said that the elder Mrs. Wilkinson was accomplished, and Mrs. Maitlane possessed an accurate knowledge of more valuable acquirements; while as Mrs. George Wilkinson had received none of these advantages, Miss Maitlane was a valuable acquisition in her family, and both ladies were fully sensible of the benefits their families derived from these amiable persons.

When each family were at home, they were twelve or fourteen miles apart; and they seldom met but at their Grandfather's, whose house was situated at about an equal distance from each. His sons were seldom a day without one or the other paying him a visit, and twice in the year their children were sure of seeing each other there.

It was at a Christmas vacation that the

party assembled, of which I am now to give an account, and which was rendered still more interesting by the return of George from his first voyage, and who had been at sea nearly a twelvemonth.

The recovery of the old gentleman also from a severe cold, which they feared would prevent his receiving them till he insisted on his being well enough to admit of their coming, added to the pleasure they expected. His own carriage was sent for the younger part of the family, and their nurses, while the mother and three daughters came in their own. At dinner they were joined by Mr. John Wilkinson and his family; and their venerable parent had once more to congratulate himself on seeing them all around him. The sight of George, whose heart glowed with affection for the whole party, was an additional pleasure, after so long an absence. He had already paid a visit

to the farm, shook hands with all the old servants, and listened with unfeigned regret to the tales they had to tell him of the death of one or two while he was away; and he could now scarcely bear to sit at table, and be waited upon by the hoary-headed Butler, who had more pleasure in being thus employed than in any thing else, and would on no account resign his station to a younger servant.

The boys had planned many rambles over the grounds, in which the females were to accompany them; but unfortunately a heavy fall of snow, which continued two or three days, put a stop to their intention, and nearly blocked up all the avenues to the house. Though confined to a much smaller space on board a ship, George was at first inclined to murmur at the deprivation this had occasioned; but the company of his sisters and cousins soon reconciled him to his situation.

Battledore and shuttlecock, with the ball, the cup and ball, and the bandalore, passed their leisure hours away, and as soon as the snow had ceased, the boys made many attempts to walk out, but the ladies were still confined within.

Their evenings would have been devoted to dancing, had not they feared the noise and motion would have been too much for their Grandfather; who did not like to give up their society, and with all the earnestness of youth insisted on spending the greatest part of his time with them.

“It may be the last time,” said he, “that we may meet together in this world; and if it is, let my grand-children have to say, that their Grandfather, though above seventy years old, never grew tired of their company; but enjoyed it as much the last time they were here, as at the first, which is now I believe nearly

eighteen years ago. The party, to be sure, has been greatly increased since then; but my house is still able to hold more, and my heart as open to them as ever."

The countenances of all around bore witness to their grateful sense of his kindness; and all were anxious to contribute to his amusement, as far as was in their power.

It was one of the means which Mrs. Maitlane had suggested, for the improvement of her pupils, to engage them to write to their cousins an account of what was most remarkable in the course of their reading: and Miss Maitlane encouraged her young ones to do the same, as it not only gave them a facility in writing, but added to their knowledge, and helped to strengthen their memory.

"I would not have you study for the graces of composition," said Mrs. Maitlane: "those only are real beauties which appear

unsought for ; but an accuracy of style, and grammatical precision, is as proper for our sex, as for the other, whose profession and avocations in life make it necessary that their studies should be more enlarged. It is sufficient for us if we amuse without offending the rules of propriety, grammar, or a sound taste."

With these instructions the young people were allowed and encouraged to write to each other ; and when they met their letters were again read to the whole party ; and Mrs. Maitlane commended or discommended them as she saw necessary. Some of the best of this juvenile correspondence was now brought forward, at the request of old Mr. Wilkinson, and the conversation they occasioned passed away many hours, which, had he been in better health, would have been otherwise employed.

When the reading began the younger

children returned to their own apartments, where they amused themselves till their bed time, in what was more suitable to their age. They played, and made as much noise as they liked, for here they could not be heard by their Grandfather, and their pleasure was often heightened by the company of one or two of their elder cousins.

In my next chapter I shall give my readers a specimen of one of the letters I have mentioned, and hope they will not find it either uninstrucive or unentertaining.

## CHAP. II.

“Aristides lifts his honest front  
 “Spotless of heart; to whom th’ unflattering voice  
 “Of freedom, gave the noblest name of just.”

THOMSON.

AFTER they had listened for several evenings to George’s account of the ship, and the manner of living in it; of the dangers he had encountered, and the pleasures he had enjoyed; Mrs. Maitlane, on perceiving that this conversation no longer amused old Mr. Wilkinson, proposed reading a letter of the young folks, “And which,” said she, addressing herself to him, “will I am sure need no apology to you, Sir; as your partiality to the writers will enable you to overlook their faults, should they be still more numerous than, I trust, you will find them.” The letter selected for this evening’s amusement

was written by Myra to Caroline, and was as follows:—

“ My dear Cousin,

“ You are I believe just beginning  
“ the history of Greece; we have just  
“ finished it, and are now reading, in  
“ Rollin’s Belles Lettres, an account of  
“ Aristides. Mrs. Maitlane tells me to re-  
“ mark his character, and to beg you  
“ will pay great attention to it, when you  
“ read of him.

“ He was fully deserving of the appella-  
“ tion of ‘ the Just,’ and was cotemporary  
“ with Themistocles, about four hundred  
“ and ninety years before Christ. It is evi-  
“ dent his love of justice made that general  
“ his enemy, as Themistocles was so anxious  
“ to gain the superiority over the Lace-  
“ demonians for the Athenians, that he did  
“ not always attend to the rules of probity  
“ and honour; and for this reason he  
“ procured the banishment of Aristides.

“ And here Mrs. Maitlane tells me to  
 “ ask if you are acquainted with nature of  
 “ Ostracism, or the mode of banishment  
 “ at that time? It was by each person’s  
 “ writing the name of the one they in-  
 “ tended to banish on a shell, and throwing  
 “ them together.

“ The consent of six thousand citizens  
 “ at the least, were necessary for a con-  
 “ demnation of this kind; nor did it  
 “ consist of a perpetual banishment, but  
 “ for the term of ten years only; and  
 “ this was often lessened at the request  
 “ of the people; which was the case in  
 “ regard to Aristides; whom Themis-  
 “ tocles (although he had been the prin-  
 “ cipal author of his banishment,) on  
 “ finding his countrymen regretted his  
 “ absence, recalled by a decree, which  
 “ allowed all exiles to return before the  
 “ appointed time, in order that they might  
 “ assist at the battle of Salamis.

“ This condemnation was not considered  
“ as degrading, or inflicted for any crime ;  
“ but as the government consisted of a  
“ Democracy, it was thought advisable to  
“ remove from the country any noted citi-  
“ zen, who either by his virtues or victories  
“ became too much in favour with the  
“ people ; lest too great a power should  
“ be placed in his hands, and the govern-  
“ ment imperceptibly changed into a  
“ Monarchy.

“ A banishment like this, therefore,  
“ might rather be considered as a proof  
“ of general esteem than as any disgrace ;  
“ though no doubt it was often made  
“ to serve the purpose of envy or secret  
“ revenge : neither were the citizens thus  
“ banished deprived of the rights of their  
“ country : they still preserved the enjoy-  
“ ment and disposal of their estates, to  
“ which they were sure of returning if they  
“ out-lived the term of their exile.

“ It is probable that these considerations  
 “ induced Aristides to act as he did, when  
 “ the peasant who could not write, and did  
 “ not know his person, asked him to put  
 “ the name of Aristides upon a shell for  
 “ him. ‘ Why ?’ said Aristides, ‘ has he  
 “ done you any injury ?’ ‘ None at all,’  
 “ answered the man : ‘ neither do I know  
 “ him, but I cannot bear to hear every one  
 “ calling him the *just.*’ It is said that  
 “ Aristides complied with his request, with-  
 “ out informing him that he was the person.  
 “ ‘ He was,’ to use the words of the author  
 “ we are reading, ‘ a man born for the Re-  
 “ public : he did not wish to rule in Athens,  
 “ but to make Athens rule : and this he did,  
 “ not by wars and battles, but by making  
 “ the government pleasing to their allies.’

“ I must also relate another anecdote of  
 “ him, which shews his right to the title  
 “ given him ; but must first remind you that  
 “ he was recalled to Athens before the

“ battle of Salamis ; when the Athenians  
“ and Lacedemonians united their forces, to  
“ repel the excursions of Xerxes, and the  
“ Persian army ; it was at Salamis that  
“ Themistocles, from motives of po-  
“ licy, persuaded his countrymen to give  
“ up the command of the fleet to the  
“ Lacedemonians, though the Athenians  
“ had a juster claim to it, as two-thirds  
“ of the ships were theirs : and in the  
“ victory that the Greeks obtained in  
“ this engagement with the Persians,  
“ Themistocles gained all the honour,  
“ although he was but second in com-  
“ mand. This he obtained by attending  
“ to the advice and counsel of Aristides,  
“ who, on his return from banishment,  
“ went immediately to him, and said,  
“ ‘ When their country was in danger,  
“ it was not the time to remember pri-  
“ vate dissensions, but to promote the  
“ safety of Greece.’

“ The principal command of the fleet in  
 “ this battle was given to Euribiades, a  
 “ Spartan.

“ After this victory the Athenians did  
 “ not grow vain-glorious, for Aristides  
 “ was then in power ; and when Mardo-  
 “ nius, a Persian general, whom Xerxes  
 “ had left behind him, with three hundred  
 “ thousand men, to keep the Athenians  
 “ in awe, made them advantageous pro-  
 “ posals to draw off their forces from the  
 “ Lacedemonians, promising the former  
 “ the whole command of Greece, if they  
 “ would do this, Aristides repulsed the  
 “ offer with indignation, for it would have  
 “ been extremely unjust to abandon their  
 “ allies : but Themistocles could not so  
 “ readily give up the project he had long  
 “ formed of supplanting the Lacedemo-  
 “ nians.

“ Some time after this, in a large as-  
 “ sembly of the people, Themistocles de-

“ clared that he had a design of great  
“ importance to communicate ; the result  
“ of which would be greatly to their ad-  
“ vantage ; but as it was necessary it  
“ should be kept a secret, he desired them  
“ to appoint a person to whom he might  
“ make it known. Aristides was chosen  
“ with one consent, and the people una-  
“ nimously agreed to leave it to his deci-  
“ sion whether it was right or not to follow  
“ it.

“ The scheme was this ; to burn all the  
“ Grecian fleet which lay in a neigh-  
“ bouring port, and by so doing, Athens  
“ would become the mistress of all the  
“ kingdoms. Aristides returned to the  
“ people, only saying, ‘ that nothing  
“ could be more advantageous than the  
“ proposal of Themistocles ; but that  
“ nothing could be more *unjust*.’ On hear-  
“ ing this they all forbade him to proceed  
“ in it ; and here Mrs. Maitlane wishes

“ us particularly to remark, the good  
 “ effect which his example had on his  
 “ countrymen ; who could, from observing  
 “ his love of justice, give up a scheme  
 “ so promising of success, on account of  
 “ its failure in that virtue : and it is  
 “ also remarkable that Aristides after-  
 “ wards gained them that very superi-  
 “ ority, which Themistocles was endea-  
 “ vouring to acquire, though in a diffe-  
 “ rent manner.

“ In another instance also may be seen  
 “ the justice of Aristides, and that he  
 “ was worthy of the confidence his coun-  
 “ try reposed in him. He was appointed  
 “ to establish a new order for the support  
 “ of the army, by levying a tax accord-  
 “ ing to the revenue of every city and  
 “ person in it.

“ This he did with such equity, as to  
 “ give satisfaction to every one ; nor did  
 “ this great man grow *rich* in this employ-

“ment; for at his death he was so poor  
 “that the public charged themselves with  
 “his funeral expences, and the mainte-  
 “nance of his daughters, to whom he  
 “had not any thing to leave as a portion.  
 “He was always the object of envy  
 “to Themistocles, whose unbounded am-  
 “bition at last brought him to end his  
 “days in a dishonourable manner, in  
 “an enemy’s country: yet during his  
 “disgrace Aristides was never heard to  
 “exult over him, nor did any thing of  
 “that nature escape his lips. I have  
 “written a very long letter and can add  
 “no more.

“Yours, MYRA.”

“Whereshall we find an Aristides now?”  
 said the old gentleman, when the letter  
 was finished. “We have many patriots,  
 to be sure, in our country; but they all  
 want to enrich themselves, I believe; or

they are sadly traduced : I see you smile," continued he, addressing his sons ; " but I have done with politics long ago ; and will therefore ask the young people, who ruled in Athens after Aristides ?" " Cimon, Sir," answered Myra ; " who became popular, and corrected many vices in himself, by following the example of that just man, and attending to his counsels."

" In your letter, mention is made of the battle of Salamis," observed her father ; " can you tell its date, and where Salamis was situated ?" " The battle of Salamis was 480 years before Christ, papa," said Myra. " It was fought on account of the Persians having burnt the city of Athens, which was afterwards rebuilt. Salamis was in the Island of Cyprus. The Persian fleet was destroyed, but still an army of theirs was left in Thessaly, until the battle of Platea, which took place about three years after-

wards; and in which the Persians were entirely routed. I believe the city of Platea, which was very small, was in Thebes, or what was anciently called Bœotia; it was one of the twelve states of Greece; and in the map of ancient Greece, Platea is seen a little above Athens." "You are right," said Mrs. Maitlane; "and the Island of Cyprus is in the Levant, or the eastern part of the Mediterranean Sea; and the nearest island of any size to the coast of Asia. The Athenians fled thither after their city was burned."

## CHAP. III.

“ Seized by the general joy his heart distends.”

THOMSON.

THE next morning the old gentleman visited the children in the nursery, accompanied by Myra and George, on whose arm he leaned. “ Oh, Grandpapa !” said little Ellen, who had been accustomed to his visits, “ I am glad you are come. My doll is very ill; will you be the doctor? I think she has a fever, and I have put her to bed: pray walk softly.”

The good natured Grandfather obeyed the request; and readily entered into the fancy of his favourite—for if any of them bore that title, it was this little chatterer; who would sit whole hours on his knee, and say all she could think of for his amusement; particularly since she heard

that he had been unwell; and it is probable that it was the illness of her Grandfather which had given rise to that of her doll.

“How long has she been taken?” inquired he, with all becoming gravity, while the rest of the children stood round, highly pleased with their new physician. Having felt the doll’s pulse, and prescribed a remedy for her, he turned to the others, and asked if his advice was wanted any where else. “I wish my doll to *grow*, Grand papa,” said Jane: “she is such a *little* thing; and I am afraid she will never be any bigger. Can you do any thing in this case?”

