

EARLY AMERICAN SERIALIZED NOVELS

ISSUE VIII

THE FORESTERS

[8. February 1788]

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

[Continued from vol. i. page 793.]

In the preceding part of this history we have endeavoured, to trace the several steps by which the forest became cultivated and peopled. Mr. Bull had no less than fourteen tenants who held under him, and were settled on lands which he claimed as his own, and which he had granted to them in separate parcels. Their names were as follows, beginning at the north-east, and proceeding to the south-west:

Alexander Scotus,
N. S.
Robert Lumber,
N. H.
John Codline,
M.
Roger Carrier,
R. I.
Humphrey Plough-share,
C.
Peter Bull-Frog,
N. Y.
Julius Caesar,
N. J.
---- Casimir,
D.
William Broad-brim,
P.
Frederick Mary-gold,
M.
Walter Pipe-weed,
V.
Peter Pitch,
N. C.
Charles Indigo,
S. C.
George Trusty,
G.

It was observed, that of all the adventurers, those generally were the *least thriving*, who received *most assistance* from their old master. Whether it was owing to their being employed in business to which they had not serv-

ed a regular apprentice-ship, or to a natural indolence, and a disposition to continue hangers-on where they had got a good hold; for it must be noted, that Mr. Bull was very generous to some persons, and on some occasions where it suited his fancy, and this disposition in him was so prevalent, that they who kenned him, and would humor his whims, could work him out of any thing which they had a mind to [sic]

On the other hand, those adventurers who came into the forest on their own hook, and had no assistance at all from their old master, nor any thing to help themselves with, but their own heads and hands, proved to be the most industrious and thriving, and after a while told up a good estate. They all seemed to have an affection for Mr. Bull, and it was generally believed to be sincere. His house was usually spoken of by them as their *home*. His ware-house was the center of their traffic; and he had the address to engross the profits of their labour and draw their earnings into his own fob. To some of them he would now and then make a present, to others he would lend a (1) pack of his hounds when he was out of the humor of hunting; but they were generally useless to them for the purpose of scouring the woods, those who could afford it kept dogs of their own, who were better trained to the game, and could better scent the forest, being native curs, and not so spruce and delicate a breed as Bull's grey-hounds.

It has been before observed, that each end of the forest was occupied by Bull's rivals. His old neighbour Lewis had got the north end, and Lord Strut the south. Bull's tenants had seated themselves chiefly on or near the shore of the lake, and had not extended very far back, because of the beasts of prey; but Lewis, like a cunning old fox, had formed a scheme to get footing in the interior parts of the country, and prevent these planters from penetrating beyond the limits which he intended to assign them. His

emissaries had been sent slyly into the distant parts of the forest, under pretence of taming these beasts of prey; but in fact they had halved the matter with them, and had themselves become as savage as the beasts had become tame. They would run, leap and climb with them and crawl into their dens, imparting to them a lick of *mellasses* out of their calabash, and teaching them to scratch with their paws the sign of a cross. They had built several hunting lodges on the most convenient passes of the brooks and ponds, and though thus scattered in the wood, were all united under one overseer, called (2) *Onontio*, who lived in the mansion-house of *St. Lewis's Hall*.

It was matter of wonder among Bull's tenants, for some time, what could be the reason that the wild beasts had grown more surly and snappish of late than formerly; but after a while, some hunters made a discovery of the new lodges, which the emissaries of Onontio had erected, and the design of them being apparent, a general alarm was raised in the plantations. On the first news, Walter Pipe-weed sent his grandson (3) *George*, a smart, active, lively youth, across the hills, with his compliments to the intruders, desiring them to move off, and threatening them with a writ in case of non-compliance. This modest warning being ineffectual, it was thought that if an *Union* could be formed among the tenants, they might make a stand against these encroachments. A meeting was held at (4) *Orange-Hall*, but no efficient plan could be hit on, without a previous application to their landlord, who hearing of this meeting, conceived a jealousy with regard to this *union* which seemed to be their object, and thought it was better to retain the management of the matter in his own hands, and keep them divided among themselves, but united in their dependence on him. He therefore sent them word that "he had a very great affection for them, and would take care

(2) The governor of Canada.

(3) 1753.

(4) Albany 1754.

(1) Station-ships and regiments.

“ of *their* interest, which was also *his*
“ *own*; that he would not suffer old
“ Lewis to set his half-tamed wild
“ beasts upon them, nor eject them
“ from their possessions, but that he
“ would immediately take advice of
“ his council, learned in the law, con-
“ juring them by the affection which
“ they professed to bear towards him,
“ to be aiding and assisting in all ways,
“ in their power towards bringing the
“ controversy to an issue.”

