

TORTHWALD

TALE OF OUR OWN TIME

CHAPTER II

Though Miss Jenny, who was not very sympathetic by nature, was busy with her intended dinner party and other duties generally, while Violet was full of her own thoughts, and Dolly was ever busy with Vincent Sheldon's happy, heedless young fellow, quite untroubled, and the arrangements for the return of the family to town—all the three sisters could not but perceive that their father—usually a grave and not very genial character—was a changed, rosy, and melancholy one now.

Nothing roused him—not even Kate's prognostications of the coming Scotch title, and the bright future it would bring them all—the title of Tortward.

It was not the loss to his youngest daughter of the solid wealth that old Mr. Sheldon would bestow on Vincent that Sir Jahleel regretted; he had enough of his own to bestow upon her; it was the horror of the sacrifice he was to make of her to save himself from ruin and disgrace, which, by a little prudence, or a dash by a ruse, he might and the misery, as far as he personally was concerned.

Yes, he thought again, if Selby's heir existed, as he admitted to him, Job Scrowie—even were he (Sir Jahleel) dead—might make capital out of the original crime; for though Scrowie was an active participant in the deed, he was a respectable accountant, even in a court of law, as to how the boy was committed to his care, and lost by him in the night.

In his gloomy mood of mind, Sir Jahleel dared not as yet break off the engagement between Dolly and Vincent Sheldon. He had no present fear of the latter's fate, and he might as well despair of that something—he could not positively precisely what—might turn up in a minute, quavering, and hearted way, he announced one day at luncheon, after he had fortified himself with a glass of wine, that a friend of his old business connections was coming to Baron Hall in a day or two to spend a few weeks with us.

"So glad to see any old friend of yours," said Kate; and she was all to our power to make him happy.

"Thank you, darling."

"In he old or young, papa?" asked Dolly, who had a deeper interest in the matter than the other girls.

"Well—ah, middle aged," said Sir Jahleel, with a little sound like a groan.

"A travelled man, of course?" said Kate.

"Yes—seen much of the world, certainly."

"What is his name?"

"Scrowie!" exclaimed Kate.

"A city man—Mr. Job Scrowie," emphasized Sir Jahleel, bitterly.

Dolly laughed excessively at the sound of it, and asked if there was a Mrs. Job Scrowie.

Sir Jahleel groaned in spirit, and strange to say, it had never occurred to him, in the utter perplexity of his soul, to inquire whether his torturer had such an appendage as a wife; but, sooth to say, Scrowie did not seem much like a married man. And now Dolly changed the subject by opening a case, and displaying a magnificent suite of diamond ornaments—necklet, and locket, earrings and bracelets—nestling in bright blue velvet, a gift from old Mr. Sheldon to wear first on her marriage day; and Sir Jahleel, in secret, looked at them as if she had opened a nest of adders.

Preoccupied as his daughters were with their own affairs, they could not fail, as we have said, to perceive something strange in his manner and bearing, while his occasional remarks became a source of speculation that was sometimes successful.

The merriment of bright, happy Dolly—sensitive, tender, and thoughtful girl, yet with an abundant store of faith, hope, and charity in her heart—seemed peculiarly to jar upon his temperment now.

"Do not laugh thus, my dear," he said to her on one occasion.

"Why, papa?" she asked, with surprise.

"Because life is a serious—an earnest thing, Dolly."

"Life?"

"Yes, child."

"Of course. Mr. Octave Bede tells us every day—every Sunday I mean—that we must die, and all that sort of thing, but I don't mean to die yet, papa, or leave you and Vincent; so why should I mope or moan about a remote contingency?"

He sighed heavily, and kissed her golden hair. With Kate his mood took another turn.

"We must not forget the social duties entailed by wealth," she replied to him cavalierly, in reply to some remark he had made.

"Wealth!" he muttered bitterly. "We may come one day to less than half of what we have now, if we keep even that."

A response that startled and puzzled his haughty daughter, who was a little annoyed at that his city friend had fixed to arrive on the very day of her dinner party.

"Provoking!" she exclaimed, at table, "that will make seventeen at table," said Dolly.

Late in the afternoon a cab deposited Mr. Scrowie and his portmanteau at the porte cochere of Baron Hall, when Sir Jahleel received him, and had him at once conducted to his room, that he might make the best possible toilette before being presented to his daughters and guests; but as a preliminary to his operation, Mr. Scrowie insisted on having a brandy and soda after his journey from town, and the portmanteau was duly sent up to him by Mr. Tapleigh in care of a somewhat astonished, powdered, and liveried retainer.

By this time the guests—some of whom have not much to do with our story—were assembling, carriage after carriage depositing them at the door, and Sir Jahleel's three daughters, in elaborate dinner costumes, rich in material and ornaments, and in all the bloom of their perfect beauty, were receiving them with their accustomed ease and grace in the stately drawing-room, the windows of which overlooked a green extent of beautiful park.