“I fear not,” returned he, “unless I prescribe for you a new one, in her stead, one or two sizes larger; and if the remedy I have ordered for Ellen’s doll has no effect, which I rather doubt,” continued he, “I must do the same for her.” “Oh!” replied George, laughing,

“I’ll venture to say she will not recover now, Sir; you have absolutely signed her death-warrant.” “Not so, my dear cousin,” returned Myra: “though a new doll may have the pre-eminence, these may not be quite supplanted. But our little ones look as if they did not understand what has been said,” added she: “do you know, Jane, that you have been asking for a new doll?” “That I have not, cousin,” answered the little girl, with some degree of indignation; “I only said mine would not *grow*.” “Very true, my dear,” said her Grandfather, smiling at the violence of the offended child; “you did not mean any thing else, did you? But as it is my custom to make you all a present at this time of the year, I shall now know what to order for *you*; and for my little Ellen also, whose doll is, I am afraid, in too bad a state to recover.”

Ellen now began to comprehend his meaning: "And did you say you would buy a new doll for *me*, Grandpapa?" said she. "Thank you, oh thank you! I shall not care so much about *this then*." "But you should not forget your eldest child, my love," said Myra: "you will then have two dolls, and this will be better than one." "So it will, cousin," replied the little girl; "and Jane will have two also;—are you not glad, Jane?" "Yes," replied her sister, "and I am very much obliged to my Grandpapa: but I hope he does not think I asked for it."

Myra again laughed. "What, you cannot overlook that unlucky remark of mine, my little cousin?" said she: "but do not be angry: I did not mean that it was your intention; and as an atonement for my fault I will promise to make the clothes for your new doll, and get Caroline to help me." "And mine too," said Ellen;

“won't you dress my doll too?” “Yes, yes, my dear,” answered Myra, as she led them to another room, where they were expected by Miss Maitlane, to read a short lesson or two.

The fond Grandfather still continued to play with Charles and the baby, who was ready to spring out of his nurse's arms on being noticed by him. “Sweet little fellow,” said the delighted old man, “what shall I order for *you*? A small thing will please at your age. Nurse, what does he want?”

“Nothing, I hope, Sir,” replied she, holding him up with both her hands. “Does he look as if he did?” continued she, equally pleased and proud of her charge, whose appearance bespoke the care she took of him. “He shall have a rattle, then, or some such trifling toy,” said the old gentleman, “and his nurse something better, as a reward for her attention to him.” “Thank

you, Sir," said she, with a respectful curtsey. And now little Charles met his eye: "And you, my boy," said he to him, "what will *you* have?" "A hoop, Grandpapa, if you please; for Nurse says it will soon be frosty weather; and that when the snow is cleared away I can drive it up and down the gravel walk."

"A very judicious choice," said George, who was still present: "nothing can be better at this time of the year." "Do you ever trowl hoops at sea, brother?" asked the little boy, with great simplicity. George smiled at the question; but replied, "That he had not time for such amusements there." "Then I will not go with you the next time," returned the child; "for when I have got a new hoop I shall like to play with it."

"Very true, my dear," said his Grandfather, "and you shall soon have one." Then again shaking hands with the baby,

he took George's arm, and returned to his own apartments, saying, that when the rest of the family met at dinner, he must also know what their presents were to be.

“ You are very good, Sir,” said George, as he seated him in his arm-chair ; and leaving him with his mother and aunt, he went to seek his cousins Thomas and William, with whom, and his brother Ferdinand, he took a long walk, notwithstanding the snow was upon the ground, and some still falling. “ The wet and cold without endeared the warmth within ;” for on their return, and when dressed for dinner, they thought nothing could be more pleasant than the excellent meal which they now enjoyed.

“ A good fire and a good dinner,” said the old gentleman, on perceiving they were not insensible to these comforts, “ are very good things after a long walk. I remember I used to think so at your age ; and now I heartily wish every one had the same.”

“And what a blessing, my boys,” said one of the younger Mr. Wilkinsons, “is health and strength to walk as you have done this morning, and to enjoy it; and then to have such a comfortable home to come to, and a plentiful table provided for you. I hope you are all sufficiently sensible from whom these blessings come. How many are now languishing on a sick bed, or struggling with poverty; evils which we are at present unacquainted with.”

“We are indeed highly favoured by Providence,” said the old gentleman; “but the man that works for what he has, enjoys his humble meal after he has earned it, as much, if not more, than we do our plentiful one;—every day’s labour brings its daily supply; and they are as happy in their enjoyments as we are in ours. Their industry, and the temperance they are obliged to use, precludes them from many diseases which the rich are liable to. If

they are laid up for any time by illness or accident, it is hard if they do not find some kind friend to alleviate their distresses, and relieve their wants; and the very leisure they then enjoy, is a species of pleasure they are not at other times accustomed to: so, believe me, my dear children, the favours of Providence are not so unequally disposed as we are at first inclined to think."

The whole party assented to the truth of this observation; and Sophia expressed her pleasure that at least in *three* parishes, those in which her Father, Grandfather, and Uncle resided, there were no poor but had felt the benefit of kind friends to relieve their wants.

"Let us thank the bountiful Giver of all good," said her Grandfather, "who has bestowed on us the means and the inclination of being such; and lest this conversation should be too serious for our young sailor, let us all have a glass of wine, and drink

our good wishes to our poor neighbours, and that they may find friends in our offspring after we are gone." "We will all join in that toast, Sir," said George, with emotion; "and may it be long before they lose their present ones."

The Butler, who had stood behind his master's chair during the conversation, wiped his eyes, and secretly blessed the whole party; assured there was not a better family in all Christendom.

Dinner being ended, the four younger children were brought in. Mr. J. Wilkinson took his little nephew David upon his knee, and Charles edged himself in by his father, while Ellen sat on Mrs. Maitlane's lap, and Jane by her side.

"Grandpapa is going to give me and Jane each a new doll!" said Ellen, eager to communicate such pleasing intelligence. "And *me* a hoop!" exclaimed Charles; "will not that be nice, papa?"

“The four younger ones are provided for,” said their kind Grandfather; “but now, my other dear children, that we are all together, tell me what you would like. Christmas is the time you know to receive presents. Come, Ferdinand, you are the next youngest, what would you like?”

“Since you are so good as to ask me, Sir, I should like a peg-top,” said he; “for mine has been split a great while.” “You shall have it, my dear,” said his Grandfather. “Sophia, take out your pencil, and write down the various articles, lest I should forget them.”

“I see my cousin is not so provident, Sir,” said George, “and has not her pencil in her pocket; I will therefore take that office; and now,” said he, “Charlotte and Emily, what say you? the clerk is ready.”

“A cup and ball, or a bandalier, I should like,” replied Charlotte. “Oh! talk not of these!” exclaimed George, “while

there is a Devil upon two Sticks! I saw them at Plymouth; and they are all the rage now!" "What? what?" said they all, "pray, George, tell us what that is? We have never heard of such a thing!" "They tell me it is the most fashionable plaything lately invented," returned he; "but I have only seen it played within the shops where they are sold."

"They are very expensive, I doubt," said Mrs. Wilkinson, "*we* prefer cheap playthings. Country people, like us, should wait till they are more common; besides, the very name is enough to frighten us out of our wits."

"If the name is the only thing frightful about it," said the old gentleman, "we will soon get over that; and we will have one or two, let them cost what they will. No doubt those who make them, want the money. It is an harmless devil!—is it not, George?"

“ Yes, Sir,” said he, “ when kept at arm’s length, and properly managed.”

Two of these newly invented playthings were therefore ordered for Charlotte and Emily. When this was settled, and Thomas and William had chosen their presents, Caroline and Myra each bespoke a box to hold their working cotton, and Sophia a pencil case.

“ As for yourself, George,” said his Grandfather, “ I shall not ask your choice, for I know a book you would like to have ; and which would be most useful in your situation. Write down ‘ Ferguson’s Astronomy.’ ”

“ Thank you, Sir,” returned the young man : “ it is indeed exactly what I was wishing for.”

“ And Miss Maitlane also,” resumed the old gentleman : “ she is one of my children, and I think I know what she would like. I heard her wish for ‘ An introduction

to Heráldry' the other day : put that down also."

"I am very much obliged to you, Sir," returned Miss Maitlane; "you have exactly suited my wants likewise." A new gown was also placed in the memorandum for Nurse, nor were the rest of the servants forgotten, as at this season their master made every one a present.

A twelfth cake was also added to the order, as that day was approaching on which the children were to have a great treat; and though the good old man had too much feeling for Mrs. Maitlane's situation to allow any one to know it, he did not suffer her to leave the room without putting a ten pound note into her hand.

All the poor in the parish were also benefited by his liberality; an open house was kept during the twelve days of Christmas, after the old English custom of our ances-

tors, and which is too much neglected in these modern times.

His sons did not forget to follow his example ; for though they were not at their respective houses, each made a point of distributing money and victuals to all who were any ways dependent on them, or had at any time been employed in their service ;—and there was no person, whether poor or otherwise, in either parish, but had reason to be glad when Christmas came. In short, it is difficult to say which received most pleasure—the distributors, or those who partook of their bounty ; among whom it was a general observation, “ It is a great blessing to have money, but a still greater one to have a heart to dispose of it for the good of others.”

## CHAP. IV.

“ Thus in some deep retirement, would I pass  
The winter glooms, with friends of pliant souls,  
Or blithe, or solemn as the theme inspires.”

THOMSON.

IN the evening their Grandfather proposed the hearing another letter, and accordingly one from Thomas, written at school to his sisters at home, was selected for his entertainment.

“ My dear Sisters,

“ I can find but little among the  
“ occurrences of our school to amuse you ;  
“ but yet you desire me to write ; what is  
“ to be done ? I do not like to disobey your  
“ orders, because I hope to hear from you  
“ in return, and how all are going on at  
“ home, and at my Grandfather’s, and  
“ Uncle’s. Every thing you can relate will

“ be interesting to us, you know; therefore  
“ you cannot have the same excuse for not  
“ writing a long letter, that we have.

“ Now must I ransack my brains for a  
“ subject to write upon: Mrs. Maitlane  
“ says we should descant upon what we  
“ are reading at school; but the wars of  
“ Troy will not interest you, and that all  
“ in crabbed Greek: and you have a far  
“ better translation of Homer in Pope’s  
“ works than I can give you. I must there-  
“ fore try, and recollect some pretty stories  
“ of these old Grecians to entertain you  
“ with; and which as I believe you are  
“ now reading the History of Greece will  
“ afford you an opportunity of observing  
“ whether I am correct, according to the  
“ author you are perusing.

“ One or two of these pretty stories have  
“ just *popped* into my head: excuse this  
“ word: I think it is derived from the pop-  
“ gun with which I have often made you

“ jump, when I have fired off my paper  
 “ bullets under your window, and when  
 “ you were busily employed at your needles.  
 “ This is a long digression, but you will  
 “ pardon it, I know, on account of the re-  
 “ collections it will suggest; and now to  
 “ my stories.

“ Have you yet met with an account of  
 “ two painters, (Artists we should call them  
 “ now) in the time of Pericles, \* under  
 “ whom all the arts greatly flourished?  
 “ These contended with each other, for the  
 “ palm in painting; Zeuxis was the name  
 “ of one; and Parrhasius of the other.  
 “ The former had drawn some grapes so  
 “ naturally, that the birds came and pecked  
 “ at them.

\* Pericles was for a time the rival and contemporary  
 with Cymon, mentioned in the former letter, and after  
 the death of the latter bore great sway in Athens;  
 and first promoted the war with Sparta, or what is called  
 the Peloponnesian war.

“ This greatly raised him in his own  
 “ opinion, and he challenged his rival to  
 “ produce any thing like it. ‘ Come,’ said  
 “ he, ‘ draw aside your curtain, and let us  
 “ see what it conceals.’ This supposed  
 “ curtain was only a painting with which  
 “ Parrhasius had completely deceived his  
 “ rival ; and thus gained the victory : since  
 “ the one had only deceived the birds,  
 “ while the other had foiled Zeuxis him-  
 “ self, great as he was in the art of  
 “ painting.

“ I have also another story to relate  
 “ of a character of a different kind. It is  
 “ of Philopemon, called by the Romans  
 “ ‘ the last of the Grecians,’ by way of  
 “ distinction ; for in his time the nation  
 “ was greatly degenerated.\*

“ Being asked to dine at a friend’s house,

\* Being sunk under the power of the Macedonians,  
 and subject to the frequent incursions of the Romans

“ he went earlier than was expected ; and  
 “ found the master not at home to re-  
 “ ceive him. The mistress was very busy  
 “ preparing the dinner, (for in those days,  
 “ you know, ladies of the first rank  
 “ were not above being thus employed :)  
 “ but not knowing her visitor, and see-  
 “ ing him unattended, and of very mean  
 “ appearance, she begged him to assist  
 “ in chopping some wood ; ‘ for,’ said  
 “ she, ‘ my husband is not at home, and  
 “ we expect Philopemon the great Achean  
 “ General to dine with us.’

“ While he was thus employed, his  
 “ friend came in, and being shocked to  
 “ see him so engaged, the General replied,  
 “ ‘ I am only paying the interest of my bad  
 “ looks.’

Philopemon was poisoned by the Messenians after  
 they had taken him prisoner, 182 years before the  
 Christian Era.

“ The most renowned heroes of these  
“ ancient times were noted for their  
“ little regard to outward appearance :  
“ as, for instance, Agesilaus the Spartan,  
“ who lived long before the general I  
“ last mentioned, and who at an advanced  
“ age repulsed the Thebans, after they  
“ had gained several victories over the  
“ Lacedemonians, with whom they con-  
“ tended under their distinguished Gene-  
“ rals Pelopidas and Epaminondas, (who  
“ were both Thebans,) for the superiority  
“ over the other states of Greece. At  
“ eighty years of age Agesilaus (who  
“ may in this instance be compared to  
“ the veteran hero of the present age,  
“ Marshal Blucher,) went on an expedi-  
“ tion into Egypt, not to *repel*, but to  
“ *assist* an usurper on the throne of that  
“ kingdom. When he arrived every one  
“ was eager to see so extraordinary a  
“ person, and one who had acquired so

“splendid a reputation; but how were  
 “they surprized to find a little old man,  
 “lying on the grass with his clothes  
 “thread-bare, and his hair uncombed.  
 “On their offering him some of their  
 “perfumes, and other luxuries, he *politely*  
 “told them to give those things to his  
 “slaves. ‘Spartan freemen,’ said he,  
 “‘know not how to use them.’

“Phocion also, who lived at the time  
 “that Philip of Macedon was endeavour-  
 “ing to gain the ascendancy over Greece,  
 “and commanded the forces against him,  
 “for you must excuse my turning and  
 “returning from former to latter ages,  
 “and to former ones again, I leave  
 “you, who have studied chronology, to  
 “settle the dates of these great men.\*

\* This great and good man lived some years after his  
 country's fall, and after Alexander, son of Philip, was  
 established on the throne, which was about 331 years  
 before Christ.

