HE CLEISTINN VISTING. THE CHRISTIAN VISITOR.



have accommodated a dozen persons, the spray indeed breaking over us every minute, but the waves at some distance below our feet. The tide, Gilbert knew, would not naturally rise so high as the surface of the rock ; but it was possible that the furious gale which had arisen might drive the waves far above regular water-mark. Still, he imagined, if the worst came to the worst, we might cling to each other, and, holding on till the tide began to turn, escape with a thorough drenching.

rent.

our feet were wet enough when we left the leaky boat; and now, with every rising wave, the spray dashed over us; and, the necessity for exertion and the great stress of excitement being past, we began to suffer severely from the cold. A forlorn group we were, sitting there on the bare is-land rock ; above us, the lofty precipices of the Tor, and all around us the secthing waves, coming every minute nearer and nearer, and, as it seemed to our apprehensions, with increased fury, their white crests looking like tossing manes of some fierce, wild animal rushing upon us to tear us limb from limb. And we all thought of the dear ones at home ; I wept as I thought of papa and mamma, out in the storm, pacing the windswept beach, and straining their eyes over the darkened, tossing sea, looking for the little boat that held their one great treasure,-the little boat they knew so well that they would never see again, for she was fast grinding to pieces, on the sharp, cruel rocks on which she had stranded immediately after we deserted her. And Gilbert and Alice, too, had parents, who would watch in agony for their return ; and Alice, so frail, so weak, so easily exhausted, how would she bear this exposure, and all the terrible excitement to which she had been subjected ? Gilbert, I could see, was very anxious for her, and he sheltered her as well as he was able, holding her in his arms, and telling her to lean on him, for he knew she must be suffering. Then, too, the boat was gone,—the boat which had been the chief source of all their humble gains ;—what would become of the unfortunate Tredgolds, thus bereft of the means of following out their trade. And I felt that the expedition had been originally planned to please me ; if I had not coveted those purple lined tellince and the rare echinus, which I was told could be found on our coast only at the cove we had so unhappily visited, the Little Gipsy. would have been rocking safely in her land-locked bay in the sheltered creek ; 1 should have been at home to hear papa's explanations of some phenomena of the storm, and Gilbert and his sister would probably have been securely shelt-ered by their own fireside.

tedly wringing my wet, benumbed hands in my distress. "Oh, Gilbert, why did God let us come ?"

"Hush, Miss Margaret, dear !" said Alice, in her sweet voice, raising her drooping head. "Do not let us question God's providence. What He does must be best ! Our Father loves us too well

risking our lives, making all our friends misera ble on our account ?"

will all come plain in time ; or, if not in time, in eternity.



