

POETRY.

FOR THE ROYAL GAZETTE.

Verses on the arrival of the first vessels in Miramichi.

WHAT report was that like thunder?
'Tis some stranger's voice I deem—
Under weigh, behold her yonder,
Stately moving up the stream.

Welcome here; majestic stranger;
Welcome to our shores again:
Safe returned, through storms and danger,
And the wild, Atlantic main.

Lonely pass'd our days, while boreas,
Bound in ice, the flowing tide:
Lo! advancing, now before us,
Britain's glory, hoast, and pride.

Hapless strangers,* rove no longer;
Far from kindred, friends, or home;
Spent with travel, cold and hunger:
Now your harvest day is come.

Make the ants, your chief example,
See! how they, their labors ply;
Provides a store, secure and ample,
To withstand you wintry sky.

Think, ah! think, who will support you,
When you're waxing grey and old:
Spend not then, what should comfort you
Through a winter long and cold

J. K.
* Alluding to the great number of people going about seeking employment.
Miramichi, May 15th, 1817.

THE EARL OF DESMOND;
OR
O'BRIEN'S COTTAGE.

AN IRISH STORY.
(Continued from our last.)

The colonel's extreme alarm being in some degree allayed by the doctor's assurance, that he had every hope a few hours would terminate the business happily, he resolved in the mean time to walk out, to relieve the dejection of his depressed spirits; the doctor approved his intention, and desiring he would confide in the favourable symptoms, and his best endeavours to render every assistance in his power—persuaded him to defer his excursion no longer.

The colonel had scarcely returned, after an absence of an hour and a half, before he was congratulated by Judy on the birth of an exceeding fine girl; and she exultingly told him she knew doctor Maynard was the finest man in the world, and the only person who could have saved Mrs. Fitzhugh's life.

Doctor Maynard now added his congratulations to Judy's; he informed the colonel he had the highest hopes of Mrs. Fitzhugh's speedy recovery; that from the healthy appearance of the child, he imagined it at its full time; and that its birth was not occasioned by the unpleasant circumstances with which their travelling had been attended.

The joy of the colonel was unbounded, he clasped his beloved wife and infant to his breast, with a rapture as warm as though he had rescued them both from the jaws of death; he returned the most ardent thanks to Maynard and Judy for their skill and care; he insisted on the doctor's immediate acceptance of a very considerable sum; and to Judy he likewise gave so much she thought her fortune made for life.

Dr. Maynard having seen every thing settled to his satisfaction for the night, took leave of his patient, recommending quiet and repose; with the promise of an early attendance the next morning; he then endeavoured to prevail with the colonel to take up his lodging that night at his house, as his accommodations at the farmstead must now be very indifferent; but the colonel declined his obliging offer, declaring it would be impossible for him to be happy, under the present circumstances, so far removed from his wife.

Mrs. Fitzhugh soon after this fell into a deep sleep, in which she continued some hours; but on awaking she seemed extremely uneasy and restless, attended with slight symptoms of delirium. When the doctor attended, the next morning, he was extremely concerned to find Mrs. Fitzhugh in this situation; exhibiting strong appearances of a violent fever; this unfavourable change he at present concealed, ordering such medicines as he judged likely to abate the fever, and restore her senses.

But finding on a few more visits the dangerous symptoms increased, he judged it necessary, in the gentlest terms the unhappy tidings could be conveyed, to acquaint the colonel; he therefore told him it was with

great distress he was compelled to say, the recovery of Mrs. Fitzhugh was not proceeding in the manner he had hoped and expected, and that he was apprehensive she was now suffering from the effects of her fatal voyage: at a time when they had entertained the highest expectations of all danger and inconvenience being over.

The almost frenzied colonel, with a tremulous voice, asked Maynard if he thought his wife in danger. The silence of the doctor more forcibly conveyed his opinion than the most eloquent harangue. The heart of the afflicted husband sunk with terror—he staggered to a chair (nearly overcome by his strong emotions) on which throwing himself, he exclaimed in a voice of agony—"Oh! Doctor, are there no hopes? Can we have no other advice?"