“ Thomson styles him ‘ Phocion, the  
 “ good, in public life severe ; to virtue  
 “ still inexorably firm.’ He was so in-  
 “ ued to the hardships of a military  
 “ life, that if he ever appeared with  
 “ warmer clothing than usual the sol-  
 “ diers looked upon it as a sign of a cold  
 “ season.

“ It is said that he was never seen to  
 “ laugh or weep ; and that his countenance  
 “ was inflexibly stern. He was sensible  
 “ of the depravity of his countrymen, and  
 “ treated them with the utmost severity.  
 “ So much did he affect to *despise* their  
 “ approbation, that once, when his senti-  
 “ ments had extorted their applause, he  
 “ turned about to a friend who stood near,  
 “ and asked ‘ whether any thing *weak* had  
 “ escaped him.’

“ When pressed by Philip to receive  
 “ a sum of money, who thought thereby  
 “ to bring him over to his interest, he re-

“ fused it both for himself and his chil-  
 “ dren. ‘ If they resemble me,’ said he,  
 “ ‘ the produce of the little spot of ground  
 “ on which I have hitherto lived will  
 “ suffice them ; if not, I would not wish  
 “ to leave them riches to inflame their  
 “ luxury and ambition.’ And after-  
 “ wards when Alexander sent him a hun-  
 “ dred talents for the same purpose, he  
 “ asked, ‘ why he alone, of all the Athe-  
 “ nians, was to have such a present ?’  
 “ ‘ Because,’ answered the person who  
 “ brought it, ‘ Alexander thinks *you* the  
 “ only just and virtuous man in the  
 “ state.’ ‘ Then,’ replied Phocion, ‘ let  
 “ him suffer me still to enjoy that character,  
 “ and be what I am taken for.’

“ In his time Demosthenes, the cele-  
 “ brated orator, flourished, who used all  
 “ his eloquence to expose the arts of Phi-  
 “ lip, and excite the Athenians to repel  
 “ his forces ; insomuch that Philip was

“ heard to say, ‘ he dreaded the tongue  
“ of Demosthenes, more than the swords  
“ of his countrymen.’ His orations on  
“ this occasion were called Philippics ;  
“ and others after them are so termed,  
“ from being in the same style. You  
“ doubtless, have read of the infinite  
“ pains he took to improve himself in elo-  
“ cution ; in which he attained such per-  
“ fection in the delivery of his orations,  
“ as to surpass all his cotemporaries in  
“ this, as well as in the sentiments ex-  
“ pressed in them.

“ I have before given you an account of  
“ the rivalship between two painters ; I must  
“ now mention that between Eschinus and  
“ Demosthenes. The former was entirely  
“ in the interest of Philip, and, next to the  
“ latter, the most celebrated orator of his  
“ time. The Athenians placed great con-  
“ fidence in Demosthenes, and submitted to

“ his counsel and direction in every thing.  
“ He was appointed to supply the city with  
“ provisions, and repair their walls out of  
“ the public treasury : but on finding there  
“ was not money enough to do this, he  
“ repaired them with his own fortune ; and  
“ for this act of patriotism his friends pro-  
“ posed that a crown of gold should be  
“ given him. This was objected to by others  
“ of the people : and gave rise to the fa-  
“ mous contest between these two orators.  
“ Eschinus brought an accusation against  
“ the friend of his competitor for proposing  
“ such a reward : and Demosthenes de-  
“ fended it. The times seemed much to  
“ favour Eschinus ; as the Macedonian  
“ party, whom he favoured, was very  
“ powerful in Athens ; nevertheless he lost  
“ his cause, and was banished the kingdom  
“ for his rash accusation ; but Demosthenes  
“ won his confidence by an act of gene-

“rosity which could scarcely be expected,  
“when their perpetual dissensions were  
“considered. At the instant that Eschinus  
“left Athens to embark for Rhodes, to  
“which island he determined to retire,  
“Demosthenes ran after him, and forced  
“him to accept of a purse of gold: on  
“which occasion Eschinus cried out, ‘How  
“will it be possible for me not to regret a  
“country, where I leave an enemy more  
“generous than I can expect to find  
“friends in any other part of the world?’  
“When he arrived at the city of Rhodes,  
“he opened a school for elocution, and  
“began his lectures by repeating the two  
“orations which were the cause of his banish-  
“ment. Great encomiums were bestowed  
“upon his own speech, but when he re-  
“peated that of Demosthenes, their ap-  
“plauses were redoubled. It was then he  
“uttered those words, so remarkable from

“ the mouth of a rival: ‘ Alas! what un-  
 “ bounded praise would you have be-  
 “ stowed had you heard Demosthenes him-  
 “ self deliver it.’ I must now conclude, as  
 “ our master does not allow us so much  
 “ time for writing as Mrs. Maitlane does  
 “ you; and I have already been two or  
 “ three days engaged in writing this, that  
 “ is when I have not been otherwise em-  
 “ ployed. Let me hear from you very  
 “ soon. Thank Mamma for the cake; and  
 “ believe us very well, and your affectionate  
 “ brothers,

“ THOMAS and WILLIAM.”

“ P. S. Ferdinand’s love.”

After this letter had been sufficiently  
 discussed by the whole party, and given  
 rise to much conversation, the old gentle-  
 man declared himself ready for supper:  
 and the rest of the evening was spent in

conversing with mirth and good humour on other subjects which did not require so much attention. The family retired to rest anticipating the pleasures of a future day, and with grateful hearts for the blessings they were then enjoying.

## CHAP. V.

“Frequent in the sounding hall they wake  
The rural gambol. Rustic mirth goes round.”

THOMSON.

THE next day the weather cleared off, and a hard frost succeeded, which allowed the boys and their fathers sufficient amusement in skating. Both the younger Mr. Wilkinsons were very expert in this exercise; and they were desirous that their sons should emulate them. George succeeded very well, but the many trips which Thomas and William met with, afforded much entertainment to their sisters and cousins, when they found that they were not hurt by their falls.

They were also much astonished at seeing

their father cut his name with his skait, as he glided over the ice, in various circles, so as to make the letters which composed it.

Charles and Ellen were whirled round and round in their father's arms, "half pleased and half afraid;" while little David screamed and stretched out his hands to join their party. He was also taken by his father, and

"Happiest of the train,  
Swept on sounding skaits a thousand different ways."

The females were half inclined to wish that they could also venture on the slippery surface, but this their father positively forbade. "For though," said he, "we read in the newspapers of ladies boldly venturing on the Serpentine river, I would not wish to see you so far out of your element." "They must be bold indeed," said Mrs. Maitlane, "to exhibit in such a public situa-

tion ; but I would rather see my young friends *daring* in a better cause."

The next day the box arrived with the things which had been ordered ; the pleasure of opening it, and distributing the presents was given to Charlotte and Emily, and it was now the boys turn to laugh at them on observing their awkward attempts to play with the Devil on two Sticks. It caused as much mirth as curiosity, to find out the entertainment it could afford.

George was but an indifferent instructor, and many fruitless efforts were made to keep the Devil in its proper place.

The next was the Twelfth Day, which the children had looked forward to with pleasure, as well as the servants and all the tenantry. All the house was preparing for the evening ; the great hall was cleared of its furniture, and the children of the neighbourhood with their parents were invited to partake of the festivity of the younger part

of the family. The cake was cut, and drawn for; when the elder Mr. Wilkinson drew the King, and Mrs. Maitlane the Queen; and sufficient honours were paid to them on the occasion. George drew Jack Tar, and little Emma the Queen of the May, and as many flowers which could be procured at that season were employed to decorate her person.

The rest of the party had all their several characters to sustain; and two of the village fiddlers were engaged to attend their rustic ball in the evening.

All was mirth and good humour, and their only fear was lest their Grandfather should find their gaiety too much for him.

The young ones paid their visitors every attention, and the two Mr. Wilkinsons joined the neighbouring farmers in a smoking party; amply recompensing for the absence of their father, (who till now had always considered them as his com-

pany,) by their good nature and conviviality.

The party in the Hall broke up early on account of the old gentleman, when the fiddlers withdrew to the back part of the house, where the servants "shook to notes of native music, the respondent dance," and "the long loud laugh, sincere was not suppressed," for there was no fear of their master's being disturbed by it at that distance.

George, Thomas, and William joined their party for a little while, but soon returned to the parlour to relate to their Grandfather the festivity of the kitchen: for he was never better pleased than when he heard that his servants were enjoying themselves.

At length the party broke up with the accustomed toast of "Thanks, and good wishes to the Donor of the Feast." The cakes and ale which were left, were dis-

posed of among the young folk, who took them home, and the whole family retired to bed, to repair by sleep the fatigue their noisy mirth had occasioned.

A day or two after this as the frost continued, and the weather was clear and fine, Mrs. G. Wilkinson was desirous that her little ones should enjoy the bracing air of a frosty morning. The four younger ones, with the nurse, and their maid, therefore, set off immediately after breakfast to take a long walk, and the old Butler, who had little else to do but attend on the children; or at least made this his principal business, when they were at his master's house, put on his great coat, and said he would go with them, and lead Miss Ellen by the hand, for fear the ground should be slippery.

“It is dangerous walking now,” said he; “and the bones are very apt to break if we fall in frosty weather.”

He offered his other hand to Jane, but she being the eldest of the party declined his assistance; Charles walked sometimes with him and Ellen, and at others with the maid, while little David was carried in the Nurse's arms. They were all well secured from the cold, and felt quite delighted at being once more out of doors.

The sun shone beautifully, and they admired the brilliancy of the snow, which had been drifted in several parts of the ground, and glittered in its rays. The icicles also which hung from the trees, attracted their attention, some of the thickness of their fingers, and others still larger. The Butler felt all his youthful spirits revive, as he broke them from their branches, and rolled up a few snow balls for his young favourites: "but you must not throw them at each other," said he, "for fear of hurting yourselves, though

when I was a boy, I remember I thought it fine fun to throw them at my school-fellows, and many a hard blow did I get from them in return; but this is too rough sport for little ladies and gentlemen like you."

Ellen was very desirous of carrying these balls home to play with in the hall, and some of the icicles, to shew to the rest of the family; nor could she be easily persuaded to relinquish her project, or believe that they would so soon melt, as the Butler told her they would, and make the hall very wet and dirty.

Jane now began to wonder which would melt first, the snow or the icicles; and Nurse said that long after the icicles were melted away, the snow would still remain; *she* was therefore of opinion that though they were of a harder substance they would melt first. But this the Butler told her was only on account

of the snow's being in a much larger body, which made it longer in wasting away. The argument continued some time, till Jane proposed taking some of both home, and on putting it before the fire, they should be able to judge which of them was right. "Lay them both in a saucer," said little Ellen, "and then, you know, they won't make a slop in the house: but will they both come into water?" continued she: "how strange!"

"I know the snow will melt first," said the Butler; "and yet, should we get an equal quantity of each, there will be less water from the ice than from the snow, as we all know how the water swells as it is freezing."

This was another source of wonder to the young folk, and Jane determined to ask somebody about it, whom she thought might know better than the Butler, as soon as she returned home. "I have

heard my sisters reading to Miss Maitlane an account of all these things," said she: "I will ask her to let me read it too, and then I can tell you, nurse." Ellen would have gathered up some snow immediately to make the experiment, but as they had not gone the length they intended, her good friend the Butler persuaded her to wait till they were returning home before she burdened herself with these slippery treasures. But soon another circumstance occurred, which put snow and ice out of their minds for that morning.

The Butler and his young companions Jane and Ellen, first reached the end of their walk, which was to the termination of his master's grounds. Here they stood looking over the stile which led into the adjoining fields, till the others came up to them; and they saw an old man led by

a little girl, at some distance, as if they were coming from the neighbouring village.

“Who is that?” said Jane: “it is not old Thomas, is it? who like the long remembered beggar, in Goldsmith’s Deserted Village, was often a guest, both at their Grandfather’s, and their fathers’ house.”

“No,” said the Butler; “nor is it any one of the village, that I know of. I cannot think who it is.” And as old age has nearly as much curiosity as childhood, he determined to wait till they came nearer, that he might endeavour to find out their business.

“There is somebody at that stile, Grandfather,” said the little girl, “perhaps they will tell us our way; let us go and ask them.”

“Ah, my dear, I fear I shall never be

able to keep on, if I do find it," said he;  
"I am so very cold, and so ill!"

The old Butler's compassion was now awakened, for though they were at too great a distance to expect to be overheard, the air was so clear, that the wind brought their voices that way, and he could distinguish all they said.

"Why, Grandfather, the weather is very fine now," said she: "don't you feel how warm the sun shines? and the snow is almost all gone: we shall soon find the right road, and then you know we shall not be long in getting home."

"Poor thing," said he, "and where is our home? a poor house is all the home we can expect now, and very different from what we have had: I shall never be able to do any more work to keep us out of it, and a poor parish is ours, for us to go to. As for myself, I would willingly die here, rather than drag my old bones

any farther ; it little signifies where I lay down my life, which cannot be long in any place ; but you, what would become of you, were I to die in this strange country ?”

They still kept walking slowly on ; and the Butler, Jane, and Ellen, stood in silent attention ; the rest of the party had now joined them, and they listened also.

“ O Grandfather, God Almighty will take care of me, or perhaps he will let me die too, and go to my dear mother ; come, come,” continued the little stranger with great affection, “ we cannot be far from home now, for we have walked a great way since we left my father. Don’t cry for me, Grandfather ; and if we do go to the poor-house, you know we shall have victuals to eat, and a fire to sit by ; you have told me so yourself ; and bye and bye my father will come home again, and then they cannot

want him to fight any more, and he will work for us, and I shall be old enough to work too."

"Your father!" returned the old man, with a heavy sigh: "it is very uncertain whether he will return any more: if he escapes in one or two battles, a third may be fatal to him; but who are these?" said he, now for the first time lifting up his dim eyes, which had been bent on the ground, as he carefully walked over the frozen path; and seeing the party at the stile to which they were approaching.

"They are the people I told you of," said the little girl, "whom I thought would tell us our way."

The Butler now raised his voice, and said, "have you lost your road, my friend? whichever way you want to go, I can tell you; for I know all about this country."

"I am a great way from home," answered the poor old man, "and came from

Plymouth about a week ago; but the snow coming on, made me lose my road, and I wandered to the village beyond that which you see behind us; and there I and this little girl were obliged to stop till the snow cleared off, and till I was better able to walk than I was when I came there." "And where do you want to go?" asked the Butler.

"To the other side of Somersetshire," replied the old man. "I have lived many years in a small village there."

"But he looks very tired," whispered Jane to the Butler: "ask him to come to my Grandpapa's, and rest himself. I am sure he will be angry if we do not; for he always tells us to be good to strangers." "Do ask him," said Ellen; "and the little girl too."

"My master's house is not far off," said the old servant; "and these young ladies are his grandchildren; they desire you

would come there and rest yourself awhile."

"They are very good," returned the old man; "but I do not wish to intrude; and I am in a great hurry to get home with this poor child. Can you tell me if I am in the right road to Tiverton? they tell me that is where I must go to, to get into my road again, and directed me to come through yonder village."

