

UNIVERSAL  
LIBRARY

**OU\_170802**

UNIVERSAL  
LIBRARY











RETOLD STANDARD ENGLISH CLASSICS

THE CHILDREN OF  
THE NEW FOREST

BY  
CAPTAIN MARRYAT

*ABRIDGED*  
*FOR USE IN INDIA, CEYLON AND BURMAH*

E. M. GOPALAKRISHNA KONE

M A D U R A

1930

# LIST OF PERSONS

KING CHARLES I, OF ENGLAND

KING CHARLES II, OF ENGLAND

Edward Beverley, Humphrey Beverley, Miss Alice, Miss Edith	...	Children of the New Forest
Heatherstone	...	Intendant
Jacob Armitage	...	Forester
Chaloner and Grenville	...	Friends of Edward Beverley
Oswald Partridge	...	Verderer
James Corbould	...	Villainous Verderer
Pablo	...	Gipsy
Ladies Conynghame	...	Chaloner's Aunts
Patience	...	Heatherstone's daughter
Clara	...	Major Ratcliffe's daughter
Phoebe	...	Maid (in Heatherstone's house)

---

## CONTENTS

CHAP.	PAGE
I. King Charles I Escapes from Prison ...	1
II. Arnwood in Flames ...	6
III. Troopers visit Jacob's Cottage ...	11
IV. Colonel Beverley's Children ..	15
V. Beverley's Children learn Forest Life ...	19
VI. Beverley's Children get thoroughly used to Forest Life ...	21
VII. Edward and the Intendant ...	25
VIII. Oswald meets Jacob ...	31
IX. Jacob's Burial ...	31
X. Beverley's Sword ...	42
XI. Pablo, the Gipsy Boy ...	45
XII. Edward and Corbould ...	48
XIII. Edward and Patience ...	51
XIV. Edward and Corbould again ...	55
XV. Corbould's Rescue from the Pit ...	57
XVI. Political news for Edward ...	60
XVII. Robbers attack Ratcliffe's Cottage ...	63
XVIII. Heatherstone inspects Ratcliffe's Cottage ...	70
XIX. Heatherstone's Inquiry at Edward's Cottage ...	74
XX. Heatherstone takes Clara under his pro- tection ...	77
XXI. Edward becomes Mr. Heatherstone's Secretary ...	79

XXII.	Heatherstone's Advice to Edward	...	84
XXIII.	Robbers attack Edward's Cottage	...	85
XXIV.	Humphrey Captures Forest Ponies	...	91
XXV.	Edward Leaves for London	...	93
XXVI.	Edward in London	...	95
XXVII.	Edward's Journey to the North	...	98
XXVIII.	Edward and Chaloner	...	100
XXIX.	Edward becomes Captain of Horse	...	104
XXX.	The King's Army is Crushed: His flight		106
XXXI.	Edward and Chaloner Escape South	...	108
XXXII.	Edward's Return to the cottage	...	109
XXXIII.	Edward Narrates His Adventures to the Intendant	...	110
XXXIV.	Troopers at Edward's Cottage	...	114
XXXV.	Edward's Proposal to Patience	...	117
XXXVI.	Parliament Grants Arnwood to Heatherstone	...	119
XXXVII.	Edward's Sisters are taken to the Misses Conynghame	...	122
XXXVIII.	Edward Leaves for France	...	125
XXXIX.	Restoration: Edward Marries Patience		130
XL.	The End	...	134
	Appendix I	...	136
	Appendix II	...	137

---

# THE CHILDREN OF THE NEW FOREST

## CHAPTER I

### *KING CHARLES ESCAPES FROM PRISON*

King Charles the First of England, against whom the Commons had rebelled, after a Civil War of nearly five years, had been defeated, and was confined as a prisoner at Hampton Court. The Cavaliers had all been dispersed, and the Parliamentary army under the command of Cromwell were beginning to control the Commons.

In November of the same year (1647), the king escaped from his confinement; and accompanied by Sir John Berkeley and a few other adherents, rode as fast as the horses could carry them, towards the New Forest. King Charles expected that his friends had provided a vessel in which he might escape to France, but in this he was disappointed. There was no vessel ready, and after riding for some time along the shore, he resolved to go to Titchfield, a seat belonging to the Earl of Southampton and take shelter there. But, yielding to the well-considered advice of his followers, he placed himself under the protection of Colonel Hammond, Governor of the Isle of Wight for the Parliament, supposed, however, to be friendly to the king. But the governor was firm in his

duties towards his employers, and the consequence was that the king found himself again a prisoner in Carisbrook Castle.

Let us leave the king here for a while and get back to the commencement of the Civil War.

South of the New Forest and abutting on it was a property of considerable value, called Arnwood, which belonged to a Cavalier of the name of Beverley. This Beverley was a valued friend and companion of Prince Rupert's and commanded several troops of cavalry. He was ever at his side in the brilliant charges made by that gallant prince. Colonel Beverley had married into the family of the Villiers and had, by this marriage, two sons and two daughters. At the beginning of the war, he left his wife and family at Arnwood and he was fated never to meet them again. He was slain at the Battle of Naseby and news of his death hurried his wife to an early grave. So the four children remained at Arnwood under the care of an elderly relative, at the time that our history commences.

It would be well for the clear understanding of the story that we know a few facts regarding the New Forest itself. It was first enclosed by William the Conqueror as a royal forest for his own amusement. Since that time to the present day, it has continued a royal domain. In the time of Charles the First, it had an establishment of verderers and keepers, paid by the Crown, amounting to some forty or fifty men. At the commencement of the war, Beverley who held a superior office in the forest, enrolled all the strong young men employed

under him and marched them away with him to join the king's army. Some few old men remained, and among them was an old and devoted servant, a man above sixty years of age, named Jacob Armitage. Those who remained in the forest lived in cottages many miles asunder and when their salaries were not paid, they killed the deer which rightly belonged to the king and sold the venison for their own benefit.

The cottage of Jacob Armitage was situated on the skirts of the New Forest, about two miles and a half from the mansion of Arnwood; and when Colonel Beverley went to join the king's troops, he requested the old man to watch over his family and make himself serviceable to Mrs. Beverley. Jacob promised the Colonel to do so, and kept his word. The death of Colonel Beverley was a heavy blow to the old forester and he watched over Mrs. Beverley and the orphans with the greatest solicitude. And when Mrs. Beverley also died, he redoubled his attentions and was seldom away from the mansion. The two sons of Colonel Beverley he instructed in all the secrets of his own calling. Such was the state of affairs in Arnwood at the time that King Charles escaped from Hampton Court.

When Cromwell heard of the escape of Charles I, he despatched troops of horses in every direction towards the south, where, it was understood, the king had gone. They scoured the forest in parties of twelve to twenty; while others hastened down to the seaports from which the king was likely to embark for the Continent.

On this very day, old Jacob went out into the forest to procure some venison for the Beverley family. He saw a fine buck quietly feeding at a distance, neared him by stealth, and almost got within shot, when on a sudden the animal bounded away and disappeared in the thicket. At the same time Jacob perceived a small body of horse gallop through the glen in which the buck had been feeding and suspected that they were Parliamentary troops. So he concealed himself among the bushes, until, he thought, they should gallop out of sight. But they rode within twenty yards of where he was and dismounted.

One of the men said: 'They say that this forest is many miles in length and breadth and so we may ride many a mile to no purpose; but here is James Southwold who was once a verderer here. He must be able to tell us of secret hiding-places here which may cover both man and horse. He may perhaps point out the very spot where our man Charles may be hidden.'

'I certainly know one dell, within a mile of Arnwood,' replied James Southwold, 'which might conceal double our troop from the eyes of the most wary.'

'We will ride there then,' replied the leader. 'Arnwood! is not that the property of the Malignant, Cavalier Beverley, who was shot down at Naseby?'

'Even so', replied Southwold. 'Who knows but that the man Charles may be hidden in the Malignant's house itself?' observed another of the men.

'In the day, I should say, No', replied the leader; 'but in the night the Cavaliers would like to have a roof over their heads; so, at night and not before, will we proceed thither.'

'I have searched many of the abodes of these Cavaliers and have found search almost in vain. What with their spring panels and secret doors, their false ceilings and double walls, one may ferret for ever and find nothing', observed another.

'Yes', replied the leader, 'what you say is only too true; but there is one way which is sure. Fire and smoke must bring out Charles, if he hides in a house. To every Malignant's house within twenty miles will I apply the torch; but it must be at night. James Southwold, you know where Arnwood is?'

'I know well my way to it, Master Ingram, and could direct you to it', replied Southwold.

Then the party rode towards the dell and hoped to hide themselves there till night, and then to light the country up with the flames of Arnwood, surround the house, and prevent escape. They went off at a hard trot, Southwold leading the way.

Jacob remained among the bushes till the troopers were out of sight and then hastened away to his own cottage.

'And so the king *has escaped!*' thought Jacob, as he went along. 'He may be in the Forest. He may be hiding at Arnwood itself. I must haste and see Miss Judith immediately.'

So he walked eight miles and reached his cottage. He then saddled his forest pony, and set off for

Arnwood. In less than two hours, he was in the mansion. It was then about three o'clock in the afternoon; and since it was November then, there was hardly two hours of day-light remaining.

## CHAPTER II

### *ARNWOOD IN FLAMES* -

Miss Judith Villiers, an elderly relative of Mrs. Beverley, had charge of Arnwood. There were three female servants; one was cook, another attended upon Miss Villiers, and the third was housemaid. The children were under no one's charge and were left much to themselves. The two eldest were boys, and the youngest were girls. Edward, the eldest, was about fourteen years old; Humphrey, the second, was twelve; Alice, eleven; and Edith, eight. These are the Children of the New Forest, whose history will be narrated in these pages. For many months, after their mother's death, they were held under little or no control and less attended to. Their companions were Benjamin, the man who remained in the house, and old Jacob whom we know well.

Jacob was ushered up into Miss Judith Villiers's apartment. He first informed her that his Majesty King Charles had escaped for Hampton Court and that he was supposed to be in concealment somewhere in the New Forest.

He then entered into the detail of what he had overheard that morning from the troopers and concluded by telling her, that the mansion would be

burnt down that very night. He then pointed out the necessity of her immediately abandoning the house.

‘And where am I to go to, Jacob?’ said Miss Judith calmly.

‘There’s my cottage; it is but a poor place, not fit for one like you’, replied he.

‘I shall not be frightened out of my abode by a party of rude soldiers. Happen what will, I shall not stir from here’, said Miss Judith.

‘But, madam, the children cannot remain here. I will not leave them here’, insisted Jacob.

‘Well then’, yielded Miss Judith, ‘be it so; take them to your cottage, and ask Martha to attend upon the Misses Beverley’.

Agatha overheard the whole talk, and ran off to the kitchen and told the frightful news to the other servants.

‘I’ll not stay to be burnt to death’, said the cook, as Jacob came in. ‘But Miss Judith resolves to remain where she is’, said Jacob.

‘Then she will remain alone’, exclaimed the housemaid. ‘Put a pillion behind your saddle, Benjamin, and I’ll go to Lymington with you.’

Jacob then went in search of the children and found them. He called the two boys to him and said: ‘Now, Mr. Edward, you must prove yourself your father’s own son. We must leave the house immediately and go to my cottage this night. There is no time to be lost. Let us pack up all your clothes at once’.

‘But why all this, Jacob? I must know why’, asked Edward.

‘Because the Parliamentary troopers will burn it down. We cannot defend the place against a whole troop of horse. The wretches will either burn your sisters to death or shoot them. No, no, we must leave the house at once’, said Jacob.

The pony was soon loaded with bundles of clothes and other most useful things. The girls were told that they were going to pass the night in the cottage and they were delighted at the idea.

‘Where does Aunt Judith go?’ inquired Edward.

‘She will not leave the house, Master Edward’, Jacob replied.

‘And so an old woman remains to face the enemy, while I run away. I will not go’, said Edward.

‘Well, Master Edward’, replied Jacob, ‘do as you please; but your sisters and Humphrey must come with me and I want your help for it. The cottage is not far; you can return in a very short time.’

To this Edward consented.

‘Now, Master Edward’, said Jacob, ‘please lead your sisters to the cottage. Here is the key of the door. Master Humphrey can lead the pony. Let me tell you one thing which I will not mention before your brothers and sisters. The troopers are all about, seeking for King Charles who has escaped. Lock the cottage door as soon as it is dark. My gun is loaded, and hangs above the mantelpiece. If

they attempt to force an entrance, do your best. Above all, promise me not to leave them till I return. I will remain here to see what I can do with your aunt; and when I come back, we can then decide how to act.'

Edward promised to act exactly as Jacob had entreated him to do; and the little party quitted the mansion. Just then, Benjamin trotted away with Martha behind him on a pillion and were soon out of sight.

Jacob went up to the old lady and begged her to leave the house telling her that every one else had left and that she would be left alone. But Miss Judith was resolute and would not quit the house. Finding all remonstrance useless, the forester went out and helped carry the packages of Agatha and the other maid to Gossip Allwood, who kept a small ale-house about a mile distant.

In due time, Jacob and the maids arrived at the inn. Shortly after, the very troopers arrived, whom Jacob had met in the forest, dismounted, and called for ale. And they remained some time in the house, talking and laughing with the women. Southwold was there also and he recognised Jacob and put many questions to him as to who resided at Arnwood. Jacob replied that the children were there and a few servants also.

'Well, Southwold, I have heard whom you are in search of', said Jacob. 'I'll give you a hint. I may be wrong; but if you should fall in with an old lady or something like one at Arnwood, mount her on your crupper and away with her to Lyminster as fast as you can ride. You understand me?'

Southwold nodded significantly, and squeezed Jacob's hand.

Shortly afterwards, the order was given to mount, and the troopers set off, Armitage following slowly and unobserved. They arrived at Arnwood and surrounded it.

Soon was perceived the glare of torches, and in a quarter of an hour more, thick smoke rose up in the dark but clear sky. The flames burst forth from the windows of the mansion and lighted up the country to some distance.

'It is done', thought Jacob with deep sorrow; and he hastened towards his own cottage. Then he heard behind him the galloping of a horse and violent screams; a minute later, Southwold passed him with the old lady tied behind him, kicking and struggling. Jacob smiled at having saved, by his little stratagem, the old woman's life, for Southwold had been made to imagine that she was King Charles dressed up as an old woman. He then returned as fast as he could to the cottage.

In half an hour Jacob had passed through the thick woods which were between the mansion and his own cottage and knocked at the door. Smoker, a large dog, growled till Jacob spoke to him, and then Edward opened the door.

'My sisters are in bed and fast asleep, Jacob', said Edward, 'and Humphrey is about to do so.'

'Come out, Master Edward', cried Jacob, 'and look'.

Edward beheld the flames and looked very sad.

'I told you the villains would do so', said Jacob.

'And my aunt?' exclaimed Edward, clasping his hands.

'Is safe, and by this time at Lymington'.

'We will go to her to-morrow'.

'I fear, not', said Jacob. 'We must let it be supposed that you are all burnt in the house.'

'But my aunt knows the contrary, Jacob' 'Very true' replied Jacob. 'Well, I'll go to Lymington to-morrow and see the old lady; but you must remain here, and take charge of your sisters till I come back.'

Edward followed Jacob into the cottage. His little heart was full. He was a proud and a good boy; but the destruction of his house made him hate the Covenanters and resolve to take vengeance on them.

He lay down on the bed but could not sleep for a time. At last he fell fast asleep, but his dreams were wild.

### CHAPTER III

#### *TROOPERS VISIT JACOB'S COTTAGE*

The next morning, Jacob gave the children their breakfast and set off towards Arnwood. He met Benjamin there and inquired news from Lymington, particularly about Miss Judith. Benjamin replied that Lymington was full of rude and uncivil troopers. He added that Southwold thought

the old lady was King Charles himself so dressed up; that he seized her at Arnwood, strapped her fast behind him and galloped away with her to Lymington; and that she struggled and kicked so hard that both fell down and broke their necks.

Jacob told Benjamin that, since the children were gone, and he had no one to watch over, he had resolved to leave his cottage for good. 'Jacob really made no such resolve; he only wished to impose upon Benjamin and so he shook hands with him, and hastened away.

Feeling himself bound by his promise to Colonel Beverley to protect his children, Jacob resolved that they should live with him in the forest, and be brought up as his own grand-children. His cottage was so out of the usual paths, and so embosomed in lofty trees, that there was little chance of its being seen. He therefore determined that the children should remain with him till better times and that he should intimate their existence to the other branches of the family only then and not before.

So Jacob arrived at the cottage. 'Well, Master Edward,' said Jacob, 'I have come back as quick as I can. We must not remain outside to-day, for the troopers are scouring the forest, and may see you.' So they all entered the cottage. It had one large room in front, and two back rooms for bedrooms. There was also a third bedroom behind the other two, but there was no furniture in it.

Edward alone stayed outside and agreed to be on guard till the troopers left the forest. In a short time, the troopers were found riding towards the cottage. Jacob was informed of it and he quickly

thought over the situation and said to the children: 'My dear children, these men may come and search the cottage. Be very quiet. Humphrey, you and your sisters must go to bed, and appear to be very ill. Edward, take off your coat and put on this old hunting frock of mine. Remain in the bedroom, attending your sick brother and sisters.'

So the children were put in bed and covered up to the chins with the clothes. Edward stood with a mug of water in his hand by the bedside of the two girls. And Jacob had hardly gone to the outer room, when he heard the noise of the troopers and soon afterwards a knock at the cottage door.

'Come in', said Jacob.

'Who are you, my friend?' said the leader of the troop, entering the door.

'A poor forester, sir', replied Jacob; 'I am in great trouble, sir, for my children are all in bed with the small-pox.'

'Nevertheless, we must search your cottage.'

'You are welcome', replied Jacob; 'only don't frighten the children if you can help it.'

So the man commenced the search thoroughly, found nothing, and came back to the front room. The party ate away heartily all the dinner that had been prepared for the children, mounted their horses, and rode away. Jacob was quite pleased that he had got off so cheap. The children got up again and found their dinners gone. They had to work again to get their dinner ready. Edward went for the water; Humphrey cut the onions; Alice washed

the potatoes; Edith helped everybody; while Jacob cut up some more meat.

Dinner was soon cooked; and they ate and went to bed and slept soundly.

The next morning Jacob was most anxious to learn further news about the troopers. He gave his injunctions to Edward how to behave in case any troopers came to the cottage, told him to act exactly as was done the previous day, and left for Gossip Allwood's. He there learnt that the king had been again taken prisoner and was at the Isle of Wight; and that the troopers had accordingly left for London.

Feeling that there was no more danger to be apprehended, Jacob set off for Lymington, bought in one shop, two peasant dresses which would fit the two boys; and, at another, similar apparel for the two girls, and returned home.

Jacob now quite calmly told the little ones that, now that they were to live in a cottage, they ought to wear cottage clothes. So the children put on the new dresses handed to them by Jacob and came out quite pleased.

'Now, remember, you are all my grandchildren', said Jacob; 'and I shall no longer call you Miss and Master—that we never do in a cottage.'

Edward nodded his head.

The children then got out of the cottage and began to play, delighted with clothes which procured them their liberty.

One of the two bedrooms Jacob used for himself, and the other was given to the two boys. The inner bedroom was arranged for the two girls, as being more retired and secure.

Adjoining the cottage was a piece of ground of more than an acre. The largest portion was cultivated as a garden and potato ground; in the remaining ground there stood some fine old apple and pear trees. A pony, a few fowls, a sow and two young pigs, and the dog Smoker, were the animals on the establishment.

Here Jacob Armitage had been born. The chaplain of Arnwood had taught him to read—writing he had not acquired. When he grew up, he served in the troop commanded by Colonel Beverley's father; and after his death, Colonel Beverley had procured him the situation of forest ranger.

## CHAPTER IV

### *COLONEL BEVERLEY'S CHILDREN*

The old forester lay awake the whole of the night reflecting on his responsibility towards the children. They would be totally shut out from the world and left to their own resources.

Edward was not quite fourteen years old, but he was active, brave, and thoughtful for his years. Humphrey also promised well; but still they were all children. Jacob said to himself:

'I must bring them up to be useful; there is not a moment to be lost. I will do my best, and trust

to God. They must commence tomorrow the life of forester's children.'

The next day, Jacob began to carry out this resolution. As soon as the children were dressed, Jacob got them together in the sitting-room, opened his Bible, and said :

' My dear children, you must remain in this cottage so that the wicked troopers may not find you out. They killed your father, they burnt your house, and intended to burn you in your beds. Live here as my children and call yourselves by the the name of Armitage. You must dress like children of the forest and do every thing for yourselves, for you can have no servants to wait upon you. Now, Edward is the oldest, and he must go out with me in the forest and I must teach him to kill deer and other game for our support. And when he knows how, then Humphrey shall learn how to shoot.