At this time, the Steward, to whom Mr. Bull entrusted the care of his business, was not a person of that discernment and expedition which the exigency of affairs required. He had committed divers blunders in his accounts, and it was suspected that he was a defaulter in more respects than one. It cannot, therefore, be expected, that in conducting a controversy of this magnitude, he should exactly hit on the right methods, nor employ the best council which could be had. The first step which was taken was to send (5) *Broad-oak* the bailiff, with a writ of intrusion which he was ordered to serve *volens nolens* upon one of the messuages or hunting-seats of Lewis. This bailiff proceeding rashly and against the best advice into the forest, not a step of which he was acquainted with, found his progress impeded in a way wholly unexpected. For Onontio had taken care to place a number of his half tamed wild cats and wolverenes on the boughs of trees, which hung over the path, and as soon as the bailiff came within reach, having first wetted their tails with their own urine, they whisked it into his eyes till they blinded him. This manoeuvre put a stop to the process for that time.

Several other attempts of the like kind were made without success, and Lewis at one time had almost got possession of (6) *Orange-Hall*. Not only the foresters themselves, but even Bull's own domestics, complained bitterly of these ineffectual measures, and their clamors at last prevailed to make him discharge his old steward, and put another into his place. The new (7) officer soon changed the face of affairs; he employed no attorneys,

nor bailiffs, but those of tried and approved abilities, men of enterprize and resolution, by whom the suit was prosecuted in good earnest. In every action Bull recovered judgment, and got possession. When Lord Strut came in to the aid of Lewis, Bull cast him also, and took away his manor of Augustine, which with the whole tract of land, where Onontio presided, was annexed to his estate. The agents who had been employed in this arduous service, were not only well paid for doing their duty, but, with the steward, who employed them, were honored according to the ancient, but whimsical custom of Bull's family, by having their effigies portrayed on sign-boards, pocket-handkerchiefs, snuff-boxes, and punch-bowls; so that while the fit lasted, you could not walk the streets, nor blow your nose, nor take a pinch of snuff, nor a draught of punch, but you were obliged to *salute* them.

Whenever Bull's steward called upon the foresters for their quotas of aid, towards carrying on this heavy lawsuit, they always readily afforded it; and some of them were really almost exhausted by the efforts which they made, to do *more* than their share. The steward was so sensible of their merit, that on due consultation with Mr. Bull's wife, and her taking him in the right mood, he was prevailed upon to reimburse the extra expense to them, and mutual complacency reigned between the landlord and tenants all the time this steward remained in office. But these times were too good to last long; there were some who envied him his reputation, and raised stories to his disadvantage, which highly affronted him. At this time Mr. Bull was so much off his guard, as to give heed to these reports, and take a rash step in a hurry, which he had occasion to repent of at his leisure. He accepted the resignation of this trusty servant, and put one of his (8) sister Peg's cast-off footmen into his place; whereby he laid a foundation for his own disgrace, and the dismemberment of his estate, as the reader will see in the following pages of this history.

[*To be continued.*]

ADVENTURES IN A CASTLE

[8. 20 June 1801]

(Continued.)

ALL conception from this moment failed me, and, upon returning to life, I found myself on a bed in a cell, similar to that in which I had been confined. I was attended by some of the ruffians, whose motives for their present attention I could not scan. Whether they were actuated by humanity, or whether remorse had stung the villain who had attempted my assassination, I could not tell, tho' from what knowledge of their dispositions I had gathered from painful experience, I rather supposed it was the reproaches of conscience, not yet grown callous by repeated acts of barbarity. To whatever cause their conduct was to be attributed, whether to sensations of remorse, or the dictates of compassion, I was soon convinced the sentiment was short-lived, and had expired with returning animation; for soon as I had emerged from the state of insensibility into which I had fallen, their assiduities gradually decreased, and my only assistance was in the strength of my constitution, which safely bore me through the strange vicissitudes of my fate. My convalescence was tedious and painful; I had lost a considerable quantity of blood, which occasioned extraordinary debility, and my wound was deep. I had received the dagger of the assassin in my breast, and surely it is to be attributed to the intervention of my guardian angel, that I escaped the impending destruction. My debility was so extreme, that my guards did not think it necessary to secure the door with more fastenings than a simple bolt, which was in itself ample security; for my strength and ardour were too much exhausted, to make an attempt to regain my liberty, had the fairest prospect been opened before me.

At length the ability of my only nurse, "Dame Nature," restored me by the genial influence of sleep (the enjoyment of which was a pleasure I had not for some time been gratified with) to the blessings of health. I had scarcely retrieved the possession of this glorious blessing, which had been so long banished from, when the royal troops encompassed the castle, to avenge my wrongs on the author of all my misfortunes. I longed for an opportunity to join the detachment, and assert my own cause,--my ardour disdained to be confin-

(5) 1755.

