Huron Signal.

WEEKLY EDITION.

W. T. COX, Editor and Proprietor.] "The Greatest Possible Good to the Greatest Possible Number."

$1.50 PER ANN. IN ADVANCE] GODERICH, C. W., THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 1867. [VOL. XX.—NO 5

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GRADUATE of the Medical Department of Victoria University, Toronto, and late of the Hospital and Dispensary, New York. Residence D McDougall's (Solid) Bayfield. w49 4m8

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January 3, 1866. sw37

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Office hours from 9 o'clock, a. m., to 3 o'clock, p. m.

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PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS of Buildings, &c., got up in a neat and correct style. Office at the Huron Auction Mart, Market Square, Goderich. [sw 17a71y1v

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BUYS and sells New York Dollars—Gold—Checks—National currency—State notes, and uncurrent money, at current rate of exchange.
19th Dec., 1865. w47-1y[illegible]

DENTISTRY.
Dr. PHELPS
SURGICAL & MECHANICAL DENTIST, Goderich, C. W.
Rooms over Mr. F. Jordan's Drug Store
January 19th, 1865 sw38-v19

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FORWARDERS,
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DEALERS IN ALL KINDS OF PRODUCE, COAL, SALT, WATER LIME, &c.
Agents for first class Marine and Fire Insurance Companies.
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Business Directory.

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BROOM FACTORY.
Isaac Dobson & Sons.
HAVING ESTABLISHED A FACTORY for the manufacture of Brooms in Goderich, the subscribers are prepared to attend to all orders in their line of business from any part of Canada with promptness
AT WHOLESALE ONLY.
Their facilities for manufacture will, they feel confident, enable them to compete with any establishment of the kind in the country.
Factory in Cameron's Block, Kingston Street, next door to Huron Hotel, Address,
ISAAC DOBSON & SONS,
Goderich, C. W.
December 11, 1866. w46tf

PROPRIETORS
Of Saw Mills, Woollen Mills, Flour and Grist Mills, Paper Mills, Threshing Machines, Foundries and Machine Shops, &c., &c., &c.,
Use the Lubric Oil!
MANUFACTURED BY US:
It is the Best and Cheapest!
Lubricating Oil in the market.
There is less friction with this than with any other oil, and owing to its excellent body a smaller quantity is consumed. While on the other hand
IT NEVER GUMS!
but runs sweet, and keeps the bearings and working parts smooth and cool.
Sold by most respectable druggists, General Merchants and Oil Dealers in the country. Ask for the
Brantford Lubric Oil Company's Oil.
JOHN H. STRATFORD, Manager.
Brantford, July 3, 1866. w23m9

SPECIAL NOTICE
ST. CATHERINES NURSERIES
INASMUCH as certain persons are selling trees in the Counties of Huron and Bruce under the false pretence that they are obtained from the St. Catherines Nurseries, this is to certify that Messrs. James Stewart and Robert Gordon are the only persons now authorized to sell trees from my nurseries in those Counties.
D. W. BEADLE, Proprietor.
25 May, 1866. w18 1yr

THE undersigned, Agents for the above Nurseries, are prepared to fill all order in their line, and as they make their selections personally, their patrons may rely upon it that no pains will be spared to give satisfaction.
STEWART & GORDON.
June 1st, 1866.

HOOP SKIRTS! HOOP SKIRTS!
JUST RECEIVED AT THE
COLONIAL HOUSE
3 Cases of HULL'S CELEBRATED WATCH SPRING STEEL SKIRTS, in all the latest Fall styles. These Skirts in shape, finish, and quality are superior to any other make of skirts in America. In fact they are the Ladies' Skirt of the Season.
LADIES CALL AND EXAMINE THEM AT
C. E. ARCHIBALD'S.
Goderich, November 5th, 1866.

G. BARRY & BRO.,
CABINET MAKERS,
WOOD-TURNERS!
AND UNDERTAKERS,
Hamilton St., Goderich,
KEEP constantly on hand for sale all articles in their line, such as
Bedsteads, Chairs, Tables, Sofas, &c.,
All kinds of wood-turning done, such as Newel posts, stair bannisters, neckyokes, &c.
Always on hand, a complete assortment of COFFINS, and a HEARSE to hire on reasonable terms.
Goderich, May 3rd, 1866 15w6m*sq

Business Directory.