"You are some miles from Tiverton, yet," said the Butler; "but by coming through my master's grounds, you will save a mile or two."

"And may I come through them?" said the man; "will it not be trespassing?"

"Oh, no; there is a foot-path," said Jane; unable to keep silence any longer: "come over this stile, and then you can rest yourself at the house." "My Grandpapa is very good;" said little Ellen, "and

will give you some victuals ; and you can warm yourself."

The little girl now looked very wishfully over the stile, and said, "oh, do come, Grandfather ; pray do, it is such nice walking there, and the place looks so pretty ; besides, the gentleman says it is the nearest way."

"Well, my child, I have no reason to wish to lengthen my walk ; but we cannot stop, you know," continued he ; "we are not beggars," he would have added ; but the child interrupted him by saying, "why, Grandfather, you said just now how tired you were ; and that there was no reason for us to wish to get home, for that it was not so comfortable ; and now you won't stop to rest yourself, when these good young ladies ask you ; and to have something to eat ; when you know that almost all our money was spent at that public

house where we were obliged to stop because of the snow."

The old man was by this time on the other side of the stile, and the little girl soon skipped over after him.

The children as well as their attendants had examined their appearance very attentively, and perceived nothing but what bespoke honest poverty; their clothes had been good, but they had been much mended; and the countenances of both were intelligent, without the appearance of cunning.

"I must lead my Grandfather," said the child, to the Butler, who though nearly as old himself, had on perceiving his feeble steps offered him his arm; "his eyes are so bad, that he cannot see much of his way."

"I am almost blind," said the poor man, "and this cold air makes my eyes worse than they were."

"Poor man," said Jane, "let me carry

that bundle for you," seeing a small one in his hand.

"No, I thank you, Miss," returned he: "it is no weight; but my legs totter under the burden of my body." "Ah!" said the Butler, "old age is a burden even to those who have every comfort:" and as he reflected how much happier was his situation, than the poor man's before him, he silently acknowledged the goodness of Providence towards himself. "God bless my good master," said he; "he is old himself, and a friend to every one that is old, and every body else."

As they walked towards the house, the poor man informed him, that he had been to Plymouth to see a son who was in the army; and had been abroad for the last five years. He had been landed at Portsmouth a few weeks back; and then marched to Plymouth, to be embarked again with the regiment that was going either to

France or Spain, they could not tell which. "He wrote to me," continued the old man, "that he could not get leave to come and see us even for a day; but begged I would bring his wife and child down to Plymouth, that he might see them there. Alas! his wife, poor woman, was dead about six months before, but he had not heard of it; she was a great loss to me as well as her poor child, whom she brought up in the best manner she possibly could; and I lost my wife a twelvemonth before, so that I made her and her child come and live with me, till her husband came home, and very comfortable we were together, more so than ever I shall be again."

Here the poor man wiped his eyes, and seemed unable to continue his story. "I am very old," said he, "and not able to work as I have done; and the troubles I have had, have almost been too much for me; but this disappointment respecting my

son, is worse than all ; I hoped he would have staid at home, and been a comfort to me in my old age ; but now I shall never see him any more."

His little grand-daughter had been crying great part of the time he was telling his melancholy tale, and all his auditors were silently attentive.

"And how long did you stay at Plymouth?" asked the Butler, willing to direct his mind to something else. "Oh, but four days," said the man, "and then we set off to come back again ; we did not walk there, but we went sometimes by a cart, and sometimes by the coach ; but as my pocket was not very well stocked, and we were not in such a hurry to get home, as to arrive there, I thought I would try to walk it by easy stages ; but whether I ever shall reach home again, I cannot tell, for I find myself very weak."

By this time they had reached the house,

and the Butler conducted his new found guests to the kitchen fire ; he placed some bread and cheese, and ale upon the table, and desired them to eat, as he was sure he was obeying his master's orders by so doing.

## CHAP. VI.

“ Man’s feeble race, what ills await ;  
 Labour, and Penury, the racks of pain,  
 Disease, and Sorrow’s weeping train,  
 And Death, sad refuge from the Storms of Fate !”

GRAY.

JANE and Ellen, as soon as they entered the house, ran to tell the rest of the family the adventure they had met with ; but as both were so eager to inform, no information could be gained from what they said. Jane talked of the little girl, and Ellen of the poor old man ; one told what he said before they met him, and the other talked of what was said afterwards. The Nurse was therefore called to give an account, which she did by relating what had passed, and Jane repeated what the

Butler and herself had overheard, before the old man knew that he was within hearing; "which makes me think, Mamma," continued she, "that he is very poor indeed; he was very unwilling to come in, but I was sure my Grandpapa would have been angry if we had not asked him."

"I am glad you were so considerate, my dear," said her mother: "we will all help him if we can."

"And now will you go down and see him, Mamma?" asked Jane. "You cannot think how pretty the little girl is, and she is very civil, and not bold at all."

"As soon as he is a little refreshed, my dear," said Mrs. G. Wilkinson, "some of us will go and speak to him;" but Jane suggested that as he was in such a hurry to get on his journey, it was probable he would not stay long; and begged her to go directly.

All the younger part of the family were

likewise impatient to see the strangers Jane had given such an interesting account of, and Caroline and Emily attended their mother, with their cousin Sophia; Jane could not be left out of the party, as she was to introduce them to her new acquaintance; but before they reached the kitchen, they heard an unusual bustle in the place, and met the Butler coming towards them.

“Some hartshorn, ma’am,” said he, in great haste; “some hartshorn: the poor man has fainted; I placed him too near the fire.”

Mrs. G. Wilkinson now hurried to the place, and found the servants all crowding round their aged guest.

“Let him have air,” said she, as she held her smelling bottle to his nose, while Sophia rubbed his hands, and Caroline and Emily had ran back for hartshorn and salts.

The poor little girl was kneeling before him, clasping his knees, and sobbing violently.

“ My Grandfather is dead,” said she : “ he is dead ! He said he should die before we got home ; what shall I do ?”

“ He will soon be better, my dear,” said the good lady, who already saw that he was reviving, and she ordered Caroline and Emily to take her to another part of the room and endeavour to console her, but nothing could induce her to leave the place she was in, till she saw him open his eyes, and appear to have returning life. When he recovered his senses, and saw the group before him, (for now Mrs. Maitlane, and some others of the family had made their appearance, on hearing what had happened,) he seemed lost in astonishment.

“ Where am I ?” said he, “ and where is my Kitty ?” “ Here I am, my dear Grandfather,” said she, and hid her face

in his bosom, while her tears of joy now flowed faster than those of sorrow she had shed before; the poor old man wept also, as he witnessed her emotion, and the Butler likewise felt the tears trickling down his cheeks, as he took his hand, and said, "These are all good ladies, they have recovered you; but it was my fault for placing you so near the fire, after you had been so long in the cold."

"Old and cold," said the poor man, shaking from the agitation he had felt; "but may I not go to the fire now?" At this moment old Mr. Wilkinson approached, and with all the benevolence and compassion the Butler had so largely expatiated upon, ordered a warm bed to be provided for him, and the poor man to be laid in it.

The good old gentleman, who usually spent the early part of the morning in his own apartment, had not heard of the ad-

venture the children had met with, till he went according to his daily custom to visit the Nursery, and see the children after their walk, and there had heard from the Nurse, an account of what had happened, and her fears that the old man was very poor, and distressed, as well as in very ill health.

The situation he now saw him in, confirmed the old gentleman in this opinion, and he told him to look on it as a providential circumstance that he had met with the children.

“ You are kindly welcome to my house,” continued he ; “ and I shall always love them the better for bringing you to it.”

The poor old man could only utter his grateful thanks, and earnest prayers to the Almighty to bless him for his goodness ; and the old Butler, as he conducted him to the bed which was now ready for his reception, and assisted him to get into it, said,

with tears in his eyes, " Did I not tell you right, when I said my master was a good man? He has not his fellow in all the three kingdoms; and his sons and all the family are just like him."

Little Kitty could not be prevailed on to leave her Grandfather; and being fatigued by her walk and her late agitation, she laid down by his side, and they soon fell asleep together.

The family were no sooner re-assembled in their sitting-room, than they began consulting what should be done for the poor man and his grandchild.

The younger ones of the party were silent, as they had been taught to be, on such occasions; but each formed schemes of their own to afford them assistance, and they began to recollect how much money they could afford to give towards helping them on their journey home; but they were agreeably surprised to hear their Grande

father say that they should not go from thence, if the old man liked to stay.

“Nurse tells me he has lost all his friends,” said he, “and that he has only a poor-house to look forward to, if he goes home. We can easily find some little cottage for him in our neighbourhood; and he can come here every day for his victuals, or we can send it him, when he is not disposed to come out. The little girl,” continued he, “can go to our school; and we will take care of her till her father comes home.” This scheme was highly approved of; and Sophia and Myra readily engaged to find her in clothes.

“Oh,” said the old gentleman, “what you and your cousins leave off will do very well; with a little of your alteration; but remember she must not be made a pet of;—we must not have her too great a favourite.”

Both the Mrs. Wilkinsons joined in his opinion; and that it would be wrong to give her any notions beyond her present station in life. "But we will endeavour to bring her up with good principles, and to be industrious," said they.

Jane and Ellen jumped for joy when they heard the poor old man and the little girl were not to go away.

"We shall see them every time we come to see Grand-papa," said they, "and can often walk to their house when we are here." This being settled the young folk waited rather impatiently till they heard of their awaking.

Kitty was the first who opened her eyes, and on perceiving that her Grandfather's were still closed, she stole softly off the bed, and moved to the window to see what she could of their present situation. There she was soon lost in amazement at the scene before her.

Although it was the middle of winter, the kitchen-garden, into which she looked, appeared the largest and the most beautiful she had ever seen. The stables next attracted her attention, and she perceived the arrival of the two younger Mr. Wilkinsons, who had been out the whole morning. They left their horses to the care of the servants, and walked towards the house, when they were met by some of the boys, who like their sisters, were eager to communicate the intelligence, which they had received from them, of the strangers the young children had met with in their walk. Their eyes were directed to the window of the room to which they were retired; and Kitty saw that they noticed her.

“Who are these gentlemen,” thought she, “I hope they are not angry because I looked at them.” And not having much knowledge of the various stations in life,

her mind recalled the idea of the little public house she had left in the morning ; and she concluded that this she was now in was built for the same purpose, only as it was so much larger, that necessarily there must be more company come to it.

As soon as the boys entered the sitting-room, they gave the wished-for information, that the little girl was awake ; and the young ladies gained their mamma's consent that the Butler should go and ask her to come to them. A whole group of them were waiting on the outside of the door when he opened it, and by a sign from Kitty learnt that her companion was still asleep.

“ Then you will come with me,” whispered he to her ; “ I will take you to the fire : you must be very cold here.”

As she appeared unwilling to leave her Grandfather, he promised she should re-

turn again very soon : and, fearful to disturb him by any farther whispers, she consented to accompany him : but when she saw the children assembled without the room, she would have turned back, had not Jane, who claimed the prerogative of an acquaintance, stepped towards her, and taking her unwilling hand, she led her to her sisters, saying, “ You know me. I met you this morning. Do not be afraid of us.”

Caroline and Emily soon conducted her to the nursery, whither they were followed by their brother Ferdinand, and cousin Charlotte. Here little Ellen next claimed her acquaintance, who called to her cousin Myra to come and see her. The poor little girl was nearly frightened into tears by the novelty of her situation, and Myra was obliged to interfere in her behalf.

“ Consider, my dear cousins,” said she,

“if either of you were taken from every body you know, and brought among strangers, how you would dislike to be so looked at: let the little girl warm herself, and bye and bye you will be better acquainted.”

But Ellen had already brought both her dolls to the little stranger, saying, “This is my new doll, which my Grandpapa gave me the other day; and now I will give you the old one.”

At this moment the old gentleman entered, led by Sophia; and his benevolent countenance soon gained the attention of poor Kitty, more than all the playthings which Ellen and Charles produced for her to notice.

“My dear little girl,” said he, and taking her between his knees, “tell me where you and your Grandfather came from? and whom you left behind you?”

“ We came from home, Sir,” replied she, “ but we left nobody behind us, for my poor mother was dead.”

This was spoken with so much pathetic simplicity, that all who heard her were at once both pleased and pained.

“ And how long has your mother been dead ?” asked the compassionate Mr. Wilkinson.

“ I don’t know how long, Sir,” said she ; “ it seems a great while ; but I have not forgot her yet, nor how she taught me to read and spell. I used to read to my Grandfather afterwards, but now I don’t read to any body.”

“ Would you like to go to school ?”

“ Yes, Sir, when I get home ; but my Grandfather says he cannot afford it.”

After a little more conversation, in which the young ones joined, and in which Jane and Ellen were the most importu-

nate in their persuasions for her to *like* it, the little girl was made to understand the plan which had been proposed for her and her Grandfather.

“ I am sure *I* shall like it very much,” said she ; “ and I think he *will*, because he don’t like going into the poor-house at all :” then, after she had considered a little while, she continued : “ but what shall we do about my father ? how will he know where to find us ? for he said he would come home after he came back from being a soldier. No, no, we must go home because of *that*.”

“ We shall hear when the army comes home,” said Sophia, “ and write to him when we know his regiment.”

“ His name is Stephen Kelly,” returned Kitty : “ I know it is, for I have heard my Grandfather say it very often when we were down among the soldiers. But

now," continued she, "let me go back to my Grandfather, for if he should wake and not see me there he will be frightened."

The old gentleman commended her for her attention, and Sophia led her back to the room she had quitted, and gently closed the door upon her and the poor man, who was not yet awake.

The family had not returned to the sitting-room more than half an hour, when the Butler entered, and told his master that the old man appeared much worse than before he went to sleep, and was scarcely able to move.

The good-natured gentleman was much grieved at this intelligence, as he had already anticipated with his grandchildren the pleasure they would find in relieving his wants, and adding to his comforts; and he accompanied one of the elder ladies to his bed side. Here they found little

Kitty, whom the curtains of the bed concealed from their view, using all her innocent rhetoric to persuade him to stay where they were, if the good gentleman and ladies would give them leave; "at least till my father comes home," said she; and she recounted the pleasant plan the young ladies had imparted to her.

"Ah! my dear," said he, "I fear I cannot go away if I would, I feel so very weak and ill. My life will soon be ended; but if it has pleased God to raise *you* up friends in this good family, I shall have nothing to regret."

Mrs. G. Wilkinson and the old gentleman now made their appearance, and with the utmost kindness inquired how he felt himself.

His emotion almost overcame him. "Oh, you are kind-hearted people," said

he; "will you indeed take care of my poor Kitty?"

"Undoubtedly," returned Mr. Wilkinson, much affected, "and of *you* too, my friend."

"Alas; Sir, I am going very fast!" said he; "but Heaven be praised which led me to your house!—And yet how did I murmur this morning at being kept back by the snow, and at losing my way! Ungrateful creature that I am, who could not trust to Providence that it was all for the best! But now I see that it was for my good, and the good of this poor child."

