Huron Signal.

"The Greatest Possible Good to the Greatest Possible Number."

VOL. XXX. NO. 19. GODERICH, ONTARIO, WEDNESDAY, MAY 23, 1877. WHOLE NO. 1579.

The Huron Signal,

(ESTABLISHED 1848,)

One of the Largest Papers published in Canada, printed and published at Goderich, Ontario, every

WEDNESDAY MORNING,

at the Office, Montreal Street, adjoining the Market Square, by

THE SIGNAL PRINTING Co,

Terms $1 00 per annum strictly in advance; $1.25 if paid within three months; $1.50 if paid within nine months, and over that time $2.00. No paper discontinued till all arrears are paid, except at the option of the publisher.

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executed with neatness and despatch. Bills printed while you wait. Orders by mail punctually attended to.

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SURGEON DENTIST.

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PHYSICIAN, SURGEON, &c., &c., Goderich Ont., will visit patients at any hour, night or day. 12140-1y

DR. McLEAN.

PHYSICIAN, SURGEON, CORONER &c., office and residence on Bruce Street second door west of Victoria Street. 1522 1-yr

Dr. Cassady,

McGill College

PHYSICIAN, SURGEON, &c., Office, and residence corner South and Elgin Streets, Goderich, Ontario. 1536

ALEX. TAYLOR, M. B.

PHYSICIAN AND SURGEON, &c., Office and residence, two doors West of the Catholic Church. Goderich, April 11th; 1877, 1573-1y.

Cameron, McFadden & Holt.

BARRISTERS, SOLICITORS IN CHANCERY, &c. Office, Market Square, Goderich. M. C. CAMERON, Q.C. W. H. MCFADDEN, F. HOLT.

H. L. DOYLE,

BARRISTER AND ATTORNEY, SOLICITOR in Chancery, &c., Goderich and Seaforth, Ont. 1357

G. ELLIOTT,

ATTORNEY-AT-LAW, SOLICITOR, IN Chancery, Conveyancer, &c. Crabb's Block, Goderich.

MONEY TO LEND. 1372

Seager, Wade & Morton

BARRISTERS, &c., &c., Goderich & Wingham. C. Seager Jr. E. E. Wade, Goderich. J. A. Morton, Wingham.

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J. T. GARROW. G. A. HARDENHURST. H. W. C. MOSER, Wingham.

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Builders and Contractors.

MASON WORK AND PLASTERING MADE A specialty. Estimates furnished upon building, &c., on application. Shop at Union Hotel. 1571 3 mos.

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CHEAPER THAN EVER.

NO COMBINATION PRICE.

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Made to Order on Short Notice, and repairing done neatly and promptly. Patent Trunk Valises and Satchels always kept on hand and sold at prices to suit the times. A well selected assortment of every description of Goods. Parties wishing to be supplied with work can have the orders filled. ☞ Remember STRAUBEL'S Factory, on Hamilton Street.

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on the corner of

NORTH STREET,

OPPOSITE BUTLER'S STORE.

If you want to get first class

BREAD, CAKES, PIES, BISCUIT AND CONFECTIONERY

Go to the

NEW DOMINION BAKERY.

For Oranges, Lemons and all kinds of Fruits in season. Oysters prepared in every style. Parties supplied on short notice. Wedding cakes made to order.

WM. DOCHERTY

LOVERS (Guide to marriage, wealth, and happiness, 25 cts., or with 15 love letters, now mail'd Directly. Address Pub. Co. Newark N. J.

Money to Lend.

MONEY TO LEND.

PRIVATE FUNDS ON REAL ESTATE: Moderate and reasonable charges. Interest from eight to ten per cent according to security.

J. T. GARROW, Solicitor &c.

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ON FARM property at 8 per cent. Private funds, or Loan Society's, to suit borrowers. No delay if title satisfactory.

SEAGER, WADE & MORTON, Goderich & Wingham.

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MONEY TO LEND

At Greatly reduced Rates of Interest

THE undersigned has any amount of money to loan from two to fifteen years, at a low rate of interest and favorable terms of repayment, payable by yearly instalments; rate of expenses will defy competition.

HORACE HORTON

Appraiser for the Canada Permanent Building & Savings Society, of Toronto.