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CLINTON, C. W.
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THE establishment is furnished with all the requirements essential to the comfortable guests. w34tf

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SUPERIOR LIGHT AND TASTEFUL ROOMS.
PICTURES taken in every style and in all kinds of weather. Porcelain or Opalotype Pictures, and
THE HELIOARISTOTYPIA,
OR "BEST SUN PICTURE,"
Taken in various styles from $1 50 to $20 (colored in water colours or oil.
Life-Size Photographs taken on reasonable terms—either plain or colored.
PRICES LOWER than elsewhere in Canada.
D. CAMPBELL.
Goderich, June 1, 1866. sw27

The Liverpool and London and Globe
INSURANCE COMPANY.
Invested Funds, - - - $15,000,000
Invested in Canada, - - - 250,000
FIRE DEPARTMENT.
INSURANCES EFFECTED ON ALL CLASSES OF PROPERTY AT CURRENT RATES.
FARM RISKS AT SPECIALLY REDUCED RATES
LIFE DEPARTMENT.
No EXTRA Charge for Military Service in Defence of the Country.
Life Policies for the benefit of Wife or children are secure from seizure by Creditors.
A POLICY for $1000, by the Guaranteed Bonus System costs at age 30, $24.70 a year. Should it become payable after 5 years, one-fourth of the Premiums are returned, and the Sum assured; if after 10 years, one-half are returned; after 30 years, three-fourths; after 31, the Sum Assured is doubled, and the heirs may claim $2000!!!
Claims payable one month after Proof of death.
G. F. C. SMITH, Resident Secretary, MONTREAL.
A. M. ROSS, Agent for Goderich; B. V. Elliott, for Exeter; W. N. Watson, for Seaforth.
Goderich, Nov. 2, 1866. w47

New Marble Works
Pollock's Block,
VICTORIA ST., GODERICH.

A. M. Johnston
MONUMENTS, HEADSTONES, Table Tops, Posts, &c., Tombs, of every description and style of workmanship, furnished on short notice and at the lowest prices. Liberal reduction made for cash. All orders punctually attended to. Designs of Monuments, &c., may be seen at the shop.
Goderich, Dec. 19, 1865. w47 1yr

GODERICH
WAGON & CARRIAGE

Manufactory.
THE Subscriber would announce to the public of Huron and Bruce that he has on hand and will make to order Carriages, Wagons, Harrows, &c., which will be sold cheap for cash or approved credit. On hand and for sale cheap,
THE Subscriber has also received the Agency of the Celebrated
BALL'S OHIO, COMBINED
REAPER AND MOWER,
MANUFACTURED BY
SAWYER & HAMILTON,
which has been decided to be the most complete implement of the kind now made.
JOHN PASSMORE,
Victoria Street, Goderich.
April 1st, 1863 w45 6m

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COMMISSION MERCHANTS
87 & 89 ST. FRANCOIS XAVIER STREET, MONTREAL.
Advances made on consignments of Produce to Liverpool, Glasgow and other ports in Great Britain.
Consignments of Ashes, Butter, &c., respectfully solicited.
Sept. 5, 1866. sw2

MONEY to Loan at reasonable rate
Apply to
M. C. CAMERON.
Goderich

J. & J. SEEGMILLER,
TANNERS!
DEALERS
IN
LEATHER FINDINGS!
&c., &c.,
GODERICH, C. W.
February 12, 1865, w47

POETRY.

[Written for the Huron Signal.]

I AM SOMEBODY NOO.

AIR.—"TOBLIN' BUTT AND TOBLIN' BUS."

Come hither, my dearies, and join in my song;
We're fash fow how the cauld blasts o' winter may bang.
Let's mak' our hearts blythe o'er what comforts we share,
And the larger we leeve aye be lookin' for mair.
I was wee an' poor as a doug in a stane;
Scarce ocht o' the man save the skin and the bane;
I was mebody then, and re'peekit by few,
But, praise be to fortune, I'm somebody noo.
CHORUS—I'm somebody noo, I'm somebody noo,
O praise be to fortune, I'm somebody noo.

I tell'd late and early for mony a year,
For I thought honest labor wad drive in the rear;
But the hunger I strave aye the poorer I fond,
Till poverty seed consciences mae mair could contend;
She counsell'd me firmly to alter my creed,
And eagerly I to her counsel gave heed;
'Twas lucky I did, lass, as weel you may trow,
For you see I'm wekk up to be somebody noo.
As somebody noo, as somebody noo &c.