The doctor, grieved to the utmost to witness his pain and distress, endeavoured to soften, as much as he could, the almost hopeless case. He said no advice could be procured nearer than Dublin; and before that could possibly arrive Mrs. Fitzhugh would be out of danger; or—"Or all over," answered the colonel:—"in this calamity Heaven alone can support me."

Two days from this period, in defiance of every effort on the part of Dr. Maynard, to restore her or mitigate her sufferings, the amiable and lovely Mrs. Fitzhugh breathed her last; in the arms of her adoring and almost fainting husband.

The agony of this distressing moment far exceeds the power of description, and had not the persuasive arguments, dictated by the feeling heart and good sense of the doctor, had weight with the distracted colonel, the most fatal consequences might have been apprehended.

The doctor, being a man of great intelligence and knowledge of the world, undertook the whole management of this distressing business. It happened particularly lucky that Judy O'Brien could undertake the nursing and suckling of the child, which still continued particularly promising; the other arrangements were all under the doctor's care, who, finding it was the colonel's wish his beloved wife should rest in the vaults of his ancestors, immediately dispatched a special messenger to the earl of Desmond, with a circumstantial account of the sad catastrophe which had taken place; and of the melancholy meeting he had now to expect with his brother. He further informed him when he was to expect that event to take place.

Soon were all things prepared for the mournful procession. The colonel, overpowered by the severe sense of his loss, was deaf to the soothing of friendship and consolation offered by Maynard, who accompanied him; and the sight of his infant daughter had no effect. He had, indeed, attended to the ceremony of her baptism, in which he named her Georgiana, after his mother, not daring to call her Ophelia, as it would constantly recal his loss to his recollection.

With slow and lingering steps the awful cavalcade set out from the cottage of O'Brien, and in two days reached Desmond castle, which the earl had had prepared for the solemn occasion. In a large hall, hung with black, and illuminated with wax tapers, he received his long absent brother. In this he had the body deposited, and covered with a rich pall or velvet; on which was placed superb plumes of white ostrich feathers.

Sad, and almost silent, was this interview. Lord Desmond, though not a man of first-rate abilities or understanding, had not an unfeeling or corrupt heart; he was shocked, on this occasion, and felt his brother's affliction in the most sensible manner. As soon as possible, he drew his brother from this scene of sorrow; leaving proper attendants to watch, he gently led the colonel into more cheerful apartments, and soon succeeded in beguiling him into an interesting conversation on family occurrences.

The earl and doctor Maynard concurring in opinion, that there could be no hope of the colonel's restored composure till the funeral was over, had the mournful ceremony performed as soon as possible; after which, exerting all their faculties to amuse him, they had the pleasure to observe the good effects of their kindness, or he evidently appeared more resigned. He now began to talk of his child, recommending her, in the strongest terms, to her uncle's protection, as he

was himself, he said, fully determined to return to India.

Doctor Maynard persuaded the colonel and the earl to let the infant remain where she was, till she was two years old, as Judy O'Brien was an excellent nurse; and the lower Irish are proverbial for their extreme attachment to the children they suckle; and that he himself should find a sincere pleasure in paying her every attention in his power.

Lord Desmond answered, if this regulation met with his brother's approbation, at the expiration of that time, (if the colonel should not be returned), he would take his niece home, and, in every respect, consider her as his own, till he demanded her.

Satisfied with these promises, the colonel felt happy he could put his plan of returning to India so soon in execution; as the sorrows he had encountered in England and Ireland made him conceive India alone his home. On this principle he could not be prevailed on to prolong his visit beyond two months, at the expiration of which time (having previously given orders for a magnificent monument to the memory of his lamented Ophelia) he took a most affecting and affectionate leave of his brother—again, in the most impressive manner, he solicited his protection for his little Georgiana, for whose use, he said, he should leave a large sum in the hands of his banker. The earl, sensibly affected by his brother's anxiety on this subject, again renewed his most solemn assurances of paternal care; and they parted, mutually satisfied with each other.