(6) 1757.

(7) Pitt's administration.

(8) [footnote content not visible in scan]

ed within the circumscribed limits of my prison, but my power would not second the inspiration. The tardy hours seemed to have almost ceased to revolve, my heart was with my brother, but my arms, which ought to have been extended, to hurl the bolt of vengeance on the heads of my oppressors, were imprisoned within the walls of the hateful castle. At length arrived the night Of horror, when the polluted walls of the castle, which screened the guilty ruffians from the hands of justice tottered to their foundations; when the "cloud-cap't towers" trembled with the intensity of the heat, and threatened ruin to all beneath them. I had notice of the commencement of the conflagration by the gleams of light which illuminated the horizon, and rendered "darkness, visible." A horrible death was now before me and the innate principle, inherent in the breast of man, that of self-preservation, induced me to examine the door of my apartment. But the faint hope, that some one actuated by humanity, might have left it unsecured, vanished. The flames gradually increased, and already enveloped the towering ramparts, when the bustle in the castle announced some uncommon attempt to escape the devouring element, which was making rapid strides to involve the whole of the inhabitants in one common destruction. Abhorring a death so painful as was presented to me, I endeavoured to loosen the bars with which the window was secured, and alight on the battlements. The urgency of my situation inspired me with uncommon strength,—I succeeded in the attempt to escape from the window, and reached the battlements in safety. I was nearly at the summit of the castle, and all below me was involved in smoke, from which at intervals the flames would burst forth, and aspire to the highest turrets. Perseverance and composure, aided by my exertions, surmounted every obstacle, and I at length reached the ground, with only a trifling burn I received as I rushed through the flames. Thus, my kind and compassionate friends, you have heard the whole of my unfortunate story in detail, and situated as I now am, surrounded by those who endear existence to me, I defy all the storms of fate, and the frowns of fortune, Hope befriends me, and whispers to my heart, That happiness shall again be mine."

Tranquillity being thus restored to the family of Dupont and his wards, whom he regarded with paternal love, the chateau was re-occupied, and Louis made an ex-

ursion to the Castle de Alencon, where he was received with an unaffected welcome. No obstacle recurring to oppose his wish, to pay his addresses to the lovely Antoinette, he took the first opportunity of a secret interview, to offer his heart and hand to her acceptance. Free from affectation, Mademoiselle de Lantz avowed a reciprocal attachment, and soon as the period of mourning, which the laws of etiquette required, for her brother's death, had expired, they were united in the silken bands of marriage.

The Duke with rapture beheld the happiness his beloved children enjoyed, and, through his influence with the King, the succession to his titles and estates, were settled upon Louis.

The humane surgeon, of whom honourable mention has been made, had only one surviving daughter, whose charms made an impression on the susceptible heart of Henry Boileau, that was not to be effaced. The attachment was mutual, and much to the satisfaction of their friends, whose intimacy would be cemented by their union.

Large additions were made to the Chateau, and in this delightful retirement, far distant from the busy and tumultuous scenes of life, the Duke of Alencon, Mons. Berton, Louis (now Count de Vauban) his brother Henry, and the venerable Mons. Dupont, with their respective families, passed the remainder of their lives, in the enjoyment of a greater portion of felicity, than is the usual lot of mankind. No tales of woe, no descriptive scenes of carnage and bloodshed, ever disturbed their tranquillity, but possessing within themselves inexhaustible resources of amusement, they lived insulated from the rest of mankind. No foe to domestic tranquility, ever passed their threshold, no intestine uneasiness inhabited their retirement, but as far as possible for humanity, they enjoyed *permanent and unalloyed happiness*.

HAVING brought this story too close, it may not be superfluous to account for the author's adding this to the multitude of similar trifles, with which the literary world abounds. He is confident, that attempts of this kind, are productive of nothing but amusement, and are frequently barren even of this. Tales, (unless moral,) novels, and romances are justly considered as weeds in the garden of literature, which prevent the growth of, and attract the attention from, more useful productions. To drive away the *monster ennui*, to pass away those hours of leisure, which fall to the lot of

every one, and to derive from it amusement, were the motives by which he was actuated. He does not pretend that it inculcates any new moral, but if he may be exonerated from censure, in increasing the number or works of this kind, if it has conduced to the amusement of any, he is satisfied. Approbation he does not court, but to incur censure he has strove to avoid, and he hopes that this tale will find refuge in its insignificance from the penetrating eye of criticism. JULIUS

