

THE CHRISTIAN VISITOR.

Youths' Department.

CHRISTIAN LOVE AND LOYALTY; OR, THE REBEL RECLAIMED.

XII.

THE LONELY CAPTIVE.

Rejoice not in iniquity, but rejoice in the truth.

Continued.

The second thought of Grace regarding her step-father had been more just than the first. There had been a struggle between right and wrong in the bosom of Jasper Braburn. Swinging backwards and forwards from one point to its opposite, he had now, with generous indignation, repelled the idea of treason; then suffered tempters without and within to master both reason and conscience. The moment after Jasper had let loose the carrier-pigeon, he had felt as if he would give the world to be able to summon it back! When he had seen it fall, his first emotion had been that of relief, as if some invisible hand had done that which he fain would have done with his own. Then the sight of Grace approaching the dead bird, and the dread lest she should discover his secret, had turned the current of Braburn's feelings, and had made him descend the staircase, almost at a bound, to prevent the exposure of his treason!

Various influences had been at work to drive Jasper into a course of action which his conscience abhorred. As the reader learned in a former chapter, his sympathies had early been enlisted by the struggle carried on in France between what he deemed the oppressed and their oppressors. This was the case with many honorable men in our country, whose eyes were only opened to the evils of anarchy by the horrors of the French Revolution. But Jasper's pride could not stoop to own that his judgment had ever been in error; he considered it base to desert a cause that he once had openly favored, preferring the name of consistency, to a reputation for common-sense.

Then Jasper became a disappointed man. Having a high idea of his own merits, he was provoked by the indifference with which his countrymen regarded them. He had resolved to rise—and he had not risen! Jasper began to nourish a deep sense of wrongs that had never existed. It was gratifying to vanity to conclude that the mean envy of others kept him down—and not my fault of his own. Braburn persuaded himself more easily than he could persuade the world, that the Government had shamefully neglected him. The minister must be worthless, for he had not discovered the worth of Mr. Braburn; he must job with his appointments, for no appointment had ever been offered to Jasper! Braburn could not endure to see others in the sunshine, while he was left in the shade. Thus mean jealousy, born of selfish vanity, took such possession of his mind, that he began actually to rejoice in the evils brought on his country by war! Jasper foretold disasters from "the incompetent—the jobbing—the madness" of the ministry whom he detested, and found a wicked pleasure in believing that his predictions would be verified soon.

Yet, notwithstanding all the prognostications of Jasper, Britain's armies were not cut to pieces, her navy destroyed, nor her throne overthrown! The prophet of evil was found a false one; and when patriots rejoiced at returning peace, Jasper's countenance was clouded with gloom. He however, comforted himself for the peace of Amiens by marrying Nina Vernon, and tried to forget, in domestic comfort, the failure of his political career. Jasper's wedded happiness lasted for even a shorter time than the peace; and as has been mentioned, he visited France to solace, by change of scene, his grief for the loss of his wife.

At Paris, Jasper was introduced to the Chief Consul Napoleon, and the meeting exercised a lasting influence over the fate of Mr. Braburn. The penetrating eye of Bonaparte read at once the character of a man whose talents and position might render him a valuable tool. He saw that Jasper was vain and discontented; by flattery his vanity, and stirring up his ambition, the wily Consul found the master-key to his heart. Jasper was gratified beyond measure by the notice, and (as he believed) personal regard of the greatest genius in the world. He was raised higher, if possible, in his own estimation, than he ever had been before.

Nor was it only upon the vanity of Braburn that the subtle tempter had to work. The Englishman's extravagance and carelessness had plunged him into difficulties from which he saw no way of extricating himself with honour. Jasper could not endure the thought of selling castle and estates, and sinking down at once into a lower grade of society. He could not endure the idea of the hardships to which Liberia, his gifted, his beautiful child, might be exposed! Most in tolerable of all was the fear that she might one day reproach him in her heart for having ruined her prospects by his folly. This made the offer of an enormous bribe, a temptation hard to be resisted. There had been a time when Jasper Braburn would have started back in horror from the idea of selling his country and betraying his king—and even now he dared not look at his own conduct in the full clear light of truth. Jasper tried to deceive himself, he gladly let others deceive him; he suffered himself to be drawn into treason—yet shrank from the name of a traitor! Braburn was no hardened rebel, steadily pursuing a course of evil—but a weak man, driven desperate by vain efforts to gain a niche in the Temple of Fame!

