

huge diamonds suspended in the air. Indeed the ushering in of such a morn to beautify the glorious surroundings seemed more celestial than terrestrial. Man in prosperity pretends to cherish nature in and around his dwelling, but it is nature crippled and deformed. To real nature he is blind. In times of adversity, and after years of being enslaved and pampered by artificial wealth, he turns to nature for solace, but it is when his perceptions have become blighted and he is no longer a child of nature.

Mr. Abbott, in the early part of his life had been engaged in foreign travel most of the time. After all his travels he had finally chosen this delightful part of Tennessee as his permanent home, hoping he would spend the remainder of his days in rustic repose. Some years previous to his removal to this part of the country, he had been quite intemperate and consequently, his means had become impoverished. But on his wife receiving a large dowry, he ceased the use of intoxicating liquors, and closely applied himself to business with prosperous results.

Is it strange, then, that Mrs. Abbott on first learning of her husband's intemperance, (at the stage, from the woman across the way,) should suddenly change in her countenance and demeanor, and that she should foresee something "worse than war, worse than pestilence." How keen is the sagacity of woman!

CHAPTER IV.

"And so, brother Sherwin, you are expecting the arrival of brother Abbott in a few days?" interrogated a member of Mr. Sherwin's church at the close of a prayer-meeting held at his residence.

"Yes," answered Mr. Sherwin. "As connections by rail are cut off in several places, Mr. Abbott will probably arrive by the boat and I intend to meet him at the wharf."

"Our town is becoming an assylum for these refugees of the South," said Squire Hoskon. "The harboring of such a non-producing populace will produce a stag-

nation in business, as most of them come with little means, since they are compelled to leave their real and personal property behind."

"It was but the other day that I gave ten dollars to a destitute person that had fled to the North," said a stylishly dressed person. "He is the owner of a large farm in Kentucky, and was in comfortable circumstances previous to the war." How popularly benevolent!

"Mr. Abbott has been a prosperous merchant, and will probably come with ample and convertible means," said Mr. Sherwin.

"Does he intend to start in permanent and extensive business here?" interrogated Squire Hoskon.

"By what I can glean from Mr. Abbott, he has from forty to fifty thousand dollars at command, which he intends to invest in business in this place," said Mr. Sherwin. Mr. Abbott is an energetic citizen, but his late adversity has much depressed his spirits. It is our duty as brothers of the church to lend our aid and encouragement to him in these severe trials."

"We will, undoubtedly, give him a hearty welcome," said the stylishly dressed person.

"If agreeable, brother Sherwin, I will call to-morrow with my carriage, and we will meet Mr. Abbott, as I would be pleased to entertain him, and to show him the town and surrounding country," said Squire Hoskon.

"The church on the corner will laugh when they find we are making such valuable acquisitions," said one of the brothers sneeringly. "And when we also have a pipe-organ, we will call away some of their large gatherings."

"And sister Sherwin can also visit Saratoga and other places of resort," said Squire Hoskon.

Ding! ding! loudly echoed the door-bell through the hall of the parson's house.

"I wonder what business any one can have at this late hour," said Mr. Sherwin

(to be continued.)