I aye had a notion to leak like a laird,
To hae fine palace and bonnie flowr'y yard;
Wi' rowth o' brew dunkiks tarin at my ease,
And a watch dog to scare a' mean vagrants awa;
Sae I set myself out for to cheat and to lee,
And to mak my companions o' folks that were hie;
I dealt in lang credits, and wagg'd like a Jew,
And I flattered and fawn'd, till I'm somebody noo.
I'm somebody noo, I'm somebody noo, &c.

The lawyer comes here wi' his pate fa' o' skill,
And the doctor attends, tho' he no wi' his bill,
The justice, the squire, and his revenues, Mess John,
Wi' a bitterly kindness our dignity own,
There are few o' our betters upon us look down,
And we'll mun be as hie as the folks in the moon;
Tho' it teuk some hard grannie's nie heckit to win to,
Gif conscience keep mum, I am somebody noo.
I am somebody noo, I am somebody noo, &c.

I ner liked a beggar since e'er I was born,
Wha howls wi' the humble cares hute but scorn;
Wi' hat matter how honesty seasons his pies,
Hythe aulse o' my betters bring yerd to mein.
The man wha in life to position wad rise,
That mean scaup-craw puinish mun learn to deepse;
I've lang held the maxim, and throve by it too,
Till by aye leukes upwards. I'm somebody noo.
I'm somebody noo. I'm somebody noo, &c.

Tho' lang, lass, you've yaup d like a hen in the pook,
You may yet be a dochter, gif I'm a duke,
You'll own as braw triggs as mony a quean,
In your gilt coach by day, and your sofa at e'en;
We'll hae fine dessert oorselves to spread unto our feet,
And our table sil gane wi' a' dainties that's sweet:
Wi' eggs fried in gravy, and ra'e chapkes stew,
And a gryfe-bead to cracket, since I'm somebody noo.
I'm somebody noo. I'm somebody noo. &c.

Tho' neebors may whilies say I'm loopy and vain,
And speel on a ladder that is on my ain,
As lang's I can sprattle still upwards I'll aim,
Gif the chiefs pell-mell cannot claim his claim.
A wee grip o' greatness may heeze me to mair:
Come honest, come fause, what the diel need we care?
Its grand to be great, lass, I tuvor you'll allow,
Wha'ever pays the piper, I'm somebody noo.
I'm somebody noo, I'm somebody noo,
Wha'ever pays the piper, I'm somebody noo.

WM. BANNATYNE.

* The Bailiff.

[Written for the Signal.]

The Mother and her Child.

The summer sun shone brightly down,
Its pure beams sweetly smil'd,
Upon two pure and happy ones;
A mother and her child.
That happy mother smil'd to see,
Her boy so glad and fair,
As playfully he twin'd his hands
Amid her sunny hair.

And as she gaz'd on that fair child,
So blooming on her knee,
What glowing dreams of happiness,
In future life had she?
She thought of his expanded form—
His intellect refin'd,
In manhood's proud meridian day,
And manhood's thrilling mind.

And then she breath'd an inward prayer,
Which mothers only can,
That she might live to see that babe,
That tender child a man,
To be his parents' hope through life,
The sharer of their joys,
To soothe them on the bed of death,
To close their dying eyes.

She thought that each succeeding morn,
Would some new charm disclose,
Oh! when so sweet the op'ning bud,
How beautiful the rose,
The happy parents o'er his charms
In silent rapture smil'd;
Still fonder grew the mother's heart,
Still fonder grew the child.

But winter came, and with it came,
A sad and woeful morn;
When that young mother wildly wept,
O'er her first her only born,
The flowret now no longer bloom'd,
Upon its earthly bed,
Death's with'ring hand had nip'd the bud,
And strew'd it with the dead.

Yet cease to weep sad mother now,
Wipe off the falling tear,
No earthly joy is permanent,
No lasting bliss is here;
What though no more his prattling voice,
To charm thine ear is given,
His hymn conjoin'd with angels' songs
Now swells the choir of heaven.

Wroxeter, 4th Feb., 1867. S.