[JULIUS is entitled to thanks of the editor, for the punctuality with which he has forwarded the copy of the Adventures in a castle—That the literary world abounds with the trifles of this kind is true; and this, no doubt, in some measure, forms a criterion by which to judge of the taste of the age; tho' a taste of this kind of reading, is not, perhaps, peculiar to the present one. The story under consideration inculcates a moral, if not new, yet good—Avarice, stimulating to treachery and a variety of vicious a??s, in the person of the Count de Vauban, meets with the deserved punishment: while the innocent objects of his horrid persecution, are extricated from his cruel fangs, and finally brought to the enjoyment of more perfect domestic felicity, than they would otherwise probably have attained, had it not been for those very circumstances to which his machinations gave birth—corroborating a divine truth, that the wicked are often snared in their own devices. The reader will also observe, (and it does credit to the writer,) that the the language is free from those passionate exclamations, that often insinuate a degree of profanity into the mind, and with which tales and novels frequently abound, Should Julius continue his correspondence, as he has hinted to the editor may be the case, he will always meet with merited attention.]

JOURNEY TO PHILADELPHIA

[5. 12 May 1804]

SOME years after, I returned to Philadelphia; the misfortunes of SAUNDERS, though not forgotten, yet the impression they made was partly effaced by time and various cares.

While walking one day in front-street, I was transported with the sight of SAUNDERS coming towards me: we instantly recognized each other, and were folded

in a mutual embrace; I eagerly interrogated him on that subject, which my former knowledge of him and my astonishment at our present meeting naturally excited, when, after entering his house, he gave me the following information.

“The day of my intended execution came, and with it my father: His presence was more distressing to me, than death itself; I wished to spare him the pangs a parent must feel, who is doomed to witness the ignominious death of a son, once dear to his affections: but fate had determined otherwise: Some person had informed him to my expected fate, and he hastened to bid me a last adieu. He entered my prison, I flew to embrace him, he received me with emotions, which his love of justice had made him desirous of suppressing; but the tide of nature was powerful, and the severity of judge was softened by the tenderness of the parent: Think, my friend, what must be the feelings of a parent who has labored for years to teach his offspring the duties of life, and the exercise of virtue, -- a parent, venerable for his age, and whose life, was unstained with a crime, when he beholds the object of his love, forsake the paths of rectitude, and become the most detested villain, and your imagination will paint this scene, better than my words can describe it: He believed me guilty, -- this impression I strove to remove, and succeeded: falsehood was so mean a crime, that he believed me incapable of it, though passion might have impelled to the perpetration of greater crimes. Yet the conviction of my innocence did not dispel his sorrow; to the pain which the death of a son will naturally produce, was added, the shameful manner by which justice inflicted the blow: I should die innocent, but would his conviction of this, induce the world to believe me so? -- Would not my death load my family with shame and infamy, which an indiscriminating world casts on the relations of a murderer? -- But now the appointed hour was come -- I bade my friends farewell! and the cart moved towards the place of execution; the rope was fastened around my neck, the cap was about to be drawn over my eyes, and the signal was about to be given, the execution of which would hide the world from my view forever, when a sudden and piercing cry of “Save him! save him!” was heard and a young woman rushed through the

crowd, to the foot of the gallows; her distress and agitation soon discovered who she was, it was her for whose murder I was about to suffer! whom I thought I had seen perish on the memorable night when I left my paternal abode! Yet, here she was, by some means unaccountable to me, at the foot of the gallows, accusing herself as being the cause of my misfortunes, and imploring the sheriff to suspend my execution. The crowd pressed tumultuously around, and joined their cries to hers. --The rope was unfastened, and I reconducted to prison.

“I had been saved, in the last moment, from an infamous death; a prospect of life and liberty was open before me; my friends and even the spectators congratulated me with that tenderness and joy which will naturally arise in the bosoms of men, when they behold innocence snatched from the fate which is only the punishment of guilt; yet, strange as it may seem, I was the only one who seemed to feel but little emotion: I had long contemplated death as certain and inevitable, I had prepared myself to meet it with a manly fortitude; I wished to prove with what dignity I could suffer a fate I had never merited, and conscious innocence brightened my prospect of eternity; the name of death had become familiar and his terrible shaft had lost the keenness of its point; I returned to prison with but little more pleasure than I left it, and some hours elapsed ere I was sufficiently sensible of the blessing of renewed existence to be grateful for the gift; to no one was my life more gratifying than the lovely EMILIA; her joy was not expressed by words, nor displayed by gestures; but was painted in lively colors on her expressive countenance; a sweet satisfaction animated every feature, and gave additional lustre to her beaming eyes.

