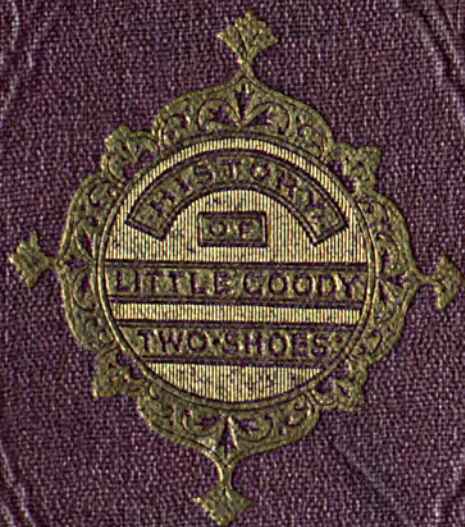
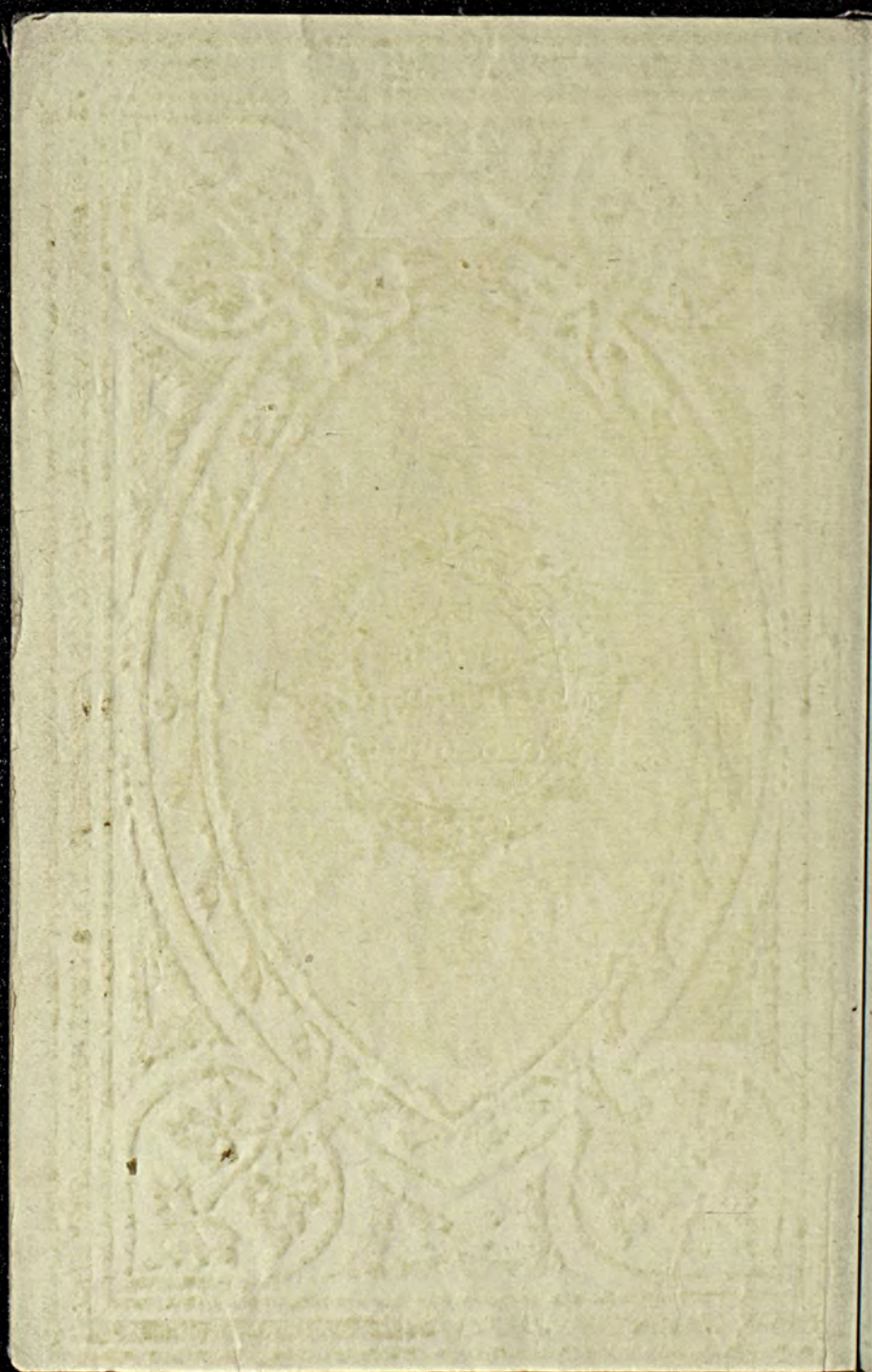
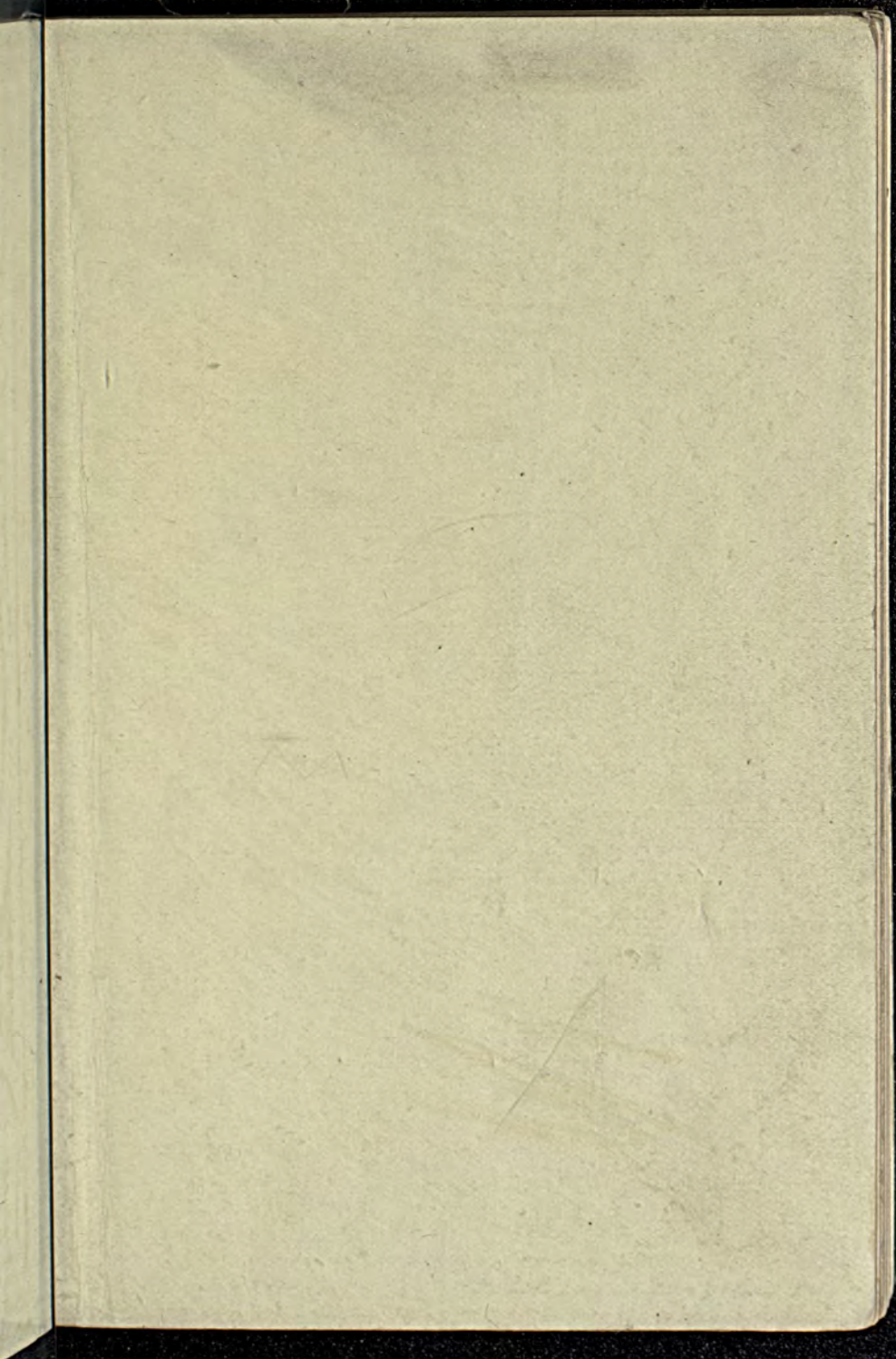
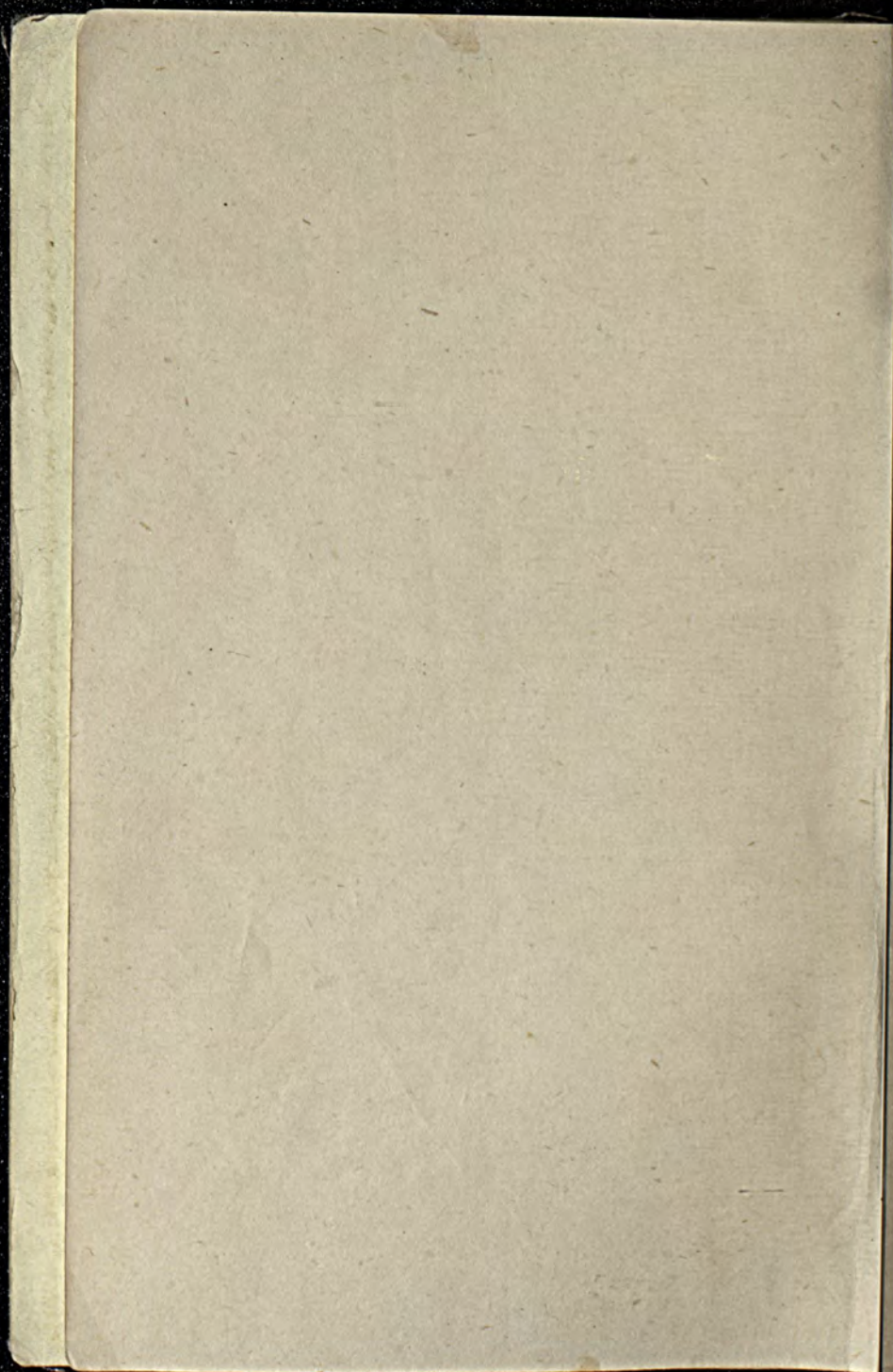