Among other came Major Tandem, Captain Bramley, and also Sir Harry, whom Kate, with somewhat questionable taste, had invited; and nothing could exceed the blank amazement with which the three sisters and some others regarded the entrance of Mr. Scrowie, who was duly heralded by a liveried servant, whose hand was held before his mouth as he turned a laugh into a cough.

is undeniable that he was, at first, bitterly crushed and galled by the unexpected grandeur of his surroundings at Baron Hall; and thus stuck close to the side of Sir Jahleel, whose recent cheque had furnished his wardrobe.

The only part of his face that possessed any colour was his nose; he wore his grizzly hair brushed down over his forehead, and brushed stiffly up into two horns, one over each ear; he wore an old-fashioned stick-up shirt collar, and had on his large hands a pair of kid gloves, coarse and not very clean white kid. His shifty, blood-shot eyes roamed about in search of Dolly, but never settled on her long, as he was too nervous and restless.

"Such an odd—such a horrible looking man!" said Kate, retiring a little and eying him through her glass.

"I never saw so much of a figure off the stage," responded Violet. "What can papa mean by bringing him here?"

"He used to entertain at the club those business friends that he did not choose to have at our house in town; so why bring a creature so out to Baron's Hall? It passes my comprehension."

"He is mad, I think, this Scrowie," whispered Vincent Sheldon, with whom, on being introduced, he shook hands cordially enough, even condescendingly saying—

"Glad to meet you; how are you, my lady?" responded Violet. "What can papa mean by bringing him here?"

"A friend of papa's private secretary—of Mr. Douglas?" replied poor Kate in her desperation.

"A friend of Douglas's? Oh, impossible, surely!" was the quip, and, as Kate thought, not very polite response; but then Honeywood had long been a friend and a kind of privileged dangle.

"Dolly was rather too much taken up with that fellow Sheldon, Sir Jahleel, Sheldon. He had no present fear of the latter's fate, and he might as well despair of that something—he could not positively precisely what—might turn up in a minute, quavering, and hearted way, he announced one day at luncheon, after he had fortified himself with a glass of wine, that a friend of his old business connections was coming to Baron Hall in a day or two to spend a few weeks with us."

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! Kate seemed for a moment frozen or rooted to the spot, when her father presented the new guest, to whom, mechanically, she presented her tightly-gloved hand, and turned away. Violet was in a distant corner, occupied with Mr. Bede, and barely according her hand to Sir Harry; and Dolly had several guests about her, for she was always a centre everywhere.

THE WONDERFUL MAN.

JOHN HOGG & SON

ARE OFFERING THIS DAY,

Splendid Mink Muffs at - \$5 00

Splendid Mink Caps at - 2 00

Splendid Mink Sets at - 10 00

Pretty Coney Sets at - 7 00

Pretty Coney Caps at - 2 50

Pretty Astracan Sets at - 6 00

Pretty German Mink Sets at - 4 50

AND VERY SPECIAL VALUE IN

Astracan Jackets and Black Fur Capes.

WE MAKE A

Specialty of Mink Sets at \$25.00.

Offering by far the best value in this section of country.

Mantles, Mantle Cloths, Shawls, Dress Materials, Kid Gloves, Sash Ribbons and Handsomely Embroidered Scarfs, in great variety.

JOHN HOGG & SON.

FURNITURE STORE

MARKET SQUARE, GUELPH.

W. J. McCREA

Has opened a Furniture Store for the sale of New and Second Hand Furniture, Stoves, &c. (Cash paid for Second Hand Furniture, Stoves, &c. New Furniture at as low prices as any other house in the trade, for cash.

Remember the Place—88 Market Square.

The balance of the Fancy Goods,

China, Crockery and Glasware,

left after the Big Sale at the Noted

Tea Store will be sold extra cheap

this week. Call and see the bargains.

J. E. McELDERRY.

2 Day's Block.

WHY WONDER WHY

Kirk of the West End Shoe Store

Is Doing the Business of Both City and Country.

Call and see, or ask your friends, and they will tell you

Cheap and Reliable Goods is the Cause.

Great Bargains in Boots and Shoes During the Holiday Season.

Work in all goods warranted.

O. KIRK.

Three Doors above the Post Office

DRY GOODS & GROCERIES

J. W. MANN

HAVING PURCHASED THE STOCK-IN-TRADE IN THE STORE

quantity occupied by Mr. Wm. Russell, opposite the Market House, and having bought a new stock of Groceries in addition to his Dry Goods, is now prepared to sell goods at prices as low as any other house in the trade.

KING OF THE DRY GOODS



E. Radford, E. R. Bellert, J. B. Williamson.

A GREAT HIT.

Mantles at Half-Price.

We have just concluded the purchase of a manufacturer's stock of Mantles, at a trifle over half their cost. We have reduced the prices in our own stock to correspond with those, and for the balance of this month shall offer tremendous bargains in these goods;

\$25 German Pattern Mantles for - \$15

20 German Pattern Mantles for - 12

15 German Pattern Mantles for - 8

10 German Pattern Mantles for - 6

Come While the Assortment is Full.