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The Subscriber is agent for the following first-class Insurance Companies:

PHOENIX of London, England.
HARTFORD of Hartford.
PROVINCIAL of Toronto.
BRITISH AMERICA, of Toronto.

Fire & Marine business done at the lowest possible rates

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Best terms yet offered to the public.

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N B.—Borrowers can obtain money in one day if title satisfactory.

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THE LIVERPOOL & LONDON And Globe Insurance Company.

Available Assets, $27,000,000

Losses paid in the course of Thirty-five years exceed

FORTY MILLIONS OF DOLLARS!

Claims by CHICAGO FIRE estimated at nearly $2,000,000, are being liquidated as fast as adjusted without protection, Security, Prompt Payment, and Liberality in adjustment of its losses are the prominent features of this wealthy company.

FIRE and LIFE POLICIES issued with very liberal conditions.

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GODERICH AGENCY OF THE Trust & Loan Company of Canada,

Incorporated by Royal Charter

CAPITAL—ONE MILLION POUNDS STERLING.

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LOANS made on the Security of Improved Farm, City or Town Property for periods of Five years or to suit the convenience of Borrowers, and either repayable at expiry of time or by annual instalments. Payments in reduction of Loans will be accepted at any time on favorable terms. ☞ Approved Mortgages purchased.

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Insurance! Insurance! Insurance!

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FIRE AND LIFE

INSURANCE COMPANY

is one of the strongest home institutions, having a

Capital of $5,000,000,

and a deposit with the Dominion Government of

$150,000

The terms on which this First Class Company does business are of the most liberal nature and the prompt and equitable manner in which it settles all its claims are sufficient reasons to win for it a foremost position with the public in its line of business. The orders granted have been appointed Agent for the

OTTAWA AGRICULTURAL FIRE

Insurance Company,

for the County of Huron. This Company has a CAPITAL OF $1,000,000,

and a deposit with the Dominion Government of

$50,000.

The class of risk taken by this Company is all non-hazardous, only taking that of farm property and private dwellings, the city offering the public the very best security of the very lowest rates possible to take this class of risk at.

The subscriber would give a cordial invitation to all who need insurance of what nature, either to call at his residence, on Nelson street, or by letter, all applications by letter will receive his most prompt attention.

N. B.—Money to loan on the most liberal terms.

HUGH MacMATH,

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SOMETHING NEW.

ROTARY SUCTION PUMP.

A Purifier of Water.

THE BEST WATER DRAWER EVER PUT IN A WELL OR CISTERN.

Thousands in Daily Use.

THIS INVENTION is an atmospheric or Suction Pump with three Elastic Rubber Buckets or valves working air-tight and rusty free in the bottom of the well to the top in a wooden tube, and connected by a chain as to keep it always in the tube, and throwing an air-tight stream of water. It uses a Crank or Reel for power.

ADVANTAGES OF THIS PUMP.

1st. Their ease of work.
2nd. Throws a constant stream.
3rd. Purifies the water.
4th. No expense for repairs.
5th. Warranted not to freeze.
6th. No stationary valve in the well to get out of order.
7th. A larger quantity of water drawn in proportion to the size of Cylinder than any other pump, and with less power.

WM. DICKSON, Agent Box 47 Goderich, Ont.

Poetry.

Poetical Essay to Miss Katherine Jay.

An S A how I mean B writs
2 U sweet K T J.
The girl without a U
The belle of U T K.

I I der if U got the 1
I wrote 2 U B 4.
I mailed in the R K D A,
And sent by L N Moore.

My M T head will scarce coutain
I calm I D A bright,
But A T miles from you I must
M—— this chance 2 write.

And 1st, should N E N V U,
B E Z, mind it not;
Should N E friendship show, B true.
They could not B forgot.

But if friends and foes alike D K.
As U may plainly C
In every funeral R A,
Or Uncle's L E G.

From virtue never D V 8
Her influence B 9,
Alike induces 10 derness
Or 10 tude divine.

And if you cannot cut a—
Cr cause an I
I hope U B put a.
2 I I

R U for annexation 2
My cousin, heart and ☞?
He offers in a ¶
A $ 2 of land.