' In the meantime, Humphrey must look after the pony and the pigs and learn to dig in the garden with Edward and me, when we do not go out to hunt.

' Alice dear must light the fire and clean the house in the morning. Humphrey will fetch water from the spring and do all the hard work. Alice and Humphrey must learn to get dinner ready. Little Edith will take care of the fowls and feed them every morning and look for the eggs.'

' And now, my dear children, as there is no chaplain here, we must read the Bible every morning. Edward can read, I know; can you, Humphrey?'

‘ Yes, all except the big words.’

‘ Well’, said Jacob, ‘ You will learn them by and by. Edward and I will teach Alice and Edith to read in the evenings, when we have nothing to do. Now, tell me, do you all like what I have told you?’

‘ Yes’, they all replied. And then Jacob Armitage read a chapter in the Bible, after which they all knelt down and said the Lord’s prayer. All this was done every morning and evening.

Shortly after, Jacob and Edward, with the dog Smoker, went out to hunt. Edward had no gun, as he only went out to be taught how to approach the game. Jacob lost no opportunity to teach him the craft. Within a short time, they noticed a stag and three deer grazing. The deer gazed quietly, but the stag ever and anon was raising up his head and snuffing the air as he looked round, evidently acting as a sentinel for the females.

Moving little by little, Jacob and Edward advanced to within eighty yards of the stag. Then Jacob fired and killed the animal, while the does fled away with the rapidity of the wind. The noble animal was a hart royal. He had nine antlers and was a fine beast.

Jacob then sent Edward back home to saddle white Billy and bring him along to carry the venison which, according to his estimate, was more than twenty stone in weight. Edward did not know his way to the cottage, but Smoker led him home by the shortest path. In an hour and a half, Edward, attended by Smoker returned with the

pony, on whose back the chief portion of the venison was packed.

When at last they arrived at the cottage, the venison was hung up, and the pony put in the stable. And then they sat down to dinner with an excellent appetite after their long morning's walk and excitement. Alice and Humphrey had cooked the dinner themselves; and Jacob declared he never ate a better meal in his life. Alice was not a little proud of this.

Jacob went off to Lymington the next day, sold the venison, and bought a good gun for Edward, some carpenter's tools for Humphrey, and some threads and needles for Alice. While handing over the gun to Edward, Jacob said: 'This is a good one, for I know where it came from. It belonged to one of the rangers who was reckoned the best shot in the forest and was killed at Naseby, with your father. And the widow sold the gun to meet her wants.'

Edward took the gun and thanked Jacob very much.

The next morning, he proved that he had a very good eye; and after two or three hours' practice, hit the mark at a hundred yards almost every time.

The winter now set in with great severity and they remained almost altogether within doors.

'I wish, Jacob', said Humphrey one day, 'that I could build a cart. It would be very useful and would provide work for white Billy; but I can't make the wheels, and there is no harness.'

‘That’s not a bad idea,’ replied Jacob. ‘We will think about it. If you can’t build a cart, perhaps I can buy one. I’ll see what I can do, when the weather breaks up.’

But if they remained indoors during the inclement weather, they were not idle. Alice learnt how to wash and how to cook. Humphrey had his carpenter’s tools and made several little useful articles. Little Edith made and baked all the oatmeal cakes. In the evening, Alice sat down with her needle and thread to mend the clothes. Edith and Humphrey learned to read while Alice worked, and then Alice learnt. Thus passed the winter away rapidly.

## CHAPTER V

### *BEVERLEY’S CHILDREN LEARN FOREST LIFE*

The frost had broken up, the snow had long disappeared, and the trees began to bud.

One day, Jacob Armitage and Edward set out to hunt. A fine stag came out from a covert at a trot; he turned his head and was just bounding away, when Edward fired, and the animal fell. He could not get a fair shot at another stag that had sprung out but hit him in the flank. Jacob praised Edward’s skill and said he was master of the hunt that day.

White Billy was then brought and the venison was packed on his back and taken home. Two trips had to be made to carry all the venison to the cottage and then both Edward and Jacob felt very tired. But Jacob spoke so well of Edward’s success in the presence of his brother and sisters, that he was quite overjoyed.

The next morning, Jacob set off for Lymington, sold his venison for a good price, and brought a small cart just fitted to the size of his pony. He next procured harness and then put Billy in the cart to draw him home. Notwithstanding that Billy was at first unwilling to be put in a cart and was restive, he at last went quietly in harness and Jacob arrived safe at the cottage.

It was now a busy time. The manure was got out of the stable and the pig-sties, and spread over the potato ground and garden. The cabbage plants of the previous year were put out and turnips and carrots were sown. Before the month was over, the garden and potato field were cropped, and Humphrey weeded it and kept it clean.

Humphrey was long anxious to get a cow. One day he watched the cattle in the forest for a number of hours from the branch of a tall tree, under which they passed several times. He then observed that one of the heifers left the herd and went into a little copse of wood and did not come out again. It was dark and nothing could be done then. The next morning Humphrey took Jacob and Edward with him and went before daylight and found the herd; but the heifer was not there. She could be easily recognised, being black and white spotted. So he was sure she was in the copse.

They advanced cautiously into the thicket and at last came upon the heifer licking her newly-born calf. When the animal saw them, she shook her head and was about to run at them; but Jacob told Smoker to seize her and the dog flew at her

immediately. The attack of the dog drove back the heifer quite into the thicket and separated her from the calf.

‘Now then, Edward and Humphrey,’ said Jacob, ‘lift up the calf between you and put it in the cart and tie it fast. Leave Smoker and me to manage the mother.’

When the heifer saw that the calf was gone, she gave a loud bellow and rushed out of the thicket in pursuit of the calf. All three, Jacob, Edward and Humphrey got into the cart and were driving off. The heifer followed, lowing most anxiously. Her lowing was answered by the calf in the cart. She ran wildly up to it.

The cart drove on fast, followed by the heifer, and they very soon gained the cottage. The gate was cleverly opened and the cart drove in, and the gate closed again, before the heifer could follow.

The calf was then lifted out and put into the cow-house. Humphrey gave the word and the gate was opened. The cow ran in at once, and hearing her calf bleat, went into the cow-house, the door of which was shut upon her. She was then dexterously secured by a rope and held fast. She had a yard of rope, and that was enough for her to lick her calf, which was all she required for the present.

## CHAPTER VI

### *BEVERLEY'S CHILDREN GET THOROUGHLY USED TO FOREST LIFE*

The next morning, Humphrey went in to the cow, gave her some grass and coaxed her for a long while, till at last she allowed him to touch her

gently. Everyday for a fortnight he brought her food, and she became quieter every day, till at last, both the cow and the heifer became quite quiet.

When the calf was a month old, Humphrey made the first attempt to milk the cow. This was resisted at first, but in the course of a few days she gave down her milk.

The next effort was to turn the animal out of the yard to graze in the forest. She went away to some distance, and in the evening came back again to her calf. So she was turned out every day and there was no further trouble with her.

Alice wanted a kitten and Humphrey wanted a dog for himself, to bring up after his own fashion. Edward wished to have a puppy for himself also.

Jacob thought that the right sort of puppies could not be got at Lymington and proposed to cross the forest and obtain them at a place where he had some friends and whom he had not seen for a long time.

So Jacob set off the next morning, was away two days, and then returned. He had chosen two puppies, of the same breed as Smoker, but they were too young to be taken from the mother yet awhile. He accordingly arranged to call again when they were three or four months old and could follow him across the forest. A day or two later, Jacob put into the cart about forty of the chickens which Alice had reared, and drove to Lymington, where he sold the chickens and bought a new suit for Alice and Edith, and a new suit for Edward and Humphrey also. He purchased a gun for Humphrey which had a larger bore and carried

a heavier bullet than either Jacob's or Edward's, and a white kitten for Alice and Edith.

Time passed. The month of November came on, and one evening Jacob told Alice that she must do all she could to give them a good dinner the next day. Every one was anxious to know what the feast was going to be for. And Jacob said—

‘ My dear children, exactly on this day twelvemonth I brought you all to the cottage. The year has passed very quickly and very happily. Here you are in peace and safety; and may it please God that you may continue so! You have health and spirits, the greatest blessings in life. When I brought you here, you were fair and delicate; whereas you are now strong and healthy, rosy and brown. I have taught you in my humble way, during all these months, how to earn your own livelihood. Continue to lead this honest life even after I am called away. I have no doubt, dear children, as the years pass by, that the world will know who you are and award you your deserts!’

Jacob finished his little speech and a tear was seen rolling down his furrowed cheek.

The second winter now came on. Jacob and Edward went out hunting usually about twice a week.

Humphrey accompanied Edward once a week and they always brought back a goodly quantity of venison, for Edward knew his business well and no longer needed the advice of Jacob. As the winter advanced, Jacob gave up going altogether, owing to stiffness and rheumatism. True, he went to Lympington to sell the venison and procure what

was necessary for the household, such as oatmeal and flour; but the old man's constitution was breaking fast.

Humphrey made new experiments and made traps and was able to catch rabbits and hares every day. And a little later, he dug a pitfall, about six feet wide, eight feet long, and nine feet deep and entrapped a young bull into it. This was how Humphrey brought the bull in. Having dug out the pit, he covered it with brambles and then put snow at the top. Then he took a bundle of hay, put some on the snow about the pit, and then strewed some more about in small handfuls.

The bull, passing through the thicket, found it and began to pick it up; and down it went into the pit.

The bull was very heavy and it could not be got out alive. So, Edward shot him dead. With the help of ropes, the animal was got out and lifted into the pony cart and taken home.

It took Humphrey more than a month to dig the pit and carry the earth out, and get it ready. And the patience and perseverance he showed in carrying out his design without any help from others was remarkable.

Encouraged by his success, Humphrey went to work with great zeal, captured in the same way a bull and cow-calf, both about a year or fifteen months old and tamed them, as the heifer and calf had been tamed before.

It was now January, just the time when Jacob was to have crossed the forest and called for the puppies. But Jacob was confined to the cottage

owing to his rheumatism and could not stir out. Edward pressed the old man to let him go instead, but he was very unwilling. Jacob, however, got worse and at last consented. He indicated the way Edward was to take and gave a description of the keeper's lodge; warned him to call himself Armitage, and describe himself as his grandson. Edward heard Jacob's directions with great care and the next morning he set off, mounted on white Billy, carrying in his pocket a little money, in case there was any need for it.

## CHAPTER VII

### *EDWARD AND THE INTENDANT*

Edward put the pony to a trot, and in two hours was on the other side of the New Forest. And before it was noon, he found himself at the gate of the keeper's house. He rapped at the door, and a girl of about fourteen, very neatly dressed, answered the summons.

'Is Oswald Partridge at home, maiden?' said Edward.

'No, he is not. He is in the forest.'

'When will he come back?'

'He usually returns towards the evening', replied the girl.

'I have come some distance to find him', said Edward. 'I should be sorry to return without seeing him. Has he a wife or any one that I could speak to?'

'He has no wife; but I am willing to deliver a message'.

'I am come to take some dogs which he promised to my relation, Jacob Armitage', said Edward. 'but the old man is too unwell to come himself, and has sent me.'

'There are dogs, young and old, large and small, in the kennel. I know no more', replied the girl.

'I must then wait till his return', said Edward.

'I will speak to my father', replied the young girl, 'if you will wait one moment.'

The girl presently returned and said: 'My father begs that you will walk in. He wishes to speak with you.'

Edward bowed and followed the girl to her father. He was dressed like the Roundheads of the day and was sitting at a table covered with papers.

'Here is the youth, father', said the girl and left them.

'What is your business, young man?' said the gentleman.

'I come, sir,' replied Edward, 'on private business with the keeper. He promised to give two young hounds to my grand-father, Jacob Armitage, and I have come to take them, sir.'

'Armitage!' said the Roundhead, referring to a list on the table; 'yes, he is one of the verderers. Why has he not yet called on me?'

'Why should he call upon you, sir?' replied Edward.

'Simply, young man, because the Parliament has committed the New Forest to my charge, and notice has been sent to all who were employed to

come and see me. I am to permit them to remain or discharge them, as I deem advisable.' '

'Jacob Armitage has heard nothing of this, sir', replied Edward. He was a keeper appointed under the king; for two or three years his allowances have not been paid. He lives in his own cottage, left to him by his father.'

'Do you live, young man, with Jacob Armitage?'

'Yes, sir. I have done so for more than a year.'

'How does your relation maintain himself, if he has received no pay?'

'We have land of our own, which we cultivate; we have our pony and our cart, our pigs and our cows,' answered Edward.

'And they have been sufficient?'

'Had the patriarchs more?' replied Edward.

'You are pithy at reply, young man. Now let me put you another question: why do you want two young hounds?' asked the gentleman.

'We have as good a dog already as there is in the forest,' replied Edward; 'but we wish to have others, in case we should lose him.'

'As good a dog: good for what?' questioned the senior.

'For hunting'.

'Then you admit that you do hunt?'

'I admit nothing for Jacob Armitage, he may answer for himself. But let me state that if he has killed venison, he cannot be blamed', said Edward.

'Why?'

‘Nothing is more easy. Jacob Armitage was not dismissed and no one has paid him his salary. How else is he to subsist, if he cannot kill some venison for his own benefit?’

‘Jacob Armitage has then killed the deer in the Forest?’

‘I admit nothing for him.’

‘You admit you have killed it yourself?’

‘I shall not answer the question, sir,’ said Edward. ‘In the first place I am not here to criminate myself; secondly, I must know what right you have to enquire?’

‘Young man’, replied the other in a severe tone, ‘know then that I have been appointed the Agent of Parliament, to superintend the Forest, with power to appoint and dismiss. I presume you must take my word for it, as you cannot read and write’.

Edward stepped up to the table and very quietly took up the paper and read it. ‘So, sir, your Commission is but eighteen days old. Jacob Armitage has been laid up with the rheumatism for three months. He has certainly not killed any venison during this time. If he killed any before, he is answerable for it, not to the present owners, but to his then master, King Charles.’

‘I easily perceive the school in which you have been brought up, young man.’

‘Sir, it is a base dog that bites the hand that has fed him’, answered Edward with warmth. ‘Jacob Armitage and his father before him, were retainers in the family of Colonel Beverley, indebted

to him for their situation and for everything else. So they revere his name and uphold the cause for which he fell, as I do'.

'Young man, if you do not speak advisedly, at all events you speak gratefully. Neither have I a word of disrespect to offer to the memory of Colonel Beverley. He was a gallant man and true to the cause which he espoused, though an unholy one. My duty to those whom I serve forbids my employing persons who are adverse to the present Government,' said the Superintendent of the Forest.

'Sir', replied Edward, 'your language with respect to Colonel Beverley makes me feel respect for you. Permit me, however, to say that Jacob Armitage will have no inclination to serve under you; in the next place, he is too old and infirm to hold the situation. Then again, he has no occasion for it, as his cottage and land are his own, and you cannot remove him'.

'May I inquire what relation you are to Jacob Armitage?'

'His grandson.'

'You live with him?'

'I do.'

'Were you brought up at the cottage, young man?'

'No, sir, I was brought up at Arnwood.'

'Where were you when Arnwood was burnt down?'

'I was at the cottage', replied Edward, grinding his teeth and looking wildly.

'My young man, that was a dreadful and disgraceful deed. It was a stain that can never be

effaced, a most diabolical deed! I can forgive any expression of feeling on your part, when that shameful deed is brought to your memory.'

Edward remained silent.

'When I came here, sir, it was to seek Oswald Partridge, and obtain the two hounds he had promised us; but I presume that you will not permit dogs for the chase to be given away to those who are not employed by persons now in power', said Edward.

'But', observed the other, 'I shall not interfere, as the promise was made previous to the date of my commission. But I must point out to you that if you kill any deer in the Forest and are caught, you will be punished, and that by me, in pursuance of the authority vested in me. You may now go into the kitchen and find refreshment for the outward man, and if you wish to remain till Oswald Partridge comes home, you are welcome.'

Edward felt indignant at being dismissed to the kitchen and left the room. 'I will bide my time,' he said to himself and was seated at a porch near the door leading to the back premises.

The daughter of the Intendant of the forest sought Edward and said: 'Young sir, if you will come with me, I'll find you some refreshment.' Thanks, madam, you are kind to an avowed poacher', replied Edward.

'But you will not poach, I am sure, and if you do, I'll beg you off, if I can', replied the girl laughing.

Edward followed her into the kitchen and got something nice to eat and had also a jug of ale.

‘Your father’s name is Heatherstone, I believe. It was so on the warrant’, said Edward.

And when questioned by him, she answered that her own baptismal name was Patience and left him.

‘That’s a nice girl,’ thought Edward; ‘and she calls me “sir”; evidently I do not look like Jacob’s grandson; I must be careful.’

The girl came in again and said:

‘Oswald is now coming home.’

‘I thank you, maiden’, replied Edward. ‘May I ask where the king is now?’

‘I have heard that he resides at Hurst Castle,’ replied the girl; ‘but,’ added she in a low tone, ‘all attempts to see him would be useless and only hurt him and also those who made the attempt.’

Having said this, she left the room.

## CHAPTER VIII

### OSWALD MEETS JACOB

Presently Edward went out of the back door and found Oswald Partridge. He told him what he had come for and said who he was. Oswald then said to him:

‘I did not know that Jacob had a grandson; indeed, I never knew that he had a son. Have you been living with him long?’

‘More than a year,’ replied Edward; ‘I was brought up before that at Arnwood.’

‘Then you are of the King’s side?’ asked Oswald.

‘To death,’ replied Edward, ‘when the time comes.’

‘And I am also; or, I would never give a hound to any one that was not.’

Edward then related the whole of the conversation that passed between himself and the new Intendant.

‘You have been bold’, said Oswald.—‘but perhaps it is all the better. The new rangers that are coming in will prevent men stalking deer. So you must be on the alert, for the punishment is severe.’

‘I fear them not’, replied Edward; ‘but we find little sale now for the venison.’

‘Oh, never fear that. I’ll name persons who will take all your venison off and pay you ready money. If you come here,’ said Oswald, ‘do not carry your gun and see that you are not watched home.’ Here are the dogs for Jacob. How old are you? Jacob can’t be more than sixty.’

‘I am fifteen’, said Edward.

‘You are well grown for that age. Nothing like a forest life to turn a boy into a man! Can you stalk a deer?’

‘I seldom go out without bringing one down,’ said Edward with pride.

‘You are young to have learnt it so soon,’ observed Oswald. ‘We must go out together. I must know where Jacob’s cottage is; because I may want to come to you, also that I may put others on a false scent. Do you know the clump of large ‘oaks,’ which they call the Clump Royal?’

‘Yes, I do.’

'Please meet me there the day after to-morrow, at early dawn. Take the dogs in the leashes, and go away now.'

Edward rode away across the forest, with the dogs trotting at the pony's heels. And when he reached the cottage, Humphrey alone was awake and he told him all that passed. Humphrey said little in reply.

The next morning, Edward went to Jacob and gave him the detail of what had happened at the keeper's lodge.

'You have been more bold than prudent, Edward', replied Jacob; 'you are too proud and manly to tell a lie, and I am glad that it is so. Take my advice. Hunt only the wild cattle. They are not game and do not come under forest laws. But stick to the farm as much as you can. The truth is, Edward, you do not like the life of a low-born forester. As for Oswald, you may trust him. He will prove your friend for my sake. Leave me now. I'll talk to you again in the evening. Send Alice to me, my dear boy, I wish to speak to her.'

In the evening Edward told Jacob of his engagement to meet Oswald Partridge, the next morning.

'Go, my boy', said Jacob; 'make a friend of him. If necessary, tell him who you are. I wish to tell him that myself, as it would help you one day as evidence. Bring him to-morrow night, Edward; tell him I am dying and that I wish to speak to him before I go.'

Early the next morning, Edward set off to the Clump Royal, which was seven miles from the cottage, and stood there, at the hour and time fixed

upon, with his gun in his hand, Smoker lying beside him, leaning against one of those monarchs of the forest. Oswald Partridge did not make Edward wait.

They met and welcomed each other.

'I have been hard questioned about you since we parted, my fine lad', said Oswald. 'Roundhead Heatherstone believes you are the Duke of York; more about this, by and bye. Now I must see your woodcraft. You shall be the leader of the chase.'

