

EARLY AMERICAN SERIALIZED NOVELS

ISSUE VII

THE FORESTERS

[7. December 1787]

The FORESTERS:

An AMERICAN TALE, being a Sequel to the History of JOHN BULL the Clothier.

[Continued from page 741.]

The general invitation which William Broadbrim had given to all persons who were destitute of a home, to come and take shelter under his roof, and the gentle humane treatment which those who accepted the invitation met with, spread his fame abroad, and brought him much company. His family was sometimes compared to the Ark of Noah, because there was scarcely any kind of human being, of whatever shape, size, complexion, disposition, language or religion, but what might be found there. He had also the art to keep them pretty well employed. Industry, frugality, and œconomy, were the leading principles of his family, and their thriving was in a ratio compounded of these three forces. Nothing was wanting to make them as happy a family as any in the world, but a disposition among themselves, to live in peace. Unluckily, however, this desirable blessing, on account of the variety of their humours and interests, was seldom found among them. Ambition, jealousy, avarice, and party spirit, had frequent out-breakings, and were with difficulty quelled. It is needless to enter into a very particular discussion of the grounds or effects of these dissensions: family-quarrels are not very entertaining either at home or abroad, unless to such as delight in scandal, and it is presumed the readers of this narrative are not of that number. But there was one cause of dissention which it would be improper not to notice, because we have already hinted at the principle from which it proceeded. William's aversion

to fire arms was so strong, that he would not suffer any of his family to molest the wild inhabitants of the forest, though they were ever so mischievous. While the family was small, the savage animals who lived in the neighborhood being well fed, were tolerably tame and civil, but when the increased number of the family had penetrated farther into the forest, the haunts of the natives were disturbed and the straggling labourers were sometimes surprised, and having nothing to defend themselves with, fell a sacrifice to savage resentment. Remonstrances were presented to Mr. Broadbrim one after another, but he always insisted on it that the sufferer must have been the aggressor, and that "they who take the sword must expect to perish by the sword." At length the dead corpse of one of the labourers, mangled and torn in a dreadful manner, was brought and laid at the door of William's parlour (1) with a label affixed to the breast, on which were written these words, "Thou thyself must be accounted my murderer, because thou didst deny me the means of defence." At sight of this horrid spectacle, Broadbrim turned pale! The eye of his mind looked inward! Nature began to plead her own cause within him! he gave way in some degree to her operations, though contrary to his pre-conceived opinion, and with a trembling hand signed a permission for those to use the (2) *carnal weapon*, who could do it without scruple; and when they asked him for money to buy guns, powder and ball, he gave them a certain sum to provide *the necessaries of life*, leaving them to put their own construction on the words. By degrees his squeamishness grew less public, and though it is imagined he has still some remainder of it, yet necessity has so often overcome it that there is not much said on the

subject, unless it be very privately and among *friends*.

During the time of which we have been speaking Mr. John Bull had undergone another sickness (3), not so long nor so violent as the former but much more beneficial in its effects. His new physicians had administered medicines which composed his nerves, he eat, drank and slept more regularly, and conversed more frequently with his wife (4) than heretofore. By these means his vigour was renewed, but still his whimsical disposition remained, and broke out on several occasions. When he viewed his extensive forest, now planted and thriving, under the honest hand of industry, he thought within himself that still greater advantages might be derived from that territory. There was yet a part of it unsettled between the plantation of Charles Indigo, and the dominions of Lord Strut; and Bull thought it a pity to let so much remain a wilderness. The other plantations had been made by discontented servants and needy adventurers who struggling with hardships, by a steady perseverance had surmounted many difficulties, and obtained a comfortable living. "Now (said Bull) if these fellows have done so well, and got so far aforehand, without having any capital of their own to begin with, what cannot be done by the force of my great capital? If they have performed such wonders, what greater wonders may be brought into view by my own exertions, with all the advantages which it is in my power to command? To it, boys, I vow I'll have a farm of my own that shall beat you all!"--Having conceived this project, his brains immediately became pregnant with ideas; but according to the rule which he had lately prescribed to himself he communicated the matter to his wife. This good lady, though prudent, was not free from a ro-

(1) 1755.