VOLUNTEER PENSIONS.—The last *Canada Gazette* contains a complete list of pensions and gratuities awarded to volunteers who were wounded or contracted illness during the Fenian raids in June, and to relatives of volunteers who were killed in action or died from the effects of wounds or disease. Among them we see that the widow of Ensign Malcolm McEachren, of the Queen's Own, Toronto, receives a pension of $184 per annum, and each of his five children $27 per annum. Captain Percy G. Routh, of the 13th Batt., Hamilton, receives a pension of $400 per annum, with the sum of $70 in lieu of medical attendance. Other pensions and gratuities are on an equally liberal scale. Private Edgar Fast, Queen's Own (a London boy) receives a gratuity of $70 for a wound in the leg.

'Alexander Dobbs, come up here and say your lesson. 'What makes boys grow?' 'In rain, sir.' 'Why don't men grow?' 'Because they carry umbrellas, which keep off the rain.' 'What makes a young man love?' 'Because one of them has a heart of steel and t'other has a heart of flint, and when they come together they strike fire, and that's love.'

The United States is threatened with another Japanese Embassy. The chosen is coming too. Affections never come single.

THE QUEEN'S SPEECH!

London, Feb. 5.—The following is the speech made by the Queen at the re-opening of the Imperial Parliament:—

MY LORDS,—In again recurring to your advice and assistance, I am happy to inform you that my relations with foreign powers are on a friendly and satisfactory footing. I hope that the war in which Prussia, Austria, and Italy have been engaged may lead to the establishment of a durable peace in Europe.

I have suggested to the Government of the United States a mode by which questions pending between the two countries, arising out of the civil war, may receive an amicable solution, and which, if not, as I trust it will be, in a corresponding spirit, will remove all grounds of possible misunderstanding, and promote relations of cordial friendship.

The war between Spain and the republics of Chili and Peru still continues, the good offices of my government, in conjunction with that of the Emperor of the French having failed to effect a reconciliation. If, either by argument with the parties themselves, or by the mediation of other friendly Powers, peace should be restored, the objects which I have had in view will be equally attained.

The discontent prevailing in some of the provinces of the Turkish empire has broken out in actual insurrection in Crete. In common with my allies, the Emperor of the French and the Emperor of Russia, I have abstained from any active interference in these internal disturbances, but joint efforts have been directed to bringing about improved relations between the Porte and its Christian subjects, not inconsistent with the sovereign rights of the Sultan.

The protracted negotiations which arose out of the acceptance by Prince Charles of Hohenzollern of the Governorship of the Danubian principalities, have been happily terminated by an arrangement which has been sanctioned by the concurrence of all the powers, signers of the treaty of 1856.

Resolutions in favor of a more intimate union of the Provinces of Canada, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick have been passed by their several legislatures, and delegates duly authorised, representing all classes of the community, and their opinions have been concurred in. Conditions upon which such an union may be best effected in accordance with their wishes, a bill will be submitted to you which by the consolidation of colonial interests and resources, will give strength to the several provinces as members of the same empire, and animated by feelings of loyalty to the same sovereign.

I have heard with deep sorrow that the calamity of famine prevailed heavily on my subjects in some parts of India. Instructions were issued to my government in that country to make the utmost exertions to mitigate the distress which prevailed during the autumn of last year. The blessing of an abundant harvest has since that time improved the condition of the suffering districts.

The persevering efforts and unscrupulous assertions of treasonable conspirators during last autumn have excited the hopes of some disaffected persons in Ireland, and the apprehension of the loyal population; but the firm and temperate exercise of the powers entrusted to the Executive, and the hostility manifested against the conspiracy by men of all classes and creeds, have greatly tended to restore public confidence, and have rendered hopeless any attempt to disturb the general tranquility. I trust that you will consequently be enabled to dispense with the continuance of any exceptional legislation of that part of my dominions.

I acknowledge, with deep thankfulness to Almighty God, the great decrease which has taken place in the cholera, and in the pest which has attacked our cattle; but the continued prevalence of the latter in some foreign countries, and its occasional reappearance in this, will render necessary some special measures of precaution, and I trust the visitation of the former will lead to increased attention to those sanitary measures which experience has shown to be the best preventative.

Believing it of the highest importance to have an adequate supply of pure and wholesome water, I have directed the issue of a commission to enquire into the best means of permanently securing such a supply for the metropolis, and for the principal towns in the densely peopled districts of the kingdom.

GENTLEMAN OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS,—I have directed the estimates for the ensuing year to be laid before you. They have been prepared with a due regard to economy and the requirements of the public service. You will, I am assured, give your ready assent to a moderate expenditure calculated to improve the condition of my soldiers, and to lay the foundation of an efficient army of reserve.

