

the last of the buccaneers. It had been built, I have every reason to believe, with Spanish gold ; not, however, with a great deal of it, for, notwithstanding its six rooms, it was a rather humble erection, and had now fallen greatly into disrepair. It was fitted up, however, with some of the sailor's money, and after his marriage, became his home—a home rendered all the happier by the presence of his cousin, now rising in years, and who, during her long widowhood, had sought and found consolations amid her troubles and privations, where it was surest to be found. She was a meek-spirited, sincerely pious woman, and the sailor during his more distant voyages—for he sometimes traded with ports of the Baltic on the one hand, and with those of Ireland and the south of England on the other—had the comfort of knowing that his wife, who had fallen into a state of health chronically delicate, was sedulously tended and cared for by a devoted mother. The happiness which he would have otherwise enjoyed was, however, marred in some degree by his wife's great delicacy of constitution, and ultimately blighted by two unhappy accidents.

He had not lost the nature which had been evinced at an early age beside the pond : for a man who had often looked death in the face, he had remained nicely tender of human life, and had often hazarded his own in preserving that of others ; and when accompanied, on one occasion, by his wife and her mother to his vessel, just previous to sailing, he had unfortunately to exert himself in her presence, in behalf of one of his seamen, in a way that gave her constitution a shock from which it never recovered. A clear, frosty, moonlight evening had set in ; the pier-head was glistening with new-formed ice, and one of the sailors, when engaged in casting over a haulser which he had just loosed, missed footing on the treacherous margin, and fell into the sea. The master knew his man could not swim ; a powerful seaward tide sweeps past the place with the first hours of ebb ; there was not a moment to be lost ; and, hastily throwing off his heavy great-coat, he plunged after him, and in an instant the strong current swept them both