He says he loves U to X 8,
U's virtuous and Y's;
In X L N C U X L
All others in his I's.

This S A until U I C
I pray U 2 X Q's,
And do not burn in F I G
My young and wayward muse.

Now fare you well, dear K T J,
I trust that U R true—
When this you C then U can say
An S A I O U.

Mayhew, the Millspinner,

OR,

THE STOLEN WILL,

CHAPTER VII.

BY THE RIVER.

So long as they were traversing the streets which stretch eastward toward the Ferry Road, Lawrence and Annie had little opportunity for the exchange of words, at least of such words as the feelings of their hearts dictated; and as commonplace conversation between them, considering their relation to each other, was unendurable, they maintained an almost perfect silence till the thronged streets were left behind, and the quietude of the country grew upon their advancing footsteps. Then, when they had passed the place where the houses stood back some distance from the road, and high, solitary walls bound it on either side, Lawrence began to talk in his usual strain of tenderness and devotion, of the love they bore each other, and the happy future which lay before them, when, joined by the most sacred and indissoluble of earthly ties, they should enjoy constantly that society and companionship which now they had but at intervals, and lavish on each other without stint or hindrance the ardent love which filled their being with its gushing tide.

By which it may be understood that the stage of mutual confession and avowal had been some time passed, that they had previously come to an open understanding, and had expatiated without reserve the love for each other which had been inspired in their souls.

And this was indeed so. Their affection had grown into strength through years of intercourse, for their acquaintance had begun almost in childhood, and neither of them could tell when they bee ne conscious of the precise nature of the feeling they cherished. As children they had been playmates, as youths they had been companions, and their intercourse ripened with their expanding minds, till they came to know that they loved each other with a deep and absorbing love which a life union alone could satisfy.

When fully conscious of this on his part, Lawrence speedily revealed it in words to the blushing Annie, who had probably come to the same understanding quicker than himself. At all events, she listened to his thrilling declaration with no surprise either real or affected, but frankly and joyously assured him that his affection was returned, and that at the right time—when they were both old enough—she would become his wife.

Since then a night's change of circumstances had taken place. While great family prosperity had come to Lawrence, a still greater family adversity had fallen on Annie, clouding her young life with heavy and ever-increasing trouble, thus effecting a wide separation between them in a social sense, and removing them far from each other in the expectancy of their early lives.

But this, of course, did not diminish or change their love, which was true and genuine, and rested on a foundation which wealth, prosperity or adversity could not assail. They had each a nobility of character and a moral and spiritual perception which raised them above the lower plane of mere worldly position; and though the latter was altered to them both—great fortune raising the one to a higher, and evil fortune reducing the other to a lower sphere—the change only seemed to make their love grow stronger, and at first the thought never entered the mind of either that the bright hopes that they had been cherishing would thereby be blighted.

Ere long, however, that thought—which never for a moment crossed the excited mind of Lawrence—slowly forced itself into the not less exalted mind of Annie. As month by month, revealed more fully the tremendous change which had occurred, and the depth of poverty into which misfortune and a certain fatal passion had cast her father and brother along with him, she was forced to feel how insurmountable was that union which before had seemed so natural and delightful. Not all at once, but slowly and gradually did this conviction grow upon her, causing her cheek to grow pale and her countenance to sadden, till a dark and sunless path stretched out before her, a lonely desolate path which she shuddered to enter. For a preach and trembled to enter. For a while she tried to stand still in the waning light, for the prospect might brighten and the necessity for the terrible sacrifice be removed, but, alas, matters grew worse and worse, till she was obliged to face every fact plainly and, amid the agony of her heart, grew and ripened not to draw down on Lawrence Mayhew the certain social ruin which their union would entail on him.

But, oh, the terrible task involved in doing so!—terrible to her on her own account of Lawrence, on whose mind the suspicion of such a manifest baseness never dawned. His love and devotion had deepened rather than diminished with the poverty, the hardships, the bitter reverse, and the heavy trouble that had come upon her, and this made it all the harder for her to do what duty imperatively demanded.

Yet it must be done. Of this she had no doubt whatever, and we have seen how, amid tears and sobs, her resolution was taken to do it that very night when Lawrence had asked her to take one of their usual walks.