MY LORDS AND GENTLEMEN,—Your attention will again be called to the state of the representation of the population in Parliament; and I trust your deliberations, conducted in a spirit of firmness, moderation and mutual forbearance, may lead to the adoption of measures which, without undue disturbance of the balance of power, shall freely extend the elective franchise.

The frequent occurance of disagreement between the employers of labor and their workmen, causing much private suffering and public loss, and occasionally leading as is alleged, to acts of outrage and violence, has induced me to issue a commission to inquire into and report on the organization of trades unions and other associations, whether of workmen or employers, with power to suggest any improvement of the laws for their benefit. Application will be made to you for parliamentary powers which will be necessary to make this inquiry effective. I have directed bills to be laid before you for the extension to other trades of the beneficial provisions of the factory acts, especially reported by royal commission, on the employment of children, and for the regulation according to principles of those acts in workshops where women and children are largely employed.

The condition of the mercantile marine has attracted my serious attention. Complaints are made that the supply of seamen is deficient, and provision for their health and discipline, on board, are imperfect. Measures will be submitted to you with a view to the increase and efficiency of this important service.

I have observed with satisfaction the relaxation recently introduced into the navigation laws of France. I have expressed to the Emperor my readiness to submit to Parliament a proposal for the extinction on equitable terms of exemption from local charges on shipping, which are still employed by a limited number of individuals in British ports, and have, in anticipation of this step, already abolished British ships to the advantages of the new law. A bill upon this subject will forthwith be laid before you.

A bill will also be submitted for making provision for the arrangement of affairs of railway companies which are unable to meet engagements. Measures will be submitted to you for improving the management of the sick and other poor in the metropolis, and for the redistribution of some of the charges for relief thereon.

Your attention will also be called to the amendment of the law of bankruptcy, to the consolidation of the courts of Probate and Divorce and Admiralty, and to the means of disposing, with greater dispatch and frequency, the increasing business in the superior courts of common law and at the assizes.

The relations between landlord and tenant in Ireland have engaged my attention, and a bill will be laid before you, which, without interfering with rights of property will offer direct encouragement to occupiers of land to improve their holdings and provide a simple mode of obtaining compensation for permanent improvement.

I commend to your careful consideration these and other measures which will be brought before you, and I pray that your labors may, under the blessings of Providence, conduce to the prosperity of the country and happiness of my people.

ALLEN SCUDAMORE'S WAGER.

CHAPTER I.

"Will Allen never marry?" said little Mrs. Denton, with a comically appealing glance at her husband, who sat tranquilly dividing his attention between his breakfast and the morning paper he was rapidly scanning with the practiced eye of a man of business. "Do, Edgar, put down that wretched paper, and answer my question."

"Well, little woman," said her husband, looking up at her, "what is the matter now? Who wants Allen to marry?"

"Why, every one, of course," replied Mrs. Denton. "It's the duty of the head of the house; and here have I been pestered myself to all kinds of trouble, and asking all the nice girls I know, on purpose to give him a chance before he goes back to bury himself at that stupid Chase again."

"Stupid!" echoed Mr. Denton. "I wish I had a little more of its stupidity. Think of the Chase on such a day as this."

The somewhat careworn business man walked to the window, and looked out beyond the little garden with its tiny lawn and flower-beds, to the dusty high road with its throng of vehicles and pedestrians, all wending their way to the busy city close by. As he gazed, there was a faraway look in the dark eyes that told that he was at that moment luxuriating in imagination amid the dewy shades of Maple Chase.

The sun shone brightly into the cheerful, neatly appointed room, glittering on the silver and china, lingering approvingly on the fresh muslin dress of the hostess, and playing bo-peep among the rich curls of a lovely child, who was engaging the attentions of the gentleman first named far more than any of the projects of matrimony which, on his account, disturbed the mind of his cousin's pretty wife.

Little Mrs. Denton had been so happy in her own brief married life, that she was always anxious that those she cared for—who were yet in the state of single blessedness—should become possessors of the same bliss; and for none did she so much desire this, as for the cousin who was now on a visit to them, her husband's playfellow in childhood, his tried and faithful friend ever since. Doubtless the Chase was a lonely residence for a bachelor, lovely as it was; so her busy, loving little brain was always weaving mashes wherewith to entrap Allen, and lead him captive to Hymen's altar.