Kitty had clung to him as soon as he talked of dying, and with tears in her eyes she begged him not to say so. "Oh, Grandfather!" said she, "my dear Grandfather! you must not die now we have met with such very good friends;" and she sobbed violently.

Mr. Wilkinson immediately ordered the apothecary to be sent for, and the result of his visit was, that he gave no hope of the poor man's recovery. His vital strength seemed nearly gone, and he was not expected to survive many days.

This afflicting intelligence was broken to his grandchild in as gentle a manner as they could inform her of it, and she became more attached to the family she was now in, as the departure of the chief object of her affections drew near.

I will pass over the melancholy scene of their separation. Suffice it to say, that the old man died, blessing the Almighty for having raised up such friends for his grandchild, and expressing a firm hope of salvation through the merits of his Saviour; at the same time acknowledging his utter unworthiness of it. He left behind him a small box containing the certificate of the

marriage of his son, and the register of Kitty's birth, together with a direction to the former, and an account of the regiment he was in.

Kitty's grief was at first excessive, but a few weeks reconciled her to her loss, and for the present she remained in the nursery as a companion and play-fellow to the children. At the end of the holidays, when they returned home, she was placed with an old woman in the village, who was paid for her board, and attended the school which the elder Mrs. Wilkinson had established in that neighbourhood. Her sweet and gentle manners engaged the affection of all who knew her; and when she was about fourteen or fifteen, she entered Mr. G. Wilkinson's family as a servant, and fully rewarded their charity towards her by the strongest proofs of attachment and fidelity.

Her father never returned from the Continent ; and from the Captain of the regiment in which he served they learnt that he gloriously fell, among many of his comrades, at the battle of Waterloo.

## CHAP. VII.

“Lycurgus then, who bowed beneath the force  
Of strictest discipline, severely wise,  
All human passions.”

THOMSON.

To prevent the young people from dwelling too much upon the melancholy scene we have lately described, Mrs. Maitlane proposed their reading another letter, and one which was written from Caroline to Myra was produced.

“I must reply to your letter, my dear  
“cousin, with an account of the Lacede-  
“monians, whom you have scarcely men-  
“tioned, though they make a great figure  
“in the history we are reading. I will there-

“ fore relate what I have read of Lycurgus,  
“ and his famous institutions ; not by way of  
“ giving you information, as you are doubt-  
“ less already acquainted with them, but as  
“ a help to my memory and your’s.

“ I cannot help thinking, that with such  
“ an establishment as the Ephori, or the  
“ five men chosen every year, to correct  
“ what was amiss in the senate and govern-  
“ ment, our constitution would not be much  
“ unlike theirs, except that they had two  
“ kings ; but the senate of twenty-eight,  
“ nominated by the people, somewhat  
“ resembled our parliament, and made  
“ their government what ours is said to be,  
“ a mixture of Aristocracy, Democracy,  
“ and Monarchy : but we must remem-  
“ ber, the Ephori was not established till  
“ after the time of Lycurgus. I do not  
“ imagine that many of the laws of  
“ this great man would be approved by our

“ countrymen, though it is certain, that  
 “ while they were in force at Sparta, that  
 “ people had the superiority over all  
 “ Greece; and for five hundred years  
 “ after the death of Lycurgus they con-  
 “ tinued to be obeyed.

“ What a change would it make in this  
 “ country, if all the lands were to be equally  
 “ divided, the gold and silver to be ba-  
 “ nished, and money made of as little  
 “ value as it was then! their public meals  
 “ also; and their men and boys not allowed  
 “ to eat any where else; except what the  
 “ latter could obtain by dexterity, or cun-  
 “ ning from the houses, or gardens of  
 “ their neighbours. Many authors have  
 “ described this as an encouragement to  
 “ thieving; but others say it was not  
 “ looked upon as such, but was intended  
 “ to accustom the boys to provide for  
 “ themselves in an enemy’s country: and

“ Miss Maitlane says, that Plutarch, who  
“ was noted for morality, mentions this cir-  
“ cumstance, in his account of Lycurgus,  
“ without disapprobation ; for, as war  
“ alone was the business of the Lacede-  
“ monians, all their instructions were cal-  
“ culated to make them expert soldiers.

“ There were other laws of his institu-  
“ tion which could not be spoken of with  
“ equal lenity: I mean, for one, that  
“ cruel decree, by which every child born  
“ unhealthy, or with any natural defect,  
“ was to be destroyed. As soon as a child  
“ was born it was visited by the elders of  
“ its city, who pronounced it fit, or not  
“ fit to live, as it was strong or unhealthy.  
“ If permitted to remain in the state, its  
“ name was enrolled in their records; and  
“ one of the nine thousand portions of  
“ land, into which the kingdom was divided  
“ set apart for its inheritance. At seven

“ years old, it was taken from its parents,  
“ and brought up at the public expense ;  
“ but they were taught nothing which  
“ could lead them to science or literature.  
“ This was absolutely forbidden, so that  
“ consequently they had much leisure time ;  
“ all their domestic concerns and affairs of  
“ husbandry being left to their helots or  
“ slaves ; to whom they allowed but a bare  
“ subsistence, and exacted from them the  
“ most rigid obedience.

“ If there was ever any danger of an in-  
“ surrection among these unhappy people,  
“ there was a secret act by which they  
“ were permitted to destroy them without  
“ mercy : they were often intoxicated,  
“ and then exposed to the children of the  
“ state, to deter them from a similar  
“ excess.

“ How much happier, my dear cousin,  
“ is the state of the poorest person in this

“ nation ; who are all free, and whose lives  
“ are preserved by the same laws which  
“ defend those of the richest.

“ The rigour with which the Spartan  
“ children were brought up is well known ;  
“ they always went barefooted, and with  
“ their heads shaved. They fought with  
“ each other naked, and were often beaten  
“ and scourged, to accustom them to bear  
“ pain without complaining. Nay, it is  
“ said, that at the annual feast of Diana  
“ many died under the scourge ; and the  
“ boy that bore this punishment the most  
“ courageously, came off triumphantly.  
“ Their mothers stood by at these times,  
“ and encouraged them to suffer without  
“ shrinking under it.

“ The education of the women was  
“ equally hardy ; they had also public  
“ schools where they were taught to wres-  
“ tle, pitch the bar, and run races ; and

“ this they did quite naked without its  
“ being considered indelicate ! How dif-  
“ ferent from the education we are blessed  
“ with ! their fortitude and intrepidity  
“ when assailed by danger, Miss Maitlane  
“ tells us we should endeavour to imitate :  
“ and although we may rejoice that our  
“ pleasures are more refined, yet to this  
“ cause it may perhaps be assigned that  
“ we shall never equal the Spartan women  
“ in their heroic virtues. They were not  
“ allowed to marry until they were  
“ twenty, nor the men till thirty years  
“ of age. The sense of patriotic honour  
“ and military glory which these women  
“ possessed is well known : they boasted  
“ that they alone brought forth men ;  
“ and when their husbands or sons were  
“ killed in battle, instead of deploring  
“ their loss they returned thanks to the  
“ Gods that they had done their duty.

“ In short, all the cares of this people  
“ were to render their bodies hardy, and  
“ capable of the utmost fatigue, while  
“ their minds were entirely uncultivated.  
“ Their food was of the most ordinary kind,  
“ and every one was obliged to send his  
“ share of provision to the Common Hall,  
“ every month : the quantity of which was  
“ fixed by their laws. *Black broth*, of which  
“ I suppose you have read, was considered  
“ as the most luxurious part of it :—it was  
“ made, as is supposed, of blood seasoned  
“ with vinegar and salt.

“ Dionysius, the tyrant, being asked to  
“ one of their public meals, was inclined  
“ to think it rather insipid. ‘ I doubt it  
“ not,’ replied the person who prepared it,  
“ ‘ it wants the *seasoning* when you eat it,—  
“ that is, the chase, sweat, fatigue, hun-  
“ ger and thirst.’

“ It was not without much difficulty that

“ Lycurgus instituted all his laws; and  
 “ many insurrections took place before the  
 “ rich submitted to give up their property  
 “ to be equally divided: but at length  
 “ he succeeded; and his disinterestedness  
 “ in taking nothing for himself is well  
 “ known.

“ He was a younger son of one of the  
 “ kings of Sparta; and might easily have  
 “ obtained the kingdom on the death of  
 “ his brother, who died before the birth  
 “ of a child, with whom the queen was  
 “ then pregnant. On its proving to be  
 “ a son, Lycurgus undertook his guar-  
 “ dianship, till he was old enough to  
 “ reign, although his unnatural mother  
 “ would have had it destroyed; and  
 “ proposed to marry Lycurgus, had he  
 “ consented.

“ Lycurgus travelled into Asia, Egypt,  
 “ and the island of Crete; and from the

“ government of those places he formed  
“ the model of his own ; which has been  
“ considered as the most perfect one ; and  
“ though some of its laws are hardly ex-  
“ cusable in a Pagan country, others of  
“ them would do honour to a more en-  
“ lightened age.

“ As this great man lived for his country  
“ so he also died for it : for after being  
“ fully convinced by the trial, that these  
“ institutions were for its advantage, he  
“ also wished to make them lasting ; and  
“ therefore calling his countrymen to-  
“ gether, he told them he had still one  
“ point to settle, on which it was necessary  
“ he should consult the Oracle of Apollo ;  
“ and making them swear to preserve these  
“ laws inviolate till he came back, he  
“ went fully determined never to return ;  
“ and after learning from the Oracle ‘ that  
“ as long as Sparta observed them, it should

“ be one of the most glorious cities in the  
 “ world,’ he sent them this answer; and  
 “ then starved himself to death, to oblige  
 “ them to keep their promise: which we  
 “ are told they did for five hundred years  
 “ afterwards, and all this time were the  
 “ most powerful state in Greece.

“ Two of their laws I should not forget  
 “ to mention; one of which was never to  
 “ turn their back in battle; and for this pur-  
 “ pose no armour was provided for that part  
 “ of their body; and the other that they  
 “ were to have no walls to defend their  
 “ cities. ‘Determined men being,’ as  
 “ Lycurgus told them, ‘their best fortifi-  
 “ cations.’

“ It is observable that their admitting  
 “ gold and silver into their country, and  
 “ which they had found on their taking  
 “ the city of Athens, was the first cause of  
 “ their degeneracy. This was in the joint

“ reign of Agis and Pausanius the second ;  
 “ and under Lysander, who commanded  
 “ the army at that time. He was himself  
 “ incapable of being corrupted by it ; but  
 “ having sent it to Lacedemon, it opened  
 “ a way for the love of riches in the hearts  
 “ of the people ; although it was not per-  
 “ mitted to be in general use, but laid up  
 “ for the affairs of the state.

“ This was between three and four hun-  
 “ dred years before Christ. Lycurgus  
 “ died 827 years before the Christian Era,  
 “ and Lysander 336.

“ Yours, &c.

“ CAROLINE.”

“ This is a very good account of Ly-  
 curgus,” said the elder Mr. Wilkinson,  
 “ and the foundation of the Spartan state ;  
 but not so clear as to its degeneracy : as at  
 the time this letter mentions they were at

the height of their glory, having Athens in their power."

"Very true, Grandpapa," replied Caroline: "I only meant to remark that this very supremacy led the way to their downfall—as it introduced voluptuousness and profligacy among them, which were before unknown. The Lacedemonians were the last of the Grecian states which held out against the Macedonians."

"It was in their wars with Xerxes, the Persian king, that the brave Leonidas headed the three hundred Spartans who so bravely fell at the Straits of Thermopylæ," said Thomas. "I have often tried to find this memorable pass in our modern maps; but cannot succeed in tracing the exact place."

"I think then," said his uncle, "I can give you some information respecting it tomorrow evening; and will in the mean

time look out some memorandums I have made for that purpose ; but this engagement was long before the event with which Caroline closes her letter took place—in a former century ; and 480 years before Christ ; in the days of Aristides and Themistocles.”

## CHAP. VIII.

“ To raise the virtues, animate the bliss,  
And sweeten all the toils of human life,  
This be the female dignity and praise.”

THOMSON.

THE next morning as the two Mrs. Wilkinsons and Mrs. Maitlane were sitting together, the three elder girls entered the room, and the countenances of each bespoke that something important was upon their minds.

Sophia opened the subject, after apologizing for the abruptness of the question, by asking, “ If they had any poor relations ?”

“ A strange question indeed,” replied Mrs. Wilkinson ; “ but why do you wish to know ?”

“ Because, mamma, my sister, and my cousin, and I, have been thinking about it some time ; and we should have mentioned it before, had not the affair of little Kitty put it out of our heads. You know,” continued Sophia, “ that we have an ample allowance, besides the presents my Grandfather often makes us ; and Mrs. Maitlane has told us that it is not right to spend all our money upon ourselves ; especially when our real wants are all supplied by our parents. You and my uncle and aunt, with my Grandfather, take ample care of the poor of each parish, and there are schools opened in each, so there is nothing left for us to do with our money, unless we could know some of our relations to whom it would be acceptable.”

“ You have seen your cousin Alnwicks,” returned Mrs. Wilkinson, “ do you imagine they can want any thing ?”

“No, mamma; but perhaps they have not much money to do with as they like.”

“It may be, they have not,” rejoined Mrs. Wilkinson; “but I conclude you desire to dispose of yours where it may be useful; not to be spent in unnecessary things.”

“Yes, mamma; but have we no other relations?”

“I believe not,” answered Mrs. Wilkinson: “your father’s family you already know; and I was an only child, and do not remember an uncle or aunt that I had, who were married.”

“We must be obliged to *keep* our money, then,” said Caroline.

“No, Caroline,” said Mrs. George Wilkinson, “if *you* have any to dispose of, I think I can tell you what to do with it another time.”

“And why another time, my dear sister?” inquired Mrs. Wilkinson. “You have, I

know many more relations than myself; but we are now so united, that I hope my daughters will look on them as their relations also;—particularly if it gives them an opportunity of disposing properly of what they have in abundance.”

“My mother had two sisters,” said Mrs. G. Wilkinson, (after expressing her thanks for the interest the other lady took in her concerns;) “they did not marry men of equal industry or abilities with my father: consequently as their family increased they became poor. I keep up a correspondence with both of them. The eldest is a widow with five children;—some of whom are married; but this, I believe, has rather added to her cares than relieved them; as she has generally one or two of their children with her. The other has seven in family, and though her husband is now industrious, she has

herself such frequent illnesses, and her children are all so unhealthy, that anything you have to spare will be acceptable."

"But why did you not tell me of this before, mamma?" asked Caroline.

"At your age," returned she, "I did not suppose you would have any wish of this kind: neither have you had an allowance long. At a future opportunity I meant to inform you of it; for I hope never to see you ashamed, or unmindful of your poor relations; but I thought you should first learn by experience that money spent on trifles, would not procure a lasting pleasure. Your father considers my aunts as part of his family, and I am sure would wish his children to do the same."