In these circumstances we may imagine her state of mind as they walked along side by side, and as she listened to the loving hopeful words of her companion, all so opposite to the reality which she was about to unveil to his gaze. Her heart bled with a keener anguish than ever as she pictured the state of revulsed sensation into which he would be thrown—how the sparkling light of joy would go out of his blue eyes, how the gay tones of his voice would be silenced, how his glad and buoyant heart would shiver under the unexpected shock. Again and again when she strove to speak her courage failed, and as she could respond to his loving words only by monosyllables his attention was at length attracted by her unusual silence, and he sought to know its cause.

They were now beyond all the houses, and had exchanged the high road for the river side, where they strolled along the beach, surrounded by as fine a scene as can be imagined. The night was exceedingly calm and clear. Beyond them lay the silent woods and slopes, before them the glorious river, on whose placid bosom were mirrored the many stars that gleamed in the cloudless blue. Beyond the river lay the heights of Fife, dark and distinct against the southern sky, with the lights of Newport shining in the distance to the right, and those of Tayport and the lighthouses nearer at hand to the left. Above them, on the same side of the river, was the great town they had quitted, its masses of building crowned by the lofty Law, and its forest of shipping skirting all its river border, while beneath were the sweet cottages and elegant villas of Broughty Ferry, sentinelled by its hoary castle, which has for centuries kept watch and ward at the entrance to the river—a defence in times of danger, a security against the inroads of a foreign foe.

The whole scene was full of peace and beauty, and the great hush of its silence was not broken but intensified by the murmur of the rippling tide along the shingly shore.

'My darling, you are very silent tonight,' remarked Lawrence, impressed at length with Annie's taciturnity.

How her heart beat and her temples throbbed then, for she felt that the dread moment had come. Her knees felt as if withdrawing their support, her whole frame trembled, and Lawrence felt the quiever of the arm which lay within his own.

'Are you not well?' he anxiously asked, stopping suddenly and gazing into her face as imperfectly revealed through the star-light. Then seeing how deadly pale it was, and what a strange expression it wore, he exclaimed in consternation—

'Annie, oh Annie, what is the matter?'

'I am sad—very sad, Lawrence,' she answered, making a brave effort to speak in a firm voice.

'Sad? why, you are as white as chalk, and your expression is something dreadful. What is it? For heaven's sake, tell me the cause of your grief!'

'Can you not guess?' she asked in a tone as low almost as a whisper, and laid her head against his shoulder in the very weariness of exhaustion.

Instantly his strong arms were round her for support, and she felt herself drawn closely to his bosom, which bespoke at once his love and apprehension.

'Yes, I know the cause you have for sorrow,' he said, tenderly soothing, sympathetic accents, as he bent his face fondly down upon her's. 'Your trials have been terrible, unprecedented; and God knows how I have begged to save you from them. Let me do so now, and at once. Let me take you from the position which you should never have occupied; and from which you know I earnestly strove to keep you. Your resistance to my wish was noble, but mistaken; and I am glad beyond expression to see you are convinced of it. But, my darling, it shall end now. You shall not enter the factory again. Our union shall take place immediately, and you shall regain your natural and proper position, which you should never have quitted.'

'Oh! stay, Lawrence, stay,' she entreated. 'You mistake me—you misunderstand the nature of my grief. Let us be seated under this bank, for our conversation must be painful, and may be long.'

He led her in bewildered silence to the spot she indicated, and seating her on a broad flat stone under the shadow of the overhanging bank, he took his place beside her, and regarded her with dumb inquiring anxiety.

She struggled for composure as well as to regain the firmness necessary to support her through the trying scene which was inevitable. Fortunately for both, his misapprehension gave her the opportunity of approaching the subject gradually.

'I am not grieving or repining at having had to become a common mill worker,' she began. 'It is no doubt trying, and it did at first feel a little mortifying to my pride to be such in the factory which was but recently my father's, where I am so well known, and where the reverse in my circumstances is made all the more public and conspicuous.—Had I consulted my own inclination I would have sought the situation of a governess, but then I must have left my father, and this I knew would have been consigning him to certain ruin. My duty to him would not allow me to be so cruel and unfilial. Besides, I hoped to be able by patient tending to wean him from the evil habit, which had obtained such power over him.

