A man there was, though some did count him mad,
The more he cast away the more he had.

Then they all gave good heed, wondering what good Gaius would say: so he sat still a while, and then thus replied:—

He who bestows his goods upon the poor,
Shall have as much again, and ten times more.

Then said Joseph, I dare say, sir, I did not think you could have found it out.

Oh! said Gaius, I have been trained up in this way a great while: nothing teaches like experience. I have learned of my Lord to be kind, and have found by experience that I have gained thereby. “There is that scattereth, and yet increaseth; and there is that withholdeth more than is meet, but it tendeth to poverty.” “There is that maketh himself rich, yet hath nothing: there is that maketh himself poor, yet hath great riches,” Prov. xi. 24, xiii. 7.

Then Samuel whispered to Christiana, his mother, and said, Mother, this is a very good man’s house; let us stay here a good while, and let my brother Matthew be married here to Mercy, before we go any further. The which, Gaius, the host, overhearing, said, With a very good will, my child. So they stayed here more than a month, and Mercy was given to Matthew to wife. While they stayed here, Mercy, as her custom was, made coats and garments to give to the poor, by which she brought a very good report upon pilgrims.

But to return again to our story. After supper, the lads desired a bed, for they were weary with travelling. Then Gaius called to shew them their chamber; but said Mercy, I will have them to bed. So she had them to bed and, they slept well; but the rest sat up all night, for Gaius and they were such suitable company, that they could not tell how to part. After much talk of their Lord, themselves, and their journey, old Mr Honest, he that put forth the riddle to Gaius, began to nod. Then said Great-Heart, What, sir, you begin to be drowsy? come, rub up, here is a riddle for you.