“You will naturally be anxious to know how this change was produced; WARFIELD’S information was as follows; she had, for some reason she did not explain, determined to anticipate the hand of death by drowning herself; that she attempted it, you know; but the fear of death, proved stronger than her disgust of life, and with great difficulty she saved herself from that fate she had sought with so much secrecy; but, dreading to return home and endure the severity of her parents’ reproaches (who

she supposed would be made acquainted with the circumstance) she fled to a relation in Maryland: Meanwhile the intelligence of my fate reached her; alarmed at the consequences her folly was likely to occasion, she hastened to Philadelphia, thinking it probable she might arrive in time to avert the fate which hung over me; when she reached the city, she saw the immense concourse of people, who had assembled to witness my execution; curiosity led her to enquire my crime; the moment was propitious, and my life was preserved. Yet reflection dissipated a greater part of my joy, when I considered my situation, my innocence of the crime of murder was proved and I should probably be liberated in a short time from confinement; but who was to prove me innocent of meditated guilt? Would not I still be treated as a being dangerous to the community? Would the world consider me as much less guilty than before? I should be detested by all mankind, and condemned to wander through the world like an outcast from human society; I was conscious of my innocence, it is true; this had supported me at the most trying moment of my existence; but that proud, unbending spirit I had received from nature, and which had been strengthened by education, recoiled at the prospect. I wished to deserve the good opinion of all mankind, to command respect, though I could not inspire love; how then should I be able, when walking through the streets of the city, to bear to be shunned by all good men, and treated as a being with whom no one could safely commune; these reflections gave me intolerable anguish; I was almost tempted to wish I had perished at the hand of justice; I should then have slept quietly with the dead, the grave would have shielded me from the scorn of mankind, and insured my tranquility.

“By my uneasiness was happily relieved--on the day succeeding that on which my life was saved, I was saved from a fate which I considered as little better than death, in the following manner, several of the persons who were witnesses at my trial visited me in prison, one of whom gave me the following welcome information, which I will give you in his own words.

(to be continued)

CRUEL FATHER

[3. 16 November 1805]

(Continued.)

"Is he married?" enquired the pale and trembling Malvolio. "What will you say, if I tell you that he is?" "Say!" exclaimed he, scarcely able to articulate the sentence, "That I hope every curse will be multiplied upon his head! And as to you, base and insidious villain, who have instilled principle of disobedience into the breast of my son, may you live to feel disappointment like that which at present overwhelms me; and may accumulated misfortunes overcloud your days!" So saying, he quitted the apartment, and gave orders that his son should be denied admission into the house.

Adolphus, who was ignorant of what had passed between Mr. Middleton and his father, returned to his paternal dwelling at the accustomed hour, for the purpose of placing the keys of the compting house in Malvolio's room, which was his usual practice. Upon rapping at the door, it was opened by a servant, who had lived in the family of his mother, from the time of her being a child, and whom she had engaged in the capacity of a footman when she was so unfortunate as to become a wife. Adolphus was in the act of entering, when Stephen placed himself before him with extended arms. "My dear young master, (said he, in faltering accents) for God's sake take the council of an old man. Your father is enraged against you-- therefore do not attempt seeing him until his anger subsides. Give me the keys of the compting house, and tell me where I can call upon you to-morrow morning." The poor fellow uttered this speech with so much agitation, that Adolphus was aware some terrible fracas had occurred; and taking the keys out of his pocket, he was preparing to leave his father's mansion, when Stephen thrust a purse into his hand, and burst into a flood of tears. "I dare not offend you, sir, (said he) by begging your acceptance of that trifle; but for God's sake, keep it only for me just a little time. I do not know in whose hands to place it; and mayhap, trifle as it is, it may be of some use to you. Oh, my poor dear, dear mistress! What a blessing it is that she is not alive!"

"Excellent fellow! (exclaimed Adolphus-- catching the infection that streamed from his aged eyes,) I value this proof of your friendship and attachment more than it is in the power of language to describe; but I am not distressed for a few guineas; if I was, most gratefully would I accept this boon." As Adolphus had promised to return again to Eliza, he determined not to acquaint her with what he had heard: but the next morning he received a visit from Mr. Middleton, who thought it necessary to acquaint him with all that had passed. Poverty he could have borne; distress he could individually have encountered; but when he reflected

on the distress which the object of his tenderness must sustain, fortitude yielded to the power of affection, and the feelings of the man were converted into those of the child. Roused into energy by the arguments of Mr. Middleton, he determined to write a conciliatory epistle to the author of his birth; and if this did not succeed, to endeavour to obtain employment in some of the families with whom his father did business, as a clerk. The letter, which was couched in terms to have softened an heart of adamant, was read without receiving any reply; and the inhuman Malvolio circulated amongst his acquaintance, the most cruel and unjust aspersions against his son; and actually declared that he had embezzled the property which had been committed to his trust.

