

the shore ; and, though large enough within to contain from fifteen to twenty men, it presented outside much the appearance of a fox-earth, and was not known to half-a-dozen people in the country. It was, however, damp and dark ; and we found that we could not venture on lighting a fire in it without danger of suffocation. It was pronounced excellent, however, as a temporary place of concealment, were the search for us to become very hot. The other cavern was wide and open ; but it was a wild, ghostly-looking place, scarcely once visited from one twelvemonth's end to another ; its floor was green with mould, and its ridgy walls and roof bristled over with slim pale stalactites, which looked like the pointed tags that roughen a dead dress. It was certain, too, that it was haunted. Marks of a cloven foot might be seen freshly impressed on its floor, which had been produced either by a stray goat, or by something worse ; and the few boys to whom its existence and character were known used to speak of it under their breath as "the Devil's Cave." My lads did at first look round them, as we entered, with an awe-struck and disconsolate expression ; but falling busily to work among the cliffs, we collected large quantities of withered grass and fern for bedding, and, selecting the drier and less exposed portions of the floor, soon piled up for ourselves a row of little lairs, formed in a sort of half-way style between that of the wild beast and the gipsy, on which it would have been possible enough to sleep. We selected, too, a place for our fire, gathered a little heap of fuel, and secreted in a recess, for ready use, our Marcus' Cave pot and pitcher, and the lethal weapons of the gang, which consisted of an old bayonet so corroded with rust that it somewhat resembled a three-edged saw, and an old horseman's pistol tied fast to the stock by cobbler's ends, and with lock and ramrod awaiting. Evening surprised us in the middle of our preparations ; and as the shadows fell dark and thick, my lads began to look most uncomfortably around them. At length they fairly struck work ; there was no use, they said, for being in the Devil's Cave so late,—no use, indeed, for being in it at all, until we were made sure the factor did ac-