(2) Militia-act.

(3) The revolution 1688.

(4) The Parliament.

mantic turn of mind. She was extremely fond of having it thought that she had great influence over her husband, and would sometimes gratify his humour at the expense of her own judgment, rather than not keep up this idea. His expectations from his new project were very sanguine. The land on which he had cast his eye was enough for a large farm; it had a southern exposure, it was warm, rich and fertile in some parts, and in others boggy or sandy. He had conversed with some foreigners, who told him that it was proper for the cultivation of wine and silk, and he imagined that if he could but add these articles to the list of his own productions, there would be a great saving in the family. Mrs. Bull too was pleased with the idea of having her silk gowns and ribbands of her own growth, and with the expectation of having the vaults filled with wine, made on her own plantation; for these and other good reasons, her thereunto moving, madam gave her consent to the project. The person appointed to carry it into execution was *George Trusty*, (5) a sensible well-bred merchant, but one who had only speculated in the science of agriculture, and knew nothing of it by experience. Having collected a number of poor people who were out of employment, he sent them to the spot, with strict orders to work six days in seven, to keep their tools free from rust, and their fire-arms in readiness for their defence; whatever they should earn was to be their own as long as they lived, and after their death their possessions were to descend to their *sons*, and in default of male issue to revert to the original grantor. They were not allowed to use black cattle in the labour of the field; and were expressly forbidden to drink grog. Their business was to cultivate vines and mulberry trees, and to manufacture wine and silk. Upon this project another was grafted by the very sagacious *Doctor Squintum*, who chose this new plantation as the most conve-

nient spot in the world for a charity school, where *Orphans* might receive the best education and be fitted to be the pillars of church and state.

But notwithstanding the sums which Bull so freely lavished out of his bags for the support of the vine and mulberry plantations; and notwithstanding the collections which Squintum made among his numerous devotees, these projects were either so impracticable in themselves, or so ill conducted in the execution, that neither of them answered the expectations of the projectors. For want of black cattle the soil could not be properly tilled, and for want of grog the labourers fainted at their work; the right of inheritance being limited to the male line, women and girls were not fond of living there, and the men could not well live without them; land, cattle, women and grog, were to be had elsewhere, and who would be confined to such a place? The land too, was claimed by Lord Strut, who sent them writs of ejection. The Charity-School dwindled to nothing and was consumed by fire. Poor George Trusty was discouraged and begged Mr. Bull to take the plantation into his own hands, however Bull kept supplying him with cash and he kept making attempts. Alterations were made in the terms of settlement, the restrictions were removed, cattle and grog were allowed, Lord Strut was ousted and possession held; the swamps were drained; rice and indigo were cultivated instead of silk and wine, and upon the whole, considerable improvements were made, though at such a vast expense that Mr. Bull never saw any adequate returns.

The ill-success of this adventure, did not deter him from another project. He was extremely fond of *Trout* (6) and thought if he could have them regularly caught and brought to his table, he should exceed all his neighbours in delicate living, and now and then be able to send a mess to his particular friends. Lord Peter's family too, he thought

would be glad to buy them as they were very useful in the long lents, and frequent meagre days observed by them. There was a part of the forest on the north-east quarter, which was very conveniently situated for this employment. (7) It had been occupied by *Alexander Scotus*, a purblind fellow, who had straggled thither no one could tell how, and it was matter of doubt whether he derived his right from Bull or Lewis, for both of them laid claim to the land, and their claims had not been fairly decided in law. To make sure of the matter, Mr. Bull, by advice of his wife, sent thither (8) a parcel of naked half starved people, who could live no where else, and supported them for several years with provisions, furnished them with skiffs, lines, hooks and other implements to carry on the fishery; but every trout which they caught, cost him ten times as much as if he had bought it in the common market; nor could he after all get half of what he wanted for his own consumption. His trout-fishery, and his mulberry plantation, rendered him the laughing-stock of his neighbours, nor could he ever gain even the interest of the money he had laid out upon them; while the foresters who had settled at their own expense grew rich and became respectable. He had indeed, the benefit of their trade, which kept his journeymen at work, and obliged him to enlarge their number; for the foresters had a respect for their old master and landlord, and when they had any thing to sell they always let him have the refusal of it, and bought all their goods of him. But though he called himself their father, and his wife their mother, yet it is thought he never entertained a proper parental affection for them; but rather looked on them with a jealous eye, as if they were aiming to deprive him of his claim and set up for independence. Had he been contented with the profits of their trade, as was certainly his interest, they might have remained