'I know this, dear Annie,' responded Lawrence—'I know the great sacrifice you made for his sake, and, alas, I also know it has been made in vain.'

'Ah, yes, in vain,' she sighed. 'The magnitude of his misfortunes, with perhaps the knowledge of his own share in bringing on these misfortunes, were greater incentives to the growth and gratification of his fatal passion than were all my efforts to preserve him from temptation. I have no wish to expose a father's misconduct, even to you, dear Lawrence, but——'

'Nor is it necessary,' he interrupted, 'I have been the silent, the sorrowful, often the indignant, but more often the pitying witness of his lamentable infatuation, and the sufferings and privations he has thereby caused you to endure. Frequently have I been impelled to come to remonstrate with him, but I knew that if I had not the power to restrain him it was useless for another to attempt it.'

'Useless indeed,' she mournfully responded. 'Day by day the demon's power increased, stronger and stronger grew the chains that bind him, and more firm the rivets by which they are fastened. So long as it was practicable I employed myself at home in sewing, as you know, and I would have infinitely preferred continuing to do so; but the remuneration was so small, I could not thereby earn enough for both our wants.'

'Say your wants and his waste,' added Lawrence.

'As a millworker,' went on Annie, noticing the emendation only by a wan smile—'as a millworker I knew I should earn more than as a seamstress, and the necessity of the case forced me to stifle pride and seek employment in this capacity.'

'I know—I know; and to my amazement—my horror—you asked me to obtain admittance for you into my father's factory.'

'Because I could not think of entering any other,' murmured Annie.—'There the circumstances being known, I was certain to receive respect and consideration, whereas in any other mill I must have taken my place among the rest, and been subjected to rudeness and insult.'

'Exactly; and this was why I was brought to allow the thing. You told me your determination was unalterable, and that if I would not have you in our factory you would go into another.'

'And so I should, Lawrence—so I most certainly should.'

'I was convinced of it. Therefore, as that would have been a still greater misfortune, out of two evils I chose the least, and you have got a loom in the weaving-room, where I have daily built up a breast high wall around you to shield you from the rough contact of a common mill girl—you whose proper place is a mansion, whose rightful sphere is the drawing-room—you whom I would give my life to shield from the faintest breath of the rough wind of the world. Day after day have you earned there the factory girl's pittance. Oh! Annie, you know not the misery the sight has caused me. But it must, it shall be seen no more. We shall be united at once, my darling, and then—'

'Hush, Lawrence,' she gently interrupted, with a spasm of pain. 'This position brings to me no sense of degradation. There is nothing demeaning to me or any girl who requires to earn a livelihood, doing so, as I am doing among factory workers. They have shown me much delicate consideration and much warm-hearted sympathy; and if this were all I had trouble me, I should be happy and content. But oh, Lawrence, my grief has another cause than this.'

'Your father's folly and infatuation,' said Lawrence, in a sad tone.

'Yes, these, and the consequence they must bring,' murmured Annie.

'Ah, yes, my darling, it is there where the essence of your trials is to be found. But even this may be lessened. You have had my deepest sympathy all along, but when we are united I shall have a better right to give you my help and support, and we shall both try and recover him to his former self. Oh, Annie, how generous and warm-hearted he used to be; how simple and confiding—alas! I fear too much so. And God forgive me if I wrong my father by the thought, but I have never been able to clear my mind of the idea that he in some way took advantage of your father's weakness, as the latter affirms, at all events, he might and ought to have prevented him from sinking so low as he had done. If this be so, Heaven helming me, I shall strive to make some atonement for the wrong by being a loving and devoted husband to you, and uniting with you in the endeavor to raise your poor ill-fated father to his former position.'

'Oh, Lawrence, Lawrence,' burst forth Annie vehemently, 'your manly devotion, your noble self-denial make it all the harder for me to tell you to what resolution I have come. But the longer I refrain the more difficult will the task become. To hear you talk so of our marriage, and the good to be accomplished by it, is more than I can bear when—Lawrence, Lawrence, we cannot be married. The happy and delightful dream must end. I see it now. I have been learning to see it for some time. I came to the resolution to tell you to-night, and this—this is the cause of my heavy sadness, my overwhelming grief.'