Then they both entered the thicket and each in his turn shot a stag; the one killed by Edward being a hart royal with twenty-five antlers. As it would be dark in half an hour, they hung all the quarters of the stags on trees. Edward proposed that Oswald should take the cart and pony to carry the meat home the next morning, and that he himself would accompany him to bring the cart back.

'That will do capitally', said Oswald.

Oswald and Edward arrived at the cottage. Their dinner was ready for them and they soon finished it. Oswald praised the cooking in very flattering terms. After dinner, Oswald went into Jacob's room and remained more than an hour with him. Jacob then confided to Oswald that the four children were the sons and daughters of Colonel Beverley, supposed to have been burnt in the flames of Arnwood. When Oswald came out, he saluted Edward and Humphrey respectfully and, among other things, said. 'I little thought that I should ever have had my dinner cooked by a daughter of Colonel Beverley.'

Oswald then expressed his opinion that Jacob was sinking fast and that he would not live more than three or four days. He had a bed made up for him on the floor of the room where Edward and Humphrey slept, and the next morning he and Edward set off at an early hour with the pony-cart loaded with venison and took it across the forest to the keeper's lodge. It was so late when they arrived there that Edward consented to pass the night there and return home the following morning.

Oswald left Edward in the kitchen with Phoebe, the maid-servant, and went to speak with the Intendant. He told the Intendant that he had brought home some fine venison and wished to have his orders about it. 'The haunches must be sent up to General Cromwell to-morrow,' said the Intendant.

Oswald was lavish in his praises of Edward's skill and knowledge of woodcraft, which he declared to be superior to his own. Mr. Heatherstone then observed that it would be well to take Edward as a ranger. 'Though he is opposed to us', he added; 'yet, if he once took our service, he would be faithful, I am sure. You can propose it to him, Oswald.'

Oswald left the room, and came back to Edward and told him smiling that the Intendant proposed that he should take service as one of the rangers.

'I've no fancy', replied Edward, 'to find venison for General Cromwell and his Roundheads and so you may tell the Intendant, with many thanks for his good will towards me, nevertheless.'

‘I thought as much, but the man meant kindly, said Oswald.

Presently supper was finished, and Oswald and Edward parted, as the former had given up his house to the Intendant and his daughter, and slept in a cottage about a quarter of a mile off. Phœbe, who was rather old and cross, told Edward to find his bed on the straw over the stables. Edward accordingly went up the ladder into the loft; but found the wind blowing piercingly cold there. So he got down the ladder and was walking to and fro in the yard.

Suddenly he saw a broad light in the bedroom above the kitchen. It increased every moment and he saw the figure of a female rush past it and attempt to open the window. It soon became clear that the room was on fire. A moment’s thought, and Edward ran for the ladder by which he had mounted to the loft and placed it against the window. He ascended quickly and burst open the casement. The smoke suffocated him but still he went in, and stumbled against a senseless form. The fire now burst out and he was scorched before he could get on the ladder again with the body in his arms, but he succeeded in getting the body down safe. The clothes were on fire and he held them till they were put out. Then, for the first time, he discovered that it was the daughter of the Intendant whom he had brought down.

Edward carried her into the stable and, leaving her there still insensible upon the straw, hastened to alarm the house.

Edward's continual calls of 'Fire! Fire!' had aroused the people of the house, and of the neighbouring cottages. Mr. Heatherstone came out half dressed and with horror on his countenance. Phoebe ran screaming and there was soon a crowd of people.

'Save her! my daughter is in the room!' cried Mr. Heatherstone.

'Oh! save her!' cried the poor man in agony. 'My daughter! my child!—burnt—burnt to death!'

At that moment, a voice in the crowd called out: 'There were four children burnt at Arnwood!'

Mr. Heatherstone fell down into a swoon and was carried in that state to a neighbouring cottage.

Meanwhile Edward was busy putting out the fire. The furniture of the bedroom was all burnt, but the fire had gone no farther.

Edward then descended the ladder, took Oswald to the stable, and showed Patience. Oswald cried: 'This is dreadful—so young, and so sweet!'

'She is safe and well,' replied Edward. 'I brought her down the ladder and placed her here, before I extinguished the fire. She has not recovered yet from her swoon. Bring some water. She breathes! Thank God! Oswald, she is recovering. Now, let us cover her up in your cloak and carry her to your cottage. We will recover her there.'

Oswald accordingly carried her in his arms to the cottage and she soon became conscious.

'Where is my father?' cried Patience.

'He is safe and well, Miss', replied Oswald.

'Is the house burnt down?'

'No.'

'Who saved me? tell me.'

'Young Armitage, Miss.'

'Who is he? oh, I recollect now. But I must go to my father. Where is he?'

'In the other cottage, Miss.'

Patience tried to stand, but could not.

'Bring my father to me,' she said. Oswald found Mr. Heatherstone and said, 'The fire is all out, sir.'

'I care not for that. My poor, poor child!'

'Your child is safe, sir,' replied Oswald.

'Safe! where?'

'In my cottage. She has sent me for you.'

The Intendant rushed out, ran to the cottage, and was in his daughter's arms.

Meanwhile Edward described to Oswald the way in which he had saved the girl and pointed out how badly he himself was burnt in his arm, while rescuing the girl from the fire.

'I have no doubt the Intendant will be very grateful to you, Edward,' observed Oswald.

'And for that very reason, I saddle my pony and shall ride home as fast as I can. Good-bye, Oswald, you will call and see us when you have time?'

'I will be with you before the week is out, depend upon it', replied Oswald.

Edward rode fast and was anxious to get home and learn the condition of poor old Jacob; besides, his burnt arm was very painful.

The cottage was reached.

The pain in Edward's arm was great and relief was urgently needed. Humphrey recollected what had been applied to Benjamin when he burnt his hand at Arnwood and knew that it gave him great relief. So he gave his sisters some potatoes to scrape upon a piece of linen and laid the scraped potatoes on Edward's burn and Edward found instantaneous relief.

Then Edward ran to see Jacob.

'Thank God that you are come, Edward,' said the old forester. 'I am sinking fast. I am three-score years and ten. I have but few words to say. Be careful—if not for your own sake, at least for your little sisters. Do not make known your birth and lineage as yet. It may do harm. You will find some money in my chest. And now, Edward, call your brothers and sisters to me, that I may bid them farewell.'

Edward summoned Humphrey and his sisters.

'Humphrey, my good boy,' said Jacob. 'I fear that you will run too much risk after the wild cattle. Hold to the farm and it will support you all. My dear Alice and Edith, I am dying. Be good children, and look up to your brothers for everything. Good-bye, and may God bless you! Edith dear, you are quite good and innocent. May you grow up the same. Farewell, children all, pray for me. O God of mercy, pardon me my many sins and receive my soul!'

The forester spoke these words in a faint voice and sunk fast. In a moment or two, he was no more. They all wept bitterly.

Then they carried the body out of the cottage, put it into the cart, dragged it to the grave and laid the body in it. They all knelt down. Not knowing the proper prayers usually chosen for reading over the dead, Humphrey proposed to read the ninetieth Psalm. Edward wished to read also the 146th.

So Edward read the two Psalms and closed the book. Then Edward and Humphrey filled up the grave and followed their sisters home. Humphrey proposed later to put a paling round the grave.

After this, Edward called his brother and sisters together again, at the cottage, and said :

‘ My dear little sisters, we have lost a good friend. He saved us from perishing in the flames which burnt down our father’s house, and has protected us ever since. He is gone and we have no one to look to for protection but Heaven. We must all work, and work cheerfully, and live here in peace and safety. ’

A week passed and Edward’s arm was fairly well and he was able to help Humphrey in the work on the farm. Oswald had promised to call again before the week was out and he had not done so. A month passed away and still Oswald had not come.

Meanwhile flour and meal were badly wanted in the cottage and Edward proposed to go to Ly-mington and buy them. He went into Jacob’s room, opened the chest, and found in it more than sixty gold pieces, besides a great deal of silver coin.

‘ Surely this ought to last us a long while, ’ observed Humphrey.

‘ I think so too ’, replied Edward.

‘ I wish Oswald Partridge would come, for I want to ask him many questions. I must know the price of flour and the price at which I am to sell venison. If he does not come soon, I shall ride over to him.’

At last, six weeks after Jacob had died, Oswald made his appearance and at once inquired about the old forester.

‘ He was buried a few days after you left’, replied Edward.

‘ I expected as much’, said Oswald

‘ He was a good man. How is your arm, Edward?’

‘ Nearly well,’ replied Edward. ‘ First let me ask you what has detained you from coming here, according to your promise.’

‘ They have beheaded King Charles, our sovereign,’ said Oswald with deep sorrow.

‘ Two days after you left,’ continued Oswald, ‘ the Intendant hastened up to London, and did all he could to prevent the atrocious deed; but it was all in vain. When he left, he strictly ordered me not to leave the cottage even for an hour, as his daughter was left alone! This was why I could not come to you. The Intendant returned yesterday and I hear that he returns to London in a few days. I may assure you Mr. Heatherstone is sincerely amazed and vexed at what has taken place. I have a message from him to you, which is, that he begs you will come to see him. I have a message from another person also to deliver to you, and that is, the young lady herself. She desires me to tell

you that she will never be happy till she has seen you and has thanked you for your courage and kindness. As her father will go to London in a few days, you may ride over and see her without any fear of being affronted by any offers he may make to you'.

Edward agreed to go and see the girl again. He then enquired about the value of various articles and the best method of disposing of his venison. Oswald answered all the questions and Edward took down notes and directions on paper.

Oswald remained with them for two days and then left ; but after going some distance, he returned and proposed to accompany Edward to Lymington and help him in all his transactions.

The pony and cart were soon at the door ; and Edward set off for Lymington, accompanied by Oswald

## CHAPTER X

### *BEVERLEY'S SWORD*

Oswald took Edward to the landlord of a small hostelry in Lymington to which the keepers and verderers usually went. Master Andrew, the landlord, was sorry to hear of the death of Jacob who, he said, was as true as flint and agreed to look to Edward for forest meat.

' You are not one of the Parliamentary foresters, I presume ? ' said Andrew.

' No ', replied Edward, ' I kill no venison for Roundheads. '

' Right, my sapling ; right and well said. The Armitages were all good men and true; and followed the fortunes of the Beverleys ; but there are no

Beverleys to follow now. Cut off—root and branch—more's the pity! That was a sad business.'

Arrangements were made between Master Andrew and Edward for a regular supply of venison, during the season, at a certain price. Oswald then took Edward to all the shops where the articles he required were to be bought. Among other articles, Edward required powder and lead, and they went to a gunsmith's, where it was to be got. Edward saw a sword there which, he thought, he had seen before, hanging up against the wall among other weapons.

'What sword is that?' said Edward to the man measuring out the powder.

'It's not my sword. It was brought to me to be cleaned by one of Colonel Beverley's people; and before it was called for, the house was burnt and every soul perished. It was one of the Colonel's swords, I am sure; for there is E. B. on a silver plate engraved on it. I have a bill owing me for work done at Arnwood and I have no chance of its being paid now; so, I hardly know if I am to sell the sword.'

Edward replied: 'To be candid with you, I should be sorry if the Colonel's sword was to fall into any other hands. Let me pay the bill due and hold the sword as a security for the money, with the express understanding that if it is ever claimed by the Beverley family I am to give it up.'

'Certainly', said Oswald, 'nothing can be fairer.'

'I think so, too, young man', replied the shop-keeper; 'of course you will leave your name and address?'

‘ Yes ; and my friend here will vouch for its being correct ’, replied Edward.

The account was produced and paid ; and Edward took possession of the sword and, hardly able to conceal his joy, he hastened out of the shop.

‘ Oswald ’, cried Edward, ‘ I would not part with it for thousands of pounds. I never will part with it but with my life. ’

‘ I believe so, ’ replied Oswald ; ‘ and I believe more, that it will never be disgraced in your hands. ’

Edward’s business at Lymington was finished ; and while he was speaking with the landlord of the inn, Oswald put the sword in the cart and was fastening the harness. Just then a man came up to the cart, looked earnestly at the sword, examined it, and said to Oswald :

‘ Why, that was my old master’s sword, Colonel Beverley’s. I know it well. I took it to Phillips, the gunmaker, to be cleaned. ’

‘ Pray, what may be your name ? ’ asked Oswald.

‘ Benjamin White ’, replied the man.

‘ I served at Arnwood till the night it was burnt down. I’m now tapster at the *Commonwealth*, in Fish Street. ’

‘ Well, you stand by the pony for a while ’, said Oswald, ‘ while I go in for some parcels ’.

Oswald went and told Edward what had happened and asked him not to come out till Benjamin was got rid of ; for he was sure that Benjamin would recognise him at once.

Oswald returned, spoke for a while with Benjamin and pointed out to him that he did not do well to stay away so long from his inn. The tapster then left and said good-bye to Oswald.

Edward and Oswald drove away at a rapid pace and arrived safely at the cottage at a late hour.

## CHAPTER XI

### *PABLO, THE GYPSY-BOY*

The next morning Oswald set off before daylight for his house. Humphrey walked about a mile with him ; and while returning to the farm, wished to examine his pitfall, which he had not visited for many days.

It was the end of March, and the weather was mild for the season. Humphrey arrived at the pit and saw that the covering had been broken in. He thought that something must have been trapped and waited for day-light ; but at times he thought he heard a heavy breathing, and once a low groan. At last he made out a human figure lying at the bottom. Humphrey called out, and a groan was the reply. He then cautiously descended by the rough ladder he had left there, and found the body of a lad, lying at the bottom. He lifted the lad on his broad shoulders, carried him up and landed him by the side of the pit. Filling his hat half full of water from a neighbouring pond, he gave it to the youth who drank it eagerly and in a few minutes appeared much recovered. Presently there was daylight.

The youth was very kindly attended to and he fell into a sound sleep. A few hours later, he awoke and looked much better.

‘ What’s your name ? ’ asked Humphrey.

‘ Pablo ’.

‘ Can you speak English ? ’

‘ Yes, a little. ’

‘ Are you a Gipsy ? ’

‘ Yes, Gitano—same thing. ’

Humphrey questioned the boy further and found out that he was going with others of his race to the sea coast, that they had pitched their tents near the pit-fall, that during the night he tried to set some snares for rabbits and, going back to the tents, it being quite dark, he had fallen into the hole. He said he had remained there three days and nights and could not get out. He had no father ; his mother was with the other gipsies. He was not anxious to look for his friends and join them, as he had been very unkindly treated by them.

‘ Would you like to work with us ? ’

‘ Yes, if you would be kind to me, and not work me very hard. I can cook your dinner, catch rabbits and birds for you, and do a great many other things ’.

Humphrey told him that, if he behaved honestly and avoided telling lies, he was sure to be treated very well.

Pablo was a short, well-built lad, apparently only fifteen or sixteen years old, very dark in complexion, with beautiful white teeth, and large dark

eyes. There was one thing very much in his favour, and that was, he had an honest look about him.

So Humphrey resolved to keep him in the cottage and give him work ; for there was plenty of work on which an additional hand could be well employed.

Meat was wanting in the cottage. So Edward and Humphrey went out to hunt wild cattle, accompanied by Smoker. They soon approached a herd containing about seventy head of cattle, of various sizes and ages, feeding in all directions and spread over many acres of land. And they advanced till they were within eighty yards of one of the bulls. Humphrey then told Edward to fire from where they were and proposed to crawl through the fern and get behind another tree. But before he could get to the tree, a powerful bull detached himself from the herd, threw his head in the air, pawed with his foot, and advanced with a roar towards Humphrey ; but Humphrey was not aware of it. Edward saw the danger in which his brother stood and, to make a diversion, fired at a bull nearest to him. The wound was not mortal and the beast galloped back to the herd. But the bull which was only within thirty yards of Humphrey began now to advance towards Edward. Humphrey who was standing up beside a tree with his gun ready to fire, fired ; but he missed his aim. The animal then turned and made at Humphrey ; but he very quickly dropped his gun, and swinging by the lower boughs, got into the tree, and was out of the bull's reach in a moment. Edward also had to climb into a tree, and took good care to take his gun and ammunition with him.

Edward then took good aim and fired at the bull which had pursued Humphrey and now ran at Smoker, and killed him. Humphrey cleverly descended from the tree, recovered his gun, and was now safe again upon a bough. Meanwhile, Humphrey noticed that two bulls separated from the herd and began to fight with each other and were nearing the tree on which he was seated. The bulls, with locked horns, were furiously pressing each other, and both the brothers discharged their guns, killing the two animals.

Edward and Humphrey descended from the trees and rejoiced at their rare good fortune and narrow escape.

## CHAPTER XII

### *EDWARD AND CORBOULD*

They had quite a large quantity of meat to carry. Humphrey went home and brought in the cart and it was fully loaded and two trips had to be made.

Early on the following morning, the brothers set off to Lymington with the cart laden with meat, sold the meat for a good price, and returned. Humphrey now knew where and how to buy and sell at Lymington and did not need Edward's help any longer.

'And now, Humphrey', said Edward, 'it is time that I keep my promise to Oswald, and go over to the Intendant's house, and pay my visit to the young lady.'

'When will you set off?' asked Humphrey. 'To-morrow morning,' replied Edward. 'I shall

take my gun, though Oswald advised me not to. After the fight with the wild cattle, it is not prudent to be unarmed.'

'Well, I have plenty to do when you are away', said Humphrey. 'The potatoes must be hoed up, and we must make something of Pablo. I'll first set him to work in the garden. If he only turns out useful, Edward, why, I shall enclose another piece of ground and grow some corn of our own to be taken to the mill to be ground.'

Then they went to bed.

At sunrise, they were both up. And Alice would not let Edward go without his breakfast.

So after breakfast, Edward threw his gun over his arm, and set off with his puppy, which he had named Holdfast, across the forest. Edward walked quick followed by his dog which he had taught to keep to heel, and had got over more than half his journey, when there stood against him a powerful man, about forty years old, dressed like a verderer, possessed of a sinister and forbidding countenance.

'How now, young fellow, what are you doing here?' said the man walking up to him and cocking his gun.

Edward quietly cocked his own gun and then replied:

'I am walking across the forest.'

'Yes', said the man. 'True, you are walking but with a dog and a gun. Be pleased to walk with me, as deer-stealers cannot any longer range this forest.'

'I am no deer-stealer', replied Edward. 'Go with you I shall not. Sheer off, or you may meet with harm.'

'Why, you young good-for-nothing, you are out in pursuit of venison. That is enough. Come, come, you've the wrong person to deal with. I must take up all poachers, and take you I will.'

'If you can', replied Edward; 'my gun is as good, and my aim is as sure as yours, whoever you may be. I tell you again, I am no poacher. I cross over to the Intendant's cottage. Do not attempt to do anything foolish. Let me proceed in peace or you may lose your place; and if rash, perhaps your life'.

'You say you are going to the Intendant's house. That is just where I should have conducted you myself. So, young man, you may now walk on before me.'

'Walk on before you,' said Edward, 'I surely will not. But if you choose to half-cock your gun and walk by my side, I'll do the same. Those are my terms. Choose, as I am in haste'.

The verderer appeared indignant, but still said, 'Be it so'.

Then they walked side by side, Edward keeping away three yards from him, to prevent treachery.

A few minutes passed in silence. Then the verderer said: 'You tell me you are going to Intendant's house; he is not at home.'

'But young Miss Patience is', said Edward.

'Yes, she is at home'.

'And Oswald, is he at home?' asked Edward.

‘ Yes, he is. You appear to know our people, young man ; who may you be ? ’

‘ It is no concern of yours ; I shall leave you to find it out ’, replied Edward.

The reply puzzled the man still more. He now spoke humbly and said he had only been doing his duty.

They walked on and arrived near the Intendant’s house.

‘ If you meet Oswald Partridge, tell him that you have met with Edward Armitage in the forest, and that I should be glad to see him ’.

‘ I shall go and deliver your message ’, replied the verderer.

## CHAPTER XIII

### *EDWARD AND PATIENCE*

Edward went into the wicket-gate of the garden, and knocked at the door of the house. The door was opened by Patience herself, who said, ‘ Oh, how glad I am to see you ! Come in. ’ Edward took off his hat and bowed ; and Patience led the way into her father’s study, where Edward had been first received.

‘ And now ’, said Patience, extending her hand to Edward, ‘ thanks, many thanks, for your preserving me from so dreadful a death. You don’t know how unhappy I have been at not being able to give you my poor thanks for your courageous behaviour. ’

‘ You value what I did too highly, miss ’, replied Edward.

‘ Sit down ’, said Patience, taking a chair. ‘—Nay, no ceremony’.

Edward smiled as he took his seat.

‘ My father is as grateful to you as I am. What can he do for you ? Oh, sir, do let me know how we can show our gratitude by something more than words.’