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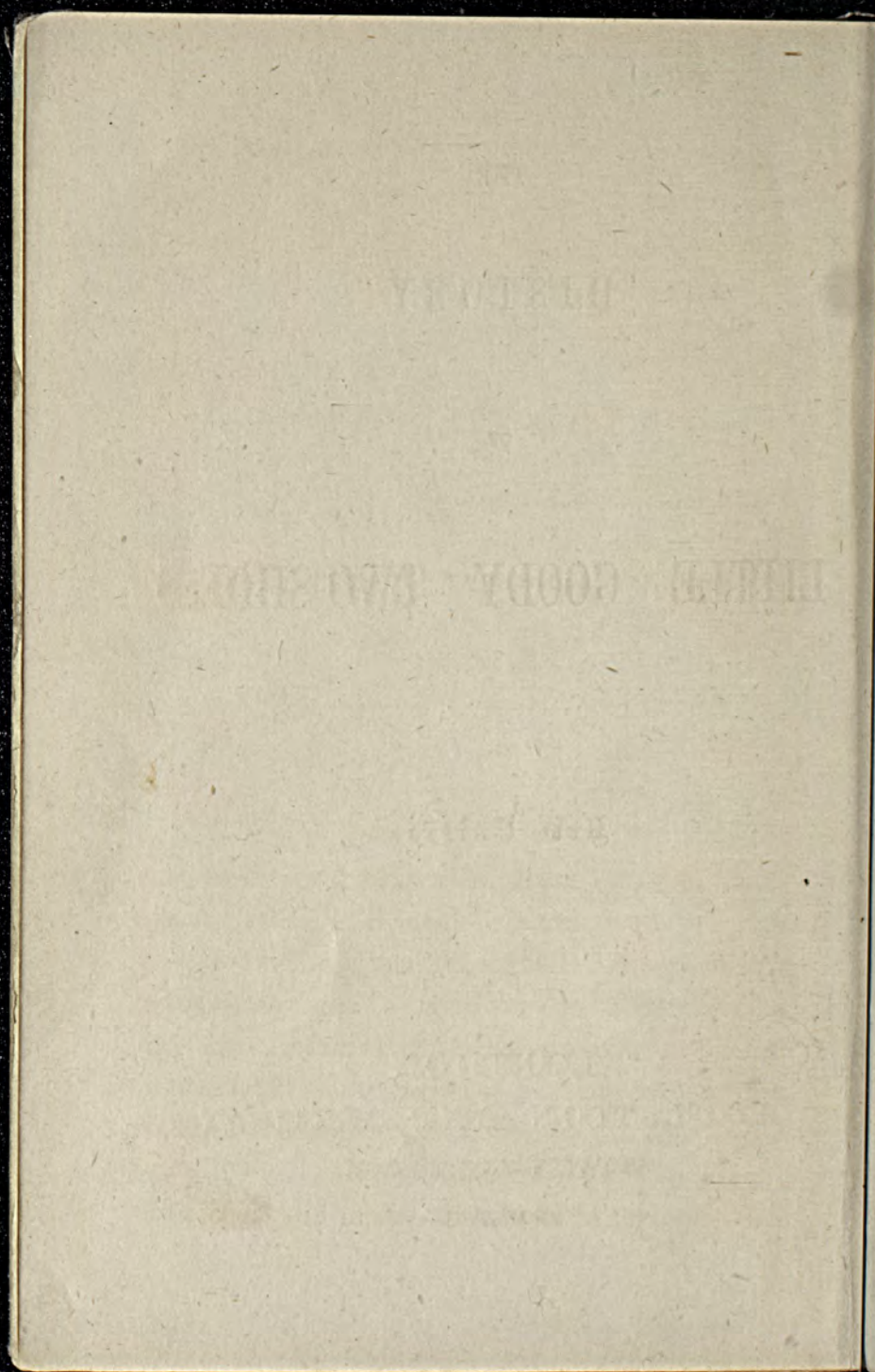
"Sir Timothy turned the farmer, his wife, little Margery, and her brother, out of doors, without any necessaries of life to support them."—
P. 6.

THE
HISTORY
OF
LITTLE GOODY TWO-SHOES

New Edition

LONDON
HOULSTON AND WRIGHT
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THE HISTORY
OF
LITTLE GOODY TWO-SHOES.

INTRODUCTION.

• ALL the world must allow that Two-Shoes was not her real name. No; her father's name was Meanwell. He was for many years a considerable farmer in the parish where Margery was born; but by the misfortunes which he met with in business, and the wicked persecutions of Sir Timothy Gripe, and an overgrown farmer called Graspall, he was effectually ruined.

The parish of Mouldwell, where they lived, had

for many ages been let by the Lord of the Manor into twelve different farms, in which the tenants lived comfortably, brought up large families, and carefully supported the people who laboured for them, until the estate by marriage and by death came into the hands of Sir Timothy.

This gentleman, who loved himself better than all his neighbours, thought it was less trouble to write one receipt for his rent than twelve, and Farmer Graspall offering to take all the farms as the leases expired, Sir Timothy agreed with him, and in process of time he was possessed of every farm but that occupied by Little Margery's father, which he also wanted; for Mr Meanwell was a charitable, good man, who stood up for the poor at the parish meeting, and was unwilling to have them oppressed by Sir Timothy and this avaricious farmer. Judge, O courteous reader, what a terrible situation the poor must be in, when this covetous man was perpetual overseer, and every thing for their maintenance was drawn from his hard heart and cruel hand. But he was not only perpetual overseer, but perpetual churchwarden; and judge, O Christians, what state the church must be in, when supported by a man without

religion or virtue. He was also perpetual surveyor of the highways ; and what sort of roads he kept for the convenience of travellers, those best know who had the misfortune to be obliged to pass through the parish. Complaints indeed were made ; but to what purpose are complaints, when brought against a man who can hunt, drink, and smoke with the Lord of the Manor, who is also a Justice of the Peace ?