Yes, Allen Scudamore seemed to the careless observer a determined bachelor; but it was not actually so. Heir to a moderate property, a man of high principles and unsullied honour, of keen and sensitive feelings he had never, as so many do, wasted life's holiest affections in meaningless flirtation. Society called him cold and insensible, as one by one of the belles of many seasons had passed before him without eliciting more than a passing tribute of admiration. Yet Allen Scudamore was such a man as woman like to look upon: tall in figure, and military in carriage—for he had been in the army for a brief space—with deep, clear grey eyes, that looked the world frankly in the face, dark, curling hair, long silky moustache and beard, and well-cut features. Yet his attractions were by no means all outside ones. He had travelled much, and studied more; he was a general favourite in the society both of men of learning and scientific attainments, and in that perhaps less solid but more brilliant and varied class which forms the principal element in ordinary assemblies. He was a keen sportsman, and an adept in most athletic pursuits; while his gentlemanly manners, almost boyish capacity for fun and adventure, made him a favourite in every house he entered. With all these advantages, he was almost thirty years of age, and still a batchelor. Well might little Mrs. Denton ask, almost in despair, "Will Allen never marry?"

There had been a small evening party at the Dentons the evening before, and there were two or three among the fair girls present to whom Mrs. Denton was secretly highly pleased to introduce the fascinating Allen, as, in his ease, she knew there was no danger of encouraging anything likely to be looked coldly on by prudent fathers and mothers. But all in vain had the anxious little hostess tried to draw from the wary lips of the man beside her one word beyond the simplest commendation of any of her fair guests. Most provoking she considered it; and the spirit of fun glanced roguishly out of the dark eyes as he watched the pouting lips and somewhat downcast air of his well-loved little cousin, and stroked his long moustache in amusement as she uttered the words, "Will Allen never marry?" but never a word did he say in reply.

"Never mind Allen and his marrying, you silly little woman!" said Mr. Denton, turning from the window, and putting both hands on his wife's shoulders. "Is my wife turned into a match-maker already? There will be time enough for that when baby Florie comes out," he added, as the door opened, and a nurse put down a tiny child of two years old, who ran across the room with a cry of delight straight to papa.

"All in good time, Helena," at last said the imperturbable Allen, rising from his seat. "Sometime you will see me in the character of 'Benedict, the married man,' or 'Scudamore married and done for,' *a la Lord Dundreary*, only I trust I shall not need to tame my wife like Shakspere's hero, or marry the whole family, like his lordship."

"Here comes the nine o'clock 'bus," interrupted Mr. Denton, "and I must be off. One kiss, Florie—there go to mamma. Good-by, old boy," he said, giving a pinch to his little son's rosy cheek and, with a farewell kiss to his wife, he was leaving the room.

"Stay, Edgar," said Allan—"I am going with you. It is market day, is it not? and I want to see Mr. Graves. I shall be sure to find him somewhere near the Exchange."

With a rapid adieu, the two gentlemen left the house just as the 'bus stopped in front of the door. Helena watched them climb up outside, then with a nod and a smile returned to finish her breakfast.

Very full was the busy town of Chimbleton that morning, very thronged every haunt of the keen-eyed sons of commerce, while the principal streets and squares were gay with stylish carriages of all kinds, and numbers of richly-dressed ladies, bent on shopping expeditions. When they reached Mr. Denton's warehouse the cousins separated, appointing to meet again near the Exchange about one o'clock. A short time before that hour, Allan strolled quietly in that direction. The building was crowded with eager traffickers, while groups gathered together in the open space around, or lounged in the deep windows, criticising the busy scene without, or passing joking remarks on their acquaintance who passed or repassed along the streets surrounding it. Allan soon encountered the gentleman he was in search of, and after a few minutes' serious conversation on a business matter they had been mutually engaged in, they parted. A moment afterwards Allan was accosted by a young man whom he had frequently met while visiting his cousin, and shortly after they were joined by two or three others. Business was not very brisk; the Spring sunshine, the busy scene, and the animation prevalent on all sides, were exhilarating to the senses, and the merry group chatted, and laughed, and joked in the careless gaiety of youth.

"Hallo, Scudamore! when did you turn up?" exclaimed a new-comer, a dapper little fellow, with an early moustache in his button-hole. "The last time I heard of you, you were at Timbuctoo, or in Kamtschatka, or some such highly civilized region."