We will now return to Grace Vernon, shut up in her high cell in Nina's Tower. As soon as her guardian had, for the second time, left her alone, she went at once to the ladder, wondering much at the carelessness which had left a prisoner such a communication with the sky-light. With an eager, yet trembling step she mounted, pausing at each round to listen, till she had her small hand on the bolt of the window. This was easily withdrawn, but as the sky-light opened outward, it was with no slight difficulty that Grace succeeded in raising it. She had hardly sufficient strength in her slender arms to push up the frame, especially as the ladder afforded but insecure footing for one unaccustomed to climbing. There was something invigorating, however, in the fresh pure air which came through the opening, and with a joyous feeling of a captive escaping from confinement, Grace clambered upon the roof of the Tower. She had never stood there before, and while she gazed with admiration over the wide prospect which it commanded, the height of the building made her feel almost as completely a prisoner as she would have been if unable to quit her cell. It is true that Grace could trace far below her the windings of the gravel walk on which Liberia often sauntered; the dewy lawn where the sunbeams glamed from the gardener's eye; even the village was not so distant that her ear could not catch the clash of the hammer where the early-rising blacksmith had already lighted his forge. The young girl's voice, if strained to the utmost, might be heard—there was no small comfort in this, for in the land of freedom unjust imprisonment must end as soon as made known.

To be continued.

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SAMUEL D. MILLER, Principal.
THIS Establishment has been removed to Charlotte Street, a few doors South of the St. John Hotel. The School at present consists of Male and Female Departments, and comprises Classes in almost every branch of a thorough Classical, Mathematical, and Commercial Education.

The Furniture and Apparatus are all of the most improved modern style; the School Rooms and premises are inferior to none in the City; the system is Catechetical and Explanatory. Call and see.

Aug. 4.

O. W. SMITH.
MOLASSES AND SUGAR.—45 lbs., 15 troyes and 2 lbs. Cienfuegos Molasses; 15 lbs. Bright Cuba Sugar, for sale low by STEEVES BROS.

FLOUR.—To arrive per brig "Ida May," 350 bbls. Extra State flour, Home and Beloittonian brands; 200 bbls. Napier flour. For sale by STEEVES BROS.

ATNT B-O' JACKS.—quantity of the above in stock. For sale low at No. 11 King street.

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L OAK CAULKING MALLETS.—Another supply of the above just received at No. 11 King street.

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LOCKERS HARDWARE.—A splendid assortment of the above always on hand, consisting of Mortise and Jam Locks and Latches, Cut Nails, etc. T. H. H. and other Hinges, Wrought Nails, Thumb Latches, Sheet Zinc, Axle Pulleys, Sheet Lead, Sash Cord, Paints—assorted colors, Finishing Nails and Brads, Raw Zinc, Zinc Oxide, Paint Brushes and Tools, Glass and Paint, and a general variety of small articles too extensive to enumerate. For sale low by W. H. OLIVE & CO.

No. 11 King street.

PRIME HAVANA CIGARS.—2000 well seasoned, and in good order.

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KASS BROOMS.—An excellent Broom for Stables, Yards, Walks, &c., and warranted superior to anything else made for that purpose. For sale at low prices at Brabur's Corner, 3 King street.

C. G. BERRYMAN.

LEAD ALFRED PIPES.—The neatest clay pipe ever offered in this market!—The subscriber is now prepared to supply those much admired PIPES—either by the gross or dozen—each case contains five gross.

G. D. BERRYMAN,

Barlow's Corner, 5 King street.

SEWING MACHINES TO RENT.

WE are authorized to rent Singer's Sewing Machines to parties who are not prepared to, or who only require their use for a short period. Terms to be known on application to C. D. EVERETT & SON, Agents.

No. 15 King street.

W. OLIVE & CO. have in stock their usual supply of all kinds of iron tools, including crimping irons, wire drawing, scythes, Philip Messer & Co.'s celebrated Scythes; Waterville or Dunn Scythes; L. W. and other American Scythes; Griffin Scythe Hooks and Sickle; Common and Patent Scythe Sheaths; Cunningham and Indian Pond Scythe Sheaths; Two and three bowed Hay Forks, various kinds. Wholesale and Retail at No. 11 King street. (Jun 30.) W. H. OLIVE & CO.

BLOCK RIVETS AND BUSHES.—5 cwt. Black Bushes, cast Block Rivets. The best thing that has been in the market yet. Blacksmiths will please call and examine them.

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