FURS, FURS, FURS.

We also hold a very large stock of fine Seal Sets, Persian Lamb Sets, Mink Sets, and Cheap Furs, which we offer at very Low Prices to clear out the stock.

We wish all Our Customers a Very Merry Christmas.

J. D. WILLIAMSON & Co.

GREAT SALE

Of Watches, Clocks, Jewelry and Silverware,

AT PRINGLE'S.

Being about to remove into a larger store, I will offer special inducements to intending customers. Stock fresh and new for Christmas Trade.

My present store to rent.

G. D. PRINGLE.

JACKSON & HALLETT

Wholesale and Retail

GROCERS AND LIQUOR MERCHANTS.

Just arrived two cars of sugar, bought direct from refinery, also, large lot choice new Teas, all lines and prices, in Blacks, Green and Japans, which we are bound to sell at bottom prices. 8, 5, 10 and 20 lb. Caddies, at from 20c. 60c., the best value in the city.

Also, full stock of General Groceries and Liquors. Gooderham and Walker Whiskys bought in ear lots. Old Irish and Scotch Whiskys, Rum, Brandy, Holland and Tom Gin, Forts, Sherry, Native Wines, and best brands of Champagnes.

Sassaparilla in 1/2 Ounces, Octaves, 1/2 Octaves and Cases.

Holland Gin in 1/2 Ounces, Octaves, 1/2 Octaves, and Red and Green Gin in Cases.

Irish and Scotch Whiskys in Cases, Quarts, Flaaks, and 1/2 Flaaks, and a full assortment of all best brands of Foreign Wines and Liquors, in Wood and Bottle.

Hotel Keepers will do well to look over our large stock before buying. Liberal discount to cash paying customers.

JACKSON & HALLETT,

Lower Wyndham Street, Guelph.

EVERY SATURDAY.

UNTIL NEW YEAR,

A CLOSE OUT WILL BE MADE ON

Overcoats, Wolf and Buffalo Robes,

Underclothing and Furs of all Kinds.

At original prices they were cheapest goods in the city.

CORMACK & KELEHER

Grand Monopoly.

GEORGE WILLIAMS

Is selling the CHRISTMAS

AND NEW YEAR'S GOODS

THIS YEAR.

CALL AND SEE THEM.

The most Extensive Stock of High-class Goods, at Reasonable Prices.

Some of the best goods of French, English and Canadian Manufacture, ever seen in Guelph.

Christmas Boxes, in reality, and at LOW PRICES.

PANORAMA EGGS—These cannot be surpassed in beauty and elegant finish. Tryles in design and appearance. Low Prices. Love Toys, Angels, the Four Seasons, really beautiful and artistic work in pure glass.

Cap's Daisies, Flower Baskets and Figs, Return Bells, Gables, Hats, Oracles, Baskets, Sashes, Charles in sparkling crystals, Glass Bibles, Jumping Figures, Animals, Fish and Toys of all descriptions in sugar.

Do not fail to see these, such goods have never before been seen in the Royal City.

Special attention is called to Christmas and New Year's Goods, which have the largest and most assortment ever shown in Guelph.

For something delicious in Table Relishes, Tryles, Dates, &c., call at this establishment. Also Oranges, Lemons, &c.

Some of the purest and most delicious Christmas Candy, Boston Taffy, Peppermint Stick, made on the premises.

OYSTERS.

In Can, Bulk or by the Dish from 20c. per Can,

AT

83 Upper Wyndham Street.



THE

Oldest Drug Store

IN GUELPH.

We have a Magnificent Assortment of

EVERLASTING FLOWERS

Bouquets, Hanging Baskets, Wreaths,

Grasses, &c.

Bertrand's Lubin's, Atkinson's and Peck's PERFUMES, in large and small bottles.

BATH SPONGES, TURKEY SPONGES, the finest ever imported.

Lamps, Glasses, Burners, a large stock to choose from.

Telephone connection. Night bell promptly attended to.

W. G. SMITH & Co., Dispensing Chemists

IMPORTANT. DIRECT IMPORTATIONS

OF—Fingering Yarns.

Baldwin Fingering, Peacock Fingering, Good Scotch Fingering, Princess Fingering, Welch Fingering, Rutland Fingering

Saxony Yarn, Lady Dobby Yarn, Fleecy Yarn, Westland Yarn, &c.

BERLIN WOOL.

Two, 4 and 6 ply, and large stock of Shipped Patterns, and other Fancy Goods.

AT MARSHALL'S

McCallless & Richardson, 2140 QUEBEC STREET, Coal and Wood Merchants.

ALL KINDS OF COAL AND WOOD delivered in any part of the City. Satisfaction Guaranteed.

A quantity of fish on hand.

TERMS CASH. WOOD WANTED

For which the highest market price will be paid. McCallless & Richardson, 2140