(5) The trustees of Georgia, 1732.

(6) Codfishery.

(7) Nva-Scotia.

(8) 1749.

his tenants to this day; but ambition, avarice, jealousy and choler, inflamed by bad counsellors, have wrought such a separation, that it is thought Mr. Bull will go mourning all the remainder of his days, and his grey hairs will be brought down with sorrow to the grave.

[*To be continued.*]

ADVENTURES IN A CASTLE

[7. 13 June 1801]

(Continued.)

FINDING all attempts to induce the banditti to except the intended pardon were futile, they prepared to carry the plan of burning the castle into execution. Having made every necessary preparation, the leaders of the troops assigned to each the part they were to act, and an hour after the sun had sunk beneath the horizon, the signal for the attack was given, by throwing a rocket from the General's tent. The soldiers rushed forward to the onset, brandishing their torches, and after a severe conflict, gained the out-works of the castle. In a short time the conflagration was general, and the gleams of light proceeding from it, and to the darkness which prevailed, rendered it a scene of horror. Having accomplished the design of setting the castle on fire, the troops retreated to guard all the out-lets, that those who escaped the fury of the raging element, should fall by the avenging sword. A body of the banditti, with the Count at their head, sallied from the castle, to endeavour to cut their way thro' the hostile party. But the principal part of them fell in the attempt, and among them, the infamous De Vauban.

Louis as soon as he perceived the flames bursting from all parts of the castle, and the towering ramparts enveloped in smoke, approached the walls: the sally of the banditti had been made on a different side, and had not attracted his attention from the scene of ruin before him. While he was contemplating the destruction which was taking place, his attention was arrested by the sight of a person leaping from one rampart to another, to escape the threatening flames which pursued him, and in which he appeared to be almost involved. At length, by means of his surprising activity, he approached towards the place where Louis stood, but still at such a height, that his es-

cape seemed almost impossible. He had considerably descended since Louis first noticed him, and now paused, apparently contemplating his height from the ground, and dubious of his ability to reach it in safety. But the flames approached, he sprung from the walls, and fell almost at the feet of Louis, who raised his arm to terminate his life, but an impulse of humanity induced him to spare it, if indeed he had not been killed by the fall. Young Boileau laid his hand on his heart, and felt it beat. The horizon was illuminated by the conflagration, and as he inclined himself, to see if the spark of life was extinguished, he observed the stranger was dressed differently from the common banditti. Strange emotions agitated his bosom, and "hope, the fond deceiver," fluttered round his heart. He approached to inspect the figure which lay prostrate before him, covered with dust, and stunned with the fall. He gently raised him from the ground, and as the light gleamed on his ashy countenance, discovered him to be--**HIS LONG LOST BROTHER!**---Reader, conceive his sensations, for words cannot express them; no language could convey them to thee, though all the eloquence of TULLY was exhausted to effect it. His astonishment almost surpassed conception--Had he not beheld him prostrate on the floor of his cell, his life's blood streaming from his bosom?--Had he not seen him a palled corpse, the victim of fell revenge?--And now, did he not see him before him? did not his arms support him?--All that had passed appeared as a fearful dream, the offspring of a disordered fancy. He called loudly for assistance, and had him conveyed to his tent, where they successfully endeavoured to restore him to existence, but he had received some very severe contusions from the fall, and his arm appeared considerably scorched.