The consequence of these reports was what Malvolio expected; for no one would afford the object of his resentment employ. His society was shunned, and he was regarded as a monster who deserved to be driven from the haunts of mankind. In vain did the worthy Mr. Middleton endeavor to vindicate his character; no one believed it possible for a parent unjustly to condemn his child; and those fathers who were anxious to impress the practice of filial obedience, forbid their children from associating with such a pupil of vice. Those manners which had been admired for gentleness and flexibility, were now said to have been the result of policy and deceit; and his very virtues were converted into vices:--so strong is the effect which prejudice produces in the mind.

After having unsuccessfully endeavored to obtain employment in England, from the desire of not being separated from the wife he adored. Adolphus at length obtained one in the West Indies, through the interest of that friend who was well acquainted with his worth. With a heart torn by a variety of afflicting emotions, he took leave of Eliza and her lovely little boy, promising to send for them as soon as he was established, if the situation proved equal to what he had a right to expect. The anxieties he had encountered and the distress he had been involved in not only depressed his spirits but debilitated his frame; and scarcely had he taken possession of his new employment, when he was attacked by the fever incident to that clime.-- The art of medicine was in vain exerted to save him; his constitution was too much weakened to struggle against the disease; and the physicians informed him that the only chance he had of recovery, was to return immediately to his native clime.

The unjust stigma which had been cast upon the character of Adolphus, seemed to extend even to his amiable wife; and amongst the number of her father's friends, only one seemed sensible of her merits, or paid the least attention either to her or her child. The sale of her father's furniture had procured her a little ready money, but the greater part of this had been expended in procuring the necessary articles for her husband's new employ; and Eliza had no means of supporting her existence, but by procuring work from the shops. The greater part of the day was spent in nursing of her helpless infant; therefore evening was the only time she was able to work; and seldom did this amiable and industrious young woman retire to

her bed before two o'clock. The anxieties of her mind, and the fatigues she encountered, soon produced a visible effect upon her health, and she was no longer able to make those exertions which, were absolutely necessary for her support. The only friend who sympathized in her misfortunes, was from the confinement of her own income, unable to render her essential relief; and her situation must have been deplorable, but for the worthy Mr. Middleton, who, out of a little more than a hundred a year, allowed her half a guinea a week. The anxiety she felt as receiving no letters from Adolphus, may be imagined, but cannot easily be described; and her foreboding fears, too readily suggested, that he had fallen a victim to the unhealthiness of the clime. Brooding one evening over these melancholy reflections, and weeping over the babe whom she wished had never been born, she was roused from the train of miserable ideas by a violent knocking at the door.---- Her name was loudly vociferated by the person of whom she hired the apartment. Eliza's agitation was so violent, that she could not rise from her seat and the sound of several footsteps on the stairs increased her emotion, and a universal tremor overspread her frame. The door was opened, and Adolphus entered, pale, trembling, and supported between two men. "Merciful God! (she exclaimed) do I behold my husband? Oh, my Adolphus, I could have borne any thing but this!"

"My Eliza! (said he, extending his arms towards her,) my loved, my adored, my unfortunate wife! Oh, how you are changed? I wanted not this affliction to complete the miseries and distresses of my life!" The humane companions of the wretched Adolphus mixed their tears with those of the ill-fated pair; and, after assisting the debilitated Eliza to undress her apparently dying husband kindly went to Mr. Middleton to inform him he was arrived. On the wings of friendship, that worthy man flew to the house of sorrow; but what an effecting scene presented itself to his eyes! The expiring Adolphus was supported by pillows, and by the side of him knelt his disconsolate wife "My friend my only friend! (said he, in scarcely articulate accents,) the Almighty in mercy has granted my prayer. I wished but to breathe out my soul in the arms of my Eliza; and to recommend her, and my boy to your care!"-- "Talk not of dying my dear honest fellow, (replied the agitated Middleton;) I hope you will live many, many years. You are fatigued with your journey. I will run for a doctor;" and at that moment he was hastening out of the room. Stop! Stop! I conjure you, (exclaimed the unfortunate sufferer, in a more renovated tone of voice;) all assistance is vain. I feel myself going to that bourne from whence no traveller returns! My father! My10 inexorable father! will, perhaps, pardon my transgression, when he knows I can no longer offend. Will you, my friend, undertake to solicit his protection for my Eliza, and her unfortunate child?"

"I will undertake every thing, (rejoined the still more agitated Middleton,) if you will but

9 In original, word appears without capitalization

10 In original, word appears without capitalization

suffer me instantly to procure you advice. You have youth on your side; much may be done for you." "Oh, fly, Mr. Middleton!" exclaimed the hitherto silent wife. The worthy man did not require the request to be repeated, and returned with a physician in less than a quarter of an hour, who, the moment he felt the pulse of his patient, knew he had only a short time to live. The agonized Eliza watched his countenance with an anxiety which it would be difficult to describe, and too soon discovered the hopeless state of her husband, in the melancholy turn of his features, and the sympathizing tenderness of his eyes.