"Shooting lions in Africa, probably," returned Allan, coolly. "I did certainly enjoy a little of that pastime last year. How goes the world with you, Durham?"

"Oh, dirty enough," replied the latter; "at least, I'm not married yet, like one friend Dundreary there," he added, indistinctly a tall, dark man, who, from a singular likeness to that facinating nobleman, had obtained the *sobriquet* mentioned. "He has taken to himself a better-half since you were here last."

Allan offered his congratulations, and was met by the question in return, "And yourself, Scudamore—is there no fair lady at the Chase yet?"

"No," laughed Allan, stroking his long moustache as he spoke, "not likely to be. I am still the knight errant, seeking my lady love through the wide world. I have not yet found my *belle ideal*, which I suppose is the feminine of the *beau ideal* one hears young ladies rhapsodising over. My little cousin has been appealing to Denton this morning, 'Will Allen never marry?' This was *apropos* to my sensibility to the charms of a lovely of fair girls she gathered together last night for my special choice."

"Oh, Scudamore," is fastidious in his tastes, as we know of old," said a bystander who had not spoken.

"By the way, Scudamore," exclimed Durham, turning round quickly, "I know of the very woman to suit you."

"Indeed!" said Allan. "Pray who is she, and where is she to be found? That is the very person I have been seeking so long. I will go at once and have a look at her."

"Her name is Theresa Du Val: she comes of a French family; an only child, rich, and, most people consider, handsome—pale complexion, raven hair, and all that sort of thing," replied Durham. "She lives at a place about twenty miles off, at a village called Hartington. She has no father, and will come into her property when she is of age, which she will be in a few months, I believe."

"Why don't you go in for the heiress yourself, Durham?" said Allan.

"I, my dear fellow!" exclaimed Durham. "Did you never hear the saying, 'Money wants money.' Why, the old lady wouldn't admit me over the doorstep with my paltry means, now my grand expectations are scattered to the winds by my cousin's marriage. No, I shall have to make love to one of these rich merchants daughters—and plenty of pretty girls there are among them, I can tell you,—but the higher game is reserved for the landed proprietors, like yourself, lucky fellow!"

"Well," said Allan, his dark eyes brimming over with fun, "I suppose I have a look at your paragon? Can you give me an introduction?"

"No, that I can't, as I have not one myself," replied Durham. "I only know her by sight and report. I was lately stay in the neighborhood, and used to see her every day."

"Then I must take my chance," said Allan. "Twenty miles off, did you say? I think I'll go to-day. I wonder when the next train goes to Hartington."

"What you don't mean to say you are going off on such a wild goose chase as that at a moment's notice?" said half-a-dozen voices at once.

"Why not?" said Allan. "Better strike while the iron is hot. Durham recommends her, and I am getting tired of my loneliness. My time is my own, and there is a spice of adventure in the affair which commands itself to my volatile disposition."

"Do you mean to go *a la* Lord Burleigh?" said Durham.

"'*He was a handsome traitor,*
And a village maiden she!'"

"I don't know yet," replied Allan; "but I'll tell you what, Durham; I'll bet you a dozen of champagne that I make her acquaintance within the next twenty-four hours. No, stay!" if I bring my bride from, "Mosely Hall."

"Well, from Mosely Hall, then; you pay me a dozen of the finest champagne you can get, if I don't, you shall come and take your choice of the same quantity from the cellars of the Chase."

"Done!" said Durham.

"Oh here comes my cousin just in time," said Allen, as Mr. Denton approached the super group of young men, and in a few words he was informed of the eccentric expedition on which Allan was bound.

"Scudamore, you don't really mean this?" exclaimed Durham, as Allan stopped at a stationer's shop, and said he must get a railway guide.

"Indeed I do," replied Allan. "I don't know whether it is the exhilarating influence of this glorious sunshine and fresh clear air, after the smoky days we have had lately, or what, but certainly this journey has a wonderous charm for me; it is something new, and I feel inclined for a change of scene just now. Ah, I see there will be a train for Harrington, in an hour; that will give me time for a hasty lunch—then away in quest of fortune. Good-bye; you shall hear how matters proceed.

The two young men parted; Durham murmuring, as he left his companion, "Well, of all the odd fellows, ever heard, Allan Scudamore is the oddest. He wants something to do instead of setting off on such wild-goose chases as that. I couldn't believe he was in earnest."