"And shall not *we*, mamma?" said Sophia, looking at her mother.

"Certainly, my dear," she replied, "for are we not all one large family? and

it is to such as these that the little you have should be presented. It is from no merit in ourselves that we are not in the same situation."

"Myra and myself have ten pounds between us," said Sophia; "it shall all be *theirs*: divided between the two families, it will not be at all too much."

"You are very good," replied their aunt; "and I will not deprive my dear nieces of so great a pleasure as there is in relieving the wants of others, because they are my relations, and not theirs. I can assure you it will be beneficial, and gratefully received. And what have *you* to dispose of, Caroline?" continued she.

"Only two pounds, mamma. I have not the allowance my cousins have, neither have I learnt to manage it so well."

"It is not to be expected," returned her mother; "but I am glad that their example

has led you to make this use of it; your father, also, will be pleased to find that you do not wish to spend all he gives you upon yourself. I shall send a parcel in a few days after we return home, and will inclose your present to your aunt Sedgely; for as her health is indifferent, and her children young, it is probable she may want it more; and your cousins' gift, if they are disposed to bestow it all on *my* family, shall be equally divided between the two, as they have suggested. But do not *you* think it too much, my dear sister?"

"By no means," returned Mrs. Wilkin-son. "I think it best to give a tolerable sum to one person, when it is in our power, than to parcel it out among a number, which many do with a view of making it more extensively useful, and so lose their aim of doing good. These are not the times when a little will go a great way. Bring

your notes, therefore, my dear girls, to your aunt, and be assured that you have my entire approbation for so doing, and that I have not received so much pleasure as your present conduct gives me, *this many a day.*"

Mrs. Maitlane also expressed her satisfaction that they had fulfilled her wishes in thus using part of their allowance without being directly told to do it.

"I dare say, mamma," said Caroline, renewing the conversation, "that it is to my aunt's you are so often sending the little shirts and shifts which the children make at the school?"

"Sometimes I send them there," replied she; "but the children themselves are, you know, entitled to a large share of these, as they each have one every year, as soon as they can make it, and are allowed to buy others if they want them. But

for the future," continued she, "you shall know whenever I send any thing to your aunt's, and I will take you into my *Cabinet Council*, where hitherto your father only has been admitted."

Sophia and Myra now returned with their offering, congratulating themselves that they had found proper objects to receive what they could so well spare; and the reflection that some one would be benefited through their means, increased their pleasure each time they thought of it.

In the evening the engagement of his uncle to furnish him with memorandums respecting Thermopylæ, was not forgotten by Thomas, who, as soon as the tea-things were removed, begged him to produce them. They were as follows:

"Thermopylæ is now only famous for  
 "some hot springs, rising near the Sper-  
 "chius Mountains, between Thessaly and

“ Phocis. The latter was a Grecian state,  
“ on the coast of the Euboean Sea, (a part  
“ of the Archipelago, in which stands Ne-  
“ gropont Isle, formerly called Eubola).  
“ The Maliac Gulf runs from this sea, and  
“ forms the Port of Thronium, which is  
“ seen in the map of ancient Greece, and  
“ from which the Pass of Thermopylæ is  
“ not far distant. It is also near to the  
“ little country of the Locrians; which  
“ borders on Phocia.

“ Between the Gulf and the Pass, stands  
“ the little town of Antenius: and beyond  
“ the Pass is Anthela, where the ancient  
“ Amphictyonic Council was held twice a  
“ year. This consisted of deputies sent  
“ from twelve States of Greece, who en-  
“ tered into a league with each other; and  
“ at the same time swore to defend the  
“ Temple of Delphi. Here it was Leonidas  
“ posted his little army; and rebuilt a wall

“ which in former times had been raised by  
“ the Phocians to defend themselves from  
“ the incursions of the Thessalians. At  
“ this place the road was not wider than  
“ eight feet, and the whole straight (from  
“ before the entrance to Alpenus, to the  
“ River Phœnix, which runs westward of  
“ Antheca) was about six miles in length,  
“ and of various breadths, shut in by the  
“ sea on one side, and steep mountains on  
“ the other. And here the three hundred  
“ Spartans bravely fought, and nobly fell  
“ in defending the Pass; and had it not  
“ been for the perfidy of one of the inha-  
“ bitants of the neighbouring districts,  
“ named Epinaltes, who discovered to  
“ Xerxes a path across the mountains, he  
“ had despaired of gaining the passage;  
“ having lost numbers of men in the attempt,  
“ which was renewed two successive days.  
“ The three hundred Spartans only stood

“ the attack after this discovery ; the rest  
“ of the army, which consisted of seven  
“ thousand drawn from the different states,  
“ and which Leonidas had posted at the  
“ various defiles, fled ; and left their brave  
“ allies to gain immortal honour, by  
“ dying in defence of their country.

“ The path by which the Persians crossed  
“ the mountains, was at that time called  
“ Ariopæ, but was afterwards known by  
“ the name of Callidramus.

“ This road brought them on the back  
“ of the Spartans, who were thus com-  
“ pletely hemmed in. It is said by some  
“ authors that two of them made their es-  
“ cape, and returned to the city, where  
“ they were treated with such contempt  
“ and indignity for having saved their lives  
“ by flight, that one was driven to kill him-  
“ self for shame ; but the other afterwards  
“ retrieved his character at the Battle of

“ Platea. The tomb of Leonidas and his  
 “ men was near Anthela, bearing this  
 “ noble inscription, ‘ Go, traveller, and  
 “ say at Sparta, that we lie here for obey-  
 “ ing her sacred laws.’

“ This account,” said Mr. G. Wilkinson,  
 “ I took from the very accurate maps of  
 Ancient Greece, drawn for “ The Travels  
 of Anacharsis the younger,” a work written  
 in French, in 1788, by the Abbe Barthe-  
 lemy, and translated into English in 1796.  
 It contains much information as well as  
 amusement, and I mean to purchase it the  
 first opportunity; as it relates much of  
 the Grecian History, and acquaints you  
 with their manners and customs. These  
 travels are supposed to be from the 363d  
 year before Christ, till the 337th, in all  
 26 years: in which time, Anacharsis con-  
 verses with the most famous Philosophers

and Generals of that age; and sees Philip of Macedon, while a youth under the tuition of Epaminondas. This Philip after he had ascended the throne of Macedon, compelled the Greeks to submit to his power, and prepared the way for their complete conquest by his son Alexander the Great, who succeeded him as king of Macedon 336 years before Christ, and conquered the Grecian states about five years afterwards.

But I must add to my account of Thermopylæ some remarks of the author, for those I have read to you, were supposed to be made by Anacharsis, and related to the time of his imaginary travels. The Abbe says, "The Malian Gulph was filling up every day, and that the straights of Thermopylæ were much wider than they were in the time of Xerxes," which may

be the cause of your not finding it so easily in the modern maps."

"Thank you, Sir," said Thomas; "I have now a much better idea of it: but pray who was Anacharsis? and who were the great men he conversed with?"

"He was himself but an imaginary character," returned his uncle; "and supposed to be a native of Scythia, a barbarous country in the Northern parts of Asia and Europe; and a descendant of the real Anacharsis, who before that time, took some pains to instruct his countrymen in the arts of husbandry and civil life: and this is why he is called "Anacharsis the younger."

On hearing from a Grecian slave, who was thrown into his power by the chance of war, of the superior genius and refinement of his countrymen, and of their ad-

vancement in literature ; he was ardently desirous of visiting this enlightened nation, and for this purpose gave liberty to his slave, and accompanied him to his own country.

Here he conversed with Aristotle, Plato, Euclid, and all the learned men of that age, and with Epaminondas, the brave Theban general, with whom his slave was well acquainted.

On entering the famous library of Euclid, at Athens, his remark was this, "Alas! how much knowledge is here, which is denied to the Scythian ; but," added he, "I have since acknowledged, how much knowledge useless to man." And at the end of his travels, which is supposed to be when the liberty of Greece was expiring, and the country falling into the hands of the Macedonians, he con-

cludes by saying, that "He left Athens notwithstanding the entreaties of the friends he had made there, for him to prolong his stay, and returned to his own nation, entirely divested of the prejudice he had entertained against it."

"In my youth," continued he, "I sought happiness among enlightened nations; but in a more advanced age, I have found repose among a people who are only acquainted with the gifts and enjoyments of nature." Some of his observations are so true," continued Mr. G. Wilkinson, "that I could not help copying them."

"His remarks on the advances made in civilized nations, are these, "What has man gained? In the general order of society he has substituted laws made by men, for those natural laws of which the

“ *gods* are the authors. In his manners,  
“ hypocrisy for virtue; in his pleasures  
“ illusion for reality; and in politeness,  
“ ceremony for sentiment. His taste has  
“ been so corrupted by refinement, that he  
“ is constrained to prefer in the arts, those  
“ that are agreeable, to those that are use-  
“ ful; in eloquence, the merit of the style,  
“ to that of the thought; and in every  
“ thing artifice to truth. I will venture to  
“ affirm,” continues he, “ that the only  
“ superiority which enlightened nations  
“ have over us, is that they have brought  
“ to perfection the art of feigning, and  
“ found the secret to affix a mask on every  
“ countenance.”

Of Athens it is said in the same book,  
and it was a remark of an ancient author,  
“ that it was stupid not to desire to see  
it; more so not to admire it when seen;

but the greatest stupidity was to see it, admire it, and then leave it:" all this however, the young Scythian did.

There is an abridgment of this work in one volume, which has been much read, but the original work is in four large volumes.

## CHAP. IX.

“ Where moral wisdom mildly shone

“ Without the toil of art.”

THOMSON.

THE time passed imperceptibly away till the leave of absence George had received was nearly expired; and his father and uncle agreed to accompany him to Plymouth. The whole family were sorry to lose his company, but they knew that they must not expect it longer; and George himself was well content to return to his station. Little Kitty, with whom he was a great favourite, no sooner heard that he was going abroad, and that he was to sail from Plymouth, than she concluded he must be going to the same place as her fa-

ther, and she begged him to deliver a message to him, from her.

“What shall I say?” replied George.

“Oh! tell him that I am very happy where I am,” said she; “and that my dear Grandfather is dead,” added she, with an expression of sorrow in her countenance, which contradicted her former assertion.

“If it was not for *that* I should be very happy indeed; but *you* will tell him all about it, and where I am; and that I hope he will come here when he comes home, where there are so many good people for him to see, and thank for their kindness to his poor little Kitty. If I could but write, I should have a great deal more to say, but I cannot trouble you with any more messages.”

George said he would remember all she said to him, and tell it to her father if

they should meet, but that was by no means certain.

“ His name is Stephen Kelly,” repeated she ; “ and give my love to him, if you please, Sir, and tell him to take care of himself, and to come back as soon as he can, for I want to see him again ; and tell him how many good friends I have met with in this family ; and pray, Sir,” continued she, “ take care of yourself also, and come back again very soon, for I love you very much, and shall be very glad to see you.”

George smiled and thanked her for her cordial affection : he told her he hoped he should find her there at his return, and as good a girl as he left her.

“ I hope God Almighty will make me so,” said she, “ for my Grandfather always told me that it was He must do it, and not

myself ; but I will endeavour to mind what is said to me."

The young ladies furnished their brother with whatever they thought might be useful ; and when the morning of his departure arrived they parted with mutual and sincere expressions of love and good wishes.

"Let us hear from you often," was the request of both sisters and cousins ; "and as soon as *you* know the place of your destination let *us* know it."

There was not one of the servants who did not contrive to take a farewell look at him ; and his little friend Kitty shed tears when she bad him "good bye, and hoped God would bless him."

As the carriage drove from the door, he waved his hat when his voice could no longer be heard ; and all the children stood

at the window, returning his signal, till it was no longer in view.

On their return to the fire side they could not help looking at each other with sorrow, though they forebore to express it; the two Mrs. Wilkinsons and Mrs. Maitlane had retired to the old gentleman's apartment, who had taken an affectionate leave of the young sailor the preceding evening, and expressed the uncertainty of their meeting again in this world. "At my age," said he, "I can scarcely expect to live till your return; but be assured, my dear grandson, that you have my earnest prayers and best wishes for your welfare."

The young party continued by the fire side, endeavouring to dissipate the uneasiness the departure of George had occasioned.

“In a few days,” said William, “we shall be off for school; and then how dull will you poor girls be!” “Indeed,” said Jane, “you are mistaken; we shall be much better off without *you*. I think school is the best place for such boys as *you* are.” “*You* think, little madam, do you?” answered William; “you must know a great deal about it.”

“I know *you* had almost—”

Here a look from Miss Maitlane checked the little girl from proceeding; or probably much more altercation had ensued; as William was in great disgrace with his cousin, for attempting to pull off the hair of her new doll; or at least making her believe he meant to do so.

Miss Maitlane had already been made acquainted with it, and William had received a reprimand; but it was one of her rules not to mention in the parlour what

had passed in the nursery, or school-room, or allow the young ones to do it.

“ I must not *say* any thing,” continued Jane, pouting excessively, “ but George would not have done as *you* have.”

When the children retired to the parlour in which they usually took their lessons, Miss Maitlane desired Jane to accompany her into her bed-room : and here she spoke to her of the impropriety of her conduct.

“ You are now seven years old,” said she, “ and must not be treated as a baby ; you require many repeated cautions against giving way to your hasty temper ; do you not remember William said he did not mean to injure your doll, only to frighten you ?”

“ But why should he wish to do so ?” asked Jane, “ all the boys delight to teaze *me*.”

“ I will tell you why,” replied Miss

Maitlane; "because they see you are so easily teased; you are so soon affronted that it is no trouble to make you angry."

"I do not know that I am," returned the little girl, not willing to give up the point.

"But I know it," said Miss Maitlane; "and it is my duty to tell you of it. I see you are not yet sensible of your fault: you think William very wrong, but cannot consider yourself as much more so, in endeavouring to mention it before the family, and after he had made an apology. I must therefore give you an additional lesson of geography." Jane remained silent, and on their return to the school-room the task was given her, but no one asked the cause, or how she had offended; such enquiries being forbidden both by Mrs. and Miss Maitlane.

Having performed what little they had to do, the children were all dispersed; excepting Jane, who was left alone to learn her task.

While she was thus employed, William entered the room; he was the last person she would have wished should have seen her in the situation she was; but she could neither conceal the book she held in her hand, or the tears which flowed at the hardness of the lesson.

“Why do you weep, Jane?” enquired he very kindly, “cannot you learn your lesson? I thought these were the holidays, and that you had none.”

“It is on your account I have this,” said Jane, sobbing.

“I am sorry for that,” replied he; “surely it cannot be for what passed this morning.”

“ I was wrong to mention it in the parlour,” said Jane, “ and Miss Maitlane has told me so.”