"We shall soon meet again, my Adolphus, (said she, tenderly embracing him,) where parental authority cannot extend! I feel, my beloved, that our separation will be transient; yet that unfortunate infant still endears me to life!"
(To be continued in our next.)

EUGENIUS AND SELIMA

Saturday, October 4, 1794

EUGENIUS AND SELIMA; OR, THE FATAL EFFECTS OF PARENTAL TYRANNY—*A Moral Story*

A Gentleman of fortune in this metropolis, (whom it will not be improper to distinguish by the name of Morosus) sent his only son, Eugenius to the University; there to finish his studies under the care of a tutor.

The fortune and engaging carriage of this young gentleman rendered him an agreeable guest to all the polite and gay assemblies of the place, and his sprightliness and vivacity a welcome visitor of the houses of the more private persons of fashion.

Being one night at a card party at Mrs. R---'s, he was introduced to Mrs. C---, and her beautiful daughter Selima. Eugenius was struck at first sight with the charms of this young lady, and felt a pleasing sensation in contemplating her perfections. Mrs. R---, observing his embarrassment, took him by the hand, and presented him to the lady and her daughter. "I introduce to you," said she, addressing herself to the latter, "a young gentleman who has long wished for the pleasure of being in your company." "Madam," said he, bowing and emboldened by what Mrs. R--- had said, "'tis not alone to be in your company that I desire; I beg leave to be permitted to increase[sp] the number of your admirers." He now paused, but perceiving the ladies had left them together, he was resuming his discourse, when she interrupted him. "You confound me, sir," said she, "as I am sensible I am unworthy such flattering compliments." Here Mrs. R--- and her friend entered, and the discourse turning on different subjects, till the company encreased, they sat down to cards, leaving Eugenius absorbed in thought.

Love now began to make powerful inroads in his heart. Selima sat opposite him during the evening, and the more he beheld her the more his passion augmented; but he feared his addresses were fruitless, as she did not once deign him a tender look. Love, however, had, in reality made as powerful and rapid a progress in her heart as in his, though modesty taught her to disguise it.

The evening passed principally at cards—Eugenius indeed found nothing to cross his desires, yet it is consequent to love to be attended with inquietude;—he longed for another opportunity of speaking to her; but at that time it was impracticable, as she and her mother withdrew at a very early hour. Before he departed, he paid his compliments to Mrs. R---, who asked him how he had liked his evening's entertainment. He replied, he was perfectly happy in the society of such agreeable persons, and hoped for the renewing of that pleasure the next evening.

Eugenius waited with impatience the expected moment which should again bring him into the presence of the dear object of his affections, in which interview he resolved to come to an explanation;—but imagine his disappointment when the time arrived, and he was informed, indisposition prevented, her mother, and which necessary hindered her being there. His conjecture was immediately, that it was merely an excuse, and their absence was purposefully calculated to deter his further pursuit. The idea was sufficient to make him unhappy and he now began to ruminate upon the absurdity of his mistake in having regarded the distant respect she had shewn him, as a mark of affection, which was, he now thought in reality only the simple effects of politeness. He left Mrs. R---'s that evening with less satisfaction, as may naturally be supposed, than he had done the preceding.

After having passed a restless night, next morning he paid a visit to Mrs. R---: that lady rightly judged the cause to which she was indebted for the honour of this his early visit, and to remove his suspicions, assured him he had been deprived of Mrs. C--- and her daughter's company, solely by the indisposition of the former. Luckily, during their conversation, the ladies entered. After they had paid their congratulations to Mrs. C---, on her restoration to health, and other usual compliments had passed, Mrs. R--- took the mother by the hand and withdrew into another room in order to give Eugenius an opportunity of discovering his sentiments to Selima: nor did he fail of making use of the present advantageous moment. "Madam," said he, taking her tenderly by the hand, "this is the first time I have had the pleasure of being alone with you; permit me, now I enjoy that opportunity, to inform you the impression your charms made on me the first time I had the honour of seeing you, and believe me, my dear Selima, that if ever passion was fervent and true, mine is so;—and, knew you the unhappiness I endured the short time I was deprived of your company, it would be suf-

ficient to give you a clear proof of the truth of what I have said, and of the sincerity of my affection. --Such, my dear Selima is the declamation [sp] of my heart; I scorn deceit; — speak then, my lovely girl, determine with a smile, my happiness; or fix with a frown my eternal misery." "Ah sir," returned she, "could I think what you have said to be true, and that it is I who have caused the tender unhappiness in your, you fain would have me believe; I should reflect on it with pleasure; but should I listen to your persuasive [sp] words, I fear I should be drawn to imbibe a tenderness which might hereafter prove difficult to banish. Yet this, in justice I must say, among the fine speeches I have had said to me on this subject, yours seem to wear most the appearance of simple sincerity. I should hope, sir, that what I have already said will be sufficient to make known to you my sentiments on what you have just now said."