The opposition which little Margery's father made to this man's tyranny, gave offence to Sir Timothy, who endeavoured to force him out of his farm ; and to oblige him to throw up the lease, he ordered both a brick-kiln and a dog-kennel to be erected in the farmer's orchard. This was contrary to law, and a suit was commenced, in which Margery's father was successful. The same offence was again committed three different times, and as many actions brought, in all of which the farmer obtained a verdict and costs ; but, notwithstanding these advantages, the law was so expensive, that he was ultimately ruined, and obliged to give up all he had to his creditors ; which effectually answered the purpose of Sir Timothy, who erected those nuisances in the farmer's orchard with that

intention only. Ah! my dear reader, we brag of liberty, and boast of our laws; but the blessings of the one, and the protection of the other, seldom fall to the lot of the poor when a rich man is their adversary.

As soon as Mr Meanwell had called his creditors together, Sir Timothy put in a distress for a year's rent, and turned the farmer, his wife, Little Margery, and her brother, out of doors, without any necessaries of life to support them.

This elated the heart of Mr Graspall, crowned his hopes, and filled the measure of his iniquity; for besides gratifying his revenge, this man's overthrow gave him the sole dominion over the poor, whom he depressed and abused in a dreadful manner.

Margery's father removed into another parish, and all those who were able left their dwellings and sought employment elsewhere, as they found it impossible to live under the tyranny of two such people. The very old, the lame, and the blind, were obliged to stay behind, and whether they were starved, or what became of them, history does not say; but the characters of the great Sir Timothy, and his avaricious tenant, were so in-

famous, that nobody would work for them by the day, and servants were afraid to engage themselves by the year, lest any unforeseen accident should leave them paupers in a place where they knew they must perish miserably ; so that great part of the land lay untilled for some years, which was deemed a just reward for such proceedings.

CHAPTER I.

ABOUT LITTLE MARGERY AND HER BROTHER.

CARE and discontent shortened the days of Little Margery's father. He was seized with a violent fever, and died suddenly. Margery's poor mother survived the loss of her husband but a few days, and died of a broken heart, leaving Margery and her little brother to the wide world ; but, poor woman, frequently she lifted her head, while she lay speechless, to survey with languishing looks her little orphans, as much as to say, "Tommy, Margery, come with me." They cried, poor things, and then she sighed away her soul.

It would have done your heart good to have seen how fond these two little ones were of each other, and how hand in hand they trotted about.

They were both very ragged, and Tommy had two shoes, but Margery had but one. They had nothing, poor things, to support them (not being in their own parish) but what they picked from the hedges, or got from the poor people ; and they lay every night in a barn. Their relations took no notice of them : they were rich, and ashamed to own such a poor little ragged girl as Margery, and such a dirty little curly-pated boy as Tommy. Our relations and friends seldom take notice of us when we are poor ; but as we grow rich they grow fonder. And this will always be the case while people love money better than they do God. But such wicked folks, who love nothing but money, and are proud and despise the poor, never come to any good in the end, as we shall see by and by.

CHAPTER II.

HOW ABOUT MR SMITH.

MR SMITH was a very worthy clergyman, who lived in the parish where little Margery and Tommy were born. He had a relation on a visit to him, a charitable, good man, and he sent for these children to him. The gentleman ordered Little Margery a new pair of shoes, and gave Mr Smith some money to buy her clothes. He said he would take Tommy, and make him a little sailor, and accordingly had a jacket and trousers made for him.

After a short stay with Mr Smith, the gentleman returned to London, and took little Tommy with him.

The parting between the two little children was very affecting. They both cried, and kissed each other a hundred times. At last, Tommy wiped off her tears with the sleeve of his jacket, and bid her cry no more, for he would return to her again, when he came home from sea. As they were so very fond, the gentleman would not allow

them to take leave of each other ; but told Tommy he should ride out with him, and come back at night. When night came, Little Margery grew very uneasy about her brother, and after sitting up as late as Mr Smith would permit her, she went crying to bed.

CHAPTER III.

HOW LITTLE MARGERY OBTAINED THE NAME OF GOODY TWO-SHOES.

LITTLE MARGERY got up in the morning very early, and ran all round the village, crying for her brother ; and after some time, she returned greatly distressed. However, at this instant, the shoemaker very opportunely came in with the new shoes, for which she had been measured by the gentleman's order.

Nothing could have supported Little Margery under the affliction she was in for the loss of her brother, but the pleasure she took in her two

shoes. She ran to Mrs Smith as soon as they were put on, and stroking down her ragged apron, she cried out, "Two Shoes, Mame, see Two Shoes." And as she so behaved to all the people she met, she by that means obtained the name of Goody Two-Shoes, though her playmates called her Old Goody Two-Shoes.

Little Margery was very happy in being with Mr and Mrs Smith, who were very charitable and good to her, and had resolved to bring her up with their family ; but as soon as that tyrant of the parish, that Graspall, heard of her being there, he applied first to Mr Smith, and threatened to reduce his tithes if he kept her ; and, after that, he spoke to Sir Timothy, who sent Mr Smith a peremptory message by his servant, that he should send back Meanwell's girl to be kept by her relations, and not harbour her in the parish. This so distressed Mr Smith, that he shed tears, and cried, "Lord, have mercy on the poor !"

The prayers of the righteous fly upwards, and reach unto the throne of heaven, as will be seen in the sequel.

Mrs Smith was also greatly concerned at being thus obliged to discard poor little Margery. She

kissed her, and cried ; as also did Mr Smith ; but they were obliged to send her away ; for the people who had ruined her father, could at any time have ruined them.

CHAPTER IV.

HOW LITTLE MARGERY LEARNED TO READ, AND BY DEGREES TAUGHT OTHERS.

LITTLE MARGERY saw how good and how wise Mr Smith was, and concluded that this was owing to his great learning, therefore she wanted of all things to learn to read. For this purpose, she used to meet the little boys and girls as they came from school, borrow their books, and sit down and read till they returned. By this means she soon got more learning than any of her playmates, and laid the following scheme for instructing those who were more ignorant than herself. She found that only the following letters were required to spell all the words ; but as some of these letters are large, and some small, she with

her knife cut out of several pieces of wood ten sets of each of these :

a b c d e f g h i j k l m n o p
q r s t u v w x y z.

And six sets of these :

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R
S T U V W X Y Z.

And having got an old spelling-book, she made her companions set up all the words they wanted to spell, and after that she taught them to compose sentences. You know what a sentence is, my dear, "I will be good," is a sentence ; and is made up, as you see, of several words.

The usual manner of spelling, or carrying on the game, as they called it, was this : suppose the word to be spelt was plum-pudding (and who can suppose a better?) the children were placed in a circle, and the first brought the letter p, the next l, the next u, the next m, and so on till the whole was spelt ; and if any one brought a wrong letter, he was to pay a fine, or play no more. This was their play ; and every morning she used to go

round to teach the children with these rattle-traps in a basket.

I once went her rounds with her, and was highly diverted, as you may be, if you please to look into the next chapter.

CHAPTER V.

HOW LITTLE TWO-SHOES BECAME A TROTTING TUTOR-
ESS, AND HOW SHE TAUGHT HER YOUNG PUPILS.

It was about seven o'clock in the morning when we set out on this important business, and the first house we came to was Farmer Wilson's.

Here Margery stopped, and ran up to the door, tap, tap, tap. "Who's there?" "Little Goody Two-Shoes," answered Margery, "come to teach Billy." "O! little Goody," says Mrs Wilson, with pleasure in her face, "I am glad to see you. Billy wants you sadly, for he has learned his lesson." Then out came the little boy. "How do, Doody Two-Shoes," says he, not able to speak plain. Yet this little boy had learned all his

letters ; for she threw down this alphabet mixed together thus :

b d f h k m o q s u w y x a c e g
i l n p r t v z j,

and he picked them up, called them by their right names, and put them all in order thus :

a b c d e f g h i j k l m n o p q r
s t u v w x y z.

She then threw down the alphabet of capital letters in the manner you here see them :

A D F H R M O Q S U W Y Z B C E G I
L N P K T V X J,

and he picked them all up, and having told their names, placed them thus :

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R
S T U V W X Y Z.

Now pray, little reader, take this bodkin and see if you can point out the letters from these mixed alphabets, and tell how they should be placed, as little boy Billy did.

The next place we came to was Farmer Simpson's.

"Bow, wow, wow," says the dog at the door. "Sirrah," says his Mistress. "why do you bark at Little Two-Shoes? Come in Madge; here, Sally wants you sadly, she has learned all her lesson." "Yes, that's what I have," replied the little one, in the country manner; and immediately taking the letters, she set up these syllables:

ba	be	bi	bo	bu	ca	ce	ci	co	cu
da	de	di	do	du	sa	se	si	so	su

and gave them their exact sounds as she composed them; after which she set up the following:

ac	ec	ic	oc	uc	ad	ed	id	od	ud
af	ef	if	of	uf	ag	eg	ig	og	ug

And pronounced them likewise.

After this, Little Two-Shoes taught her to spell words of one syllable, and she soon set up pear, plum, top, ball, pin, puss, dog, hog, fawn, buck, doe, lamb, sheep, ram, cow, hull, cock, hen, and many more.