These stunning words she flung with desperate rapidity, as if her mouth had been a sluice suddenly opened, and the words gushed out in a torrent. She had drawn herself a little from him when she began to utter them, but as the last of the words escaped her lips she threw up both her arms, and flung herself, with wild impetuosity on the heart whose precious and inestimable love she was at the moment renouncing.

'Great heavens!' was all that Lawrence could ejaculate, as tightly he held her sobbing form. 'Why, Annie, Annie,' he went on, after recovering himself a little, 'what dreadful nightmare dream is this? Wake, my darling, wake up, and cast away the hideous thing of monster shape that has dared to hover over you. We cannot be married, you said. *We* not married! We who have grown up together for this one thing; we who have not for years, and never can have in the future, any hope but this? Oh, some frightful delusion has made you its victim, and here, with this fond kiss, I dispel it and forever.'

He kissed her cold tear stained cheek as he spoke these kind and rallying words, but instead of the smiling blush of pleasure he expected to follow his caress, she raised her head and regarded him with calm unutterable sadness, her cheek being pale as ever and cold as marble.

'This is no delusion, Lawrence,' she returned—'no nightmare dream. It is a clear and unmistakable vision of Duty. I closed my eyes to it for a time and would not see it, but I dare not hide it longer from my sight. It is as I say, Lawrence. Our joyous hope must be abandoned; fate has sundered us.'

He regarded her for fully a minute with a steady searching look, as if unable to believe that she was in earnest. But a joke of such a kind from her he know to be impossible, and he saw also that, however amazing was the idea that she had taken up, it had fully taken possession of her mind.

In such circumstances, some men would have been fired with jealousy, and concluded that they were being slighted and abandoned for another; but Lawrence Mayhew did not experience for one moment a pang of this kind. His knowledge of the heart and soul of Anne Berge was perfect, and his trust in her unbounded. She was truth and honor itself—her mind to its inmost depths was like a mirror to his sight; and he was assured that, however unaccountable was the idea she entertained, it was held in all the loyalty of her character and the truth of her being.

No jealousy, therefore, no distrust, no anger rose in his bosom, but an intense gentleness of expression stole over his features, and when he spoke his voice was mournfully tender.

'My own darling,' he said, 'you cannot possibly have realized the import of what your lips have uttered; it was a thing as you say, possible, that we should be joined. Day by day the demon's power increased, stronger and stronger grew the chains that bind him, and more firm the rivets by which they are fastened. So long as it was practicable I employed myself at home in sewing, as you know, and I would have infinitely preferred continuing to do so; but the remuneration was so small, I could not thereby earn enough for both our wants.'

'Say your wants and his waste,' added Lawrence.

'As a millworker,' went on Annie, noticing the emendation only by a wan smile—'as a millworker I knew I should earn more that as a seamstress, and the necessity of the case forced me to stifle pride and seek employment in this capacity.'

'I know—I know; and to my amazement—my horror—you asked me to obtain admittance for you into my father's factory.'

'Because I could not think of entering any other,' murmured Annie.—'There the circumstances being known, I was certain to receive respect and consideration, whereas in any other mill I must have taken my place among the rest, and been subjected to rudeness and insult.'

'Exactly; and this was why I was brought to allow the thing. You told me your determination was unalterable, and that if I would not have you in our factory you would go into another.'

'And so I should, Lawrence—so I most certainly should.'

'I was convinced of it. Therefore, as that would have been a still greater misfortune, out of two evils I chose the least, and you have got a loom in the weaving-room, where I have daily built up a breast high wall around you to shield you from the rough contact of a common mill girl—you whose proper place is a mansion, whose rightful sphere is the drawing-room—you whom I would give my life to shield from the faintest breath of the rough wind of the world. Day after day have you earned there the factory girl's pittance. Oh! Annie, you know not the misery the sight has caused me. But it must, it shall be seen no more. We shall be united at once, my darling, and then—'

'Hush, Lawrence,' she gently interrupted, with a spasm of pain. 'This position brings to me no sense of degradation. There is nothing demeaning to me or any girl who requires to earn a livelihood, doing so, as I am doing among factory workers. They have shown me much delicate consideration and much warm-hearted sympathy; and if this were all I had trouble me, I should be happy and content. But oh, Lawrence, my grief has another cause than this.'