The happiness which these few words of Selima conferred on Eugenius, can only be conceived by those who have been in a similar situation. But her mother and Mrs. R---, now entering, no further discourse past. It may be supposed he was easily prevailed on to stay dinner; and in the evening more company coming, they sat down to quadrille. He had again an opportunity of conversing with Selima, she having declined playing. "Is it possible, Selima," said he, "that such a reserved indifference should be thought a recompence worthy the love you must be convinced I entertain for you. --I fear some more happy rival occasions this behaviour to me; be ingenious and easy [sp] my troubled soul, for it were death to continue in that tormenting situation, which your treatment has reduced me." "You are mistaken, sir, I assure you," replied she, "and insensible of the feelings my heart but too freely indulges in your behalf;—your behavior charms me, and I confess, what mostly ought to have obliged me to conceal, that your tenderness has affected me much; but whilst you are thus earnestly soliciting to know what my sentiments are towards you; permit me to require you to return me the sincerest proof of your regard by endeavoring to make your parent and mine approve of it, and then you will find I shall not be averse to your wishes."

She uttered this with the most enchanting Sweetness and innocent' simplicity. He promised to acquaint his father immediately; and they spent the remainder of the evening in assuring each other of a mutual tenderness and affection; and when the company separated, he departed perfectly satisfied with the assurances she had given him of her love, and not doubting but his father would consent to their union, as he could have no reasonable objections to her person, nor to her fortune, since it was equal if not superior to his own.

The visible happiness on his countenance was quickly perceived by his tutor, who enquired the reason. Eugenius thinking he might be of service to him interceding with his father did not hesitate to tell him the

cause, nor did he conceal in the least the purport of his last conversation with Selima. "Sir," said his tutor, "you have, I fear, engaged in an affair that will be the cause of lasting unhappiness to you, and that amiable young lady. Not that love itself is to be condemned; no! far from it; it is the surest mark of a great and noble soul; but you should not indulge yourself in it too precipitately--for, continued he, no one can tell but that your father may have fixed on a lady for your wife, and, nevertheless whatever we may think, parents know, or at least ought to know better what is to the advantage of their children, than they themselves. Your father gave me particular orders not to suffer you to make any engagement without his knowledge; and should I fulfil[sp] my trust, did I not give him the earliest account of this transaction? which, excuse me if I say I know it will be contrary to his inclination."

His tutor was right, and when he found all his advice was to no purpose, he desisted, and immediately wrote to Morosus, to acquaint him of the connection his son had formed; advising to send for him home, absence might cure him of his passion, and restore him to his senses.

In a few days Eugenius received a letter from his father, containing an order to return home; this was sufficient to render him unhappy; the idea of leaving Selima was death; but his father's commands were absolute, and must be obeyed. The same evening he went to take his farewell of his beloved Selima; they parted with tears, after having sworn fidelity to each other. Mrs. R--- sympathised in their unhappiness, by giving them all the consolation friendly advice could afford. Eugenius begged her to permit him to write to her from London, to acknowledge the obligations he had already experienced; of which he should always retain the most lively sense of gratitude. She readily granted his request, and it was a consolation to him that by this means he could enjoy the pleasure of hearing some news of his dear Selima.

When Eugenius arrived in London, his father's cool behaviour hurt him not a little. The morning after his arrival, his father sent for him into his closet; he obeyed his command and went trembling, but fully resolved to discover his sentiments. On his entrance, Morosus addressed him thus: "Sir," said he, "pray how have you employed your time since you left home." The youth instantly, and without any reserve confessed his love for Selima, and in the tenderest expressions and persuasive eloquence exaggerated her merit and beauty--nor did he forget to mention her ample fortune, beseeching him at the same time not to disapprove his passion by a denial of their union. "I am surprised, (replied the father) you should have formed such an attachment without my consent, and more so at your boldness in avowing it. But, young man, continued he, remember, I command you to think no more of this ridiculous passion, unless you would incur my utter displeasure, and oblige me to a severity I willingly would avoid." In vain he remonstrated he had plighted his honor in the most sacred oaths to marry her. Morosus broke from him, and would hear no more.

His tutor, who was accessory to what had passed, came to give him all the comfort in his power, but he was incapable of receiving any.--He abandoned himself to despair, & would scarcely receive nourishment

for several days; nor could all the remonstrances of his tutor bring him out of his chamber .

[To be continued.]