The next place we came to was Gaffer Cook's cottage. Here a number of poor children were

met to learn, and all came round Little Margery at once ; who having pulled out her letters, asked the little boy next her, what he had for dinner ? He answered, "Bread," (the poor children in many places live very hard.) "Well, then," says she, "set up the first letter." He put up the B, to which the next added r, and the next e, the next a, the next d, and it stood thus, Bread.

"And what had you, Polly Comb, for your dinner?"

"Apple-Pie," answered the little girl: upon which the next in turn set up a great A, the two next a p each, and so on till the two words Apple and Pie were united, and stood thus, Apple-Pie.

The next had potatoes, the next beef and turnips, which were spelt, with many others, till the game of spelling was finished. She then set them another task, and proceeded to Farmer Thompson's, where there was a great many little ones waiting for her.

"So, Little Mrs Goody Two-Shoes," says one of them, "where have you been so long?" "I have been teaching," says she, "longer than I intended, and am, I am afraid, come too soon for you now." "No, but indeed you are not," replied

the other ; “for I have got my lesson, and so has Sally Dawson, and so has Harry Wilson, and so have we all ;” and they capered about as if they were overjoyed to see her. “Why, then,” says she, “you are all very good, and God will love you ; so let us begin our lessons.” They all huddled round her, and though at the other place they were employed about words and syllables, here we had people of much greater understanding, who dealt only in sentences.

The letters being brought upon the table, one of the little ones set up the following sentence :

“The Lord have mercy upon me, and grant that I may be always good, and say my prayers, and love the Lord my God with all my heart, with all my soul, and with all my strength ; and honour the Queen, and all good men in authority under her.”

Then the next took the letters, and composed this sentence :

“The Lord have mercy upon me, and grant that I may love my neighbour as myself, and do unto all men as I would have them do unto me ; and tell no lies, but be honest and just in all my dealings.”

The third composed the following sentence :

"The Lord have mercy upon me, and grant that I may honour my father and mother, and love my brothers and sisters, relations, and friends, and all my playmates, and everybody, and endeavour to make them happy."

The fourth composed the following :

"I pray God to bless this whole company, and all our friends, and all our enemies."

To this last Polly Sullen objected, and said, truly she did not know why we should pray for our enemies ! "Not pray for our enemies !" says little Margery ; "yes, you must : you are no Christian if you don't forgive your enemies, and do good for evil." Polly still pouted ; upon which Little Margery said, though she was poor, and obliged to live in a barn, she would not keep company with such a naughty, proud, perverse girl as Polly, and was going away ; however, the difference was made up, and she set them to compose the following

LESSONS FOR THE
CONDUCT OF LIFE

LESSON I.

He that would thrive
Must rise by five.
He that hath thriven
May lie till seven.
Truth may be blamed,
But can't be shamed.
Tell me with whom you go,
And I'll tell you what you do.
A friend in your need
Is a friend indeed.
They never can be wise,
Who good counsel despise.

LESSON II.

A wise head makes a close mouth.
Don't burn your lips with another man's broth.
Wit is folly, unless a wise man hath the keeping of it.
Use soft words and hard arguments.
Honey catches more flies than vinegar.
To forget a wrong is the best revenge.
Patience is a plaster for all sores.

Where pride goes, shame will follow.
When vice enters the room, vengeance is near the door.
Industry is fortune's right hand, and frugality her left.
Make much of threepence, or you never will be worth a
groat.

LESSON III.

A lie stands upon one leg, but truth upon two.
When a man talks much, believe but half what he says.
Fair words butter no parsnips.
Bad company poisons the mind.
A covetous man is never satisfied.
Abundance, like want, ruins many.
Contentment is the best fortune.
A contented mind is a continual feast.

A LESSON IN RELIGION.

Love God, for he is good.
Fear God, for he is just.
Pray to God, for all good things come from him.
Praise God, for great is his mercy towards us, and wonder-
ful are all his works.
Those who strive to be good have God on their side.
Those who have God for their friend shall want nothing.
Confess your sins to God; if you repent, he will forgive
you.
Remember that all you do is done in the presence of God.
The time will come, my friends, when we must give account
to God how we on earth do live.

A MORAL LESSON.

A good boy will make a good man.

Honour your parents, and the world will honour you.

• He that swims in sin, will sink in sorrow.

Love your friends, and your friends will love you.

Learn to live as you would wish to die.

As you expect all men should do by you,

So deal by them, and give each man his due.

As we were returning home, we saw a gentleman, who was very ill, sitting under a shady tree at the corner of the rookery. Though ill, he began to joke with little Margery, and said, laughing, "So, Goody Two-Shoes, they tell me you are a cunning little creature; pray, can you tell me what I shall do to get well?" "Yes, sir," says she, "go to bed when your rooks do, and get up with them in the morning; earn, as they do, every day what you eat, and eat and drink no more than you earn, and you'll get health and keep it. What should induce the rooks to frequent gentlemen's houses only, but to tell them how to lead a prudent life? They never build over cottages or farmhouses, because they see that these people know how to live without their admonition.

"Thus health and wit you may improve,
Taught by the tenants of the grove."

The gentleman, laughing, gave Margery sixpence, and told her she was a sensible girl.

CHAPTER VI.

HOW THE WHOLE PARISH WAS FRIGHTENED.

Who did not know Lady Ducklington, or who does not know that she was buried in this parish? Well, I never saw so grand a funeral in all my life: but the money they squandered away would have been better laid out in little books for children, or in meat, drink, and clothes for the poor.

All the country round came to see the funeral, and it was late before the corpse was interred. After which, in the night, or rather very early in the morning, the bells were heard to jingle in the steeple, which frightened the people prodigiously, for they all thought it was Lady Ducklington's ghost dancing among the bell-ropes. The

people flocked to Will Dobbins, the clerk, and wanted him to go and see what it was; but William said, he was sure it was a ghost, and that he would not offer to open the door. At length, Mr Long, the rector, hearing such an uproar in the village, went to the clerk, to know why he did not go and see who was there. "I go, sir," says William, "why the ghost would frighten me out of my wits." Mrs Dobbins cried too, and laying hold of her husband, said he should not be eat up by the ghost. "A ghost, you blockhead," says Mr Long, in a pet, "did either of you ever see a ghost, or know anybody that did?" "Yes," says the clerk, "my father did once, in the shape of a wind-mill, and it walked all around the church in a white sheet, with jackboots on, and had a gun by its side, instead of a sword." "A fine picture of a ghost, truly," says Mr Long; "give me the key of the church, you monkey; for I tell you there is no such thing now, whatever may have been formerly." Then taking the key, he went to the church, all the people following him. As soon as he had opened the door, what sort of a ghost do you think appeared? Why, Little Two-Shoes, who, being weary, had fallen asleep in one of the pews

during the funeral-service, and was shut in all night. She immediately asked Mr Long's pardon for the trouble she had given him, told him she had been locked in the church, and said she should not have rung the bells, but that she was very cold, and hearing Farmer Boulton's man go whistling by with his horses, she was in hopes he would have gone to the clerk for the key to let her out.

CHAPTER VII.

CONTAINING AN ACCOUNT OF ALL MARGERY SAW IN
THE CHURCH.

THE people were ashamed to ask Little Madge any questions before Mr Long, but as soon as he was gone, they all got round her to satisfy their curiosity, and desired she would give them a particular account of all that she had heard or seen.

HER TALE.

"I went to the church," said she, "as most of you did last night, to see the interment, and, being

very weary, I sat down in Mr Jones's pew, and fell fast asleep. At eleven o'clock I awoke, which I believe was in some measure occasioned by the clock's striking, for I heard it. I started up, and could not at first tell where I was; but after some time I recollected the funeral, and soon found that I was shut in the church. It was dismally dark, and I could see nothing; but, while I was standing in the pew, something jumped upon me behind, and laid, as I thought, its hands over my shoulders. I own I was a little afraid at first; however, I considered that I had always been constant at prayers and at church, and that I had done nobody any harm, but had endeavoured to do what good I could; and then, thought I, what have I to fear? Yet I kneeled down to say my prayers. As soon as I was on my knees, something very cold, as cold as marble, touched my neck, which made me start. However, I continued my prayers, and having begged protection from Almighty God, I found my spirits come, and I was sensible I had nothing to fear; for God protects, not only all those that are good, but also all those who endeavour to be good. Nothing can withstand the power and exceed the goodness of God. Armed with the confidence of

his protection, I walked down the church aisle, when I heard something pit pat, pit pat, pit pat, come after me, and something touched my hand, that seemed as cold as a marble monument. I could not think what it was, yet I knew it could not hurt me, and therefore I made myself easy; but being very cold, and the church being paved with stones, which were very damp, I felt my way as well as I could to the pulpit; in doing which something rushed by me, and almost threw me down. However, I was not frightened, for I knew that God would suffer nothing to hurt me.