The next day, as soon as the dawn opposed its pleasing light to the more awful appearance of the castle, which exhibited one vast sheet of flame, our new-found invalid was conveyed to the hospitable mansion of Monsieur Burton, where M. Dupont and Louis were kindly urged to take up their residence. A few weeks crowned the assiduities of the amiable surgeon and his friends with success, and they had the inexpressible satisfaction of seeing their beloved Henry, whom they very naturally had long concluded, was traversing the regions of eternity, restored to all his former health and vigour. Happiness they yet hoped was

in store for them, since De Vauban, the grand and only enemy to their happiness, had fell the victim to the justice of his offended country. Carrying his resentment no farther than to see the execution of justice on the vile disturbers of the public tranquility, the Duke of Alencon, with his usual humanity, ordered that the bodies of the banditti should receive decent burial, and every rite be performed, that, according to the forms of the Romish church, was necessary to remove all obstacles from their road to heaven. Soon as the bodies of these infatuated wretches were committed to the embraces of their mother earth, the troops commenced their march, to return to the capital, and the Duke retired to his castle to receive from the filial assiduities of his daughter, consolation for the untimely death of his son. Ignorance frequently conduces more to our happiness than knowledge, and had de Alencon known of the infamous design of his son, he would not have stood in need of any consolation. Henry upon his restoration to health, complied with the desires of his friends, and thus commenced the relation of his misfortunes.

"You, my kind friends, must certainly have been greatly astonished, when you found my chamber vacant, and perceive no traces of my having left the room; but your surprise could not have equalled mine, when about midnight, without any previous noise which would have announced the entrance of any person, (especially as the door was fastened within) I saw by the light the lamp burning in the chimney afforded, a man standing by my bed-side. I demanded his business in my chamber, at such an unseasonable hour, but he instantly drew a pistol from his pocket, and ordered me to dress immediately, and without noise, as the least attempt to alarm the family should be attended with death. Resistance was vain, and I according complied with his demand in silence: as soon as dressing was finished, he bade me attend him, and removing a pannel in the partition, I discovered a secret-door, which he opened, and we passed through. We now entered several apartments, which the noisome atmosphere, and decayed furniture declared had been long deserted, and resigned to the all-destroying hand of time. Here, still holding the pistol in his hand, he obliged me to walk before him. Before we left the building, he was joined by several other ruffians, whose countenances plainly denoted their villainous characters, and that they were fit instruments to ac-

comply with any design which villainy could conceive. When we made an exit from the mansion, we found a carriage waiting, into which three of the ruffians entered with myself. We proceeded with amazing rapidity I knew not Whither, but my heart sunk within me, at the strange proceedings, and mysterious silence of my companions: at length the dawn broke upon us, as we attained the summit of a steep hill. At any other time, and almost in any other situation, I should have beheld the surrounding scenery with delight, but my mind was a prey to despondency, and the most gloomy prospect appeared before me. In vain did I request of my companions to inform me Whither I was to be led, for they preserved a uniform and uninterrupted silence, except when the leader of the party as he appeared to be, cautioned me to make no noise, as he said it would be instantaneously punished. I could not forbear taking a retrospective view of the happy past, and comparing it with my present forlorn situation. Surrounded by ruffians, who it was evident, had some villainous design upon me, hope almost forsook me, and I only beheld in perspective, either a life dragged out in chains and misery, or a termination to my sufferings, by an untimely death. In vain did I pray my companions to give me some clue to guide me through this labyrinth of uncertainty, they deigned not to answer me, unless to reprehend me for my loquacity. But why am I thus fatiguing you with a detail of my sensations, during this memorable journey, memorable to me, as it will ever be a distinguished æra of my life; to be brief, I arrived, after a tiresome journey, at the castle, without having left the carriage for a moment; as provision had been made to avoid the necessity. Having alighted from the carriage, I was immediately conducted to the dreary dungeon from whence the magnanimity of my beloved brother released me. When I was secured by chains in this horrible place, my guide condescended to open his lips, and inform me, that here the remainder of my days was to be spent, that here I was to drag out in misery; the remnant of my life, which till then had been spent in a course of uninterrupted felicity, except when the death of my father, for a time, cast a shade over my happiness. I then repeated my request to know by whom, and for what motive, I was thus severely punished, but I could obtain no answer from the monster, and I thought I could perceive a horrid smile of satisfaction,