'Your father's folly and infatuation,' said Lawrence, in a sad tone.

'Yes, these, and the consequence they must bring,' murmured Annie.

'Ah, yes, my darling, it is there where the essence of your trials is to be found. But even this may be lessened. You have had my deepest sympathy all along, but when we are united I shall have a better right to give you my help and support, and we shall both try and recover him to his former self. Oh, Annie, how generous and warm-hearted he used to be; how simple and confiding—alas! I fear too much so. And God forgive me if I wrong my father by the thought, but I have never been able to clear my mind of the idea that he in some way took advantage of your father's weakness, as the latter affirms, at all events, he might and ought to have prevented him from sinking so low as he had done. If this be so, Heaven helming me, I shall strive to make some atonement for the wrong by being a loving and devoted husband to you, and uniting with you in the endeavor to raise your poor ill-fated father to his former position.'

'Oh, Lawrence, Lawrence,' burst forth Annie vehemently, 'your manly devotion, your noble self-denial make it all the harder for me to tell you to what resolution I have come. But the longer I refrain the more difficult will the task become. To hear you talk so of our marriage, and the good to be accomplished by it, is more than I can bear when—Lawrence, Lawrence, we cannot be married. The happy and delightful dream must end. I see it now. I have been learning to see it for some time. I came to the resolution to tell you to-night, and this—this is the cause of my heavy sadness, my overwhelming grief.'

These stunning words she flung with desperate rapidity, as if her mouth had been a sluice suddenly opened, and the words gushed out in a torrent. She had drawn herself a little from him when she began to utter them, but as the last of the words escaped her lips she threw up both her arms, and flung herself, with wild impetuosity on the heart whose precious and inestimable love she was at the moment renouncing.

'Great heavens!' was all that Lawrence could ejaculate, as tightly he held her sobbing form. 'Why, Annie, Annie,' he went on, after recovering himself a little, 'what dreadful nightmare dream is this? Wake, my darling, wake up, and cast away the hideous thing of monster shape that has dared to hover over you. We cannot be married, you said. *We* not married! We who have grown up together for this one thing; we who have not for years, and never can have in the future, any hope but this? Oh, some frightful delusion has made you its victim, and here, with this fond kiss, I dispel it and forever.'

He kissed her cold tear stained cheek as he spoke these kind and rallying words, but instead of the smiling blush of pleasure he expected to follow his caress, she raised her head and regarded him with calm unutterable sadness, her cheek being pale as ever and cold as marble.

'This is no delusion, Lawrence,' she returned—'no nightmare dream. It is a clear and unmistakable vision of Duty. I closed my eyes to it for a time and would not see it, but I dare not hide it longer from my sight. It is as I say, Lawrence. Our joyous hope must be abandoned; fate has sundered us.'

He regarded her for fully a minute with a steady searching look, as if unable to believe that she was in earnest. But a joke of such a kind from her he know to be impossible, and he saw also that, however amazing was the idea that she had taken up, it had fully taken possession of her mind.

In such circumstances, some men would have been fired with jealousy, and concluded that they were being slighted and abandoned for another; but Lawrence Mayhew did not experience for one moment a pang of this kind. His knowledge of the heart and soul of Anne Berge was perfect, and his trust in her unbounded. She was truth and honor itself—her mind to its inmost depths was like a mirror to his sight; and he was assured that, however unaccountable was the idea she entertained, it was held in all the loyalty of her character and the truth of her being.

No jealousy, therefore, no distrust, no anger rose in his bosom, but an intense gentleness of expression stole over his features, and when he spoke his voice was mournfully tender.

'My own darling,' he said, 'you cannot possibly have realized the import of what your lips have uttered; it was a thing as you say, possible, that we should be joined. Day by day the demon's power increased, stronger and stronger grew the chains that bind him, and more firm the rivets by which they are fastened. So long as it was practicable I employed myself at home in sewing, as you know, and I would have infinitely preferred continuing to do so; but the remuneration was so small, I could not thereby earn enough for both our wants.'

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