“At last I found out the pulpit, and having shut the door, I laid me down on the mat and cushion to sleep; when something thrust and pulled the door, as I thought, for admittance, which prevented my going to sleep. At last it cried, bow, wow, wow; and I concluded it must be Mr Sanderson’s dog, which had followed me from their house to the church; so I opened the door, and called Snip, Snip, and the dog jumped upon me immediately. After this, Snip and I lay down together, and had a comfortable nap; for when I awoke it was almost light. I then walked up and down all the aisles of the church to keep myself

warm ; and though I went into the vaults, and trod on Lady Ducklington's coffin, I saw no ghost, and I believe it was owing to the reason Mr Long has given you, namely, that there is no such thing to be seen. As to my part, I would as soon lie in the church as in any other place ; and I am sure that any little boy or girl, who is good, and loves God, and keeps his commandments, may as safely lie in the church, or the churchyard, as anywhere else, if they take care not to get cold, for I am sure there are no ghosts either to hurt or frighten them ; though any one, possessed of fear, might have taken neighbour Sanderson's dog, with his cold nose, for a ghost ; and if they had not been undeceived, as I was, would never have thought otherwise." All the company acknowledged the justness of the observation, and thanked Little Two-Shoes for her advice.

REFLECTION.

After this, my dear children, I hope you will not believe any foolish stories that ignorant, weak, or designing people may tell you about ghosts ; for the tales of ghosts, witches, and fairies, are

the frolics of a distempered brain. No wise man ever saw either of them. Little Margery was not afraid ; no, she had good sense, and a good conscience, which is a cure for all these imaginary evils.

CHAPTER VIII.

WHAT HAPPENED TO LITTLE MARGERY IN A BARN,
AND HOW SHE RETURNED GOOD FOR EVIL TO HER
ENEMY, SIR TIMOTHY.

SOME days after this, a more curious adventure befell Little Madge. She happened to be coming home late from teaching, when it rained, thundered, and lightened, and therefore she took shelter in a farmer's barn, at a distance from the village. Soon after, the tempest drove in four thieves, who not seeing such a little creep-mouse girl as Two-Shoes, lay down on the hay next to her, and began to talk over their exploits, and to settle plans for future robberies. Little Margery, on hearing them, covered herself with straw. To be sure, she was

frightened, but her good sense taught her, that the only security she had was in keeping herself concealed; therefore she lay very still, and breathed very softly. About four o'clock these wicked people came to a resolution to break open both Sir William Dove's house and Sir Timothy Gripe's, and by force of arms to carry off all their money, plate, and jewels; but as it was thought then too late, they all agreed to defer it till the next night. After arranging this scheme, they all left the barn, which greatly rejoiced Margery, as it would any other little girl in her situation. Early in the morning she went to Sir William, and told him the whole of their conversation. Upon which he asked her name, then gave her something, and bid her call at his house the day following. She also went to Sir Timothy, notwithstanding he had used her so ill, for she knew it was her duty to do good for evil. As soon as he was informed who she was, he took no notice of her; upon which she desired to speak to Lady Gripe, and having informed her Ladyship of the affair, she went her way. This lady had more sense than her husband, which indeed is not a singular case; for instead of despising Little Margery and her infor-

mation, she privately set people to guard the house. The robbers divided themselves, and went about the time mentioned to both houses, and were surprised by the guards ; and upon trial one of the thieves turned evidence. Both Sir William and Sir Timothy found that they owed their lives to the discovery made by Little Margery ; and the first took great notice of her, and would no longer let her lie in a barn ; but Sir Timothy only said, that he was ashamed to owe his life to the daughter of one who was his enemy ; so true it is "That a proud man seldom forgives those he has injured."

CHAPTER IX.

HOW LITTLE MARGERY WAS MADE PRINCIPAL OF A
COUNTRY COLLEGE.

MRS WILLIAMS, who kept a college for instructing little gentlemen and ladies in the science of A, B, C, was at this time very old and infirm, and wanted to resign this important trust.

This being told to Sir William Dove, who lived in the parish, he sent for Mrs Williams, and desired she would examine Little Two-Shoes, and see whether she was qualified for the office. This was done, and Mrs Williams reported that Little Margery was the best scholar, and had the best head, and the best heart, of any one she had examined. All the country had a great opinion of Mrs Williams, and this character gave them also a great opinion of Mrs Margery; for so we must now call her.

This Mrs Margery thought the happiest period of her life; but more happiness was in store for her. God heaps up blessings for all those who love him, and though for a time he may suffer them to be poor and distressed, and hide his good purposes from human sight, yet in the end they are generally crowned with happiness here, and no one can doubt their happiness hereafter.

Here ends the History of *Little Goody Two-Shoes*.

Those who would know how she behaved after she came to be *Mrs Margery Two-Shoes*, must read the second part of this work.

THE HISTORY
OF
MRS MARGERY TWO-SHOES.

INTRODUCTION.

IN the first part of this work, the young student has read, and I hope with pleasure and improvement, the History of this Lady, while she was known and distinguished by the name of Little Two-Shoes; we are now come to a period of her life when that name was discarded, and a more eminent one bestowed upon her, I mean that of Mrs Margery Two-Shoes; for as she was now president of the A, B, C College, it became as necessary to exalt her in title as in place.

No sooner was she settled in this office, than she laid every possible scheme to promote the welfare and happiness of all her neighbours, and especially of her little ones, in whom she took great delight; and all those whose parents could not afford to pay for their education, she taught for nothing, for you are to observe, that they were very good, or were soon made so by her good management.

CHAPTER I.

OF HER SCHOOL, HER USHERS, HER ASSISTANTS, AND
HER MANNER OF TEACHING.

WE have already informed the reader, that the school where she taught was that which was before kept by Mrs Williams. The room was very large and spacious, and as she knew that nature intended that children should be always in action, she placed her different letters, or alphabets, all round the school, so that every one was obliged to get up and fetch a letter, or to spell a word,

when it came to their turn ; which not only kept them in health, but fixed the letters and points firmly in their minds.

She had the following assistants, or ushers, to help her, and I will tell you how she came by them. Mrs Margery, you must know, was very humane and compassionate ; and her tenderness extended not only to all mankind, but even to all animals that were not noxious. These are God's creatures as well as we are. He made both them and us ; and, for wise purposes, best known to himself, he placed them in this world to live among us ; so that they are our fellow-tenants of the globe. How then can people dare to torture and wantonly destroy God's creatures ? They, as well as you, are capable of feeling pain, and of receiving pleasure ! and how can you, who want to be made happy yourself, delight in making your fellow-creatures miserable ? Do you think the poor birds, whose nests and young one that wicked boy, Dick Wilson, ran away with, do not feel as much pain as your father and mother would feel, was any one to pull down their house and run away with you ? To be sure they do.

One day, as she was going through the next

village, she met with some wicked boys who had got a young raven, which they were going to throw stones at. She wanted to get the poor creature out of their cruel hands, and therefore gave them a penny for him, and brought him home. She called his name Ralph, and a fine bird he was.

Now this bird she taught to speak, to spell, and to read ; and as he was particularly fond of playing with the large letters, the children used to call this Ralph's Alphabet :

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R
S T U V W X Y Z.

Some days after she had met with the raven, as she was walking in the fields she saw some naughty boys, who had taken a pigeon and tied a string to its legs, in order to let it fly, and draw it back again when they pleased ; and by this means they tortured the poor animal with the hopes of liberty and repeated disappointment.

This pigeon she also bought, and taught him now to spell and read, though not to talk, and he performed all those extraordinary things which

are recorded of the famous bird that was some time since advertised in the Haymarket, and visited by most of the great people in the kingdom. This pigeon was a very pretty fellow, and she called him Tom.

And as the raven Ralph was fond of the large letters, Tom the pigeon took care of the small ones, of which he composed this alphabet :

a b c d e f g h i j k l m n o p
q r s t u v w x y z.

The neighbours knowing that Mrs Two-Shoes was very good, as to be sure nobody was better, made her a present of a little skylark.

Now, as many people, even at that time, had learned to lie in bed long in the morning, she thought the lark might be of use to her and her pupils, and tell them when to get up.

“For he that is fond of his bed, and lies till noon, lives but half his days, the rest being lost in sleep, which is a kind of death.”

Some time after this, a poor lamb had lost its dam, and the farmer being about to kill it, she

bought it of him, and brought it home with her to play with the children, and teach them when to go to bed ; for it was a rule with the wise men of that age to

“Rise with the lark, and lie down with the lamb.”

This lamb she called Will.

No sooner was Tippy the lark and Will the ba-lamb brought into the school, than that sensible rogue Ralph, the raven, composed the following verse, which every good little boy and girl should get by heart.

“Early to bed, and early to rise,
Is the way to be healthy, wealthy, and wise.”

This is true enough : for those who do not go to bed early, cannot rise early ; and those who do not rise early, cannot do much business.

Soon after this, a present was made to Mrs Margery of a little dog, whom she called Jumper.

Jumper, Jumper, Jumper ! He was always in a good-humour, and playing and jumping about, and therefore he was called Jumper. The place assigned for Jumper was that of keeping the door,

so that he may be called the porter of the college, for he would let nobody go out, nor any one come in, without leave of his mistress.

Billy the ba-lamb was a cheerful fellow, and all the children were fond of him; wherefore Mrs Two-Shoes made it a rule that those who behaved best, should have Will home with them at night, to carry their satchel or basket on his back, and bring it in the morning.

CHAPTER II.

A SCENE OF DISTRESS IN A SCHOOL.