‘ You have shown it already, Mistress Patience,’ replied Edward ; ‘ have you not honoured a poor forester with your hand in friendship, and even admitted him to sit down before you.’

‘ He who has preserved my life at the risk of his own becomes a brother. A debt is still a debt, whether owing to a king or to a —— ’.

‘ You would have said “ forester ”, Mistress Patience : do you imagine that I am ashamed of my calling ? ’

‘ To tell you candidly the truth,’ replied Patience, ‘ I cannot believe that you are what you profess to be. You were never brought up as such. My father thinks so also.’

‘ I thank you both for your good opinion of me ; but I fear I cannot rise beyond the condition of a forester. Nay, from your father’s coming down here, and the new Regulations, I shall sink down to the grade of deer-stealer and poacher ; indeed, but for having my gun with me, I should have been seized as such this very day.’

‘ But you were not shooting the deer : were you, sir ? ’ inquired Patience.

‘ No, I was not ; nor have I killed any since last I saw you ’.

‘ I am glad that I can say that to my father ’ replied Patience, ‘ it will much please him. He thought you worthy of much higher employment than any that could be offered here and only wished to know what you would accept. He has great interest—although just now at variance with the rulers, on account of the —— ’.

‘ Murder of the King, you would have said, Mistress Patience : I have heard how much opposed your father was to that foul deed, and I honour him for it ’.

‘ What pleasure to hear my father’s conduct praised by you ! ’

Then the girl called in Phoebe and ordered her to provide refreshments for Edward, while she retreated out of hearing but remained in the room.

When the meal was over, Edward rose to take his leave.

‘ Nay, do not go yet ; let me again ask you how we can serve you. I am afraid you will not take any office under the present rulers ; so, that question is at rest. Where do you live, sir ? ’

‘ At the opposite side of the forest is a house belonging to me now. ’

‘ Do you live alone,—surely not ? ’

‘ I have a younger brother, and two sisters ’, replied Edward.

‘ Is the farm that you told my father about large ? ’

‘ No ; very small ’, said Edward.

‘ How can that support you ? ’

‘ That and killing wild cattle has lately ’, answered Edward.

‘ Yes, and killing deer also until lately ? ’

‘ You have guessed right. ’

‘ You were brought up at Arnwood and educated there : surely Colonel Beverley could not have intended you for a forester ? ’ observed Patience.

‘ No ’, said Edward, ‘ I was to have been a soldier as soon as I was old enough to bear arms. ’

‘ Perhaps you are distantly related to the late Colonel Beverley. ’

‘ No ; I am not *distantly* related, ’ replied Edward.

Then in answer to some questions from Edward, Patience said that she was an only child and that she had lost her mother, who, she said, was sister to Sir Ashley Cooper.

‘ Indeed ! then you are of gentle blood ! ’

‘ I believe so ’, replied Patience, with surprise.

‘ Thank you for your condescension, Mistress Patience ; and now, if you will permit me, I will take my leave ’.

‘ Before you go, let me once more thank you for saving me ’, said Patience, ‘ well, you must come again when my father is here. He is very good, though he looks stern and melancholy. He has seldom smiled since my poor mother’s death. But when will you come and see my father ? ’

' I cannot say. Some day I may be seized for poaching and brought before him as a prisoner and then he is certain to see me ', replied Edward.

' I will not tell you to kill deer ', replied Patience smiling ; ' but if you do, no one shall harm you. Farewell, sir, and once more, gratitude and thanks '.

Patience held out her hand to Edward, who this time, like a true cavalier, raised it respectfully to his lips. Patience coloured a little, but did not withdraw it. Then Edward, with a low obeisance, quitted the house.

## CHAPTER XIV

### *CORBOULD AND EDWARD AGAIN*

Edward hastened to the cottage of Oswald Partridge who was waiting for him ; for the verderer had faithfully delivered his message.

' You have had a long talk with Mistress Patience, ' said Oswald, after the first greeting, ' and I am glad of it. The Roundhead rascal whom you met insisted that he was certain you were on the look-out for deer. I have stopped his mouth. If you are ever caught in the act of killing a deer, tell them you did so at my request. You might kill all the deer in the forest, after what you have done for the Intendant. '

' Many thanks ', said Edward ; ' let them catch me if they can, and if they do catch me, let them take me if they can. '

Edward then told Oswald 'of their' having taken the gipsy boy in the pit, at which he seemed much amused.

‘ What is the name of the verderer whom I met ? ’ inquired Edward.

‘ James Corbould ’.

Edward remained that night at Oswald’s ; and, at daylight, took a slight breakfast and set off on his return home, followed by Holdfast.

When he had gone above eight miles, he arrived close to a pool and there he saw, lying fast asleep upon the turf, James Corbould, the sinister-looking verderer whom he met the previous day. Edward took up the verderer’s gun, gently opened the pan, scattered the powder, and then laid it down again. Edward did this because he had reasons to believe that the man had come to murder him. And so he went ; but hearing Holdfast growl behind him, he turned back and found that his puppy had been struck hard on the head by the ruffian.

Edward waited for a short time. But Corbould did not make his appearance. And so he walked fast and was within six miles of the cottage. Suddenly Holdfast sprang forward with a low growl and Edward, thinking it well to be prepared, quietly loaded his gun, and rose up. Presently he saw Corbould partly hidden behind a tree, with his gun levelled at him. The trigger was pulled, and the lock snapped, but the gun did not go off. Corbould grew angry and struck at Holdfast with the butt-end of his gun. Edward advanced and told him to desist, or it would be the worse for him.

‘ Indeed, youngster ! it may be the worse for you ’, cried Corbould.

‘ Yes, if your gun had gone off ’, replied Edward.

‘ I aimed at the dog and not at you, and I will kill the brute, if I can ’.

‘ Not without danger to yourself ; but your gun was levelled at me, you sneaking wretch. It was I who threw the powder out of your pan and so have escaped with my life. I do not wish to kill a defenceless man. Away with you directly ’, continued Edward, pointing his gun at the verderer. ‘ If you do not get off, I’ll fire ’.

Corbould walked away, but swore that he would have Edward’s life before many days had passed. Edward remained where he was standing till the man was out of sight, and then went on his journey. But Corbould stealthily followed him. A clever idea now struck Edward: ‘ How if I deviate a little from my way and place Humphrey’s pitfall between this wretch and me ? ’ He did this and walked rapidly. Corbould also increased his pace till he arrived at the pitfall and fell into it headlong.

## CHAPTER XV

### *CORBOULD’S RESCUE FROM THE PIT*

‘ Now you may lie there ’, thought Edward, ‘ as long as the gipsy did, and that will cool your courage.’ So he walked and arrived near to the cottage and found Humphrey outside waiting for him, with Pablo by his side.

Meals over, Edward narrated the events of the day. They all listened with great interest ; and when Edward had finished, the gipsy boy jumped up and said—

‘ Now let him lie in the pit. To-morrow morning, I’ll pay him a visit and shoot him ’.

‘ You must do no such thing ’, said Edith.

‘ Why did he shoot Master then ? ’ replied Pablo and took his seat at the chimney corner.

Then they discussed how they were to deal with Corbould in the pit. He might have been wounded by his own gun, said Humphrey, and he might die if he was left there. Edward thought that was possible and would not have the life of a fellow-creature, however villainous, on his conscience. So they decided next morning to ride to Oswald, tell him all that had occurred and show him where the pitfall was.

Humphrey was off before daybreak and, at nine o’clock, had arrived at the cottage of Oswald and was warmly greeted. Oswald was much annoyed at Humphrey’s narration and was at first, like Pablo, in favour of leaving the scoundrel where he was. But Humphrey remonstrated and so Oswald set off with two other verderers and arrived at the pitfall before sunset, where they heard Corbould groaning below.

‘ Who is there ? ’ said Oswald.

‘ It’s me, it’s Corbould ’.

‘ Are you hurt ? ’

‘ Yes, badly. The gun went off, and the ball has gone through my thigh. I have almost bled to death. ’

Humphrey went for the ladder which, was at hand, and all the four exerted their best and dragged out Corbould who groaned heavily with

pain. They gave him some water, which revived him.

Leaving the verderers in temporary charge of Corbould, Humphrey and Oswald went to the cottage and had their supper. Oswald saw Pablo and was pleased with his looks. 'They are a queer race', he said. 'They are very excitable, and capable of strong attachment, if well treated. I did a gipsy a good turn, and it proved to be the saving of my life afterwards. Bring him over to me one day. He must know where to find me, if you have a message to send'.

In a short while, Humphrey and Oswald set off in the pony-cart. They arrived at the pitfall, raised up Corbould and put him on the cart. The tedious journey began and they arrived at Corbould's cottage at about midnight.

A surgeon was sent for and the blood-thirsty scoundrel was left to his care. Humphrey remained with Oswald for three hours and then returned with Billy.

'I will let you know how he gets on and what account he gives of his falling into the pit; but you must not expect me for a fortnight at least', said Oswald.

Billy was so anxious to get back to his stable that the journey home was finished very quickly. Humphrey thought over all that had happened and said to himself: 'I am always in a fidget about Edward. I wish the new king, who is now in France, would raise an army, and come over. Edward would then be better fighting in the field than remain here and risk being shot as a deer stealer or

put in prison. I am fit for the farm and it is sufficient for us all '.

## CHAPTER XVI

### *POLITICAL NEWS FOR EDWARD*

Humphrey marked out three acres or thereabouts of land running in a straight line behind the garden. There was not a tree on it, and it was all good fertile ground. He had plenty of manure to spare, which he wished to throw all over that land and then he was sure it would be a rich pasture upon which he could turn the cows and the calves. Then Edward and Humphrey selected long thin trees most fitted for rails and cut down a good many of them. Pablo lopped off the boughs and prepared the poles. Then they selected shorter trees for posts ; and when Pablo had cleared them of the boughs, they sawed them out the proper lengths. It was altogether a fortnight's work before the three acres were inclosed.

Edward then proposed to go over to see Oswald and to take Pablo with him to show him the way to Oswald's cottage. He wished to hear Corbould's version of his adventure ; also to learn if the Intendant had come back.

' I agree ', said Humphrey , ' and when you come back, Edward, one of us must go to Lymington, for I require some tools. Pablo is very ragged and must have better clothes, if he is to carry our messages. '

Early the next morning, Edward took his gun, and with Pablo and Smoker, set off for Oswald's cottage and arrived there a little after noon.

‘ I am glad to see you, sir ’, said Oswald, ‘ as I have just seen the Intendant and he has been asking many questions about you. He does not think you are Jacob’s grandson. He asked me where your cottage was, as he wishes to go to your cottage and speak to you.

‘ And what did you say ? ’

‘ I said that your cottage was a good day’s journey from here. I told him about Corbould and his attempt upon you and he was very wrath at it. Mistress Patience begged him to dismiss the wretch, but the Intendant said he would remember her advice. Master Heatherstone then asked me what account Corbould gave of himself. I then repeated what the verderer had himself told me—that he was following a deer which he had severely wounded about noon, and having no dog with him, he could not overtake it, although he knew by its bleeding track that it could not hold out much longer, and that he followed it until nightfall, and had it in view and close to him, when he fell into the pit.

‘ The story was not badly made up ’ said Edward ; ‘ only for a *stag* read *man* : and what did the Intendant say ? ’

‘ He believed you and not Corbould’s story. When the Intendant said he would go to your cottage, his daughter said she would also go, because you had told her that you had two sisters, whom, she said, she would like to see and make acquaintance with ’.

Oswald brought Edward some very nice things to eat and some good beer to drink. While

Edward was thus occupied, Oswald went out, heard some London news, and came back to tell Edward about it. 'The Duke of Hamilton, the Earl of Holland, and Lord Capel have been tried, condemned, and executed', he said.

Edward sighed: 'More murder!'

'King Charles the Second', said Oswald, 'has been proclaimed in Scotland, and invited to come over'.

'That is indeed news', said Edward. 'Where is he now?'

'At the Hague; but it was said that he was going to Paris'.

When Edward heard these words, he wished to be left alone. So he retired to bed, but not to sleep. Edward made up his mind to join the king's army and began to build castles as to what he would do and at last fell asleep.

The next morning, not waiting for breakfast, Edward started on his return journey and quickly reached home. Humphrey was himself anxious to go to Lymington and, now that Edward had returned, he was free to go, and took Pablo with him.

As soon as they were gone, Edward cleaned his father's sword and polished it to his satisfaction. Then, after dinner, he took his gun and walked out into the forest. Suddenly he heard the neighing of a horse; and, looking up, he perceived that he was near to a herd of forest ponies, the first he had seen, since he began to live in the forest. He thought he would speak to Humphrey about it

later, for Humphrey was often telling him that Billy was getting old and that it would be well to get another pony. There were plenty of ponies in the forest, and Edward thought that Humphrey was sure to invent some way of catching them and that Pablo also could help.

## CHAPTER XVII

### *ROBBERS ATTACK RATCLIFFE'S COTTAGE*

So musing, Edward went on and was lost in the forest. It was getting dark already. He was going round and round, and sometimes backwards and forwards. He made up his mind to wait until he could make out Charles' Wain, and then the Polar Star. When he was certain of that, he resolved to go by its help due north; and he did so, keeping up a steady trot for half a mile without stopping.

As he was thus going, he observed, under some trees ahead of him, a spark of fire; he thought it was a glow-worm at first; and as he saw it a second time, he stopped to find out what it was, before he went farther. The light again appeared, and this time Edward heard the clash of the flint against the steel, and he was certain that it was somebody striking a light. He advanced very cautiously and arrived at a huge tree, behind which he remained to reconnoitre. Edward satisfied himself that a dark lantern had been lighted and then closed. He went on his hands and knees and crawled on until he gained another tree. He now saw that within ten yards of him, there were some people. He heard one say :

‘ It is not time yet ! too soon by half an hour ’.

‘ Are you sure that he has money ? ’

‘ Quite sure. It is in a canvas bag and I have seen him pay for the things brought to him, and it was gold that he took out ’.

‘ Anybody else living with him ? ’

‘ Yes, a lad ’.

‘ You say there’s a bag of gold, and that’s worth fighting for ’.

‘ Yes, Ben. With what I’ve got buried, and my share of that bag, I shall have enough ; and I’ll start for the Low countries, since England is getting rather too warm for me ’.

The two men then rose up and set off, followed by Edward, who had heard quite enough to satisfy him that they were bent upon a burglary, if not murder. Edward followed them at twenty yards’ distance and had tracked them for about three miles, when they stopped and examined their pistols. They went on again and entered a small plantation of oak trees, very thick and very dark, with close underwood below. At last, they came to a cleared place, in which there stood a low cottage. All was still, and as dark as pitch. The men advanced to the cottage. One man went up to the front door, while the other went round to the door behind. Edward heard the man at the front door asking for shelter in a plaintive but loud voice. No answer came, and the man thumped and beat against the door. Meanwhile, the man at the back had contrived to open the window close to the back door, and was standing there with a pistol in his

hand. Edward who was keeping his eyes upon this man went within six feet of him and crouched down with his gun ready pointed.

As Edward remained thus, he heard a shrill voice cry out, 'They are getting in behind!' and a movement in the cottage. The robber in the back fired inside and a shriek was given. Then Edward lost no time in firing his gun into the body of the man who fired and he immediately fell. By the time Edward reloaded his gun, the front door was burst open and the report of fire-arms was heard. Somebody was waiting within. Edward walked round to the front, where he found Ben lying across the threshold of the open door. Looking into the room, he found a body stretched on the floor, and a young lad weeping over it.

'Don't be alarmed, I am a friend', said Edward. 'Rise up, lad, and let me see if I can be of any use'.

'Ah! no', cried the boy, 'he bleeds to death'.

'Bring me some water, quick', said Edward.

The man was alive and sensible; and though he could not utter a word, he spoke with his eyes, and with signs. Meanwhile the lad returned. The dying man spoke by signs and said: 'It is all over with me. Pray, protect this child.' Edward at once said, 'I understand you. I promise to take care of your child. I'll take him into my own family, and he shall share with us'.

The wounded man took the hand of the lad and put it into Edward's. As he did this, a gleam of joy passed over his features. After a minute or two, after a short struggle, he fell back dead.

Edward now wished to find out whether the two villains were dead or not. Ben, he saw, was quite dead and, as he approached the other, a faint voice was heard to say : ' Ben, Ben, some water, for the love of God ! Ben, I'm done for ! '

Edward at once brought some water and put it to the robber's lips. The man drank eagerly, and said : ' Ben, I can speak now, but I shan't live long . ' He drank again and said in broken sentences, ' I'm bleeding—to death. You know the oak—struck by lightning—a mile north—from here. Three yards—from it—south—I buried—all my—money. It is yours. Oh ! another drink ! ' Edward lifted the basin to his lips, but he drank not ; he fell back with a groan.

Edward had now heavy work to do. He dragged Ben's body outside of the threshold and secured the door. He then made fast the window forced open behind, and examined the body of the person killed within. His features were fair. The beard was carefully cut, the hands were white, and the fingers long. Evidently the man had never had to do manual labour. There was a bed in the adjoining room on which he placed the insensible boy. He threw some water into the boy's face and poured a little into his mouth. The boy then gave a shriek of woe and burst into a paroxysm of tears. Edward himself sat down on a stool close by and soon fell into slumber.

Edward awoke after some time and saw that the sun was an hour high. He then went out to find what part of the forest the cottage was in. In a moment more, his own dog, Smoker, came bounding out of a copse, followed by Humphrey and Pablo.

‘ What a night we have passed, Edward !’ said Humphrey. ‘ That dear fellow, Pablo, brought out your jacket and gave it to Smoker to smell and then led him along till he was on your footsteps. The dog followed them, and has at last brought us to you.

Edward gave an account of what had occurred and, having thus prepared Humphrey and Pablo for what they were to see, led the way back through the thicket to the cottage. Both of them were much shocked at the scene of slaughter before them and then they began to consult what had best be done. It was agreed that Humphrey should go to Oswald and make known the circumstances to him, to be communicated to the Intendant ; and Pablo was to go home and tell Alice and Edith that Edward was safe.

Humphrey and Pablo both set off.

Then Edward wakened the boy, comforted him, and said : ‘ I promised your father that I would take care of you, and a promise is sacred with me. I’ll do my best, for I have known myself what it is to want and find a protector. You shall live with me and my brother and sisters and you shall have all we have.’

‘ Have you sisters, then ? ’ replied the boy.

‘ Yes ; to-night you shall be in our cottage ; how long, my poor fellow, have you lived here ? ’

‘ More than a year ’.

‘ Whose cottage is it ? ’

‘ My father bought it when he came. To tell you the truth, he came here so as not to be

discovered or betrayed. He had escaped from prison, after having been condemned to death by the Parliament.'

'Your father's crime was that he was loyal to his king?'

'Yes, truly so.'

'Then fear not, my good boy. To prevent the present authorities from taking possession of your father's property, I shall remove to my cottage everything that is valuable, and I shall hold it for your benefit. I propose that you shall accompany me this evening with all the things that may be useful to you.'

'You are very kind', replied the boy. 'I will do all you wish, but I feel very weak.'

'Come, now,' said Edward; 'put all your own clothes together. Collect everything in this room, while I look about the house. By the bye, had not your father some money? The robbers said that your father kept gold in a canvas bag.'

'Yes, my father had, I believe, a great deal of money.'

Then Edward went about the house and found that there were plenty of very valuable articles in it. The iron chest, armour, guns, books, silver candlesticks, and other costly things were all put in the cart, until it was loaded high up. Finally Edward got the boy to see his father's face. The poor orphan knelt down, kissed the cold lips, and wept bitterly. Then they left the cottage and in less than two hours, Edward's cottage was in sight.

Edith flew into Edward's arms.

‘ You, naughty Edward, to frighten us so ! ’ she cried.

‘ Look, Edith ’, said Edward ; ‘ I have brought you a nice little playfellow. Welcome him, dearest . ’

Turning to Alice, Edward said : ‘ Dear Alice, I am sorry you have been very uneasy. If I had not been where I was, this poor boy would have been killed as his father was. He is an orphan now and must live with us. Make him welcome, Alice ’.

Alice greeted him heartily.

‘ How old are you and what is your name ? ’, inquired Alice.

‘ Thirteen next January ’, replied the boy.

‘ And your Christian name ? ’

‘ I will tell you by and by ’, replied he, confused. A few minutes later, Alice who had been talking to the boy, came to Edward and said—

‘ Edward, she is a girl ! ’

‘ A girl ! ’ said Edward, astonished.

‘ Yes, she has told me so, and wished me to tell you ’.

