

neyman mason may not be very perceptible ; but, surveyed from the lower levels of society, it is quite considerable enough to be seen ; even Gulliver could determine that the Emperor of Lilliput was taller by almost the breadth of a nail than any of his Court ; and, though extremely desirous of renewing my acquaintanceship with my old friend, I was sensible enough of his advantage over me in point of position, to feel that the necessary advances should be made on his part, not on mine. I, however, threw myself in his way, though after a manner so fastidiously proud and jealous, that even yet, every time the recollection crosses me, it provokes me to a smile. On learning that he was engaged at the quay in superintending the landing of some goods, for, I suppose, his future shop, I assumed the leathern apron, which I had thrown aside for the winter at Martinmas, and stalked past him in my working dress,—a veritable operative mason,—eyeing him steadfastly as I passed. He looked at me for a moment ; and then, without sign of recognition, turned indifferently away. I failed taking into account that he had never seen me girt with a leathern apron before,—that, since we had last parted, I had grown more than half a foot,—and that a young man of nearly five feet eleven inches, with an incipient whisker palpably visible on his cheek, might be a different-looking sort of person from a smooth-chinned strippling of little more than five feet three. And certainly my friend, as I learned from him nearly three years after, failed on this occasion to recognize me. But believing that he did, and that he did not choose to reckon among his friends a humble working man, I returned to my home very sad, and, I am afraid, not a little angry ; and, locking up the supposed slight in my breast, as if of too delicate a nature to be communicated to any one, for more than two years from this time I did not again cross his path.

I was now my own master, and commenced work as a journeyman in behalf of one of my maternal aunts,—the aunt who had gone so many years before to live with her aged relative, the cousin of my father, and the mother of his first wife. Aunt Jenny had resided for many years after this time with