It happened one day, when Mrs Two-Shoes was diverting the children after school, as she usually did, with some innocent games, or entertaining and instructive stories, that a man arrived with the melancholy news of Sally Jones's father being thrown from his horse, and thought past all recovery; nay,

the messenger said, that he was seemingly dying when he came away. Poor Sally was greatly distressed, as indeed were all in the school, for she dearly loved her father, and Mrs Two-Shoes and all her children dearly loved her. It is generally said, that we never know the real value of our parents or friends till we have lost them ; but poor Sally felt this by affection, and her mistress knew it by experience. All the school was in tears, and the messenger was obliged to return ; but before he went, Mrs Two-Shoes, unknown to the children, ordered Tom Pigeon to go home with the man, and bring a letter to inform her how Mr Jones did. They set out together, and the pigeon rode on the man's head, for the man was able to carry the pigeon, though the pigeon was not able to carry the man ; if he had, they would have been there much sooner, for Tom Pigeon was very good, and never staid his errands.

Soon after the man was gone, the pigeon was lost, and the concern the children were under for Mr Jones and little Sally was in some measure diverted, and part of their attention turned after Tom, who was a great favourite, and consequently much bewailed. Mrs Margery, who knew the

great use and necessity of teaching children to submit cheerfully to the will of Providence, bid them wipe away their tears, and then kissing Sally, "You must be a good girl," says she, "and depend upon God for his blessing and protection ; for, 'He is a father to the fatherless, and defendeth all those who put their trust in him.'" She then told them a story, which I shall relate in as few words as possible.

THE HISTORY OF MR LOVEWELL.

Mr Lovewell was born at Bath, and apprenticed to a laborious trade in London, which being too hard for him, he parted with his master by consent, and hired himself as a common servant to a merchant in the city. Here he spent his leisure hours, not as servants too frequently do, in drinking and schemes of pleasure, but in improving his mind ; and among other acquirements he made himself a complete master of accounts.

His sobriety, honesty, and the regard he paid to his master's interest, greatly recommended him to the whole family, and he had several offices of trust committed to his charge, in which he

acquitted himself so well, that the merchant removed him from the stable to the counting-house.

Here he soon made himself master of the business, and became so useful to the merchant, that, in reward for his faithful services and the affection he had for him, he married him to his own niece, a prudent, agreeable young lady, and gave him a share in the business:—see what honesty and industry will do for us. Half the great men in London, I am told, have made themselves by this means; and who would not be honest and industrious, when it is so much our interest and our duty!

After some years the merchant died, and left Mr Lovewell possessed of many fine ships at sea, and much money, and he was happy in a wife, who had brought him a son and two daughters, all dutiful and obedient. The treasures and good things, however, of this life are so uncertain, that a man can never be happy unless he lays the foundation for it in his own mind. So true is that copy in our writing-books, which tells us, that “A contented mind is a continual feast.”

After some years’ successful trade, he thought

his circumstances sufficient to insure his own ships, or, in other words, to send his goods and ships to sea without being insured by others, as is customary among merchants; when, unfortunately for him, four of them, richly laden, were lost at sea.

This he supported with becoming resolution; but the next mail brought him advice, that nine others were taken by the French, with whom we were then at war; and this, together with the failure of three foreign merchants whom he had trusted, completed his ruin. He was then obliged to call his creditors together, who took his effects, and being angry with him for the imprudent step of not insuring his ships, left him destitute of all subsistence. Nor did the flatterers of his fortune, those who had lived by his bounty when in his prosperity, pay the least regard either to him or his family. So true is another copy that you will find in your writing-books, which says, "Misfortune tries our friends." All those slights of his pretended friends, and the ill-usage of his creditors, both he and his family bore with Christian fortitude; but other calamities fell upon him which he felt more sensibly.

In this distress, one of his relations, who lived

at Florence, offered to take his son ; and another, who lived at Barbadoes, sent for one of his daughters. The ship which his son sailed in was cast away, and all the crew supposed to be lost ; and the ship in which his daughter went a passenger, was taken by pirates, and one post brought the miserable father an account of the loss of his two children. This was the severest stroke of all ; it made him completely wretched, and he knew it must have a dreadful effect on his wife and remaining daughter ; he therefore endeavoured to conceal it from them. But the perpetual anxiety he was in, together with the loss of his appetite and want of rest, soon alarmed his wife. She found something was labouring in his breast which was concealed from her ; and being one night disturbed in a dream with what was ever in his thoughts, and calling out upon his dear children, she awoke him, and insisted upon knowing what was the cause of his inquietude. "Nothing, my dear, nothing," says he. "The Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away, blessed be the name of the Lord." This was sufficient to alarm the poor woman : she lay till his spirits were composed, and as she thought asleep ; then, stealing out of

bed, got the keys and opened his bureau, where she found the fatal account. In the height of her distraction, she flew to her daughter's room, and waking her with her shrieks, put the letter into her hands. The young lady, unable to support the load of misery, fell into a fit, from which it was thought she never could have been recovered. However, at last she revived; but the shock was so great that it entirely deprived her of her speech.

Thus loaded with misery, and unable to bear the slights and disdains of those who had formerly professed themselves friends, this unhappy family retired into a country where they were unknown, in order to hide themselves from the world; when, to support their independency, the father laboured as well as he could at husbandry, and the mother and daughter sometimes got spinning and knitting work, to help and furnish the means of subsistence; which, however, was so precarious and uncertain, that they often, for many weeks together, lived on nothing but cabbage and bread boiled in water. But God never forsakes the righteous, nor suffers those to perish who put their trust in him. At this time, a lady, who was

just come to England, sent to take a pleasant seat ready furnished in that neighbourhood, and the person who was employed for the purpose was ordered to deliver a bank note of £100 to Mr Lovewell, another hundred to his wife, and a £50 to the daughter, desiring them to take possession of the house, and get it well aired before she came down, which would be in two or three days at most. This, to people who were almost starving, was a sweet and seasonable relief, and they were all solicitous to know their benefactress, but of that the messenger himself was too ignorant to inform them. However, she came down sooner than was expected, and with tears embraced them again and again. After which, she told the father and mother she had heard from their daughter, who was her acquaintance, and that she was well, and on her return to England. This was the agreeable subject of their conversation till after dinner, when, drinking their healths, she again with tears saluted them, and, falling upon her knees, asked their blessings. It is impossible to express the mutual joy which this occasioned. Their conversation was made up of the most endearing expressions, intermingled with tears and

caresses. Their torrent of joy, however, was for a moment interrupted by a coach which stopped at the gate, and brought, as they imagined, a very unseasonable visitor, and therefore she sent to be excused from seeing any company. But this had no effect, for a gentleman richly dressed jumped out of the coach, and pursuing the servant to the parlour, saluted them round, who were all astonished at his behaviour. But when the tears trickled from his cheeks, the daughter, who had been some years dumb, immediately cried out, "My brother! my brother! my brother!" and from that instant recovered her speech. The mutual joy which this occasioned is better felt than expressed.

Those who have proper sentiments of humanity, gratitude, and filial piety, will rejoice at the event; and those who have a proper idea of the goodness of God, and his gracious providence, will, from this, as well as other instances of his goodness and mercy, glorify his holy name, and magnify his wisdom and power, who is a shield to the righteous, and defendeth all those who put their trust in him.

As you, my dear children, may be solicitous to know how this happy event was brought about, I

must inform you that Mr Lovewell's son, when the ship foundered, had, with some others, got into a long-boat, and was taken up by a ship at sea, and carried to the East Indies, where, in a little time, he made a large fortune: and the pirates who took his daughter behaved to her in a very cruel manner; but others, who had more honour and generosity, became her defenders; upon which a quarrel arose between them, and the captain, who was the worst of the gang, being killed, the rest of the crew carried the ship into a port of the Manilla islands, where, when her story was known, she was treated with great respect, and courted by a young gentleman, who died just before the marriage was agreed on, leaving her his whole fortune.

You see, my dear Sally, how wonderfully these people were preserved and made happy after such extreme distress; we are therefore never to despair, even under the greatest misfortunes, for God is all-powerful, and can deliver us at any time. Remember Job, but I think you have not read so far; take the Bible, Billy Jones, and read the history of that good and patient man.

At this instant something was heard to flap at

the window, "Bow, wow, wow," says Jumper, and attempted to leap up and open the door, at which the children were surprised; but Mrs Margery, knowing what it was, opened the casement, as Noah did the window of the ark, and drew in Tom Pigeon with the letter.

As soon as he was placed upon the table, he walked up to little Sally, and dropping the letter, cried "Co, co, coo;" as much as to say, "There, read it." Now this poor pigeon had travelled fifty miles in about an hour, to bring Sally the letter, and who would destroy such pretty creatures?—But let us read the letter.

"MY DEAR SALLY,

"God has been very merciful, and restored your papa to us again, who is now so well as to be able to sit up. I hear you are a good girl, my dear, and I hope you will never forget to praise the Lord for this his great goodness and mercy to us. What a sad thing it would have been if your father had died, and left both you, and me, and little Tommy, in distress, and without a friend! Your father sends his blessing with mine.—Be

good, my dear child, and God will also bless you, whose blessing is above all things.

“I am, my dear Sally,

“Your affectionate Mother,

“MARTHA JONES.”

CHAPTER III.

THE SAGACITY AND INSTINCT OF A LITTLE DOG.