When colonel Fitzhugh again returned to the cottage of O'Brien, the recollection of the last melancholy scenes, which had taken place there, almost overpowered the firm resolution he had taken to bear his sorrows in silence; but, concealing his emotions in the best manner he could, he requested to see his infant. When she was brought, her improvement, in the short time of his absence, astonished him; it exceeded his utmost expectation. Already she began to observe and smile, and her complexion was changed from the red, which overspread it when he last saw her, to the softest tint of infantine fairness. For the first moment, since her mother's death, the colonel felt something like pleasure. A thousand times he embraced her; and, taking a miniature from his neck of her mother's likeness, he tied it on her's, charging Judy to take the greatest care of it; and whenever Georgiana left her to give a similar charge with it into whose hands it was trusted, till she was old enough to take care of it herself.

Three weeks the colonel continued at the cottage, during which time the endearing observation, and daily improving looks of his little girl won so much on his affection, it required his utmost efforts to separate from her; but, well knowing his present inactive life tended only to nourish his grief, he conceived it best to put in immediate practice his return to India.

To the friendly Maynard's care he likewise recommended his child, in as warm and earnest a manner as he did to the earl of Desmond, giving him also directions to satisfy the O'Briens for their charge; and account of the funds he intended to leave for that purpose.

These points settled, he took a tender and mournful leave; he found the parting from his child a task which required his utmost exertions; but, informing the worthy doctor and the afflicted O'Briens that he did not suppose he should be absent more than three years, during which he should so regulate his business that he might settle on his native domain for life, he left them amidst their reiterated blessings on him, and prayers to his safe and happy return.

From Clonish he set off for Dublin, and from thence to London; where, settling some affairs with the directors, he embarked in the first ship which sailed, at a time of the year which promised a safe and pleasant passage.

Four years had now passed since the colonel had left England, and the little Georgiana remained yet at O'Brien's cottage. In this time she was grown all her best friends could wish—healthy, good-humoured, and full of activity.

Doctor Maynard was much surprised the child had been suffered to remain so long at O'Brien's: he had received two letters only from the colonel, and now more than twelve months had elapsed since the last; he, there-

fore thought it necessary to write to lord Desmond on the occasion, and state how much it was required that his niece should be under better care than could be expected from the ignorant, though good-hearted and attentive O'Briens; he, therefore, entreated lord Desmond would favour him by letting him know his pleasure respecting her.

To this he received a very kind and polite answer, intimating that his niece's situation at present, and future establishment, engrossed much of his thoughts, more particularly as he had not, for some time, heard from her father; that he intended himself the pleasure of seeing the doctor very soon, as his health was in a declining state, on which account he had been advised by those who now attended him to travel; and that his intended visit to the doctor was for the purposes of embracing his dear Georgiana: and for his opinion on his case, added to those he had already consulted.

Near twelve months, from this period, had passed before the promised visit of lord Desmond took place. He then arrived one evening at the doctor's house, with very little previous ceremony, and there first saw his little engaging niece, who was then on a visit to the doctor, for, he being extremely attached to the child, frequently had her at his residence for many weeks together.

Lord Desmond was perfectly delighted with the child of his brother; he caressed it with the warmest embraces, expressed his pleasure at her healthful appearance, and how highly he was delighted by her infantine vivacity; and returned very ardent thanks to the doctor for the obligations he felt under, for his paternal care of her.

"But, my dear friend," continued the earl, "what must we do with this sweet girl? You must have observed I have not complained of my health without cause: advise me both for myself and her."

The visibly altered appearance of lord Desmond had not escaped the observation of Maynard, and he found in it some excuse for that inattention he must otherwise have thought very reprehensible in respect to Georgiana.

"Tell me," continued the earl, "whether you concur with my other physicians in opinion, that my health requires a change of climate; or conceive Italy would be advantageous."

"I am decidedly of opinion, my lord," answered Maynard, "that the advice is good, and ought immediately to be put in practice."

"I am much disposed to adopt it," said lord Desmond; "but, in that case what can be done with Georgiana? It is impossible to take her with me: and how can I, with propriety, leave her?"

"As your stay will, most probably, not be long, my lord," returned Maynard, "I think I could suggest a plan which might answer for that time; and, if you approve it, the sooner it is put in execution the better."

"My stay will depend entirely on the advantages I may experience," answered lord Desmond; "therefore, my dear friend, propose your expedient; for, though it may not be exactly what I wish, it may do till some more eligible one can be determined on."

(To be continued.)

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JOSEPH STEVENS,
Fredericton, 8th July, 1817.

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