“ And was it for this she has set you this task ?” replied William. “ I will go directly and ask her to forgive you : they are just going to dinner in the nursery, and you will have none ;” and without waiting for a reply, he ran to seek Miss Maitlane, and obtain her consent that Jane might leave her book and go to dinner.

“ I do not care for my dinner, so much as I do for her displeasure,” said Jane, greatly softened by his attention ; when he came to tell her she was at liberty.

“ And now,” said he, kissing her very affectionately, “ do not think any more about it ; I dare say Miss Maitlane will not.”

“ I shall be ashamed to see her,” replied

Jane, and they separated on hearing the bell ring for the nursery dinner.

In the mean time Miss Maitlane had joined her mother and the Mrs. Wilkinsons in their dressing room, but she was too uneasy to sit long, and soon retired to her own apartment.

“Something has vexed Miss Maitlane,” said the youngest Mrs. Wilkinson; “some of the children have done wrong; I can see it in her countenance whenever that is the case, though I never hear a complaint.”

“Her’s is an arduous task, for so young a person,” returned Mrs. Wilkinson; “and particularly when it is so conscientiously performed, as by our young friend.”

A blush of pleasure stole over Mrs. Maitlane’s cheek on hearing her daughter thus spoken of.

“I would not have her feel less on the

failure of her pupils," she observed, "lest she should be less solicitous to improve them; but we have the advantage," continued she, "of being in a family where our efforts are not lost by the ill judged partiality of the parents."

"I," replied Mrs. George Wilkinson, "am too sensible of my own deficiency in every part of their education, not to rejoice in having an assistant, who is not only well qualified in outward accomplishments, to superintend it, but also capable of properly regulating their conduct, and equally desirous of doing it."

But to return to Jane, whose heart was too full to allow her to eat any dinner: and after she had seen the rest eat theirs, she determined to seek Miss Maitlane, though she dreaded the meeting. Not finding her in the parlour, she ventured to rap at her chamber door, and no sooner

had she done this, than she heard Mrs. Maitlane's voice within, and concluded that she was now made acquainted with her disgrace.

It was too late to retreat : she was told to come in, and entered with shame and confusion strongly pictured in her countenance ; but of this Mrs. Maitlane took no notice ; and folding up a letter which she had been reading to her daughter, she bade her remember that it was very near the dinner hour, and with a kind look towards Jane, left the room. This somewhat encouraged the trembling girl, who advanced towards her governess, and burst into tears.

“ Are you sensible of your fault ? ” asked Miss Maitlane, with almost equal emotion. “ I hope you are, ” and drawing her towards her, she kissed her cheek in token of reconciliation.

“ I will try not to be so cross any more,” said Jane, scarcely articulating.

“ Very well, my dear,” replied her kind instructress. “ I do not expect you to do more ; and endeavour to remember that the best way to overlook the faults of others, is to recollect your own.”

“ I will, I will,” cried Jane ; “ and when I do not, I hope you will tell me of them.”

“ I am placed over you for that purpose,” answered Miss Maitlane ; “ but I assure you I have not mentioned them to any one else ; and until I see farther occasion, shall say no more on this subject to yourself : except that you are obliged to William that your lesson is taken off.”

“ I am obliged to him ; and to you too,” replied Jane. “ I hope I shall not be cross to him any more.”

“ I hope not,” repeated Miss Maitlane ; “ but I shall scarcely have time to dress

for dinner ; perhaps you will stay and assist me, as my toilet does not require much attention ; dry your eyes, and give me my gown out of the drawer."

"That I will with pleasure," said the girl, readily obeying her direction, and highly gratified to be so employed : "how nicely all your things are folded, ma'am," continued she, on opening the drawer.

"Do not you see your sisters' things in the same order ?" returned Miss Maitlane, who made it a point that they should be so.

"Oh dear!" replied Jane, "I never go to their drawers ; they would not let me open one, for ever so much."

"They are not to be blamed for that," returned her friend, "lest you should displace their things ; and they know I should not like *that*."

"I go to nurses', and the baby's drawers,

sometimes," continued the little girl ; " but I hope I shall have drawers of my own, soon ; shall not I when I am eight years old ? I shall dine in the parlour, then."

" Yes," said Miss Maitlane, smiling, " but it will be some years after that before your drawers come ; not till you are old enough to take care of your own things."

In this way they chatted till the offence of the morning was quite forgotten : and Miss Maitlane was attended to the door of the dining parlour, by her new attendant ; who met her again after dinner, when she entered it with the other children, with looks of the kindest affection. The anxious mother perceived with pleasure that the gloom was removed from Miss Maitlane's countenance ; and that all her children looked happy : but from the increased attention which Jane paid to her governess,

she concluded she had been in fault, and was forgiven.

In the afternoon Mrs. Maitlane, who never let her young folk make promises without performing them, if it was in their power, assisted Sophia and Myra to cut out some clothes for little Kitty, and they began to work very hard to make it up: in which they were assisted by Caroline, and Emily, and their sister Charlotte. Five of them thus employed soon completed her wardrobe, and Kitty had never been so well clothed before: and she expressed herself very much obliged to them, when they presented their work to her.

“ I wish I may ever be able to make you any amends,” said she; “ but now, Miss Sophia, I have one more favour to beg of you; if you will not be angry.”

“ What is it, my dear ?” asked the young lady, who had more particularly taken on

herself the charge of Kitty, and had often heard her read, and conversed with her: and was pleased to find that with the most amiable simplicity she had been instructed in the best principles of religion and morality.

“ Why, ma'am, when Mr. George went away, I heard you desire him to write to you, and let us know where he was going to; and then it came into my head what a pleasure that would be to me; and then I thought of a poor old woman I left at home, (where I came from, I mean) who be glad to hear about me; I know she would, for she was always good to my Grandfather and me, and used to come and see us very often. The morning we came away she walked with us, till we got up into a cart; and she said how glad she should be to see us come back. And now I have been thinking that she

is very uneasy about us; and wants to know very much where my poor Grandfather and I are."

"Do you wish me to write to her?" said Sophia, much pleased with her affectionate consideration.

"If it is not too much trouble, Ma'am; but you are not angry with me, are you?" said she, with earnestness.

"No, my child," replied her young friend. "I am pleased with you for thinking of this woman. What is her name?" "And *will* you write to her?" said the little girl, her eyes beaming with pleasure. "O! thank you, thank you.— We used to call her Granny Groat. She was good to every body, although she was a poor woman, and no relation to them. Tell her, that I dare say she has been looking out for us a great while, and thinks we are lost in the snow; but *you*

know best what to say, Miss Sophia, and I will love you every day for writing to her."

When the letter was finished, it was read to her. It gave an account of the death of the old man, and the asylum poor little Kitty had found, and that she was very happy.

She said it was just what she wished, only there was not enough said, of how very good her new friends were to her.

"Did you leave any thing at home which you would wish to dispose of?" asked Sophia.

"Granny has the key of our house," replied Kitty; "and I think there is not much in it."

"We will leave it to her disposal, then," said Sophia, "for as you say she is a good woman——"

“ A very good woman,” repeated the child, interrupting her.

“ She will then take care,” continued Sophia, “ to pay any thing which your grandfather may have left owing; and with the rest she will do as she thinks best.”

“ I dare say she will give my clothes to Betty Lynne,” returned the child, “ for she was very badly off.” She sent her love to granny, and one or two of her old friends; and the letter was closed, and sent to the post.

“ Now,” said Kitty, “ I am *quite* happy, for granny will know what is become of me, and she will tell all the neighbours, and I am sure they will be glad to hear that I have met with such kind friends.”

She repeated her thanks to Sophia, and all were much pleased with this proof of the goodness of her heart and understanding, which was far above her years.

## CHAP. X.

“ First, Socrates,  
 Who firmly good, in a corrupted state,  
 Against the rage of tyrants single stood,  
 Invincible.”

THOMSON.

THE next evening another letter of the young folk was brought forward, and afforded much matter for conversation. It was from Sophia, and gave an account of Socrates and his death.

“ We were greatly interested, my dear  
 “ cousin, by the account of Socrates, given  
 “ us in the history of Greece. This great  
 “ man seems to have had his mind more  
 “ enlightened than many who are called  
 “ Christians; and his sentiments, though  
 “ they were called fastidious in the age

“ in which he lived, would have done  
“ honour to any one. He was born 468  
“ years before Christ, and lived in the time  
“ of Plato, by some called ‘ the Divine  
“ Philosopher.’ Socrates was thirty-nine  
“ when Plato was born, and it may be sup-  
“ posed that the latter took many of his  
“ ideas from him.

“ Although Socrates was of obscure  
“ birth, his wisdom, moderation, and cou-  
“ rage, made him an example to his coun-  
“ trymen.

“ He once saved the life of the great  
“ Alcibiades in battle, who had been his  
“ pupil; and afterwards gained him the  
“ prize of valour, which from the above  
“ action, more properly belonged to him-  
“ self. He would never consent to any act  
“ of injustice or cruelty, even to punish  
“ similar acts in the offenders, and always  
“ appeared in the council of the Athenians

“ on the side of justice; as in the case of  
“ the admirals, whom they had condemn-  
“ ed to death, on their return home, after  
“ gaining a victory over the Spartans, be-  
“ cause they had not done all in their  
“ power to save the lives of the men who  
“ were shipwrecked in the engagement.  
“ They alledged in their defence, that they  
“ had given orders to that purpose, to the  
“ men whose business it was more pecu-  
“ liarly to attend to things of that nature;  
“ but that themselves were too much engag-  
“ ed in pursuing the advantage gained over  
“ the enemy; and a violent storm had  
“ prevented the execution of their orders.  
“ Nothing was heard in their favour,  
“ and Socrates was the only one who de-  
“ clared against their condemnation.  
“ At this time the people of Athens  
“ were so sunk in profligacy, that any one

“ who appeared to have valour, or courage  
“ above the rest, was sure to be disgraced,  
“ lest he should gain an ascendancy over  
“ the people. This was the case in regard  
“ to Alcibiades, and Socrates himself, who  
“ constantly opposed the thirty tyrants, as  
“ they were called, creatures placed by the  
“ Lacedemonians to govern Athens, which  
“ they did, with the utmost rigour and  
“ injustice.

“ After the restoration of liberty to this  
“ people, they could not bear so exalted a  
“ character as Socrates among them; as  
“ his conduct was a continual, though  
“ silent reproach upon their own. He was  
“ therefore the object of their enmity and  
“ ridicule, though he was equally unmov-  
“ ed by either. When Aristophanes, the  
“ comic poet, was engaged to write a play  
“ as a satire upon him, Socrates was at the

“ representation : and lest any one should  
“ be at a loss to know for whom it was in-  
“ tended, he stood up the whole time.

“ He was the only philosopher of that  
“ age who seemed to have any notion of  
“ the one true God, and though he did  
“ not *openly* declare against the many di-  
“ vinites worshipped by the Athenians;  
“ in his private discourses he was often  
“ heard to ridicule them. A charge there-  
“ fore was brought against him by some of  
“ the most licentious, that he did not ad-  
“ mit the gods acknowledged by the repub-  
“ lic, and had introduced new ones, and  
“ that he corrupted the youth of Athens  
“ by instilling improper opinions in their  
“ minds. Of the latter charge he was  
“ eminently guiltless ; as his life was an  
“ example of what he taught ; not as other  
“ philosophers, in open schools, or at set  
“ times ; but in all places, and upon all

“ occasions, he applied himself to the in-  
“ struction of the young men, in hopes  
“ of sowing the seeds of virtue, and mak-  
“ ing them more true to their country  
“ and their own interests, than their pa-  
“ rents were. In pleading his cause he  
“ used no arts of elocution or remon-  
“ strances, and even refused an able ha-  
“ rangue which had been drawn up by one  
“ of his friends, because it contained the  
“ graces of oratory, which his cause, he  
“ said, did not want. He declared that he  
“ had done his duty, when called to it,  
“ both in the field and in the council; but  
“ that he sought not a public life; though  
“ he held it right to instruct the youth as  
“ he had opportunity, in the love of virtue  
“ and justice. If he had taught them any  
“ thing else, he called on them, or their  
“ friends, to come and declare it.  
“ As for not reverencing the gods, he

“said, that he thought there was One  
 “above all, and who governed all; *Him*  
 “he wished to obey, and his voice he heard  
 “within him, restraining him from any  
 “act which he ought not to do. This, no  
 “doubt, was the voice of conscience, which  
 “this unenlightened age construed into his  
 “having another God; though it is remark-  
 “able, as Mrs. Maitlane observes to us,  
 “that he does not say that it ever dictated  
 “to him what to do, which entirely frees  
 “him from the charge of enthusiasm.

“He did not beg for mercy, but spake  
 “as if he was master of his judges, telling  
 “them that he did not think it allowable  
 “to *intreat those*, who were appointed to  
 “do justice to the laws, not to violate  
 “them. Notwithstanding all he said, So-  
 “crates was condemned to die; but as it was  
 “a custom in Athens that no execution  
 “should take place while the sacred ship,

“ which carried sacrifices to Apollo in the  
“ isle of Delos, was absent, his death was  
“ delayed thirty days till her return.

“ During this time he was kept in close  
“ confinement, and with irons on his feet,  
“ but his friends were allowed to visit him,  
“ with whom he conversed on the same  
“ subjects as before: he expressed no fear  
“ of death, but beheld its approach with  
“ perfect indifference. When his servants  
“ wept that he should be condemned in-  
“ nocent; ‘ would you have me *guilty*?’  
“ he exclaimed; and such was his venera-  
“ tion for the laws of his country, that  
“ being condemned by them, though with-  
“ out cause, he would not make his escape,  
“ when an opportunity was offered him;  
“ replying to a friend who proposed it, by  
“ enquiring ‘ if he knew any place where  
“ men did not die?’

“ At length the fatal ship returned to

“ Athens, and a message was brought him  
“ from the judges that he must die the next  
“ day. He heard it with calm composure,  
“ and passed the intervening time in tak-  
“ ing leave of his wife and children; and  
“ conversing with his friends on the im-  
“ mortality of the soul: and from which  
“ conversation, it is said, that Plato took  
“ his dialogue intituled the Phædon, on the  
“ same subject. He left no direction re-  
“ specting his wife and children, or his fu-  
“ neral, only begging his friends to take  
“ care of themselves.

“ With the manner of his death, I sup-  
“ pose you are already acquainted; which  
“ was by drinking the juice of hemlock, the  
“ usual way of execution in Athens. After  
“ walking about till the poison began to  
“ operate, he laid himself upon the bed  
“ and covered his face, to avoid the sight  
“ of his weeping friends who sat around

“ him. The last words he spoke were to  
“ desire Crito to discharge a vow for him,  
“ which he had made to Æsculapius. ‘ We  
“ owe him a cock,’ said he, ‘ do not for-  
“ get to pay it for me.’ He was seventy  
“ years old when he died, but it was not  
“ till some years afterwards that the  
“ Athenians were sensible of his worth,  
“ and the loss they had incurred by their  
“ unjust condemnation.

