Guelph Evening Mercury THURSDAY EVEN'G, FEB. 27, 4878. ANNABEL

THE TEMPTATION.

CHAPTER VII.

THE TEXTICATION. CHAPTER VII. THE DOINOS OF THE BEV. BARTHOLOMEW MIDD. This little excursion into Annabel's sitting agaritment had not taken him two minutes to accomplish, but the result seemed to afford him much satisfaction. His next proceedings were ather wonder-ful. Off went the blue spectales, off went the broad-brimmed hat, and off, too; wont the reverond head of hair, which falling down to his shoulders in smooth iron grey locks, had given him such a ministerial appearance. He had anything but that look now, for, divested of these things, he turned out to be a sharp-faced beardless man of not more than forty, with datk hair and small grey, greedy, glancing eyes, out of which the sweet had come a glance keen and worldly in aspect. Away, also, vanished the sim-poring smile and the unctrous expression of face which he had worn in the pres-ence of Mrs. Dobson-in short, he had changed into his natural character, and to that which he had been assuming. Looking at him now, one was at a loss to understand what he was. There was nou-thing of the rufina about him, or of the diversion which he had been hassuming. Looking at him now, one was at a loss to understand what he was. There was nou-thing of the rufina about him, or of the understand what he was now hard sharp face, and small, gleaming eyes showed it built more. Whatever might be his purpose in com-

little doubt. The part he was now play-ing showed this, but his own hard sharp face, and small, gleaming eyes showed it still more. Whatever might be his purpose in com-ing thus to Mrs. Dobson's he had not come without his plans and preparations, for after he had laid aside hat, wig, and spectacles he drew from an inner recep-tacle a small gimlet, and with it bored a hole at the side of one of the panels of the door of communication between his own and Annabel's room. The perfora-tion being effected, he applied his cye to the aperture and obtained a view of nearly the whole of the other chamber. Stand-ing at this post of observation, 'he could watch mesen the movement and occupa-tion of any person in that room. The act was an intensely mean and dastardly one ; but the man who did it had no scru-ples of delicacy or gentlemanly teeling. The purpose he was following after, out-weighed all such considerations. At the end of the hour, when Mrs. Deb-son came up after ten, she found him with wig and spectnelse on as before, scaled at the table, with manuscripts and print-papers before him, and he, with pen in hand, secjningly hard at work upon thera. So absorbed was he, or pretended to bo, in his literary occupation, that he ap-peared to be unaware of the handlady's entrance, and gave quite a start into the consciousness of her presence when size set the things dym on the table. "On h, Mrs. Dobson," he observed, showing his sweetest smile. "In the pro-found quitetude of this most suitable place I have been able to absorb myacit so thoroughly in my work that I have been headless of the flight of time. Is it indeed an hour since you left me, Mrs. Douson "." "One hour to a minute, sir. I makes it a minit always to be punctual."

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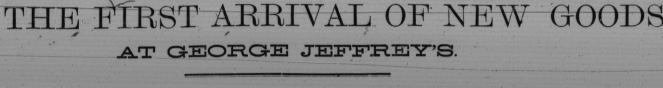
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Guelph, Dec. 12, 1972

WM. STEWART.

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keen heedles of the flight of time. Is it indeed an hour since you left me, Mrs. Bobson?"
" One hour to a minute, sir. I males it a point always to be punctual."
" A most excellent habit to cherish, my good Mrs. Dobson. Punctuality is the soul of business.—I mean of work.—all kinds of work. I find it so in the discharge of my varied duttes, main, and it is essential in every sphere of life. If every one was like you, Mrs. Dobson, and made a point of punctuality, this would be a much better world than it is. Wereyou, ma'ann with your invaluable principle to enter on a crusade against the prevailing procrastination of individuals and of society, and succeed in converting people to your practice, you would become one of the world's greatest benefactors, Mrs. Dobson, and at alter your death a moniment would be raised which short'l perpetuatoyon: encourt dusted from so dear and go a man.
" Ya, sir, I ain't much inclined for a moment," observed Mrs. Dobson, who nevertheless blushed with pleasure at receiving such praise from so dear and go.
" No, the great and virtuous are always humble. Let us onderwor to do our duty, and there do it. Talking of that, Mrs. Dobson, Ji and arkedy that his room will suit me monta algoing your duty, and there do it. Talking of that, Mrs. Dobson, If and aready that his room will suit me monta admirally."
" Which I am dolighted to hear, I am suc, sir. I always feels it a pleasure when my lodgers are satisfied. In my vay of doing, sir, it dou't alway happen that this is the case. I have seen and on w best and go only granbling."
" Ah! I bolieve that, ma'am. There is great due of mark there is preven the semicon or guard in intercourse with strangers, for people, I am sorry to say, are not always what they iscen. You have had some orperieme of the your have had some orperieme of the your have had some orperieme of a such as and some or periment of a such as and some orperiment of search and some or periment of a such as and some Piles of Clouds in white, grey, and colors from 50c BLANKETS ALL PRICES



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