Soon after this, a very dreadful accident happened in the school. It was on a Thursday morning, when the children having learned their lessons soon, she had given them leave to play, and they were all running about the school, and diverting themselves with the birds and the lamb. At this time the dog, all of a sudden, laid hold of his mistress's apron, and endeavoured to pull her out of the school. She was at first surprised; however, she followed him to see what he intended. No sooner had he led her into the garden, but he ran

back and pulled out one of the children in the same manner ; upon which, she ordered them all to leave the school immediately, and they had not been out five minutes before the roof of the house fell in. What a miraculous deliverance was here ! How gracious ! How good was God to save all these children from destruction, and to make use of such an instrument as a little sagacious animal to accomplish his divine will ! I should have observed, that as soon as they were all in the garden, the dog came leaping round them to express his joy, and when the house had fallen, he laid himself down quietly by his mistress.

Some of the neighbours who saw the school fall, and who were in great pain for Margery and her little ones, soon spread the news through the village, and all the parents, terrified for their children, came crowding in abundance. They had, however, the satisfaction to find them all safe, and upon their knees, with their mistress, giving God thanks for their happy deliverance.

You are not to wonder, my dear reader, that this little dog should have more sense than you, or your father, or your grandfather.

Though God has made man the lord of the

creation, and endowed him with reason; yet, in many respects, he has been altogether as bountiful to other creatures of his forming. Some of the senses of other animals are more acute than ours, as we find by daily experience.

You would not think Ralph, the raven, half so wise and good as he is. Yet, when the prophet Elijah was obliged to fly from Ahab, king of Israel, and hide himself in a cave, the ravens, at the command of God, fed him every day, and preserved his life. See 1st Kings, chap. xvii.

And the pretty pigeon, when the world was drowned, and he was confined with Noah in the ark, was sent forth by him to see whether the waters were abated. Gen. viii. 8, 11.

As these, and other animals, are so sensible and kind to us, we ought to be tender and good to them, and not take away their young ones, as many wicked boys do. Does not the horse and the ass carry you and your burdens? Does not the ox plough your ground, the cow give you milk, the sheep clothe your back, the dog watch your house, the goose find you in quills to write with, the hen bring eggs for your custards and puddings, and the cock call you up in the morning, when you are

lazy, and likely to hurt yourselves by lying too long in bed? If so, how can you be so cruel to them, and abuse God's creatures? Go, naughty boy, go; be sorry for what you have done, and do so no more, that God may forgive you. Amen, say I, again and again. God will bless you, but not unless you are merciful and good.

The downfall of the school was a great misfortune to Mrs Margery; for she not only lost all her books, but was destitute of a place to teach in; but Sir William Dove being informed of this, ordered it to be rebuilt at his own expense, and till that could be done, Farmer Grove was so kind as to let her have his large hall to teach in.

CHAPTER IV.

WHAT HAPPENED AT FARMER GROVE'S.

WHILE at Mr Grove's, which was in the heart of the village, Mrs Margery not only taught the children in the daytime, but the farmer's servants, and all the neighbours, to read and write in the evening; and it was a constant practice, before they went away, to make them all go to prayers, and sing psalms. By this means the people grew extremely regular, his servants were always at home, instead of being at the alehouse, and he had more work done than ever. This gave not only Mr Grove, but all the neighbours, a high opinion of her good sense and prudent behaviour; and she was so much esteemed, that most of the differences in the parish were left to her decision; and if a man and wife quarrelled (which sometimes happened), both parties came to her for advice. Everybody knew that Martha Wilson was a passionate, scolding jade, and that John, her husband, was a

surly, ill-tempered fellow. These were one day brought by the neighbours, for Margery to talk to them, when they quarrelled before her, and were proceeding to blows ; but she, stepping between them, thus addressed the husband ; "John," she said, "you are a man, and ought to have more sense than to fly in a passion at every word that is said amiss by your wife ; and Martha, you ought to know your duty better than to say anything to aggravate your husband's resentment.

"These frequent quarrels arise from indulging your violent passions ; for I know you both love one another, notwithstanding what has passed between you. Now, pray tell me, John, and tell me, Martha, when you have had a quarrel overnight, are you not both sorry for it the next day ?" They both declared that they were. "Why, then, I'll tell you how to prevent this for the future, if you will both promise to take my advice." They both promised they would. "You know, that a small spark will set fire to tinder, and that tinder, properly placed, will fire a house : an angry word is with you as that spark, for you are both as touchy as that tinder, and very often make your own house too hot to hold you. To

prevent this, therefore, and to live happily for the future, you must solemnly agree, that if one speaks an angry word, the other will not answer, till he or she has distinctly called over the alphabet, and the other not reply till he has told twenty ; by this means your passion will be stifled, and reason will have time to take the rule."

This is the best recipe that was ever given for a married couple to live in peace. Though John and his wife frequently attempted to quarrel afterwards, they never could get their passions to any height, for there was something so droll in thus carrying on disputes, that before they got to the end of the argument, they saw the absurdity of it, laughed, kissed, and were friends.

Just as Mrs Margery had settled this difference between John and his wife, the children (who had been sent out to play while that business was transacting) returned, some in tears, and others very disconsolate, for the loss of a little dormouse they were very fond of, and which was just dead. Mrs Margery, who had the art of moralising and drawing instructions from every accident, took this opportunity of reading them a lecture on the uncertainty of life, and the necessity of being

always prepared for death. "You should get up in the morning," says she, "and so conduct yourselves as if that day were to be your last, and lie down at night as if you never expected to see the world any more. This may be done," says she, "without abating of your cheerfulness, for you are not to consider death as an evil, but as a useful pilot, who is to convey you to a place of great happiness : therefore, play, my dear children, and be merry ; but be innocent and good. The good man sets death at defiance, for his darts are only dreadful to the wicked."

CHAPTER V.

THE WHOLE HISTORY OF THE CONSIDERING-CAP.

THE great reputation Mrs Margery acquired by composing differences in families, and especially between man and wife, induced her to cultivate that part of her system of morality and economy,

in order to render it more extensively useful. For this purpose she contrived, what she called a charm for the passions ; which was a Considering-cap, almost as large as a grenadier's, but of three equal sides, on the first of which was written, "I may be wrong ;" on the second, "It is fifty to one but you are ;" and on the third, "I'll consider of it." The other parts on the outside were filled with odd characters, as unintelligible as the writings of the old Egyptians ; but inside there was a direction for its use, of the utmost consequence ; for it strictly enjoined the possessor to put on the cap, whenever he found his passions begin to grow turbulent, and not to deliver a word, while it was on, but with great coolness and moderation. As this cap was a universal cure for wrong-headedness, and prevented numberless disputes and quarrels, it greatly hurt the trade of the poor lawyers, but was of the utmost service to the rest of the community.

They were bought by husbands and wives, who had themselves frequent occasion for them, and sometimes lent them to their children. They were also purchased in large quantities by masters and servants ; by young folks who were intent

upon matrimony ; by judges and jurymen, and even physicians and divines ; nay, if we may believe history, the legislators of the land did not disdain the use of them : and we are further told, that when any important debate arose, " Cap " was the word, and each house looked like a grand synod of Egyptian priests. Nor was this cap of less use to partners in trade ; for with these, as well as with husbands and wives, if one was out of humour, the other threw him the cap, and he was obliged to put it on, and keep it till all was quiet. I myself have seen thirteen caps worn at once in one family, which could not have subsisted an hour without them ; and I was particularly pleased at Sir Humphrey Huffum's, one day, to hear a little girl, when her father chanced to be out of humour, ask her mamma if she should reach down the cap ? These caps, I can assure you, were of such utility, that people of understanding never went without them, and it was very common in the country, when a booby made his appearance, and talked nonsense, to say, " He has no cap in his pocket."

What was Fortunatus's wishing-cap, when compared to this ? That cap is said to have

conveyed people instantly from one place to another; but as the change of place does not change the temper and disposition of the mind, little benefit can be expected from it; nor indeed is much to be hoped for from his famous purse. That purse, it is said, was never empty, and such may sometimes be convenient; but as money will not purchase peace, it is not necessary for a man to encumber himself with a great deal of it. Peace and happiness depend so much upon the state of a man's own mind, and upon the use of the Considering-cap, that it is generally his own fault if he is miserable. One of these caps will last a man his whole life, and is a discovery of far more importance to the public than the philosopher's stone.

CHAPTER VI.

HOW MRS MARGERY WAS TAKEN UP FOR A WITCH.

MRS MARGERY, as we have frequently observed, was always doing good, and thought she could never sufficiently gratify those who had done anything to serve her. These generous sentiments naturally led her to consult the interest of Mr Grove, and the rest of her neighbours; and as most of their lands were meadow, and they depended much on their hay, which had been for many years greatly damaged by the wet weather, she contrived an instrument to direct them when to mow their grass with safety, and prevent their hay being spoiled. They all came to her for advice, and by that means got in their hay without damage, while most of that in the neighbouring village was spoiled.

This occasioned a very great noise in the country, and so greatly provoked were the people who resided in the other parishes, that they absolutely accused her of being a witch, and sent old Gaffer Goosecap (a busy fellow in other

people's concerns) to find out evidence against her. The wiseacre happened to come to her school, when she was walking about with the raven on one shoulder, the pigeon on the other, the lark on her hand, and the lamb and the dog by her side; which indeed made a droll figure, and so surprised the man, that he cried out, "A witch! a witch! a witch!"