gleam across his countenance, at having thus doomed fellow creature to be miserable, as long as life remained. From that day till the time I was delivered from the murderous designs of my enemies, I held no converse with any human being, my food which was of the most ordinary kind, was daily delivered me by one of those villains, who had escorted me to the castle. Grief and the dampness of my dungeon, Was bringing me rapidly to the verge of the grave, when Louis intervened and snatched me from the jaws of destruction. The prospect of liberty was now before me, and it is, only for the man, who has been as long confined within the gloomy walls of a dungeon, to conceive my sensations. But not long was I permitted to indulge the flattering hope, as we were so soon taken, and I again became the victim of tyranny. To whom was to be attributed all my misfortunes, I was totally ignorant; but my condition was comparatively enviable, to that from which I had emerged, as my prison was dry and comfortable. The cheering rays of the sun penetrated my cell, and to me who had so long been deprived of the enlivening sight, it was indeed a pleasure. I was but a short time oppressed with the weight of my irons, for to what motive it was to be attributed I know not, but I suppose they conceived my escape impossible, and I was suffered to enjoy the valuable privilege of traversing my narrow cell; my constitution had become inured to confinement, although the disappointment I suffered in being deprived of the blessings of liberty, when I had supposed it within my grasp, did not by any means tend to strengthen my patience. You have already heard from Louis, of our interview in the vaults of the castle, and when I was led back to my cell, the horror of continual imprisonment, seemed to occupy the whole of the dreary prospect. Disappointment had soured my temper, and I gave myself up a prey to despondency. To my repeated requests to receive information respecting Louis, my keeper used to seldom reply without equivocation, and sometimes he would answer in a way that roused my passions, dormant only for want of something to call them into action; one night when he entered my cell, to see that every thing was in the situation he chose it to be, I inquired after Louis, and his answer was accompanied with bitter taunts at my defenceless situation. This I suppose was occasioned by some incident, that had occurred to ruffle his temper, and he took the opportunity to vent on me his

spleen. My temper, soured by misfortune, was unprepared to endure this new and unprovoked treatment, and I heaped on him reproaches for his villainy, and bestowed on him every term which my resentment could suggest. Fired by this unusual retort, and stung with my merited reproaches, he drew a dagger from his bosom, and darted upon me, aimed it at my heart.

JULIUS

JOURNEY TO PHILADELPHIA

[4. 5 May 1804]

THE day of trial came; I was conducted to the bar of the supreme court; the eyes of hundreds were upon me; the usual question was asked, "*Are you guilty? or not guilty?*" I replied with firmness "Not guilty!" when the charge was read, and I was accused of drowning a young woman, by forcibly pushing her into the river *Susquehanna!* A smothered groan was heard from the audience; it was not excited by an emotion of pity for me, but was a proof of their detestation of the author of so shocking a deed; I did not blame it, it was honorable to their feelings, and evinced the rectitude of their hearts. I now found to my surprise, I was tried for the murder of her whose life I would gladly have saved, and whose unfortunate end I thought no eye, save mine, had witnessed; it now appeared, some others had witnessed it besides me, but who, and why I was charged with the crime, were circumstances, to me, inexplicable. The witnesses now appeared, but guess, if you can, my sensations, when the first I saw, was (CARNELL) the same dreadful being I had seen in my brother's chamber, I shuddered; my heart beat tremulously in my bosom; my sight grew dim, and I almost fainted; the spectators seemed to consider my emotion a proof of my guilt, but they were mistaken. The trial continued, and new sources of indescribable astonishment and wonder were every moment displayed. The substance of the evidence was as follows-- "That I had planned and effected the death of SUSAN WARFIELD; I had been heard to say, I would destroy her, by any means in my power; that knowing she had frequented the scene of her death,

