RICHES WITHOUT WINGS, OR THE CLEVELAND FAMILY

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Riches Without Wings, or the Cleveland Family by Mrs. Seba Smith

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MRS. SEBA SMITH

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THE CLEVELAND FAMILY.

0,4 . BY; MRS. SEBA SMITH.

Seek not proud riches, but such as thou mayest get justly, use soberly, distribute cheerfully, and leave contentedly. LORD BACON.

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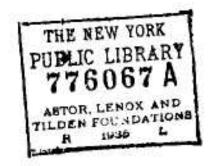
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CHAPTER I.

INTRODUCTION-THE CLEVELAND HOME.

"Perhaps they have beard some talk,-" Such an one is a great rich man;' and snother except to it,- Yes, but he hath great charge of children,' as if it were an abatement to his riches." LORD BACON.

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Who is willing like a sweet child to submit to the guidance of providence?—to lay his head, as it were, upon the bosom of that beneficent Power, that does, and will order all for the best?—receiving from the hand of our great Father his portion of daily bread, and partaking thereof with a cheerful and grateful spirit—taking no thought for the morrow? Alas, not one. All respond to the sentiment, "sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof;" yet all enhance the evils of to-day, by anticipations of the morrow---bringing the possible ills of the future, to aggravate the trials of the present. Thus the sorrows to which flesh is heir, meted out gently, as we are able to bear them, are by man's perversity too often viewed in the mass, till his weak spirit sinks at the prospect.

The quotation has become trite,

Man wants but little here below, Nor wants that little long :

all profess to believe it, and yet who lives and acts in accordance with this belief? A bounteous nature has lavished on every side a rich provision for all physical wants. The beautiful relations of kindred and friends, rise smilngly to gratify the best and holiest affections and instincts of our nature. The heavens above, and the earth beneath, with all their magnificent display of wonder and of beauty, call forth the intellect, stimulate, exalt and enoble the higher rational faculties, while, that no

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INTRODUCTION.

part of our nature may be left unsatisfied, unprovided with its appropriate aliment, the truths of revelation, and the hopes of immortality are presented to our spiritual nature, to woo us even from the beauty and happiness of earth, to hopes and expectations more refined, more exalted than human eye hath seen, or heart of man conceived of.

Yet a creature thus endowed, thus hedged in, as it were, with the very materials of happiness, has become the slave of discontent, the child of passion, and the voluntary subject of misery. But in confessing him to be such, we must allow it to be the consequence of his own errors: he has yielded his best faculties to pursuits that ought to have exercised only his inferior powers, and as often as he has done this, his nature has become debased.

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Perhaps there is no one passion more general, or more absorbing, than the desire of gain. From the "tottling wee thing," with its nuts and cake, to the grey-haired ::

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sire of three score years and ten, all bow at the shrine of mammon, with a devotion and energy modified only by age, circumstances and education. So universal is the . homage, that it has ceased to excite our reprehension, except when exhibited in the ultra and disgusting manifestation of avarice in the person of the miser.

Let a man devote himself to intellectual, benevolent, or domestic pursuits, taking little thought for the accumulation of wealth, and his neighbors will shrug their shoulders, and with a half sneer, pronounce him " a very clever sort of a man, but with no energy-who might have been something in the world, only too indolent to go ahead," &c.; while the rash, scheming, all but dishonest man, (ay, even dishonest, provided he be sufficiently adroit not to become amenable to the laws,) is pronounced a "first rate man," an enterprising, public-spirited citizen-and that, too, by the very ones he has contrived to make his stepping-stones to eminence and preferment; and they will bend their should-

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