Upon this she, laughing, answered, "A conjuror! a conjuror!" and so they parted; but it did not end thus, for a warrant was issued against Mrs Margery, and she was carried to a meeting of the justices, whither all the neighbours followed her.

At the meeting, one of the justices, who knew little of life, and less of the law, behaved very idly; and though nobody was able to prove anything against her, he asked her who she could bring to speak to her character? "Who can you bring to speak *against* my character, sir?" says she. "There are people enough who would appear in my defence, were it necessary; but I never supposed that any one here could be so weak as to believe there was any such thing as a witch. If I am a witch, this is my charm, and (laying a

barometer or weather-glass upon the table) it is with this," says she, "that I have taught my neighbours to know the state of the weather." All the company laughed; and Sir William Dove, who was on the bench, asked her accusers, how they could be such fools as to think there was any such thing as a witch? "It is true," continued he, "many innocent and worthy people have been abused, and even murdered, on this absurd and foolish supposition, which is a scandal to our religion, to our laws, to our nation, and to common sense: let me illustrate this with a story.

"There was in the west of England a poor, industrious woman, who laboured under the same evil report which this good woman is accused of. Every hog that died with the murrain, every cow that slipped her calf, she was accountable for; if a horse had the staggers, she was supposed to be in his head; and whenever the wind blew a little harder than ordinary, Goody Giles was playing her tricks, and riding upon a broomstick in the air. These, and a thousand other fantasies, too ridiculous to recite, possessed the heads of the common people; horse's shoes were nailed with the heels upwards, and many tricks were made

use of, to mortify the poor creature ; and such was their rage against her, that they petitioned Mr Williams, the parson of the parish, not to let her come to church ; and, at last, even insisted upon it ; but this he overruled, and allowed the poor old woman a nook in one of the aisles to herself, where she muttered over her prayers in the best manner she could. The parish, thus disconcerted and enraged, withdrew the small pittance they allowed her for her support, and would have reduced her to starvation, had she not been still assisted by the benevolent Mr Williams.

“Some time after, a brother of Mrs Giles died in London, who, though he would not part with a farthing while he lived, at his death was obliged to leave her five thousand pounds, that he could not carry with him. This altered the face of Jane’s affairs prodigiously : she was no longer Jane, alias Joan Giles, the ugly witch, but Madam Giles ; her old ragged garb was exchanged for one that was new and genteel ; her greatest enemies made their court to her, even the justice himself came to wish her joy ; and though several hogs and horses died, and the wind frequently blew

afterwards, yet Madam Giles was never supposed to have a hand in it ; and from hence it is plain, as I observed before, that a woman must be very poor, very old, and live in a neighbourhood where the people are very stupid, before she can possibly pass for a witch.

“It was a saying of Mr Williams, who would sometimes be jocose, and had the art of making even satire agreeable, That if ever Jane deserved the character of a witch, it was after this money was left her ; for that, with her five thousand pounds, she did more acts of charity and friendly offices than all the people of fortune within fifty miles of the place.”

After this, Sir William Dove inveighed against the absurd and foolish notions which the country people had imbibed concerning witches and witchcraft, and having proved that there was no such thing, but that all were the effects of folly and ignorance, he gave the court such an account of Mrs Margery and her virtue, good sense, and prudent behaviour, that the gentlemen present were enamoured with her, and returned her public thanks for the great service she had done the country. One gentleman in particular, I mean

Sir Charles Jones, had conceived such a high opinion of her, that he offered her a considerable sum to take the care of his family, and the education of his daughter, which, however, she refused; but this gentleman, sending for her afterwards, when he had a dangerous fit of illness, she went, and behaved so prudently in the family, and so tenderly to him and his daughter, that he would not permit her to leave his house, but soon after made her proposals of marriage. She was truly sensible of the honour he intended her, but, though poor, she would not consent to be made a lady till he had effectually provided for his daughter; for she told him that power was a dangerous thing to be trusted with, and that a good man or woman should never throw themselves into the road of temptation.

All things being settled, and the day fixed, the neighbours came in crowds to see the wedding; for they were all glad that one who had been such a good little girl, and was become such a virtuous and good woman, was going to be made a lady; but just as the clergyman had opened his book, a gentleman richly dressed ran into the church, and cried, "Stop, stop!" This greatly alarmed the

congregation, particularly the intended bride and bridegroom, whom he first accosted, and desired to speak with them apart. After they had been talking some little time, the people were greatly surprised to see Sir Charles stand motionless, and his bride cry and faint away in the stranger's arms. This seeming grief, however, was only a prelude to a flood of joy, which immediately succeeded ; for you must know, gentle reader, that this gentleman, so richly dressed, was no other than Tommy Two-Shoes, Mrs Margery's brother, who was just come from sea, where he had made a large fortune, and hearing, as soon as he landed, of his sister's intended wedding, had rode post-haste to see that a proper settlement was made on her, which he thought she was now entitled to, as he himself was both able and willing to give her an ample fortune. The two lovers returned to the communion-table, and were married in tears, but they were tears of joy.

CHAPTER VII. AND LAST.

THE TRUE USE OF RICHES.

THE harmony and affection that subsisted between this happy couple was inexpressible ; but time, which dissolves the closest union, after six years, severed Sir Charles from his lady ; for, being seized with a violent fever, he died, and left her full of grief, though possessed of a large fortune.

We forgot to remark, that after her marriage, Lady Jones (for so we must now call her) ordered the chapel to be fitted up, and allowed the chaplain a considerable sum out of her own private purse, to visit the sick, and say prayers every day to all the people that could attend. She also gave Mr Johnson ten guineas a year, to preach a sermon annually, on the necessity and duties of the marriage state : and she gave him ten more, on the decease of Sir Charles, to preach yearly on the subject of death. She had all the parish put into mourning for the loss of her husband ; and to those men who attended this annual service, she gave

harvest gloves, to their wives shoes and stockings, and to all the children little books and plum-cakes. We must also observe, that she herself wove a chaplet of flowers, and placed it on his gravestone, before the service, and a suitable psalm was always sung by the congregation.

About this time, she heard that Mr Smith was oppressed by Sir Timothy Gripe, the Justice, and his friend Graspall, who endeavoured to deprive him of part of his tithes ; upon which she, in conjunction with her brother, defended him, and the cause was tried in Westminster Hall, where Mr Smith gained a verdict ; and it having appeared that Sir Timothy had behaved scandalously as a justice of the peace, he was struck off the list, and no longer permitted to act in that capacity. This was a blow to a man of his imperious disposition, and it was followed by one yet more severe ; for a relation of his, who had an undoubted right to the Mouldwell estate, finding that it was possible to get the better at law of a rich man, laid claim to it, brought his action, and recovered the whole manor of Mouldwell ; and being afterwards inclined to sell it, he, in consideration of the aid Lady Margery had lent him during his distress, made her the

first offer, and she purchased the whole, and threw it into different farms, that the poor might be no longer under the dominion of two overgrown men.

This was a great mortification to Sir Timothy, as well as to his friend Graspall, who from this time experienced nothing but misfortunes, and was in a few years so dispossessed of his ill-gotten wealth, that his family were reduced to seek subsistence from the parish, at which, those who had felt the weight of his iron hand rejoiced; but Lady Margery desired that his children might be treated with care and tenderness; "for they," says she, "are no ways accountable for the actions of their father."

At her first coming into power, she took care to gratify her old friends, especially Mr and Mrs Smith, whose family she made happy. She paid great regard to the poor, made their interest her own, and, to induce them to come regularly to church, she ordered a loaf, or the price of a loaf, to be given to every one who would accept of it. This brought many of them to church, who by degrees learned their duty, and then came on a more noble principle. She also took care to encourage matrimony; and in order to induce her tenants and neighbours to enter into that happy state, she

always gave the young couple something towards housekeeping, and stood god-mother to all their children, whom she had in parties every Sunday evening, to teach them their catechism, and lecture them in religion and morality ; after which, she treated them with a supper, gave them such books as they wanted, and then dismissed them with her blessing. Nor did she forget them at her death, but left each a legacy, as will be seen among other charitable donations when we publish her will, which we may do in some future volume. There is one bequest, however, so singular, that we cannot help taking notice of it in this place. She desired that a large piece of land should be planted yearly with potatoes, for all the poor of any parish who would come and fetch them for the use of their families ; but if any took them to sell, they were deprived of that privilege ever after. And these roots were planted and raised from the rent arising from a farm which she had assigned over for that purpose. In short, she was a mother to the poor, a physician to the sick, and a friend to all who were in distress. Her life was the greatest blessing, and her death the greatest calamity that ever was felt in the neighbourhood. A

72 THE HISTORY OF MRS MARGERY TWO-SHOES.

monument, but without inscription, was erected to her memory in the churchyard.

Numbers frequented her tomb who never knew her personally, but solely for the high veneration of that excellent character which she left behind her.

How vain the tears that fall from you,
And here supply the place of dew !
How vain to weep the happy dead,
Who now to heavenly realms are fled !
Repine no more, your plaints forbear,
And strive at last to meet them there.

THE END.

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