I had laid in ambush (armed) to effect my purpose, and had been seen by the evidence (who were fishing at a little distance, though in a situation which precluded all possibility of rendering assistance) to push her forcibly into the water, where there was little probability of her escaping:" All this was new to me, so far from planning her death, I had scarcely known her, she had consequently never given me any cause of offence, I was certainly ignorant of the visits of any one but myself to the spot I had chosen for my nocturnal seat; the exertion I had made to save her, might, it was true, be mistaken for the different one, by persons who had seen the transaction from a distance; but that it should be said, I had declared my intention to destroy her, and that I had concealed myself to effect this purpose, was really astonishing: But the witnesses were sufficient, respectable, positive and uniform in their depositions. I had nothing to offer in my defence but the truth, but who would give credit to the relation of one who stood convicted of so foul a crime, who had secretly left his native home, and entered the city in a manner not ill calculated to excite suspicion, had concealed his true name and passed under a different one (CHARLES COLEMAN) and betrayed evident marks of guilt and confusion, at the sight of his accusers. -- Had I said, --I had seen CARNELL offering violence to EMILIA; had rescued her from his grasp; had seen him in my brother's chamber armed with a dagger, at midnight &c. would my tale have been credited? No, I had no proofs to offer; I had informed no person, not even my brother of what I had seen. I believed all attempts at defence would prove entirely useless, and therefore forbore to make any. I thought it better to meet my fate, dreadful and ignominious as it was, with manly firmness and unyielding fortitude; my story would be treated as the last effort of despairing villainy and impotent malice. The Judge addressed the jury in a solemn and impressive manner; they retired, and in a short time, returned with the expected verdict⁹, "*guilty!*" They had done their duty. I had no cause to complain, the evidence was sufficient to condemn me; and had I been appointed to judge a similar cause I should have act-

ed in the same manner; I listened to my sentence with calmness and composure, and was reconducted for the last time, to the prison. Thus, I had given you a faithful and exact account of my adventures. -- I shall now shortly suffer an ignominious death: the world in general believe me guilty: but the time may come, when what is now hidden from human eyes, will be disclosed, -- and then, my friend, when the grave shall hide me from the world, you, I trust, will do justice to my memory.

THUS ended the story of this unfortunate young man, it was told with the greatest apparent sincerity, and my heart became deeply interested in his fate. I was astonished at the calmness with which he supported his misfortunes; he was endowed with the keenest sensibility, and even timidity of disposition; his courage had probably never been awakened by danger, or perhaps was of that kind, which, though unequal to the encounter of sudden and alarming attacks, gathered strength by reflection; those who best know the various shades of character which distinguished mankind, know, that there are persons of weak and delicate constitutions, who tremble at the slightest agitation, while their minds remain firm and undaunted, who, if they have time for reflection, meet danger with an undaunted front: Thus it appeared in the present case, here reflection seemed to have inspired a contempt of death in its most terrified and disgraceful form, in the mind of this young man; yet there were moments, when his tranquility was disturbed, when the images of his father, his friends, and above all, his EMILIA presented themselves to his imagination: EMILIA loved him with the tenderest affection, which even his misfortunes, (for she believed him guiltless) were unable to alienate; yet, for him she was doomed to suffer all the evils, flowing from disappointed love, and the cruel taunts of a misjudging world; these causes interrupted his quiet far more than his own misfortunes; "my pain," said he will "shortly end; death will lull it to rest; but, for them, an ample store of anguish is collected, which time alone can mitigate." -- Some pressing affairs obliging me to hasten to Europe, I bade him an eternal *adieu!* The day of his execution was at hand, which my departure alone spared me the pain of witnessing --

(to be continued)

CRUEL FATHER

[2. 9 November 1805]

(Continued.)

"Commit Eliza to my care," said he: "I will be her protector. But let me not deceive you in a moment like this! My father, dearest sir, will never consent to our union. In the wish of promoting my interest, he would sacrifice my peace; and he has positively declared, that he will make me a beggar, unless I consent to marry Miss Green. My heart, long attached to your amiable Eliza, asserts the privilege of making its choice; industry and exertion will render me independent; and to-morrow morning, with your permission, I will make her my wife. The affection which I have long felt towards her, has been of so refined a nature, that I dreaded asking your consent, from the fear of being refused; and not anything would have induced me to make this declaration, but the alarming state to which I see you reduced! If there is any other being to whose protection you can intrust her, whose fortunes appear more brilliant than my own----" "No, No," exclaimed the dying man interrupting him, "She would prefer poverty with you, I am persuaded, my son."