‘ Well, then ’, said Edward, ‘ she sleeps with you to-night. To-morrow morning I’ll bring some bedding from her cottage ’.

They all sat down to supper.

‘ So ’, Edward said, ‘ I find I am to have another sister. Now you will tell me your name ? ’

‘ Yes ; Clara is my name ’.

‘ And why did you not tell me that you are a girl ? ’

‘ Because I was in boy’s clothes and felt ashamed ’.

Then they retired to their bedrooms.

## CHAPTER XVIII

### *HEATHERSTONE INSPECTS RATCLIFFE’S COTTAGE*

The next morning Edward and Pablo went to Clara’s cottage and loaded the cart with many more things. Pablo returned with the cart, while Edward stayed behind, awaiting the arrival of Humphrey.

In a short time more, a number of men arrived, prominent among whom were the Intendant, Oswald, and Humphrey. Edward saluted Mr. Heatherstone in a respectful manner, shook hands with Oswald, and then led the way by the narrow path which led through the wood to the cottage.

The Intendant looked grave and thoughtful ; and Edward even thought that he was cool towards himself. When they arrived at the cottage, Edward pointed to the body of the robber.

‘ By whose hand did that man fall ? ’ said the Intendant.

‘ By the hand of the person who lived in the cottage ’.

Edward then took him to the back and said—

‘ And this man was slain by me. We have one body more to see ’. So he took the Intendant into the cottage, and uncovered the corpse of Clara’s father.

Mr. Heatherstone looked at the face and was much moved. ‘ Cover it up ’, said he, turning away.

‘ And how was this found ? ’ he then inquired.

‘ I neither saw this person killed, nor the robber you first saw ’, answered Edward ; ‘ but I heard the report of fire-arms almost at the same moment, and believe that they fell by each other’s hands ’.

The Intendant then called in his clerk, and directed him to take down in writing whatever evidence was put in.

‘ Edward Armitage ’, said the Intendant, ‘ we will now take down your deposition ’.

Edward stated briefly all that had taken place. The statement was taken down by the clerk and read out to Edward. It was found correct and Edward signed it.

‘ What has become of the boy in the house ? ’ asked the Intendant.

‘ He is removed to my cottage ’, said Edward.

‘ Why did you do so ? ’

‘ I promised the dying man that I would protect his child, and I intend to keep my word ’, answered Edward.

‘ Did he speak with you before he died ? ’

‘ No, no ’, said Edward ; ‘ he spoke by signs, in a very intelligible manner ; and he well understood my reply ’.

‘ Did you remove any of the papers of the deceased ? ’

‘ The lad packed up his own things : and the contents are wholly unknown to me ’, answered Edward.

‘ Still the property should not have been removed. The party who lies dead there is a well-known Malignant. The inquest is over, let everyone leave the house except Edward Armitage, to whom I would speak alone ’.

‘ Excuse me one moment, sir ’, said Edward, ‘ and I will return ’.

Edward went out and calling Humphrey aside, said : ‘ Slip away unperceived. Here are the keys. Hasten to the cottage, look for all the papers and bury them and the iron chest in the garden. ’

Humphrey nodded and turned away, and Edward re-entered the cottage.

He found the Intendant looking mournfully down on the face of the corpse, disfigured with blood. Perceiving the entrance of Edward, he again took his seat and said :

‘ Edward Armitage, you are loyal, bold, and resolute. You have put me under an obligation which I never can repay. For these troubled times, I must say that you are much too frank and impetuous. Your avowed attachment to the king’s cause has prevented me from being cordial to you ’.

‘ I was brought up, sir, in the house of a loyal cavalier, and never will be otherwise ’.

‘ You do the cause more harm than good by unnecessarily avowing your opinions ; and you compel me in the presence of others to use a harshness and coldness towards you, contrary to what I feel for one who so nobly rescued my only child. ’

‘ I thank you, sir, for your advice, which I feel to be good ; and for your good opinion, which I value greatly ’, replied Edward.

‘ Let me speak to you in confidence, young as you are ’, observed Mr. Heatherstone. ‘ I know this man who lies dead before us ; and I knew he was concealed here. Major Ratcliffe was one of my earliest and dearest friends. I knew, before I came down here as Intendant, where he had hidden himself, and I have been most anxious for his safety. ’

‘ Let me continue ’, said the Intendant. ‘ My relative Ashley Cooper and myself strove most zealously to prevent the murder of the king. But we sadly failed,—nay, even incurred the suspicion and ill-will of Cromwell. I expect we have much to suffer for some time more. And now, Edward, I have said more to you than I have to any person breathing, except my own kinsman ’.

‘ I thank you for your great confidence, sir ’, replied Edward. ‘ It will act as a warning to guide my future conduct ’.

‘ I must now ask you, Edward Armitage, another question. You said that Major Ratcliffe had a son here : there must be some mistake about it. He had a daughter, an only daughter as I have, but he never had a son ’.

‘ I thought her a boy. She was dressed in boy’s clothes. When we went home, she discovered to my sisters that she was a girl ’, answered Edward.

‘ I am glad to hear the explanation ’, remarked Mr. Heatherstone. ‘ She shall be to me as a daughter and I propose to take her to my own house. I trust you will agree to it ’.

‘ I will not prevent her going, if she wishes it ’, said Edward.

‘ You said that you were not aware that there were any papers in Major Ratcliffe’s boxes ? ’

‘ I saw none, sir ’, replied Edward ; ‘ but I suspect that there may be. So I despatched my brother Humphrey to the cottage, advising him to remove any objectionable papers ’.

The Intendant smiled.

## CHAPTER XIX

### *HEATHERSTONE’S INQUIRY AT EDWARD’S COTTAGE*

‘ Well, then, we go to your cottage and make an examination. We shall find nothing and I shall have performed my duty. I was not aware that your brother was here. I presume it was the young man who walked with Oswald Partridge ’.

‘ It was, sir ’.

‘ I may be harsh and severe in the presence of others. It is only assumed and not real. You understand that ? ’ said Mr. Heatherstone.

‘ I do, sir ’.

The Intendant then went out and said : ‘ It appears that some boxes have been removed from here to Edward Armitage’s cottage. We will go there and examine them. It is noon. Have you any refreshment to offer us in your cottage, young man, when we arrive ? ’

‘ I keep no hostelry, sir ’ replied Edward, somewhat gloomily.

‘ Let us move on; and two of you keep your eye upon that young man ’, said the Intendant aside.

They then proceeded through the wood and arrived at the cottage at about two o’clock in the afternoon.

Humphrey came out and whispered to Edward that all was safe. The Intendant and his clerk alone went into the cottage, ushered by Edward.

‘ These are my sisters, sir ’, said Edward.

‘ Where is Clara, Alice ? ’, asked Edward.

‘ She is alarmed and has gone into our bedroom ’.

‘ I hope you are not alarmed. You have nothing to fear. Now, Edward Armitage, produce all the boxes and packages which you took from the other cottage ’ said the Intendant.

‘ Here are the keys, sir ’, replied Edward.

‘ Humphrey, do you and Pablo bring the boxes out ’ said Edward.

The boxes were brought out, opened, and examined by the Intendant and his clerk, but of course no papers were found in them.

Then Mr. Heatherstone proposed to question the deceased man’s girl.

‘ But the girl may be frightened ’, he added ; ‘ and I shall obtain no answer from her, if we are so many. So let everybody leave the cottage, while I speak to her ’.

Clara was then brought out, but she clung to Alice, for she was much alarmed.

‘ Come here, Clara ’, said the Intendant gently ; ‘ you do not know perhaps that I am your sincere friend. Do come and live with my daughter and she will be delighted to have you as a companion.’

Will you go with me ? I'll take care of you and be a father to you ? '

' I do not like to leave Alice and Edith. They treat me so kindly and call me sister ', said Clara sobbing.

' I am sure they do ', said Mr. Heatherstone. ' It is your duty to come with me. You are born a lady and must be brought up and educated as a lady. You do not recollect me, Clara ; but you have often sat on my knee when you were a little girl, and when your father lived in Dorsetshire. Do you recollect the big walnut tree by the sitting-room window, which looked out in the garden ?.'

' Yes ', replied Clara, with surprise.

' Yes. Then again, do you remember Jason, the big mastiff; and how you used to ride upon his back ?'

' Yes, I do ', replied Clara ; ' but he died long ago '.

' He did, when you were barely six years old. And now tell me where the old gardener buried him.'

' Under the mulberry tree ', replied Clara.

' Yes, so he did. I was there then. I'll take off my hat. Now look, Clara, and see if you remember me.'

Clara now said : ' You called my father Philip, and he used to call you Charles '.

' You are right, my sweet one ', said he, pressing Clara to his bosom. ' I did so, we were great friends. Now, will you come with me ? My girl

is older than you by three or four years. She will be your companion and love you dearly'.

' May I come and see Alice and Edith sometimes ? '

' Yes, you shall, and bring my daughter also with you. I'll not take you away now, dearest. You shall remain here some days and then we will come over and fetch you. God-bye, dear Clara : and good-bye, my little girls. Humphrey Armitage, good-bye '. He then extended his hand to Edward and said, ' We must meet soon again . '

The Intendant then went out of the cottage and joined his people outside. Edward went out after him. Then Mr. Heatherstone mounted his horse and said very coldly to Edward : ' I shall keep a sharp look-out on you, sir, depend upon it . '

With these words, he spurred his horse and rode away. Humphrey was surprised at his harshness. ' He means kindly, Humphrey ', explained Edward; ' but does not want other people to know it '.

The two brothers had a long conversation that evening in which Edward told Humphrey all that had passed between him and the Intendant.

The next day, the trunk was opened and it contained a considerable quantity of gold in bags and many jewels whose value he could not guess.

## CHAPTER XX

### *HEATHERSTONE TAKES CLARA UNDER HIS PROTECTION*

Three days later, Oswald came to the cottage, having been sent by the Intendant to tell Edward that he would come over on the following day to take away little Clara.

And so Mr. Heatherstone came in the forenoon of the next day, accompanied by his daughter, who rode by his side. A groom on another horse, led a pony for Clara to ride, and a cart for the luggage followed at some distance. Edward went out to assist Miss Heatherstone to dismount and she frankly held out her hand to him, as she reached the ground.

'You do me much honour, Mistress Patience,' said he, bowing.

'Let me at once see your sisters,' said Patience, 'for my father has praised them very much. I wish to know them.'

Edward led the way into the cottage, and Patience followed him, while the Intendant was talking to Humphrey.

Edward then told Mr. Heatherstone that there was an iron chest with a good deal of money in it and jewels and many other articles of value in other boxes.

Then the Intendant came closer to Edward and said: 'Edward Armitage, I am very anxious to show my great gratitude to you. You are born for better things than remain a forester and perhaps a deer-stalker. I know you will not accept anything under the present government. I want a secretary myself and wish you to accept that office, live entirely in my house, receiving a handsome salary for your services. Consult with your brother, and let me know your decision as early as you can.'

Edward bowed; the Intendant went into the cottage.

Presently Edward and Humphrey also went in and found there a very social party. Patience had quickly made friends with Alice, Edith, and Clara ; and Mr. Heatherstone was laughing and joking with them. Alice and Edith had brought out delicious, fresh milk, biscuits, ripe fruits, bread ; and all were eating, talking, and laughing for a pretty long time.

At last, the Intendant wished to leave. 'And now, my dear child,' said the Intendant, 'we must think of going, for it is a long ride, and the little girl is not used to a horse. Mistress Alice, many thanks for your hospitality ; and now, farewell. Edith dear, goodbye. Now Clara, are you quite ready ?'

They all went out of the cottage. Mr. Heatherstone put Clara on the pony. Edward assisted Patience. And when she was mounted, she said—'I hope you will accept my father's offer—you will oblige me so much if you do.'

"I will give it every consideration," replied Edward.

The Intendant bade Edward a cordial farewell, and Edward shook Clara by the hand, and the cavalcade left the cottage.

## CHAPTER XXI

### *EDWARD BECOMES MR. HEATHERSTONE'S SECRETARY.*

Then Edward walked apart with Humphrey, told him the offer made by the Intendant, and asked his opinion.

'You must accept it immediately,' said Humphrey. 'You must not refuse the offer.'

‘I will accept it’, replied Edward. ‘I can but return to you, if things do not go on well’.

An hour or two passed and Edward was plunged in thought. He had seen the Intendant more and began to like him. He had heard more of the king, his wishing to be absolute, wresting the liberties from his subjects, his obstinacy, and such other things, and now did not think so well of him. However, he thought: ‘The people could have deposed him and sent him beyond the seas. Instead, they took him prisoner and then murdered him. The punishment was greater than the offence, and dictated by malice and revenge. It was a diabolical act, and will soil the page of our nation’s history.’

On the third day, Oswald came over and told Edward that the Intendant would be happy to see him. They started early the next morning, rode eight hours, and arrived at the Intendant’s house.

‘Edward Armitage, I am glad to see you. Are you accepting my proposal? What is your reply?’

‘I am very thankful to you for the offer, sir,’ replied Edward. ‘I will accept it, if you think me fit.’

‘I certainly deem you suitable for the place, or I should not have offered it to you’; said the Intendant. ‘All that I now require is to know the day that you will come. Patience and Clara are in the next room. You can join them and tell my daughter that you are to reside with us. You will of course dine with us to-day, and sleep here to-night.’

And then Edward, Patience and Clara talked merrily and were happy.

‘How old are you, Edward?’ said Clara, ‘I am thirteen; Patience is just past sixteen.’

‘I am not yet eighteen, Clara, so that I can hardly be called a man.’

Then Mr. Heatherstone came in, took them all to dinner, and everyone enjoyed it. When he retired to his study, Edward sought Oswald and remained nearly the whole of the afternoon with him, examining his dogs and talking of matters connected with the chase.

In the course of their talk, Oswald said that the new verderers could kill but few deer. ‘I stated this to the Intendant,’ said Oswald to Edward, ‘and he observed that if you came over here, venison would not be wanting; so it is clear that he does not expect you to have your pen always in your hand.’

‘I am glad to hear that,’ replied Edward; ‘depend upon it that his own table, at all events, shall be well supplied.’

Edward bade Oswald farewell and returned to the Intendant’s. Soon after supper, Mr. Heatherstone conversed with Edward for about an hour and was then conducted by him to his own room. Edward did not sleep much that night. The novelty of his situation and of his prospects, and his own speculation thereon kept him awake to a late hour in the night.

He awoke in good time next morning, ate a substantial breakfast, and took leave of the Intendant and the two girls, having renewed his promise to return the next day and enter on his duties.

Edward returned to the cottage and told his brother about his kind reception in the Intendant's house. Humphrey was much pleased to hear that Edward had agreed to become secretary to the Intendant.

Edward made preparations to leave his brother and sisters to go to Mr. Heatherstone and enter on his duties as his Secretary. To please his sisters, he put on his new clothes; and they thought he looked very well in them and said that it reminded them of the days of Arnwood.

After breakfast, Edward got the pony-cart ready, put his linen in it, and left the cottage. Pablo and Smoker accompanied him in the cart. They duly arrived at the Intendant's house.

Edward put Smoker in the kennel and had a slight chat with Oswald. Meanwhile Pablo sat on the carpet in the sitting-room and was amusing the Intendant and the girls very much. Then Pablo had something to eat and the cart was filled with pots of flowers and several other little things as presents from Patience, and Pablo drove back to Jacob's cottage.

When Edward spoke to Patience and addressed her as Mistress Heatherstone, the Intendant said: 'Edward Armitage has come to live here as one of the family and he will be treated as one of us. I shall address him as Edward and it is my wish that he should be on the same familiar terms with us all. Ceremony must be waived as much as possible. He has my full permission to address my daughter by her baptismal name and he may reserve

‘ Mistress Heatherstone ’ for the time when they have a quarrel.’

In a few days, Edward became quite at home. In the forenoon, Mr. Heatherstone dictated a letter or two to him, which he wrote ; and his time after that was chiefly spent in the company of Patience and Clara. The days passed so agreeably that Edward could hardly think it possible that a fortnight had passed away, when he got leave to go over to the cottage and see his sisters.

With the Intendant’s permission, Patience and Clara accompanied him ; and the joy of Alice and Edith was great, to have them in their midst. Alice had cooked her best dinner and Humphrey and Pablo were at home to receive them.

Then Edward gave Humphrey a commission. He asked him to go to the place where, the robber in Clara’s cottage had said, he had buried his treasure and find out if what he had said was true.

Patience had a very pleasant time of it with Alice and Edith. They had become very intimate with each other and had no longer any restraint ; and they had a very merry dinner party.

After dinner Patience went out with Alice and Edith, and looked over the garden and farm and was immensely delighted.

The hour of parting arrived, as it was a long ride back and they could not afford to stay longer, if they were to get home before dark. So, Patience and Clara set off again, little Edith crying after them, ‘ Come again soon ; Patience, you must come again soon ! ’

THE CHILDREN OF  
CHAPTER XXII

*HEATHERSTONE'S ADVICE TO EDWARD*

The summer had now advanced, when Oswald one day said to Edward :

‘They say that the King is in Scotland, and that the Scotch have raised an army for him.’

‘The Intendant has never mentioned it to me,’ replied Edward. ‘If what you say is true, I will join the army at once. I should be a craven to remain here, while the king is fighting for his own.’

Edward, much excited by the intelligence, went into the room where the Intendant was and looked much flushed. The Intendant said : ‘Edward, sit down. I don’t deny it is important news which has arrived. I presume your present feeling is to go to Scotland without delay and join the army.’

‘Such is my intention,’ Edward replied ; ‘it is my duty, sir.’

‘Let me discuss the question a little with you,’ observed Mr. Heatherstone. ‘The first duty you owe in life is to your family in their present position. A false step on your part would be their ruin. It will be my duty to report your action to the Government ; and even when I do it, they are sure to suspect me, because you have been in my service. If you now go to Scotland you will do yourself and me harm, and can do no good to the king. If you will read these letters, you will be convinced that what I say is true.’

Then Mr. Heatherstone handed three letters to Edward, from which it was clear that the king’s

friends in England believed that the time was not yet ripe for the attempt and that it would be a vain sacrifice to stir in the matter. Edward further learned that the Scotch army was composed of the greatest enemies to the king.

In the circumstances, the Intendant advised Edward to remain quiet for the time being. Edward was satisfied and promised that in future he would be entirely guided by him.

Edward left the Intendant, much pleased with the interview and the Intendant kept his word, and concealed nothing from Edward. Everything turned out exactly as Mr. Heatherstone had predicted. The Scotch army was cut to pieces by Cromwell and the king retreated to the Highlands.

Edward continued at the Intendant's and gave much satisfaction to Mr. Heatherstone. He sometimes went out to shoot deer with Oswald and often supplied venison also to his brother and sisters at the cottage. During the autumn, Patience very often went to the cottage, and sometimes her father accompanied her.

Patience often sent Alice and Edith many little things of use to them and some very good books also.

Humphrey in the evenings read with his sisters; and Pablo learned to read and write.

## CHAPTER XXIII

### *ROBBERS ATTACK EDWARD'S COTTAGE*

As advised by Edward, Humphrey went to the spot mentioned by the robber at Ratcliffe's cottage as the one where he had hidden his money, and dug deep there. And presently he was able to lift out

a box and place it on his cart. As he was getting in himself, three men came running towards him as fast as they could, provided with guns. Humphrey knew his danger and set off, putting Billy to a full trot. The men fired at Humphrey, but the bullets whistled past him without doing any harm.

In an hour, Humphrey was at the cottage and he then told Alice what he had done and the danger that threatened him. He feared a night attack. 'I should not be surprised,' said Humphrey to Pablo, 'if the cottage were attacked this night.'

'We'll fight,' answered Pablo; 'let us first make fast the front and back door; next we must make holes in the doors for us to fire through.'

So they brought some pieces of squared timber and fitted them to the doors and windows, so that they might not be forced open. With a small saw, Humphrey next cut a hole or two to fire through.

It was dark before they had finished this work. And then they got their arms ready for service and loaded them.

They had their supper and the sisters were asked to go to bed. Alice, however, was ready to load a gun; and Edith, to take it to Humphrey as fast as it was loaded. Pablo lay down on his bed and soon began to snore. Humphrey remained awake till past three o'clock in the morning, but no robbers came; and so he himself fell asleep and did not awake till broad daylight. Then they took down the barricades.

'Now, Pablo, get your breakfast, while I write a letter to the Intendant,' said Humphrey; 'and

then you must saddle Billy and go over to him as fast as you can with the letter. I shall expect you back at night and some people from there with you.'

Pablo finished his breakfast and set off to the other side of the forest.