CHAPTER II.

An hour saw Allan Scudamore at the terminus of the Midland Counties Railway; another hour and the train drew up at a roadside station, fresh with paint, and redolent with flowers, while a porter shouted with stentorian lungs, "Any one for Harington? any one for Harington?"

"Here! unfasten the door," called Allan Scudamore, who, in defiance of all bye-laws, finding himself alone in the carriage, had only just extinguished a fragrant Havannah.

The porter obeyed, and Allan descended and looked round. The station was as quiet as most rural stations are. A couple of porters, a girl with a basket of vegetables on her arm, and two or three village women, who were returning from the neighbouring town with purchases, were all the occupants of the little platform. With the usual shriek and whistle the train speed on; the little group of people watched it out of sight, then slowly dispersed; the station master returned to his office, and the porters to their business, and Allan was left alone. At door of the opposite side of the station was open, and he could see a shady road fringed with thick trees, cool green meadows lying beyond, sloping upward, till a range of low hills shut in the landscape. There was no vehicle of any kind in waiting, and knowing either to hire or send for one would be the very person to give him all the information he wished for. Walking quietly to the office, he waited patiently until he had finished making some entries in a large books and then inquired if he could direct him to the house of a Mr. Du Val.

"Of course I can, sir," replied the man briskly and politely. "The road to the left leads to the village sir. When you reach the church you will see a narrow shady lane, turning to the right, and a few hundred yards down it you will come to a gateway. That is the principal entrance to the Hall. If you prefer a nearer way, you can reach the grounds by a footpath behind the church; follow that, and it will bring you out close to the house."

"Then the Hall is a large place, I presume?" said Allan, rekindling his cigar, and offering one to the station-master, who declined it.

"It is a handsome building now, sir," continued the station-master. "A few years ago it was in a very dilapidated condition; it was quite a pity to see so fine a place going to ruin, but within the last three or four years it has been partly rebuilt, but so carefully, that except for colour, a stranger would not know it had been built so recently. Mrs. Du Val gave it into the hands, of some very clever architect, who, they say, is likely to make a name in the world; certainly he did wonders at the Hall. Does Mrs. Du Val expect you, sir?" he added, after a pause; "the carriage went by an hour since."

"No," replied Allan; "I am a stranger here."

"They lead but a quiet life up at the Hall, the two ladies," said Mr. Drummond, who seemed disposed to prolong the conversation. "My wife often says it must be a bit dull for the young lady."

"Then they don't see much company?" said Allan.

"Hardly any, sir," was the reply. "Folks do say it's because Miss Du Val is an heiress, and her mother's afraid of the young men. She's but young yet."

"Is she handsome?" inquired Allan, imperturbably knocking off the ash of his cigar.

"Well, sir, that's as tastes go," replied Mr. Drummond. "I'm no judge; there's many a gentleman as would swear she was; if but for the sake of the money. She's nice-looking enough as far as I can see; but she don't come this way much. She rides and drives by, sometimes, with the rector's daughter, Miss Elliot. Ah, sir, there's a pretty girl, and no mistake; and a tight down good one too. She takes after her father. There's not a man in the village but would do anything for a kind word or a smile from Miss Elliot."

"Indeed!" said Allen. "I should like to have a peep at this village beauty.- Perhaps if I remain here a few days I may do so."

"If you are bound for the Hall, sir, you are sure to see her," said Mr. Drummond.—"Miss Du Val and Miss Elliott are every friends; they're always together; and I do hear that Miss Du Val's singing and playing are something wonderful."

"Thanks, my friend, for your information," returned Allen. "Stay, is there a decent inn in the place if my business requires me to remain a few days?"

"Certainly, sir; the 'Rod and Line' is a first-rate house; many gentlemen put up there who come to fish. There's splendid angling in these parts, sir."

"Is there?" said Allan. "I am rather fond of the sport. I may perhaps try. How late can I send a telegram from here?"

"Up to eight o'clock, sir."

"Very well," said Allan. "By the way," he added, "can you tell me Mrs. Du Val's dinner hour?"

"Six o'clock, sir; and it's close on five, now."

Allan thought a moment; then rejoined, "So late! then I must defer calling there till to-morrow. Stay, I will send a telegram now. What time does the last train from Chimbleton reach here?"

"At half-past nine, sir."

"Then if a portmanteau arrives for me by that, can you send it down to the inn?"

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