During this conversation, the agitated Eliza sat in a state of stupefied¹² sorrow on the other side of the bed, until roused by Adolphus enquiring, in a faltering accent, whether she would consent to bless him with her hand, "In a moment like this," said the weeping object of his affection, "how can I indulge one thought about myself?" It is only in such a moment, my beloved Eliza," replied Adolphus, "that I could have ventured to ask you to bless me with your consent. If Heaven should deprive you of the protection of your father, it is only under the title of your husband, that I can prove myself your friend!"

"Give him your hand, my Eliza," said the exhausted Captain Desborough, "for I have long known that he has had the possession of your heart. And may the blessing of a dying man shield you from misfortunes! and oh, Adolphus! Be¹³ tender, be affectionate to my child!" The entrance of the apothecary with a large blister, which he was going to apply to his patient's head, put an end to a conversation, which was becoming too interesting for the enfeebled frame of Captain Desborough to sustain.

The variety of emotions which agitated Adolphus, it would be difficult for the power of language to describe. He knew he was going to forfeit all claims upon his father, by making the amiable Eliza his wife. Whether to inform him of his intention, or whether to marry with-

¹⁰ In original, word appears without capitalization

¹¹ In original, word appears as two separate words

¹² In original, word is rendered as stupified

¹³ In original, word appears without capitalization

⁹ Misspelling of "verdict"

out endeavouring to soften his rage, was a circumstance which required mature reflection; yet no time could possibly be allowed for delay. A relation of his mother's was the only person to whom he could apply for council and advice; he accordingly took leave of the object of his tenderness for the purpose of consulting this friend. The illness of Captain Desborough had been so extremely sudden, that though this gentleman was intimately acquainted with him, he was a stranger to the event; and when he reflected upon the irreconcilable temper of Malvolio, he was at a loss to know how to advise his agitated son. The mutual attachment between Eliza and Adolphus, Mr. Middleton had for a length of time observed; and had cautioned him against going so frequently to Captain Desborough's knowing that his father would never consent to the match; but when he heard that Adolphus had made an absolute declaration of his passion, and that a dying parent had committed a darling child to his care, he thought a private marriage would be the most adviseable measure, and undertook the kind office of making Malvolio acquainted with the event. He accordingly accompanied Adolphus to the house of a neighbouring clergyman; the license was procured, and the next morning he attended him to church, where the ceremony was performed without any witnesses, except Mr. Middleton and the clerk.

It was with the utmost difficulty that Eliza could be persuaded to leave her father, who seemed to revive at the thought of leaving her under Adolphus's care; and whose spirit waited to take its flight to the mansions of eternity until the arrival of Mr. Middleton, who had witnessed the event. The variety of conflicting emotions which had torn the breast of Eliza, produced an alarming effect upon her delicate frame; and the moment she entered the house of her father, she dropped apparently lifeless into her husband's arms. By the help of volatiles, she was restored to recollection; but as it was necessary to conceal the circumstance from the dying man, Mr. Middleton hastened to the apartment, to inform him that he had seen the ceremony performed. Scarcely had this intelligence been imparted, when clasping his hands with fervor and delight he exclaimed, "I thank thee, oh my God, for lengthening my existence until this gratifying intelligence had afforded comfort to my mind! Bless them, oh thou merciful Protector of the friendless. Oh, bless, defend, and sustain my child!" Here his lips quivered, his voice faltered, and raising his eyes to Heaven, he instantly expired.