Humphrey was on the look-out with his two dogs by his side, to give him notice of the approach of any one, long before he might see them. But nothing occurred during the whole day; and when the evening closed in, he barricaded the doors and windows and remained on the watch. Just as it was dark, Pablo returned with a note from Edward, saying that he would come over and arrive at the cottage by ten o'clock with a large party.

Humphrey was reading a book. Pablo was dozing in the chimney corner and the two girls had lain down on the bed in their clothes—when both the dogs gave a low growl.

Pablo started up.

Again the dogs growled. A short time of anxious silence succeeded, for they could not guess whether the visitors were friends or foes. The dogs now sprang up and barked furiously at the door. Humphrey silenced them, when a voice was heard from outside, begging for admission to a poor benighted traveller. It was evident this was not the party from the Intendant. Pablo put a gun into Humphrey's hand, and took another for himself and removed the light into the chimney.

When the request from outside was repeated, Humphrey answered that he never opened the door at that hour of the night and would not do it now.

Having spoken these words, Humphrey went back with Pablo into the fire-place and had hardly taken a seat, when a gun was fired into the lock of the door, which was blown off into the room ; and had it not been for the barricades, the door must have flown open. The robbers appeared surprised ; and one of them inserted his arm into the hole made in the door, to find out what further obstacle there was to open it. Pablo noticed this, slipped past Humphrey, and getting near the door, discharged his gun under the arm which had been thrust into the hole. The party gave a loud cry, and fell at the threshold outside.

‘I had rather you had fired through his arm’, said Humphrey ; ‘that would have disabled him and it would have sufficed’.

‘Corbould was shot through his leg’, replied Pablo in a low voice ; ‘and he came again to rob. If he had been shot dead, there would have been an end to his villainy’.

The dogs now flew to the back of the cottage, pointing out thereby that the robbers were attempting that side. Humphrey went to the back door, stood within four feet of it, and fired just above where the dogs held their noses and barked. At the same time, Pablo fired his gun through the hole in the front door, as directed by Humphrey.

The dogs were now more quiet, and it looked as if the robbers had retreated from the back door.

For a time, there was deep silence.

At last the attack was renewed. The dogs flew backwards and forwards, as if the robbers were at both points. At the same time, a crash was heard

in Alice's bed chamber and this told them that the robbers had burst in the small window in that room, which Humphrey had not attended to. It was so small that a man could hardly thrust his body through it. Humphrey was, however, quite equal to the new danger. It was clear he and Pablo dared not leave the two doors. So he opened the room and sent Holdfast within; and Watch, the other dog, was not content to be idle. He also went in, wishing to share the glories of his companion. Presently, oaths and curses, mingled with the savage yells of the dogs, told them that a conflict was going on.

The robbers were evidently no ordinary thieves. They now succeeded in battering both the front and back doors with heavy pieces of timber at the same time. Pablo and Humphrey both again fired through the door; when, luckily, all of a sudden, other sounds were heard: firing of shots, loud cries, and angry oaths and exclamations.

'The Intendant's people have come', said Humphrey; 'I am sure of it.'

Shortly afterwards, the voice of Edward was heard to call out from outside:

'Are you all safe, Humphrey?'

'Yes, all safe Edward', Humphrey replied.

The door was then unfastened and Edward stepped over the body of a man which lay at the threshold.

He was followed by Oswald and some other men, leading in the prisoners.

'First see who is in my bedroom, Edward', said Alice, 'for the dogs are still there'.

Edward went in and found a man half in the window and half out, held by the throat and suffocated by the two dogs. He took the dogs off and desired his men to secure the robber and find out whether he was alive or dead.

He and Humphrey then went to examine the body outside the door and found that it was Corbould who had gone to his solemn account.

On inquiry they found, that of all the robbers, to the number of ten, not one had escaped. Eight they had made prisoners and the remaining two were Corbould and the man whom the dogs had seized and was found to be quite dead. The robbers were all bound and left under the charge of Oswald and five of his men. Edward and Humphrey immediately went with seven men to Clara's cottage, and knocked several times. At last the door was opened. There was only one man who was found in it and he was seized and taken prisoner. They then went back home with their prisoner and by the time they arrived, it was daylight.

The Intendant's servants had their breakfast and Edward returned with his prisoners. Pablo also went and drove the cart which carried the two dead bodies. The capture cleared the forest of the robbers who had so long infested it, for they never found any more attempts at robbery made from that time.

Before Edward left, Humphrey had examined the box which he had dug up from under the oak and which had occasioned such danger to the inmates of the cottage, and found within it a sum of £ 40 in gold, a bag of silver, and silver spoons, candlesticks, and ornaments for women. Edward took a

list of the contents, and, when he returned,, stated to the Intendant all that had occurred at his cottage and asked what he should do with the money and articles Humphrey had found.

‘ I wish you had said nothing to me about it,’ said the Intendant, ‘ although I am much pleased with your open and fair dealing. I cannot say anything, except that you had better let Humphrey keep it till it is claimed—which, of course, will never be.’

## CHAPTER XXIV

### *HUMPHREY CAPTURES FOREST PONIES*

The winter set in very severe, and the nights were dark and long. For a long time, Humphrey wished to capture some forest ponies. The poor animals could obtain no grass in the forest and they were almost starved. Humphrey went out with Pablo, and found a herd at a distance of about five miles from the cottage, and near to Clara's. They took with them as much hay as they could carry and placed themselves near an avenue, about a hundred yards wide. And by spreading small bundles of hay over it, Humphrey drew the herd into it. Repeating this every day, he caused the ponies to visit the place every morning.

One day, Humphrey resolved to make a trial and see if the ponies could be captured; and got Pablo, with his gipsy skill and experience, to make a lasso and get ready half a dozen ropes with slip-nooses.

So, before daylight the next day, he and Pablo went with the dogs and a large bundle of hay to a mound of drift snow which they had already

chosen. They then tied the dogs up on each side, and ordered them to lie down and be quiet. They themselves walked away and stood far enough from the drift-snow.

About daylight the ponies came to pick up the hay as usual. While they were busy, feeding on the hay, Humphrey and Pablo shouted as loud as they could and ran up to them. As they called to the dogs, they immediately set up barking on each side. The ponies, in great alarm, galloped away over the drift snow and arrived at the mound. They plunged into it and, notwithstanding all their efforts, many of them stuck fast altogether.

Humphrey and Pablo ran fast and, coming up with them, threw the lasso over the neck of one pony, and the ropes over two more, which were floundering in the snow there together. The other ponies got clear and escaped with great difficulty. The three ponies that were captured, struggled furiously; but the ropes round their necks were drawn tight and they were almost choked and rendered unable to move. Humphrey then tied their forelegs; and loosed the ropes round their necks, to enable them to recover their breath.

Then Pablo asked how they were to be taken home. Humphrey could not think of any way by which it might be done. Pablo suggested that, if the ponies were starved for a day or two, they might get tame. But all the same he was for taking one home that very day.

Pablo put the halter on, and tied the end short to the foreleg of the pony, so that it could not walk without bringing the head close to the ground. Then

he put the lasso round its neck, to choke it, if it was too unruly. Having done this, he cast loose the ropes which had tied its forelegs together.

Then Humphrey held one part of the lasso on one side, and Pablo on the other, keeping the pony between them. The dogs kept barking at it behind. So they continued with much exertion and trouble to take the pony to the cottage. He was there fastened securely to the manger, and left without food.

The next day, they adopted the same plan and brought the other two ponies also and secured them alongside of the other. The animals were made to fast for two days and had become so tame that they ate out of Pablo's hand and submitted to be stroked and caressed. They were soon broken in. At first, when Pablo mounted, they plunged and kicked; but gradually, in the course of a month, they were all three tolerably quiet for riding.

## CHAPTER XXV

### *EDWARD LEAVES FOR LONDON*

One day, a messenger arrived from London to the Intendant, announcing that King Charles had been crowned in Scotland, with great solemnity and magnificence.

Mr. Heatherstone then sent for Edward and said—

‘I know your anxiety to serve your king, Edward, and shall not prevent it.

‘Just now the plot thickens. My relative Ashley Cooper tells me that the king's army is well appointed. So I shall send you to London and I will give

you letters to those who will advise you how to proceed. You may take the black horse; he will bear you well. There is no time to be lost, for Cromwell, who is still at Edinburgh, will take the field as soon as he can. Are you ready to start to-morrow morning ?”

‘ Yes, sir, quite ready,’ replied Edward ; ‘ I cannot go over to the cottage and bid farewell to my sisters. I must send Oswald over instead ; in the evening, the Intendant gave Edward the letters he had promised, and a considerable sum of money, telling him where to apply, if he needed more for his expenses. He cautioned him on his behaviour in many points, and also relative to his dress and carriage during his stay in the metropolis.

‘ When once you leave London,’ said the Intendant, ‘ it would be dangerous to write to me. Retain Sampson till you depart. When he returns, I’ll presume you have gone north. May Heaven bless and protect you, Edward ! I will not detain you any longer.’

The next morning, Edward rose early and was soon dressed. Walking softly downstairs so as not to disturb anybody, he passed the sitting-room. But Patience was already up and dressed, and said—

‘ I do not pretend to surmise the reason of your departure, as my father thinks it proper to be silent upon it. I have a presentment,—I know not why—that you are about to encounter danger. If so, be prudent for the sake of your dear sisters, and for the sake of your friends.’

‘ I do promise you most faithfully, Patience,’ answered Edward, ‘ that I will ever have my sisters

and you in my thoughts, and will not be rash, come what may'.

Edward then kissed Patience's hand and left her room. In a few moments more, he was mounted on a fine powerful black horse, and, followed by Sampson, was on his road to London.

Sampson, who followed Edward, was a very powerful man, of a cool and silent character, by no means deficient in intelligence, and trustworthy withal.

On the evening of the second day, Edward was close to London; and Sampson pointed out to him St. Paul's Cathedral and Westminster Abbey, and other objects worthy of note.

## CHAPTER XXVI

### EDWARD HALTS IN LONDON

'And where are we to lodge, Sampson?' inquired Edward.

'At the *Swan with Three Necks* in Holborn. You will there be quiet and, if your affairs demand it, unobserved', replied Sampson.

Before dark, they had arrived at the hotel. Edward had procured an apartment to his satisfaction and, feeling much fatigued, went to bed.

The following morning, with Sampson to guide him, Edward set out for Spring Gardens to deliver one of the confidential letters of the Intendant to Mr. Langton. Edward duly reached the place and was shown into a handsomely furnished library. He presently found himself in the presence of a tall spare man, dressed after the fashion of the Round-heads of the time and presented the letter.

'You are right welcome, Master Armitage', said Mr. Langton. 'Young as you are, Mr. Heatherstone has much confidence in you. I will have some letters ready for you; and, in case of need, they will be such as will give a colouring to your proceeding, provided you do not choose to reveal your true object'.

Mr. Langton then inquired about Clara Ratcliffe and asked how long Edward proposed to stay in the metropolis.

'I must be guided by your advice, sir', replied Edward. 'I have naught to do here, unless it be to deliver some three or four letters, given me by Mr. Heatherstone'.

'My advice then is that you leave London immediately', said Mr. Langton. 'I will give you letters to some friends of mine in Lancashire and Yorkshire; in either country you can remain unnoticed, and make what preparation you think necessary. But do nothing in haste. Call upon me to-morrow morning, an hour before noon, and I'll have letters ready for you'.

Edward left Mr. Langton's house and delivered the other letters of credence. He then returned to the hotel. Before he went to bed, he told Sampson that he found that he had to leave London on Mr. Heatherstone's business and might be absent some time and told him he was free to go back to the Intendant.

Edward then made Sampson a present and told him he might leave the next day as soon as he pleased. He had no letter to send to Mr. Heatherstone but asked Sampson to tell him that he would write as soon as he had anything positive to communicate.

On the following day, Edward repaired to Mr. Langton at the appointed hour and was received very cordially.

‘ I am all ready for you, Master Armitage’, said Mr. Langton. ‘ Here is a letter to two Catholic ladies in Lancashire, who will take great care of you. Here is another to a friend of mine in Yorkshire. The lady lives about four miles from Bolton ; and my Yorkshire friend in the city of York. You may trust to either of them. And now farewell. If possible, leave London before night-fall ; the sooner, the better. If any one accosts you on the road, put no trust in any profession. You, of course, are going down to your relations in the north. Have you pistols ? ’

‘ Yes, sir. I have a pair which belonged to the unfortunate Mr. Ratcliffe ’.

‘ Then they are good ones ; I’ll answer for it. Farewell, Master Armitage, and may success attend you ! ’

Mr. Langton held out his hand to Edward, who respectfully took his leave.

Edward had a letter of credit upon a Hamburg merchant and he delivered it. The merchant asked Edward if he required money and Edward replied that he did not at present, but that he had business to do for his employer in the north, and might require some when there, if it was possible to obtain it so far from London. The merchant requested Edward to call before he left London, and promised that he would find some means of providing for him as he wished.

So, soon after he took leave of Mr. Langton, Edward called upon the Hamburg merchant, who gave him a letter of credit to a friend who resided in the city of York.

## CHAPTER XXVII

### *EDWARD'S JOURNEY TO THE NORTH*

Then Edward returned to the hotel, paid his reckoning, and set off on the northern road. As it was late in the afternoon before he was clear of the metropolis, he did not proceed further than Barnet, where he pulled up at the inn. Having seen his horse attended to, he went into the room in the inn where all the travellers sat together.

When first Edward entered the room, there were three persons in it and their appearance was not prepossessing. They eyed him as he entered, and one of them said—

‘ That’s a fine horse you were riding, sir. Has he much speed ? ’

‘ He has, ’ replied Edward.

‘ Going north, sir ? ’ inquired the same person.

‘ Not exactly ’, replied Edward, walking to the window to avoid further conversation.

‘ The Roundhead is on the stilts ’, observed another of the party.

‘ Yes ’, replied the first ; ‘ it is easy to see that he has not been accustomed to be addressed by gentlemen.’

Edward did not choose to reply, but folded his arms, and looked at the man with contempt.

The hostess who had overheard the conversation, called for her husband and desired him to prevent any further insults to the young gentleman who had just come in. The host who knew the parties, entered the room and said—

‘ Now, clear out of this as fast as you can ; be off with you, or I’ll send for somebody whom you will not like ’.

The three men rose and swaggered, but obeyed the host’s orders, and left the room.

‘ I am sorry, young master, that these men should have affronted you ; we know who they are, and, if you are travelling far, you had better ride in company. ’

‘ Thank you for your caution, my good host ’, replied Edward.

Then he had his supper and went to his bed.

Early the next morning, he rose and went to the stables to see his horse fed. The three men were there, but they did not say anything to him. Edward returned to the inn, called for breakfast, and when that was finished, he took out his pistols to renew the priming. While he was so occupied, he happened to look up, and perceived one of the men watching him with his face against the window.

‘ Well, now you see what you have to expect, if you try your trade with me ’ thought Edward.

He then paid his reckoning, mounted, and rode off. Before he was well clear of the town, the highwaymen cantered past him on three well-bred active horses. He had ridden about fifteen miles,

when he saw the three men about a quarter of a mile in advance of him. They were descending a hill which was between them, and he soon lost sight of them again. When Edward himself gained the summit, he heard the report of fire-arms and soon after, a man on horseback, in full speed, galloped over the hill towards him. He had a pistol in his hand, and his head turned back. He did so, because the three robbers were closely pursuing him. Presently he fired, and one of the highwaymen fell. The parties galloped on and were passing him. Edward levelled at the second highwayman, and the man fell. The third saw this, turned off from the road, cleared a ditch, and galloped away across the heath.

## CHAPTER XXVIII

### *EDWARD AND CHALONER*

The man who had been attacked rode up to Edward, saying—

‘ I have to thank you, sir, for your timely aid ’.

‘ You are not hurt, I trust, sir ? ’ inquired Edward.

‘ No ’, replied the man. ‘ They attacked me about half a mile from here. I sprang my horse out of the road to a neighbouring thicket, so as not to be surrounded. One of them rode forward to stop my passage, and the other two rode round and got behind me. I thought I could gain a start upon them by riding back again, and they immediately gave chase. The result you saw. Between us we have broken up the gang, for both these men seem dead or nearly so. ’

Edward and the new-comer decided to leave the two men where they were and rode together. The stranger was bound for York and it very well agreed with Edward's plan. The new companion had a gentleman-like, frank, and courteous air about him. He was powerful and well-made, of apparently about one or two and twenty, and remarkably handsome in person, dressed richly in the cavalier fashion. As they proceeded, neither party attempted by any question to find out who his companion might be.

The stranger knew the country well and proposed to direct their path, and Edward agreed. They would avoid St. Albans and other large towns, as they did not wish to satisfy the curiosity of people or to have their motions watched. During the whole of the journey, they never entered a town, except when they rode through one, after dark. And they put up only at humble inns on the roadside, where, if not well attended to, they were at least free from observation.

They became more and more intimate every day. At last the stranger said—

‘Master Armitage, I cannot help thinking that you are bound north on the same business as myself, which is to strike a blow for the king. If you are on the same errand, I have two old relations in Lancashire, who are staunch to the cause; and I hope to remain with them, until I can join the army. You may come with me and have kind treatment and safety while under their roof.’

‘And the names of these relatives of yours, Master Chaloner?’ said Edward.

‘ Their name is Conynghame.’

Edward took out his letters and handed one of them to his fellow-traveller. The address was, ‘ To the worthy mistress Conynghame of Portlake near Bolton, County of Lancashire.’

Chaloner burst out with a laugh and said : ‘ This is excellent ! Two young men meet, bound on the same business and going to the same rendezvous ; and for three days do not venture to trust each other.’

‘ The times require caution,’ replied Edward.

Then they talked about the chances of the war and concluded that everything wore a promising appearance.

‘ My father fell at the Battle of Naseby ’ said Chaloner, after a pause. ‘ And my property has in consequence dwindled down from thousands to hundreds. Were it not for my good old aunts who supply me liberally and who will leave me their estates, I should be but a poor gentleman.’

‘ My father also fell at Naseby,’ said Edward.

‘ Your father did ?’ observed Chaloner. ‘ I do not recollect the name—Armitage—he was not in command there, was he ?’

‘ Yes, he was.’

‘ There was none of that name among the officers, to the best of my recollection, young sir,’ replied Chaloner, with an air of distrust.

‘ I have spoken the truth,’ replied Edward ; ‘ let me be candid with you. My name is not Armitage, though I have been called so for some time. You have set me the example of confidence

and I'll follow it. My father was Colonel Beverley of Prince Rupert's troop.'

Chaloner started with astonishment.

'What you say is true, at last' said he; 'You are the very picture of your father. I knew your father well. A more gallant cavalier never drew sword. Come, Beverley, we must be sworn friends in life and death.' Edward confided to Chaloner the history of his life.

Late in the evening, they arrived at Portlake. Chaloner was recognised by one of the keepers who hastened forward to announce his arrival. In the hall, they were met by the old ladies, who were immensely delighted to see their nephew, as they feared that some danger had befallen him.

'And something did very nearly happen to me,' said Chaloner. 'This friend saved me. Notwithstanding his Puritan attire, he is a Cavalier devoted to the good cause. He is the son of Colonel Beverley, who fell at Naseby with my good father.'

They then heartily welcomed Edward and all went to a sitting-room, where they had their supper.

From Colonel Middleton's letter to him, Chaloner learnt that the king's army was between London and that of General Cromwell, with three days' march in advance.

'And where is the army at this moment?' inquired Edward.

'It will be but a few miles from us to-night. To-morrow we will join, if it please you,' said Chaloner.

'Most willingly,' replied Edward.

They conversed for an hour more. Their rooms were then shown to them and they returned for the night.

## CHAPTER XXIX

### *EDWARD BECOMES CAPTAIN OF HORSE*

The next morning Chaloner heard from General Middleton that the king's army was encamped on the evening before, about six miles from Portlake. Then the young men began hastily to dress themselves. Chaloner found the dress of Edward unsuitable and gave him choice of some of his own, made for him when he was a younger and slighter-made man a year or two before. Then they had their breakfast, took leave of the old ladies, received their blessings, and set off for the camp. An hour's ride brought them to their outposts and they were taken to the tent of General Middleton, who received Chaloner with great warmth as an old friend, and was very courteous to Edward, as the son of Colonel Beverley.

'Chaloner,' said Middleton; 'we are raising a troop of horse. The Duke of Buckingham commands it, but Massey will be the real leader; you have influence here and, I have no doubt, will bring us many good hands.'

'Where is the Earl of Derby?'

'Joined us in the morning.'

'And General Lesley?'

'Is by no means in good spirits: Why I know not. His Majesty must be visible by this time. If you are ready, I'll introduce you.'

