

**TELLHEIM; OR, VIRTUE
IN MISFORTUNE.
FROM THE GERMAN**

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Tellheim; or, Virtue in misfortune. From the German by Anonymous

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ANONYMOUS

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Norwood

TELLHEIM;
OR,
VIRTUE IN MISFORTUNE.

FROM THE GERMAN.

TO ASSIST IN THE PURCHASE OF A CLOCK
AND
STAINED GLASS WINDOW,
FOR ALL SAINTS' CHAPEL, NORWOOD,

LONDON:
PRINTED BY W. ANNAN, 46, WATLING STREET.

1840.

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TELLHEIM;
OR,
VIRTUE IN MISFORTUNE.

A GERMAN merchant, whose name was Tellheim, thinking that it would be advantageous to him to settle in Russia, determined upon leaving his native land, and removing to that extensive empire. He had an amiable wife, a native of Hamburgh, called Louisa, and a little girl, whose name was Natalia. Tellheim acquainted his wife with his intention, and asked whether she could make up her mind to leave her country, and accompany him to Russia; at the same time explaining his motives for wishing to undertake this journey.

Louisa replied, "My dear Tellheim, I am indeed attached to my country, but still more to you, and can only feel happy in the enjoyment of your affection; you are the best judge of what will prove most beneficial to yourself and your family, and must therefore act as you think best; I am ready to comply with your wishes, and

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follow you to any part of the world, as nothing could reconcile me to the idea of a separation from you." Tellheim embraced his affectionate wife, and thanked her for her amiable compliance with his wishes. He added, "If you are spared to me, I can bear the loss of everything, and still feel contented and happy. The reasons which induce me to settle in Russia are, however, sufficiently strong, and I must therefore undertake this journey, although very unwillingly."

When Natalia, who was then ten years old, heard that her parents intended going to Russia, she began to cry, and said, "Russia must indeed be a horrible country for I have heard so many dreadful accounts of it. The cold is intense, it is over-run with bears and wolves, and innocent people are frequently exiled to Siberia, where they live most miserably in the woods, and are obliged to catch sables and foxes." This is all true, replied her father, but you must not call Russia a horrible country. The climate is indeed much more severe than ours; but the houses are well warmed, and when people are exposed to the external air, they protect themselves from the cold by furs and warm clothing. A residence in Siberia is very wearisome and disagreeable; but in general only men convicted of crime, are exiled there, and this will not be our case. It sometimes happens that an innocent person is sentenced to banishment; but I hope that this misfortune will not overtake us.

Tellheim thus continued talking to Natalia, and she gradually lost her extreme dislike of Russia. One cause, however, rendered her departure from Germany very painful to her: she had a friend called Mary, to whom she was warmly attached; at the thought of leaving her, tears filled her eyes, and she often said to her parents "if I could only take Mary with me, I should not mind going to Russia; but I am very sorry to leave her here." After these words she usually began to sob and her mother found it difficult to console her.

When Mary came to see her, she said, sorrowfully, my dear Mary we must soon be separated; how shall I live without you; if you would accompany me, how happy we might be in Russia.

After a few months the day was fixed on which Tellheim was to commence his long journey; it was a most melancholy day for him and his family. His friends assembled at his house in the morning, and expressed much sorrow at his departure. Poor Natalia was very sad; everything she saw brought tears into her eyes, and with a sigh, she said, "Alas, I shall never, never see all this again." Mary came to take leave of her, and they were both much distressed at the thought of their separation, especially as they feared that they should never meet again.

"My dear Natalia, said Mary, do not forget me when you are far away: accept this little box as a friendly remembrance, and think of me when you look at it."

Natalia thanked her dear Mary for her pretty present and promised never to forget her. She presented her with her doves, begging her to take care of them for her sake.

The box which Mary had given to Natalia was set with pearls and contained a pretty needle book, some scissors, and a few forget-me-nots on a piece of white paper, with these words: "This flower expresses my last wish."

The two young friends took leave of each other several times, but returned for another embrace; at length Tellheim took Mary gently by the hand and led her out of the room, saying, "My dear Mary, of what use is your sobbing and crying; you must part at last. Farewell my dear girl, do not forget us." Mary returned home very sorrowful.

Tellheim stepped immediately into the travelling carriage with his family, and many of his friends accompanied him a few miles out of the town. Upon reaching the summit of a pretty hill, from whence his former residence was perceptible, he stepped out of the carriage with Louisa and Natalia, looked once more at his native town, and said with much emotion, "I probably shall never see it again:" he then took leave of his friends with tears, once more seated himself in the carriage, and drove away amidst many most heartfelt wishes for his happiness and welfare.

Natalia felt very sad for some time, till at length the variety of objects which she saw during the journey, the beautiful country

through which they passed, and her father's conversation, gradually composed her mind.

Tellheim spent a few days at Koenigsberg and experienced much kindness from several families in that town. Natalia was more happy, and became convinced that good men, and warm friends, may be found in every country. On the Russian frontier the travellers were very strictly searched for the discovery of any forbidden goods which they might have brought with them.

They rested for two days at Riga, and spent their time most agreeably. Tellheim had a letter of introduction to a family in that town, and was received with the greatest hospitality. As there were many Germans at Riga, Natalia almost fancied herself still in her own country; the kindness which she here met with made a most favourable impression upon her mind, and as she had herself many good and amiable qualities, her new friends were much pleased with her, and made her stay so delightful, that she had no wish to leave Riga, and would have been glad if her father could have remained there. She had not, however, forgotten Mary, but thought of her most affectionately, and before she left this place, dispatched her first letter from Russia to her.

Natalia was astonished at the first sight of St. Petersburg, for she had imagined this city far less beautiful and spacious than she found it, and had also fancied that the inhabitants were still un-

civilized and barbarous. How agreeably was she surprised on finding everything the reverse of what she had expected. Immediately, upon her arrival, she heard people speaking German, French, English, and Italian; the inhabitants were dressed with taste, and some of them even with splendour; the families she visited with her parents appeared sensible and well-informed; they were gay and sociable and had a certain openness and candour which quite delighted Natalia, and she completely lost her prejudice against Russia and its inhabitants.

Tellheim remained a week in St. Petersburg, and then proceeded, with his family, to a little town, a few miles from the capital, where he bought a house and began commerce.

Tellheim lived two years in this town, contentedly and happily; he succeeded well in his business, and acquired a considerable fortune. By his exemplary honesty and punctuality, he gained the confidence of his fellow-citizens, and whenever they had any orders to give, there was nobody whom they employed more willingly than Tellheim. Even many of the principal noblemen and citizens of St. Petersburg purchased of him the goods they required, and he soon had so much business that he was obliged to take several additional clerks. He and his family were universally beloved and respected; all persons liked his society; his friends frequently invited him with his wife and Natalia to their houses; and in every difficulty he always found some one to assist him. In this manner