The scene which followed, language can scarcely depict, for at that instant Eliza opened the door, when the lifeless form of her father presented itself to her; and before Mr. Middleton could prevent the effort, she had encircled it in her arms! Horror for some moments checked the power of utterance; the assuaging balm of tears was denied, and grasping the body with a force that refused yielding to exertion, she seemed determined not to move from its side! The groans of Adolphus, who thought her intellects were effected, at length seemed to restore recollection to her mind; and stretching out one hand towards him, she uttered a shrill, piercing scream! This effort of nature fortu-

nately relieved her; and she soon afterwards burst into a violent flood of grief, consented to be removed from the object of her affection, and, though overwhelmed with affliction, was perfectly resigned.

Adolphus was under the cruel necessity of tearing himself from his beloved Eliza, and of attending as usual to mercantile affairs: but to the bosom of a female friend their secret was intrusted, who, upon the death of Captain Desborough remained at the house. Malvolio was too much occupied in the concerns of business, to pay any attention to the dejection so visible in his son; but when dinner was over, he again explained the advantages which would result from his forming a union with Miss Green. Fortunately for Adolphus, Mr. Middleton at that moment entered. "I am glad to see you," exclaimed Malvolio with a smile. "I have a scheme in agitation, which does not seem quite to accord with the wishes of that blockhead: in short I am going to provide him with a wife."

"I should suppose he would prefer providing himself with a commodity of that nature," said Mr. Middleton; "however he may wish to consult you in any affair of trade." What the devil do you mean?" exclaimed Malvolio: "would you teach disobedience to that headstrong boy?" "Far from it," replied the mild Mr. Middleton; "but I think there is no possibility of directing the wayward feelings of the heart." "That is very true," said the hitherto silent Adolphus:--"And in every thing but marriage, I am ready to obey my father's commands."

"You shall obey them in that too, Sir, or from this moment I renounce you for ever," said Malvolio, in a voice suffocated with rage. "But get out of my sight, and never let me behold you, unless you feel ready to let my orders be obeyed!" Adolphus instantly rose from the table, and flew to the object who occupied his every thought, but carefully concealed the preceding conversation, fearful of adding to the sorrow which already preyed upon her heart.

As soon as he had quitted the room, Malvolio informed Mr. Middleton that a marriage between the young people had been proposed by Mr. Green; "and because the girl is not handsome," said he, "would you believe it possible, that her fortune possesses no charms in his eyes! She has twenty thousand pounds independant of her father; and Green has upwards of forty now in the stocks; yet this rebel of mine would reject such an alliance, when the girl has a right to look up to a lord!"

"Perhaps his affections are engaged," replied Mr. Middleton; and in that case it would be villainous to offer himself for her husband." "Zounds, sir!" exclaimed he, "do you think he dare do such a thing? What! Dispose¹⁴ of his affections without my consent!" "Come, come my good friend, moderate your resentment; and converse upon this subject like a rational man. You have lived long enough in the world to know that young people, in an affair like that of marriage, will choose¹⁵ for themselves."--

"Will they?" vociferated the still more violent Malvolio; "then I tell you that my son shall not, by G--: and unless he chooses¹⁶ to marry the girl I select for him, the devil of one penny shall he ever have from me."

"But suppose it is out of his power to obey you: suppose for one moment he is already a married man." "Then" exclaimed he, striking the table with the utmost violence, "May the curses of a father fall upon his head! -- may distress pursue--may poverty overtake him--may his children become beggars--may his wife perish in the streets--may sorrow and repentance prey upon his vitals, until they destroy the thread of his miserable life!"

"Oh shame to humanity, disgrace to the name of father!" said the petrified Mr. Middleton, rising from his seat; "fall upon the knees, implore the pardon of that Being who in one instant can put a period to your life! Have you not from childhood been the favorite of heaven? Have you not been blest in a wife, and happy in a son? Has not fortune smiled upon all your undertakings, yet you impiously offend Him from whom these blessing are derived? Are you so dead to feeling, so lost to the voice of nature, as to call down curses upon the head of your child? A child too, who excepting this one instance, has made your wishes the absolute rule of his life." (TO BE CONTINUED)

14 In original, word appears without capitalization

15 In original, word is rendered chuse

16 In original, word is rendered chuses