Then Chaloner and Edward were taken to where the king had taken up his quarters for the night and admitted into his presence.

‘Allow me, your Majesty,’ said General Middleton, ‘to present to you Major Chaloner, whose father’s name is not unknown to you.’

‘On the contrary,’ replied the king, ‘his name is well known to us as a loyal and faithful subject, whose loss we deplore. I have no doubt that his son inherits the father’s courage and his fidelity.’

The king held out his hand, and Chaloner bent his knee and kissed it.

‘And now, your Majesty will be surprised that I should present one of a house supposed to be extinct—the eldest son of Colonel Beverley.’

‘Indeed!’ replied his Majesty; ‘I heard that all the family perished at the ruthless burning of Arnwood. You are welcome, young sir—most welcome to us; you must be near us; the very name of Beverley must be pleasing to our ears by night or day.’

Edward knelt down and kissed his Majesty’s hand.

‘What can we do for a Beverley?’

‘Pray, allow me, your Majesty, to be near you in the hour of danger,’ replied Edward.

‘A right Beverley reply,’ said the king, ‘and so we shall see to it, Middleton.’

Then Chaloner and Edward withdrew. General Middleton was recalled by the king for a minute or two to receive his commands. When he rejoined Edward and Chaloner, he said to Edward—

' You are commissioned as Captain of horse, and attached to the king's personal staff. It is a high compliment to the memory of your father and your own personal appearance. Chaloner will see to your uniforms and accoutrements; you are well mounted, I believe. You have no time to lose, as we march to-morrow for Warrington, in Cheshire.'

And so General Middleton left them.

Edward was soon equipped and attended upon the king.

## CHAPTER XXX

### *THE KING'S ARMY IS CRUSHED. HIS FLIGHT*

When they arrived at Warrington, a body of horse was there to oppose their passage onwards. They were charged and they fled with a trifling loss. The truth was that they had been ordered by Cromwell only to harass and delay the march of the king, and not seek an engagement. This seeming success induced the king to send back the Earl of Derby and many other important officers into Lancashire and collect the royal adherents there and in Cheshire. Besides this, it was thought advisable to march the army direct to London. But, for many reasons, this plan was dropped and the army marched to Worcester, a town well affected to the king, and where provisions were also abundant. This was done and the city opened the gates.

The first bad news which now reached the king was that the Earl of Derby's party was defeated and dispersed by a regiment of militia which had surprised them during the night, when they were all asleep. The Earl of Derby himself was made prisoner.

Edward and Chaloner considered the situation, as being altogether void of hope.

‘The Duke of Buckingham claimed the command of the army and the king having refused it, he is discontented. General Lesley is dispirited and thinks bad of the cause. Middleton alone does his duty. In the circumstances, Cromwell is sure to be upon us, before we are aware of it. We are in a state of sad confusion—officers quarrelling, men disobedient, much talking and little doing.’

Such was the aspect of the king’s cause, as it appeared to the two young men.

Several more days passed and at last news arrived that Cromwell was within half a day’s march of them and that he had collected all the militia on the route. All was amazement and confusion.

The army of Cromwell at last appeared in sight. In a very brief time the armies were engaged. Middleton was wounded. Duke Hamilton had his leg taken off by a round shot. And many gentlemen had fallen. The troops, deserted by the remainder of the army, gave way and the route was general.

His Majesty left at night with two of his servants, whom he dismissed as soon as it was day-light, believing that his chance of escape would be greater, if he was quite alone.

It was discovered only the next morning that the King had left them. Then they determined to separate and those who had come from Scotland made a hasty retreat.

## CHAPTER XXXI

*EDWARD AND CHALONER ESCAPE SOUTH*

And now Chaloner and Edward considered what they were to do.

‘ If you will permit me, I will accompany you to the New Forest ’, said Chaloner. ‘ All the pursuit will be to the northward, to intercept and overtake the retreat into Scotland. I cannot therefore go to Lancashire ; and, indeed, they will be looking for me everywhere ’.

Just then, they were joined by Grenville, whose voice they immediately recognised. He was one of the King’s pages and was deserted by his companions. He proposed to join Edward and Chaloner, if they permitted him to do so.

Edward readily agreed to Grenville’s proposal.

‘ Now what I propose ’, said Edward, ‘ is this. Let us strip off the dresses and accoutrements of the Parliamentary dragoons who are lying dead, and dress ourselves in them. We can then pass through the country in safety. ’

Chaloner approved the proposal.

Then they stripped three of the Parliamentary troopers, dressed themselves in their uniform, mounted their horses, and made all haste from the place.

It was eight o’clock in the evening, but still not very dark. So they rode on some more miles and at last came to a small village, where they dismounted at an ale-house and put their horses into the stable.

We must be insolent, and brutal in our manners, or we shall be suspected'.

'Very true', said Grenville, giving the ostler a kick, and telling him to bestir himself, if he did not want his ears cropped.

They entered the ale-house and soon found out that they were held in great terror. They ordered everything of the best to be brought to them, and threatened to set fire to the house, if it was not. It was certain to the people of the place that the three men belonged to Cromwell's horse; and when they set off again in the morning, they paid for nothing that they had ordered.

They now rode fast, inquiring at the places which they passed through, whether any fugitives had been seen. So well did they manage, that after four days they had gained the skirts of the New Forest and concealed themselves in a thicket till night time. And then Edward proposed that he should conduct his two friends to the cottage, where he would leave them till his plans were arranged.

## CHAPTER XXXII

### *EDWARD'S RETURN TO THE COTTAGE*

So, as soon as it was dusk, the three travellers left their retreat and soon arrived at the cottage. At first, there was alarm in the house created by the clattering of the swords and accoutrements and the appearance of troopers in their midst. But the voice of Edward calling in Alice and Edith dissipated it and in another minute, he was in the arms of his brother and sisters.

Edward lost no time to introduce his friends to his brother and sisters ; and they offered a most hearty welcome to the new-comers. Supper was soon on the table ; and Edward and Chaloner and Grenville did ample justice to the meal, for they had not fared over-well during the three preceding days.

Humphrey was able to ascertain that the true cause was entirely lost and that his brother and the two others had escaped from the field.

When supper was over, beds were made ready for the two friends and they retired for the night.

Edward remained half an hour longer with Humphrey and told him roughly what had happened to the King.

‘ And now, Humphrey ’, he continued, ‘ Chaloner and Grenville cannot remain here for many reasons. I propose to remove them to Clara’s cottage and we’ll send them all that they want. They intend to go abroad and, till then, we’ll take care of them. I must be off to the Intendant’s tomorrow, and the day after I will come over to you. Meanwhile, our guests can remain here, while you and Pablo prepare the cottage for them. ’

### CHAPTER XXXIII

#### *EDWARD NARRATES HIS ADVENTURES TO THE INTENDANT*

The next morning, Edward put on his Parliamentary accoutrements and rode fast to the house of the Intendant, where he arrived before the inmates had left their bed-rooms. The first person he met was Oswald and he told him how all was lost and how he himself had escaped by changing clothes with one of the enemy.

Edward then went up to the yard in front of the Intendant's house, making no small clattering, much to the surprise of Sampson. He threw himself off the horse and desired Sampson to take it to the stable. He then entered the kitchen and, without speaking a word to Phoebe, passed on to the Intendant's room and knocked.

'Who is there?'

'Edward Armitage'.

The Intendant started back at the sight of Edward in the trooper's costume.

Edward then stated, in a few words, what had happened, by what means he had escaped, and the reason why he had kept on the trooper's accoutrements, and made his appearance in them.

'You have acted very prudently', observed the Intendant, 'and you have probably saved me. Your absence has been commented upon and made known in high quarters, and suspicion has arisen in consequence. Your return as one of the Parliamentary forces will now put an end to all ill-natured remarks. I thank God you have returned safe to us. You may now enter on your duties as Secretary'.

'I will, with your permission, sir, continue in this costume', said Edward, for a whole day!

'You are right, Edward. Go down to the parlour. Patience and Clara will be anxiously waiting for you. I'll join you there in a few minutes'.

Edward left the room and went downstairs. Patience and Clara received him most joyfully: Patience, in tears; Clara, in wild mirth.

The next day, Edward resumed his forester's dress and went over to the cottage, where, with the permission of the Intendant, he proposed remaining for a few days. Edward had, of course, acquainted the Intendant with his proposed plans relative to Chaloner and Grenville; he approved them and advised that they should gain the other side of the Channel as soon as they possibly could. Edward found them all anxious for his return.

Humphrey and Pablo had been to Clara's cottage and made everything ready there for the reception of the two cavaliers.

Chaloner and Grenville were quite at home already in the cottage and not very keen to shift their quarters.

Humphrey informed Edward of the manner in which he captured the three forest ponies and Edward said in congratulation—

'Humphrey, this is indeed great credit to you. It is a pity you have to live secluded in this forest, where your superior talents have no wide scope for exercise'.

He then narrated what had passed between him and the Intendant, since his return. He then gave Humphrey an order of appointment as verderer, signed by the Intendant to be used as he might find necessary. He also gave him a letter ordering him to receive into his house two of the troopers who might be sent down there and find them quarters and victuals, but not to be forced to receive more. Until the search for fugitives was over, he requested Chaloner and Grenville to retain their accoutrements and remain at the cottage. Edward

then put on the dress he had made when he was appointed Secretary ; for, he thought that if any military men came there as scouts to the Intendant, he might have some authority over them. And so Edward told his friends of the arrangements, in case they were disturbed by the military parties.

‘ It is a most excellent arrangement, Beverley ’ said Chaloner.

‘ Not-‘Beverley’-I pray you ; that name is to be forgotten. It was only revived for the occasion.’

‘ Very true ; then, Master Secretary Armitage, we must find out what troops will be sent down here ; for we must belong to some other regiment. I should think Lambert’s squadron will not be this way ’.

‘ After what I have seen of the war, ’ continued Chaloner, ‘ I would gladly live here with you and help to till the land—away from the world and all its vexations. Would you and your brother take me as a labourer, after all is quiet again ? ’

‘ You would soon tire of it, Chaloner ; you were made for active exertion and bustling in the world.’

‘ Nevertheless I think, under two such amiable pretty mistresses, I could stay well contented here ; it is almost Arcadian. By the bye, Edward, if ever you determine to remove your sisters from here, remember my maiden aunts at Portlake. They are wealthy and will do anything for your sisters. They are alone and would be delighted to have the care of the two sisters of Edward Beverley ; be sure of that.’

‘ I shall be quite happy, if my sisters can have the protection of your aunts. Their present position as foresters is truly unworthy of them, but circumstances have driven them to it,’ said Edward.

‘ I am delighted with your reply, Edward. I have no doubt that my good aunts will be anxious to have your sisters as early as possible. To me, it will be a great happiness when I am wandering abroad to know that your sisters are under my aunts’ roof and are being educated as they ought to be,’ said Chaloner.

Agreeably to this proposal, Chaloner wrote to his aunts and requested an early reply.

## CHAPTER XXXIV

### *TROOPERS AT EDWARD'S COTTAGE*

‘ Just then, Pablo came running out of breath and cried out : ‘ Soldiers—plenty of them—they gallop this way—also in other directions !’

‘ Now, Chaloner, we must get ourselves out of this scrape. I am sure all will be well afterwards,’ said Edward.

‘ Bring the horses out to the door ; and, Chaloner, you and Grenville, must wait within : bring my horse out also, as if I had just ridden over. I must go in and change my dress. Humphrey, keep a look-out, and let me know when they come’.

Chaloner and Grenville went in, and Edward put on his dress of Secretary. Presently, a party of cavalry came galloping towards the cottage. An

officer who was at their head spoke haughtily to Humphrey and asked him who he was.

‘ I am one of the verderers of the Forest, sir, ’ replied Humphrey respectfully.

‘ And whose cottage is that ? and whom have you there ? ’

‘ The cottage is mine, sir. Two of the horses at the door belong to two troopers who have come in quest of those who fled from Worcester. The other horse belongs to the Secretary of the Intendant of the Forest, who has come over from the Intendant with directions about the capture of the rebels. ’

At this moment, Edward came out and saluted the officer.

‘ This is the Secretary, sir, Master Armitage ’, said Humphrey and fell back.

‘ I have come to arrange for the capture of the rebels. Of course, the Intendant has given me directions with regard to it. This man has to lodge two troopers as long as necessary and I am to tell any officer I may meet that Master Heatherstone and his verderers will take good care that none of the rebels are harboured anywhere in this direction and that it would be well that the troops scour the southern edge of the forest, as from there the fugitives will try to embark for France ’.

‘ What regiment do these troopers you have here belong to ? ’

‘ I believe, to Lambert’s troop, but perhaps they could answer better for themselves. ’

'Tell those men to come out', said Edward to Humphrey.

'Yes, sir, but they are hard to wake, for they have ridden from Worcester; but I'll rouse them'.

'Nay, I cannot wait', replied the officer.

'If they are of Lambert's troops, they have no information to give.'

'Forward, men!' As he said so and passed on, he saluted Edward. And in a minute or two, they were far in the distance.

Edward and Humphrey then went in and joined the party inside the cottage, who were in a state of no little suspense during the colloquy outside.

For a few days more, the Parliamentary forces continued to scour the forest, but no suspicion was entertained against the cottage, owing to the presence of Edward in it.

In about a fortnight, search in the forest was altogether dropped.

It was then decided that Chaloner and Grenville should dress like verderers, as it would enable them to carry a gun. So dressed, the two friends were taken to Clara's cottage and they liked their new residence even more than Humphrey's cottage, unused to the wonderfully interesting scenery and life around them. They had Holdfast for a watch.

Having arranged everything, Edward went to the Intendant and narrated to him all that had occurred in his cottage, how he had dealt with the military men who had come searching the king

and fugitives, and how he had temporarily disposed of his two friends.

Then Mr. Heatherstone showed Edward a letter received from Government, which highly commended his vigilance and activity in pursuit of the fugitives. Edward then begged Mr. Heatherstone to forward a letter from Chaloner, to obtain credit for money and he very kindly promised to send it through Langton.

Edward then left the Intendant and went to see Oswald.

## CHAPTER XXXV

### *EDWARD'S PROPOSAL TO PATIENCE*

Mr. Heatherstone had now for a considerable time shown Edward much kindness and confidence. The question now arose in Edward's mind,—how far he was right in concealing from him his birth and parentage. He felt it awkward to reveal it without an opportunity. Anyway Edward resolved that he would make the confession to Patience. He felt she had become very dear to him, and that he was in love with her.

But he was without a penny; and becoming known as the heir of Beverley would be to his disadvantage. Would it not be a degradation that the son of so noted a cavalier as Beverley should be under the protection of the Intendant ?

But he was determined to confess to Patience, and the opportunity came.

One day Clara caught cold and could not go out in the evening for the usual walk with Patience

and Edward, and remained at home. Patience and Edward walked for some minutes in silence, when Patience observed—

‘ You are very grave, Edward ’.

‘ I want an adviser and friend ’.

‘ If you cannot, for any reason, think of my father, why, advise with me and trust to me. You know I am a sincere friend.’

‘ Yes. I’ll accept your offer. I saw many high-born women when I was away, but none could I see equal to Patience Heatherstone. And Patience was ever in my thoughts during my long absence ’.

‘ I thank you for your kind feelings towards me ’, replied Patience ; ‘ but, Master Armitage, we were talking about your secret ’.

‘ *Master Armitage!*’ rejoined Edward ; ‘ how well you remind me, by that expression, of my obscure birth and parentage, whenever I forget the distance which I ought to observe ! ’

‘ You are wrong !’ replied Patience ; ‘ but you flattered me so grossly, that I called you Master Armitage to show that I disliked flattery ; that was all. Do forget what I said. I did not mean to vex you, but certainly wished to punish you for thinking me so silly as to believe such nonsense. ’

‘ Your humility may construe that into flattery ’ said Edward. ‘ I might have added more in perfect truth. I have been dreaming for a long while. I’ll now speak plainly. I love you, Patience ; love you so much, that to part from you would be misery ; to know that you reject my love

would be bitter as death. Now I admit you have a right to be angry'.

'I see no cause for anger, Edward' replied Patience. 'I have always thought of you but as a friend and benefactor. I am young and must be guided by my father.'

'If your father raised no objection', said Edward, 'would my low birth be one in your opinion?'

'Your birth has never come into my head', observed Patience. 'Here comes my father, Edward!'

## CHAPTER XXXVI

### *PARLIAMENT GRANTS ARNWOOD TO HEATHERSTONE*

Mr. Heatherstone now joined them, and said—

'I have been looking for you, Edward. I've news from London which has rejoiced me much.'

They they walked to the house and the Intendant gave him a letter to read, and said—'This is a grant, Edward, to me of a property which I have long solicited for my services'.

Edward read it and found that Mr. Heatherstone had solicited the parliament for the grant to him of the property of Arnwood, and that it was granted to him. He saw that the document was signed by the Commissioners and that he might take immediate possession.

Edward turned pale as he laid the document down on the table.

'We'll ride to-morrow, Edward, and look it over. I intend to rebuild the house'.

Edward made no reply.

But, asked if he was not well, Edward replied—‘ I am well ; but I am disappointed that you have accepted the grant of a property from the present Government,—property, besides, so unjustly sequestrated ! ’

‘ Look ‘ here, Edward ’, replied the Intendant: ‘ This is a property without an heir. The whole family perished in the flames. There is no living claimant. I have been offered others, but have refused them. In obtaining this, I do harm to no one. I trust you believe me, Edward, in what I assert. ’

‘ If the Beverley family did not, as it is supposed, perish in the flames, if a rightful heir to it should at any time appear, would you then resign the property to him ? ’ asked Edward.

‘ As I hope for Heaven, Edward, I would ! ’ replied the Intendant. ‘ And yet I do not deserve credit. There is no doubt that the family all perished. Arnwood will thus become the dower of Patience Heatherstone. ’

Edward’s heart beat quick.

Then supper was announced. Edward looked so wretched that at supper he was tormented by Clara incessantly inquiring what was the matter with him. Edward did not venture to look at Patience and, supper over, he hastily retreated to bed.

Edward threw himself on his bed, but to sleep was impossible.

He thought of the events of the day, over and over again. He rose at daylight, and dressing

himself, went down and saddled his horse. He then desired Sampson to tell the Intendant that he was going to the cottage immediately and that he would return by the evening, and rode across the forest. He arrived just as his brother and sisters were sitting down to breakfast. He attempted to be cheerful, but did not succeed; and they were all grieved to see him look so pale and haggard. As soon as breakfast was over, he took Humphrey out and walking through the forest, gave him the detail of what recently passed between the Intendant and himself and said: 'Now, Humphrey, you know all. Remain in Mr. Heatherstone's house hereafter, I cannot. If the answer is favourable from the Misses Conynghame, our sisters shall go to them. Then for myself—I resolve to go abroad, resume my name, and obtain employment in some foreign service. I will trust to the king for helping me to that. As for you, you may come with me and share my fortunes, or do what you think better.'

'I shall not decide rashly' answered Humphrey. 'I shall remain here where I am, till I hear from you.'

'Be it so', said Edward; 'let me only see my sisters well placed, and I shall be off the next day'.

Edward then mounted his horse and returned to the Intendant's. He did not arrive till late, and then Mr. Heatherstone gave him a letter for Mr. Chaloner, which was inclosed in one from Langton; and informed Edward, with evident joy, that the king had succeeded in escaping to France.

‘ Thank God for that ! ’ exclaimed Edward. And he retired without having exchanged a word with Patience or Clara beyond the usual civilities of the table.

## CHAPTER XXXVII

### *EDWARD'S SISTERS ARE TAKEN TO THE MISSES CONYNGHAME*

The following morning, Edward set off for Clara's cottage and warmly shook hands with his friends. He then handed to Chaloner the letter given by the Intendant ; and Chaloner gave Edward the letter he had received from his aunts. The Misses Conynghame were delighted at the idea of receiving the two daughters of Colonel Beverley, and would treat them as their own ; they requested that the girls might be sent to London immediately, where the coach would meet them and take them down to Lancashire.

‘ I am much indebted to you, Chaloner ’, said Edward ; ‘ I will send my brother off with my sisters as soon as possible. You are returning to France. If you will permit me, I shall accompany you ’.

‘ That will be delightful ’, observed Chaloner. ‘ You had no such idea before. What, pray, has determined you to this course ? ’

‘ I'll tell you by and by ’, answered Edward ; ‘ as soon as Humphrey returns, I'll come to you and make preparations for our departure. ’

The grief of Alice and Edith was very great, when the time came for leaving their brothers, whom they loved very dearly. Humphrey and

they set off at the hour appointed and arrived safely in London in three days. There, they found the coach waiting at an address given in the letter. Humphrey then gave his sisters into the charge of an elderly waiting-woman sent for the purpose by the Portlake ladies and they quitted him with many tears.