“ Those who accused him were then  
“ brought to justice, the principal witness  
“ condemned to die, and the others were  
“ banished ; while all who had any share  
“ in his death, were treated with such de-  
“ testation and contempt by the citizens,  
“ that at length no one would speak to them  
“ or supply any of their wants. Their  
“ veneration for the memory of Socrates  
“ became so great, that after having erected  
“ a brazen statue of him, in the most con-

“spicuous part of the city, they placed  
 “him among their demigods; and had a  
 “chapel dedicated to him, which they  
 “called by his name.”

“Your’s, SOPHIA.”

“The Athenians were a people given to  
 change,” said Mr. Wilkinson, when the  
 letter was concluded; “and the character  
 of Socrates was in some respects, similar  
 to that of Cato among the Romans, who  
 met death with the same indifference.”

“And was most probably led to do so,”  
 said Mrs. Maitlane, “by reading the  
 sentiments of Socrates; for we are told  
 he employed his last hours in reading  
 Plato’s dialogue, which, as Sophia says,  
 was taken from the discourse of So-  
 crates; but Cato acted contrary to the  
 opinion of that great man, in destroy-  
 ing himself; as Socrates had declared

against such a proceeding, in reply to the question, 'whether it was *lawful* for a man to take away his own life?' by saying, that man belonging to God, who formed him, and placed him with his own hand in the post he occupied, he could not abandon it without his permission, nor depart from life without his order.' Cato was born above three hundred years after Socrates, and died forty-five years before Christ; and it is observed by historians, 'that at that time, and when Christ was born, the world was in greater ignorance, and more gross idolatry than in preceding ages; but may we not venture an opinion,' continued she, 'that it was the declaration of Socrates, of there being one God superior to all the rest, which gave rise to that altar which Paul found so many years after at Athens, when he

preached the truth there, and which was dedicated 'to the unknown God?'"

"Very likely," replied Mr. Wilkinson, "as after they had made him a demi-god, it is probable they would also endeavour to worship that Deity whom he acknowledged; but who can tell me how long it was after the death of Socrates, that Paul discovered this altar?"

"I think it was 450 years, Grandpapa," replied Caroline, "as Socrates died 400 years before Christ, and Paul preached at Athens 50 years after the Christian era began."

The next day brought the Mr. Wilkinsons home, with a good account of George, whom they had left in high spirits; expecting the ship to sail in a few days.

"And now," said their father to the boys, "it will soon be time to think of taking you off: you do not recollect

perhaps, that you have but little more than a week remaining of your holidays?"

"Indeed," said their Grandfather on hearing this, "I should not much wonder if they are very well pleased at the recollection, for I fear they have thought these holidays very dull, as except the twelfth day, we have had no treat whatever."

"We have seen George, Sir," said Thomas, "and met all my sisters and cousins well, besides having the pleasure of seeing you better than we expected. I assure you we have not found the time hang upon our hands."

"I am glad to hear you say so, my dear boy," said the kind hearted old gentleman, much pleased with this speech; "and I have still one pleasure more in store for you, which I am only sorry your sisters cannot partake with you; but as I know you boys prefer riding on horseback to a carriage,

they shall go in that another time, and to-morrow, if you like it, the servant shall attend you to Kingsbridge, where, you know, Thomas and Mary, who formerly lived with me, keep the inn; there you shall have a dinner, and return in the evening: the host and hostess, will, I am sure, be glad to see you; and I think I can depend on your behaviour being such as to occasion them no regret at your coming."

"Thank you, Sir," said both the boys, highly pleased with this plan.

"You are too good to them, my dear father," said Mr. G. Wilkinson, "and are always contriving something to give pleasure; but I am sure there was no need of this."

"Oh! yes there is," he replied very good humouredly. "I like they should enjoy themselves when they can; besides I wish to know how my old domestics make

out in their situation, and they can bring me an account of them, and their house; and whether they have many guests."

Ferdinand, who was by when this plan was suggested, became very desirous of knowing whether he was to be included in the party, but his name was not mentioned; and he slipped out of the room to find the head groom, who was his tried friend on these occasions, and asked him "how many horses were ordered for to-morrow morning?"

"Only two, Sir," replied he, "for the young gentlemen."

"And none for me?" returned Ferdinand with much vexation in his countenance.

"Why do you think you can ride so far, my dear?" answered the servant, perceiving his disappointment. "I dare say my master would have no objection to your going if you thought you could; but

it is fourteen or fifteen miles; though to be sure that is not much in frosty weather."

"Oh I *wish* I *could* go," answered Ferdinand, scarcely refraining from tears.

"You shall have a ride with me somewhere else," said the good natured groom, "if you do not go now."

As he said this Mr. George Wilkinson joined the consultation, and willing his son should be gratified as well as the other boys, he asked the servant whether he thought him a sufficient horseman to undertake the journey.

"I have rode six or eight miles with John without being tired," said Ferdinand, very eagerly, "have not I, John?" and his looks were so expressive of his wishes, that John could not forbear promoting his accompanying his brothers, and said, "that he would take all the care in his power of him, and not let him rid etoo fast."

His father then set the little boy's heart at ease, by saying he would speak to his Grandfather about it; and as there was no difficulty in obtaining his consent, Ferdinand was made completely happy.

“ I had no idea that you could ride so far,” said the old gentleman, agreeably surprised to find him such a horseman. “ But if you can, I have not the least objection to your going, and hope your cousins will remember that I wish *you* to enjoy the day as well as themselves.”

The next morning the whole party set off immediately after breakfast, not a little pleased at being their own masters for the rest of the day. It was clear and frosty, and the snow which still remained on the ground gave a lustre to the surrounding scenery. They were received with great pleasure at the place of their destination, and particularly Ferdinand, whose skill in

horsemanship gained him great applause. This animated him to return with equal spirit, for it must be owned that he felt rather tired, though it was in no one's power to make him say so.

The young ladies, with Mrs. and Miss Maitlane, took a longer walk than they had been enabled to do since the fall of snow; they called on the old woman with whom Kitty was to be placed for the purpose of going to school in the village; and she accompanied them in their visit, in order to be introduced to her new abode. She declared that the good woman put her in mind of her old friend, Granny Groat, and that she should like to live with her of all things; particularly as she understood the young ladies were all going to leave their Grandfather's at the end of the holidays.

“The house will be so dull without you,” said she, “and Miss Jane, and Miss Ellen,

and nurse, that I had rather come away, if you please; and when you come again, I hope, if I am a good girl, I shall see you very often."

The old woman seemed equally pleased with her young charge, and said she would be a pleasant companion for her in the long winter evenings, after she returned from school. This was the next place they called at, and Kitty saw the mistress; and several little girls, with each of whom she thought she should like to become acquainted.

In the evening the boys returned, and the whole party were in high spirits. They related the particulars of their journey, how they had been received and entertained; and brought a very good account of Thomas and Mary, who sent their best respects to their master, and that through his kindness and recommendation, they were succeeding

very well in their undertaking. This gave the old gentleman much pleasure, and the family retired to bed earlier than usual, on account of the exercise the younger part of it had taken in the course of the day.

## CHAP. XI.

“ And dance and sport,  
“ Wisdom and friendly talk, successive stole  
“ Their hours away.”

THOMSON.

SKAITING was now become the morning amusement of the boys, who were desirous of making themselves as expert as they could in this exercise, before they returned to school; but they received many cautions from their father, not to attempt it where the water was deep, after they left him. Their evenings would have been spent in anticipating their separation, had not their Grandfather observed that there was no advantage to be gained by such

conversation. "Unless," continued he, addressing his eldest son, "you will consent that Mrs. Maitlane, and Charlotte shall remain some time longer with me, after your return home. I think you cannot refuse it," continued he, when you consider how dull my house will be after you are all gone. I mention Charlotte, because, being the youngest, I suppose she will want Mrs. Maitlane's assistance; and Sophia will be a companion to her mother."

"We cannot refuse you any thing, my dear Sir," replied his son; "and if Mrs. Maitlane has no objection"——

"I have consulted her on the subject already," said the old gentleman, interrupting him, "and I have her entire consent."

"Then we cannot withhold ours," replied Mr. John Wilkinson, "and the point is settled. And now," continued he, addressing the boys, "let me inquire into

the improvement you, young gentlemen, have made at school this last half year, for I must not let you return without knowing this."

An examination then took place, with which their father expressed himself very well satisfied; and the remainder of the evening was spent in settling what studies they should farther pursue.

As the day drew near, on which the boys were to leave them, their sisters were busily employed in preparing their clothes, and what was necessary for them to take with them; to which they also added some trifling presents of their own, in order that they might not be forgotten by them; and in return for others which Thomas and William had brought them from Kingsbridge.

The last evening too soon arrived, and the countenances of the whole party seemed

to declare it ; as immediately after the boys were gone to school, their parents were to return to their respective homes, with the rest of their families ; and although “ Home is,” as the poet expresses it, “ the resort of love, of joy, of peace, and plenty,” and was peculiarly so to *them*, yet to a reflecting mind, there is a melancholy always attending on the separation of friends, with whom, “ supporting and supported,” we have spent any time ; which gives a sorrow to the preceding hours ; or, if I may so express it, a softened calm, by which the cords of attachment are strengthened, as the removal of its object draws nearer and nearer. The elder Mr. Wilkinson more especially felt this : at *his* advanced age, he could scarcely expect to live another winter, and again have his children all about him ; yet was he the first to check the rising sigh ; and turning to

Thomas, he said, "our conversation, and the letters we have read, have been chiefly upon the history of Greece. Let me now see how short an epitome you can give me of *this* my favourite study; what would you say, was any one to ask you to give them a general idea of it?"

"I would say, Sir," answered Thomas, "that the Grecian empire preceded that of Rome, in ancient history; and that it first consisted of several different states, which became subject to Alexander the Great, 331 years before Christ."

"But what is the history of Greece before that period?" asked his father; "what would you say then?"

"That it consisted of twelve different kingdoms," replied he, "who forming a league, met annually at the Amphictyonic Council; although they were often breaking their alliance by warring with each other,

and striving who should give laws to the rest. The chief of these states were Athens, and Sparta; and the latter prevailed in getting the pre-eminence. In case of foreign invasion, they all joined their forces to repel it; and thus united, they twice drove the Persians from their kingdom. The first state founded in Greece, is said to be Scyon, 2089 years before Christ; and afterwards Athens, Sparta and the rest; but Macedon was of little consequence among them till the time of Philip, who prepared the way for his son Alexander's conquest of the other states. Greece had to boast of some of the wisest and best men of the age; and their strength of genius, and quickness of invention, laid the foundation of all the arts, and improvements of science, which flourished in Rome after their conquest by that nation, and which took place 193 years before Christ. About thirty years after

this, Macedon became a Roman province, and the other states quickly after. Thus ended the Grecian empire, which lasted 168 years after the conquest of Alexander the Great, and 628 years from the foundation of Macedon, till it was united to the Romans. To mention the names of all their great men from memory, would be impossible--Miltiades, Themistocles, Leonidas, Aristides, Cimon, Pericles, Alcibiades, Lysander, Agesilaus, Epaminondas, Pelopidas, and Agis, among their heroes; Pythagoras, Socrates, Plato, and Aristotle, among their philosophers; and Homer, the father of epic poetry, Hesiod, Eschylus, styled the father of tragedy, Sophocles, Euripides, Herodotus, the father of history, and Thucydides, among their writers; and Demosthenes the first of orators. Poetry, painting, sculpture, and all the fine arts, flourished in their time; nor do we read of

half the insincerity and ingratitude in their history as in that of the Romans."

"Well done, my boy," said his Grandfather, "I see you are half a Grecian already, and there is some truth in your observation, as many of the virtues of that heathen age would put a country called Christian to the blush, if *they had* any shame about them: these ancient heroes loved their country, and sought her exaltation beyond their own; and till luxury and licentiousness overcame them, nothing else could."

"You have given a very good account, for so short a one," said his father, "and I commend you for it. The history of Greece abounds with excellent examples, and I am glad you have read it with attention."

The next morning all was hurry and confusion, and all but poor Ferdinand seemed reconciled to their departure; but he could

no longer conceal his tears : and when he took leave of his mother, she could have wept likewise : “ My dear,” said she, “ you behave more like a child now, than when you first went to school ; do not let your cousins have this to say ; dry your eyes, and remember the holidays will soon come again.”

“ Oh, mamma, that was the *first* time then,” said the weeping boy, “ and I did not know what school was.”

His affectionate mother consoled him by telling him he had no more hardships to complain of than his cousins ; and that his father and brother had each gone through them before him ; “ and remember, my dear,” continued she, “ you will never improve at school if you do not go with a determination not to mind such troubles as these.”

The carriage was at the door, and Fer-

dinand hurried from his mother, and with many expressions of regard to the whole family, he was the first to seat himself in it. Thomas and William repeated the same kind farewell, in which little Kitty was not forgotten; who stood at the door, and reminded them that she was going to school likewise.

After thanking their Grandfather for the many pleasures he had procured them, they joined Ferdinand, and accompanied by Mr. G. Wilkinson, were driven off, "determined," as they said, "to fag hard for the next half year, that they might enjoy the holidays on their return."

The tears of Ferdinand were soon dispersed by the kindness of his father; and as his cousins talked of their play-ground, and their play-mates, with the long and pleasant walks they should take on their weekly holidays, his countenance brightened,

and on his return home, Mr. G. Wilkinson had the satisfaction of telling his friends that he had left him very cheerful.

On the next day, the rest of the party separated; Mr. G. Wilkinson took his numerous train to his own house, and Mr. and Mrs. Wilkinson, with Sophia and Myra, returned to theirs.

“Our circle will be nearly as small as yours, Sir,” said Mrs. Wilkinson to her father; “but this we shall not regret, as we leave you so agreeable a companion in Mrs. Maitlane; and Charlotte will, I hope, do her best to entertain you by reading, and the instrument, whenever you like to hear her play.”

“I wish,” said little Ellen, who on the last morning, was allowed to breakfast in the parlour; “I wish my Grandpapa would let me stay with him; I know I should be happy to amuse him.”

This kind offer met with his entire approbation ; and as Mrs. Maitlane seconded the proposal, and promised to observe that she was not spoiled by too much indulgence, it was agreed that she should also stay behind for a few weeks.

This new regulation appeared to afford equal pleasure to the little girl and her Grandfather, whose attachment to each other increased every time they met. Kitty was also sent to her new habitation after taking an affectionate leave of all the family, and where she was often visited by her old friend the butler ; nor was she forgotten by any of the household, who often brought an account of her improvement to their master ; and at the next vacation, she spent a few days with her kind friends the children, in the nursery ; and was received with much affection by Sophia, who repaired her wardrobe, and supplied her with all she wanted.

The winter passed away with old Mr. Wilkinson in playing with little Ellen and Charlotte ; and conversing with Mrs. Maitlane when disposed for a more serious companion ; and he began again to look forward to the family meeting at the Midsummer holidays.

THE END.