Humphrey hastened back to the New Forest and on his return, he found to his surprise that Edward was not there. So he went to Oswald and, was told that Edward had been seized with a violent fever and was delirious for three or four days. Humphrey, in great alarm and distress, went to his brother's sick-chamber and sat by his bedside. After an hour or two, Edward perspired freely, and his restlessness subsided into a deep slumber. Presently, Mr. Heatherstone himself came and was glad that Edward was improving. Turning to Humphrey, he said—'How are your sisters, Master Humphrey? My daughter bade me inquire after them. I will send over to them and let them know that your brother is better'.

'My sisters are no longer at the cottage, Master Heatherstone', replied Humphrey; 'they have gone to some friends who have taken charge of them. I saw them safe to London myself, or I should have known of my brother's illness and have been here before this.'

The tone in which the words were delivered was strange and the Intendant quitted the room.

It was broad day-light. Then Oswald came into the room and said: 'Master Humphrey, all danger is now over. They say you remained here

all night. I'll relieve you now, if you will let me do so. Go and take a walk in the fresh air. It will revive you'.

'I will, Oswald, and many thanks', said Humphrey. 'My brother has woke up once. He will know you when he wakes again, and then do you send for me'.

When Humphrey returned, he found Edward awake and talking to Oswald. Edward then said—

'My dear Humphrey, I trust I shall soon be well and able to quit the house. I want either you or Oswald to be always with me here. The Intendant is sure to question me regarding our sisters and certain other matters. But I have no inclination to answer him and do not wish to be left alone. Also, I do not want to be forced to listen to what they may say.'

'Depend upon it, it shall be so, Edward', answered Humphrey.

A day or two later, the surgeon pronounced Edward out of danger. All that he required was strength, which he trusted he could gain in a few days.

When any one in the Intendant's house inquired how he was, Edward always complained of great weakness.

One evening, Pablo came over with the horses after it was dark. Oswald put them into the stable. Early next morning, a little before break of day, Edward came softly downstairs with Humphrey and mounting the horses, they departed for the cottage.

Edward, however, left a letter to be delivered after his departure, in which he thanked the Intendant sincerely for all the kindness and compassion he had shown to him ; assured him of his gratitude and kind feelings towards him and his daughter ; but said that, owing to certain circumstances which could not then be explained, he had to leave without bidding them farewell in person. He added that he was about to embark immediately for the Continent to seek his fortune in the wars. In the end, he wished all prosperity to the family.

## CHAPTER XXXVIII

### *EDWARD LEAVES FOR FRANCE*

By this time all search for fugitives from Worcester had been over and there was no difficulty for any one to embark. So the next morning Edward, Chaloner, and Grenville, set off for Southampton ; and the same evening they embarked with their horses in a small sailing vessel and arrived at a small port of France on the following day. Humphrey and Pablo returned to the cottage, very much out of spirits at the separation.

Let us now return to the Intendant's house. When Oswald delivered Edward's letter, the Intendant read it with much astonishment. ' What could have been the circumstances Edward could not explain in person ? ' Mr. Heatherstone asked himself. Perhaps, he thought, Patience could throw some light ; and so he sought her immediately.

He handed to her Edward's letter to himself and she read it and could not help shedding tears.

‘ Now, tell me, dear child, what passed, if anything, between you and Edward ’.

‘ He told me, just before you came up to us that evening, that he loved me ’.

‘ And what was your reply ? ’

‘ He saved my life, dear father, and I could not be unkind. I could not tell him he was of low birth. ’

‘ Then you rejected him ? ’

‘ I suppose that he considered that I did so. He had, however, a secret to disclose to me and he would have confided it to me, had you not interrupted us ’.

‘ And now, Patience ’, said Mr. Heatherstone, ‘ I ardently wished a union between you and Edward ; but I wished you to love him for his own merits. ’

‘ I have done so father ’, replied Patience, ‘ although I did not tell him so ’.

The Intendant then said—

‘ Patience, listen. I have long suspected, and have since been satisfied, that Edward Armitage is no other than Edward Beverley, the eldest son of Colonel Beverley, who, with his brothers and sisters, was supposed to have been burnt to death at Arnwood ’.

Patience stood, struck with astonishment.

‘ I had a strong suspicion ’, the father began again, ‘ of it, from the boy’s noble appearance. Then when I was at Lymington, I happened to meet there one who had served at Arnwood. I learnt from him the names of the Beverley

children who were supposed to have perished in the flames, and their ages. Then I went to the Church register and extracted them. The names and ages of Edward and his brother and sisters exactly corresponded with the entries in the Church Register and the information of Benjamin. It was after this that I took Edward into our house and made him mix freely in our house and become intimate with you. I was afraid the property of Arnwood would be given to some one else by the Government. And so, I solicited it and got it. I fully hoped for your union with Edward and the restoration of Arnwood to him, though as your dowry.'

'I see it all now', said Patience. 'In one hour, he is rejected by me. In the next, he finds you have obtained his property. Any one, in the circumstances, is bound to be indignant and look upon us with scorn. We have driven him into danger and perhaps, father, we may never see him again!'

'We must hope for the best, Patience. I'll see Humphrey and explain all.'

'But Alice and Edith—where are they gone, father?'

'I begged Langton to find it out. He tells me that two young ladies of the name of Beverley are with the Ladies Conynghame, aunts to Major Chaloner. I'll write and obtain, as early as possible, further information about them.'

Mr. Heatherstone rode over to the cottage the next day, and gave a full explanation to Humphrey of all that had occurred. And Humphrey who had

a great deal of sterling good sense readily understood that the Intendant had been their best friend. At the request of Mr. Heatherstone, Humphrey wrote without delay to his brother at the address which Chaloner had left with him and explained everything.

## CHAPTER XXXIX

### EDWARD SERVES ABROAD

On his arrival at Paris, Edward was kindly received by King Charles, who promised to assist him in joining the army.

‘ You have to choose between two generals, Conde and Turenne, both great in war.

Conde is my favourite. I’ll give you letters to him. He’ll soon be in arms, opposed to this dishonest Court, who have kept me here as an instrument to accomplish their own wishes, but who have never intended to keep their promises and place me on the English throne ’.

Furnished with the necessary credentials from the king, Edward saw the Prince of Conde.

‘ You are highly spoken of for so young a man. So you were at the affair of Worcester? We’ll retain you. Can you procure any of your countrymen?’ said Conde.

‘ I know but of two ’, replied Edward.

‘ Bring me the officers to-morrow at this hour Monsieur Beverley. *Au revoir!* ’

Edward went to Chaloner and Grenville and told them of the Prince’s request and they both were at the Prince’s levee the next day and were introduced by Edward.

‘I am happy, gentlemen’, said the Prince, to have the services of such fine young men as you. I am now about to depart to Guienne. Be so good as to enlist as many of your countrymen as you can, and follow me there.’

A month later, Conde set up the standard of revolt. Edward and his friends joined his forces with about 300 Englishmen and Scotsmen. And very soon afterwards, Conde obtained a great victory and then advanced to Paris itself.

Turenne, the commander of the French army followed him and a severe action was fought in which neither party had the advantage. But eventually Conde was beaten back by the superior force of Turenne, and fell back to the frontiers of Champagne.

Edward had in the meantime received Humphrey’s letter explaining the Intendant’s conduct; and the contents removed a heavy load from his mind. And though he fondly cherished the idea of Patience, he was resolved to follow the fortunes of the Prince as long as he could. He however wrote to the Intendant and thanked him heartily for his kind feelings and intentions towards him.

Conde now had the command of the Spanish forces in the Netherlands, and Edward with his friends followed him there, gained his goodwill, and was rapidly promoted.

Time flew on and the Court of France concluded an alliance with Cromwell and expelled King Charles from the French frontiers. The war was still carried on in the Netherlands and the

Court of Spain, wearied with reverses, made overtures of peace, which were gladly accepted by the French.

Conde was pardoned and the armies were disbanded, and the three adventurers were free. They then took their leave of the Prince who commended their long and meritorious services, and hastened to King Charles who had come to the Low Countries.

Meanwhile Cromwell's son, Richard, who had been nominated Protector had resigned and every thing was ready for the Restoration of King Charles.

## CHAPTER XXXIX

### *RESTORATION: EDWARD MARRIES PATIENCE*

In May 1660, Charles had been proclaimed King and a large body of gentlemen went to invite him over. 'The King was met at Dover by General Monk and conducted to London, which he entered amidst the acclamations of his people. Edward, Chaloner, and Grenville were of course among the most favoured of those in his train.

The procession passed along and the three young men rode side by side as gentlemen in waiting. Alice and Edith, now grown into lovely, handsome girls under the kind care of Chaloner's aunts, recognised Edward. 'Alice, that's Edward!' said Edith so loud as to be heard by the king.

'Are those your sisters, Edward?' said the King.

'They are, your Majesty.'

‘The King rose in his stirrups, and made a low obeisance to the window where the girls were standing. It was a proud day for the Beverleys.

The ceremonies were over and Edward and his friends escaped from their personal attentions to the King and went to the residence of the Ladies Conynghame and his sisters.

The joy of this meeting after so many years’ absence was great, and Edward’s sisters, thanks to Chaloner’s aunts, had grown to be accomplished and elegant young women, and the two friends were very warmly received by them.

‘Patience Heatherstone is here, Edward,’ said Edith; ‘she is the reigning belle, and the toast of all London.’

Edward was in raptures.

‘She is as good as she is handsome,’ Edith went on. ‘Moreover she treats all the gallants with perfect indifference. She is staying with her uncle, Sir Ashley Cooper. Her father is also in town, for he called here with her to-day.’

‘When did you hear from Humphrey, Edith?’ said Edward.

‘A few days back. He has left the cottage altogether.’

‘Indeed! Where does he reside, then?’

‘At Arnwood. The house has been rebuilt and I understand it is a princely mansion. Humphrey is in charge of it.’

‘It belongs to Mr. Heatherstone, does it not?’ asked Edward.

‘How can you say so?’ said Alice. ‘You received Humphrey’s letters long ago. Your property and a woman you love are offered to you in one lot. You will not accept them. You wish them to be divided and handed over to you separately. Is this all?’

‘What you all fail to see is just this’, said Edward. ‘I have a certain pride and it won’t permit me to take as a favour what by right is mine. I intend to appeal to the king and demand the restoration of my property. He cannot refuse it.’

‘Put not your trust in princes, brother,’ replied Alice. ‘Besides, remember that Mr. Heatherstone and Sir Ashley Cooper have done the king much more service than you have done or can do. They have been most important agents in his restoration and the king’s obligations to them are very great. Moreover, Mr. Heatherstone knows your feelings and will surely respect them. He has doubtless spoken his mind to Humphrey. Do wait and act after you have seen Humphrey.’

‘Your advice is good and I will be guided by it,’ said Edward.

‘And now let me give you some advice for your friends, Masters Chaloner and Grenville. Much of their property has been given away to others and they expect that the king will restore it all. Those who hold the property think so too. But wiser heads than mine think that the king will not accede to the applications. The best course will be for your friends to meet the parties now in possession and offer them a third or fourth

of the value and all might be amicably settled. And the king himself will be pleased for saving him from awkward positions.

Edward was much pleased with the advice. He went at once to Chaloner and Grenville, explained the situation and mentioned the advice of his sister.

The advice was readily taken and acted upon. Chaloner and Grenville recovered all their estates at about five years' purchase.

Then Edward remained at court several days. And it was one continued scene of fetes and gaiety. One day, a drawing-room was held and Edward's sisters were to be presented. Edward was standing behind the chair of the king, waiting for the arrival of his sisters. Presently, Mr. Heatherstone advanced towards the king, leading his daughter, Patience. They had not perceived him, but Edward gazed at Patience and found her very lovely, little altered from what she was before, except that she had grown taller and more perfect in figure.

The king saluted Patience and said—

‘My obligations to your father are great and I trust that the daughter will often grace our Court.’

Patience made no reply, but passed on.

Edward presently met Humphrey and said: ‘Humphrey, I have seen Patience and feel that my future happiness depends upon obtaining her as a wife. Let her father but give me his daughter. Arnwood will be but a trifle in addition!’

“Mr. Heatherstone will resign the property to you as yours by right,” said Humphrey; “but you have no property in his daughter. You have to win her yourself. It is now seven years since you quitted the Forest. Since then you have not once communicated with her; and you can hardly expect a girl, from the age of seventeen to twenty four to be cherishing the image of one who, to say the least, had treated her with indifference. That is my view of the matter, Edward. It may be wrong.”

Then they both went to Mr. Heatherstone and Edward was very cordially received by him.

“I may have been impetuous, sir,” said Edward, “but I trust that you will believe me grateful.”

Patience coloured up and trembled when Edward first saw her. And, in a very short time, Edward wooed her and won her.

## CHAPTER XL

### *THE END*

About a year after the Restoration, there was a fete at Hampton Court, given in honour of three marriages taking place—Edward Beverley to Patience Heatherstone, Chaloner to Alice Beverley, and Grenville to Edith Beverley.

One more paragraph and our story ends. Our young readers will not be content, if we do not tell them some particulars about the other personages who have appeared in this little story.

Humphrey's love of farming continued. Edward gave him a large farm, rent free, and in a few years, Humphrey purchased a property for himself and then married Clara Ratcliffe. The cottage in the New Forest was held by and eventually made over to Pablo, who lived steadily, married a young girl from Arnwood,<sup>3</sup> and had a houseful of young gipsies. Oswald gave up his place in the New Forest and lived entirely with Edward at Arnwood as his steward. And Phoebe also went to Arnwood and lived to a good old age, in the capacity of house-keeper.

---

## APPENDIX I

### EXERCISES ON SUBJECT-MATTER

1. Write a paragraph, describing what happened to King Charles the First, from the time he was imprisoned at Hampton Court to his detention in Carisbrok Castle.

2. State (1) how Jacob Armitage learned that Arwood was to be set on fire and (2) how he saved the lives of the children of Colonel Beverley.

3. Explain what work Beverley's children severally did in the Forest.

4. (a) Narrate how Edward got his sword and gun.  
(b) State how Humphrey got his cow and tamed her.

5. Mention how Edward first met Mr. Heatherstone and briefly report what took place at that interview.

6. Describe how Edward saved the life of Patience.

7. Who was Oswald? What do you know of the relationship between him and Jacob; and between him and Edward?

8. Who was Pablo? How was he introduced into the Cottage? What signal service did he render to Beverley's Children. Briefly sketch his character.

9. How did Edward learn of the robbers' intended attack of Ratcliffe's cottage? Describe the attack. How did Edward oppose it and with what result?

10. How was the Intendant able to establish in his mind that Edward and his brother and sisters were the Children of Colonel Beverley?

11. What estimate did Heatherstone form of the character of Edward?

12. How did Edward save the life of Chaloner? and what help did Chaloner give to Edward's sisters? Explain how.

13. Explain how Edward enlisted himself in the service of the King. Briefly mention the disaster that befell the king at Worcester. What part did Edward and Chaloner play in Charles's attempt to regain his throne?

14. How did Edward manage to fly from Worcester and get back to his Cottage?

15. Describe the interview between Cromwell's Scout-Officer in the New Forest and Edward.

16. What led to Edward's departure from the Intendant's house for the Continent? Briefly describe what Edward did in the Continent.

17. Tell clearly how Edward ultimately got back Arnwood.

18. (a) Describe in detail what took place at the first meeting between Edward and Corbould. (b) Explain how Edward contrived Corbould's fall into the pit and why he did it. (c) State how and where Corbould met his death.

## APPENDIX II

### GRAMMATICAL EXERCISES

1. Of what kind are the subordinate clauses in?—

He told him all that passed. Stick to the farm as much as you can. Tell him who you are. Tell him I am dying and that I wish to speak to him before I go. I was hard questioned about you since we parted. Oswald expressed his opinion that Jacob was sinking fast. It was so late when they arrived there, that Edward consented to pass the night there. It soon became clear that the room was on fire. Edward described the way in which he had saved the girl. Call them to me, that I may bid

them farewell. I must know the price at which I am to sell venison. This was why I could not come to you. I hardly know if I am to sell the sword. He was sure that Benjamin would recognise him at once. There was plenty of work on which an additional hand could be well employed. That is just where I should have conducted you myself. You value what I did too highly. The Roundhead whom you met insisted that he was certain you were on the look-out for deer. Edward remained where he was standing till the man was out of sight. It was gold that he took out. When the Intendant said he would go to your cottage, his daughter said she would also go, because you had told her that you had two sisters. I have no doubt, as the years pass by, that the world will know who you are and award you your desert. All that I now require is to know the day that you will come.

2. Give the construction of the italicised words in:—  
*Meals over*, Edward told his story. *Away* with you directly. It may be *the worse* for you. She was an *only child*. *To tell* you the truth, I cannot believe what you say. The verderer appeared indignant. They walked *side by side*. I have plenty *to do*. He may turn out *useful*. He was anxious *to get* a cow. *Every day* for a fortnight, he brought her *food*. I seldom go out without *bringing* a deer down. The new rangers will prevent men *stalking* deer. Edward lost no time in *firing* his gun. *Locking* into the room, he found a body stretched on the floor. He found Ben *lying* across the threshold. They took him *prisoner*. They started early the next *morning*. I think you quite *fit*. She will be delighted to have you *as* a companion. You called my father *Philip*. I knew where he had hidden *himself*. All this was done every *morning*. He was evidently acting *as* a *sentinel*. They had cooked the dinner *themselves*. Patience is *just past sixteen*. He renewed his promise *to return* the next day.

3. Change the voice of the verbs in :—(a) Let us *leave* the king for a while. (b) News of his death *hurried* his wife to an early grave. (c) When Cromwell *heard* of the escape of Charles I, he *despatched* troops of horses in every direction. (d) I must be *guided* by your advice. (e) *Send* Alice to me. (f) The haunches must be *sent* up to General Cromwell tomorrow. (g) Edward *fired* at the bull which had *pursued* Humphrey. (h) He asked him not to come out till Benjamin was *got rid of*. (i) He *lifted* the lad on his broad shoulders, *carried* him up, and *landed* him by the side of the pit. (j) He *found* a body stretched on the floor. (k) The new verderers could *kill* but few deer. (l) He does not *expect* you to have your pen always in your hand. (m) He *took* them all to dinner. (n) *Do* nothing in haste.

#### 4. Re-write—

(1) Before he went to bed, he saw Sampson (as a simple sentence) (2) You are *too* manly to tell a lie (using *so* for *too*) (3) You do not like the life of a low-born forester (use *liking* for *like*) (4) Tell him I am dying and that I wish to speak to him before I go (as a simple sentence) (5) Oswald did not make Edward wait (with 'Edward' as the subject) (6) It was so late *when they arrived there* that Edward consented to pass the night there (making the italicised clause the principal clause) (7) It is clear that he does not expect you to have your pen always in your hand (as a simple sentence, with 'you' as the subject) (8) Patience very often went to the cottage, *and sometimes her father accompanied her* (changing the italicised portion into a phrase.) (9) It was *so small that a man could hardly thrust his body through it* (using *too* for *so*) (10) He approved them (using the noun form of 'approve') (11) He gave him a letter ordering him to receive into his house two of the troopers (as a compound sentence) (12) As soon as it was dusk, the three travellers left their retreat (using (a) No sooner...than (b) Scarcely...when).

V. Change the forms of speech in the following from direct to indirect, and from indirect to direct:—

(1) Jacob told the little ones that, now that they were to live in a cottage, they ought to wear cottage clothes. (2) Jacob said to the children "These men may come and search the cottage. Be very quiet. Humphrey, you and your sisters must go to bed, and appear to be very ill." (3) The merchant asked Edward if he required money and Edward replied he did not at present, but that he had business to do for his employer in the north, and might require some when there, if it was possible to obtain it so far from London. (4) 'You are right Edward,' said the Intendant; 'go down to the parlour. Patience and Clara will be anxiously waiting for you. I'll join you there in a few minutes'. (5) Pablo suggested that, if the ponies were starved for a day or two, they might get tame. But all the same he was for taking one home that day. (6) Pablo said that he was going with others of his race to the sea-coast, that they had pitched their tents near the pit-fall, that during the night he tried to set some snares for rabbits, and going back to the tents, it being quite dark, he had fallen into the hole. He said he had remained there three days and nights and could not get out. He had no father; his mother was with the gipsies. He was not anxious to look for his friends and join them, as he had been very unkindly treated by them.







