The Riva Clansmen

A Scottish Vendetta.

CHAPTER XXIV.

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CAMERON AND LAN BEGIN TO FREL UNEASY
—FLORA MACGIEGOR AND ANNE
M'LEOD PRISONERS AT DROGHDAIRCH
NEWS OF THE ASSASSINATION OF NED
GORDON AND HIS HISTER JEANNIE—
"IECTOR MUST DIE!"

Cameron's was a restless, busy mind,
and it was already occupied with a
survey of the network of threatoning
circumstances which surrounded him
when the turrets of the Castle of Droghdairch appeared in view. They quickly
spurred up to the entrance, and Cameron
dismounting himself this time and leaving 'Anne M'Leod sitting on the saddle,
walked up to the door and delivered
several heavy knocks upon it.

In a few minutes after a step was
heard in the passage within, and the
door was flung open by a half-dressed
red-hicaded Highlander, He at once recognized the Chief and howed low, but
as M'Kenzie saw him a cry of eager
surprise escaped his lips, and he too
sprang from the saddle and approached
the Highlander, whe had now recognized
him in turn.
"Duradd," he exclaimed. "I expected

with your mission: But say, spiea, he at present, I'll hear your story in a minute."

He now turned to Flora Macgregor with much nervousness of manner and offiered to assist her to dismount. This however, the brave girl refused, although her heart was almost sinking within her as she found herself once more on the point of being imprisoned in Drogdairch, and at once sprang to the ground. Anne M'Leod had also dismounted, and, preceded by Cameron and Gregor, was entering the eastle. Ian followed, and they were conducted to what used to be Flora's sitting room—the—room from which she had escaped on the last occasion when she had been about to be married to Ian M'Kenzie.

Telling them to rest there for an hour or two, Cameron turned and, motioning M'Kenzie and Gregor to leave the room, strode out and locked the door behind him, leaving Flora Macgregor and Anne M'Leod prisoners. Ian rapidly descended, the stair, and hastened to where the redheaded Highlander still stood with the horses.

"Tell me, now," he exclaimed, "how

- headed Highlander still stood with the horses.

 "Tell me, now," he exclaimed, "how you succeeded? Is the lowlander——?"
 "Dead!" was the reply.
 "Is Ned Gordon dead?"
 "He is."
 "And his sister?"
 "The same."
 "And the child?"
 "It may be dead, and may not. We left it-where it might have been found, but didn't wait to see whether it was or not."

but didn't wait to see whether it was or not."

"And where did you this?"

"In Edinlurgh, as you said. We soon met him disguised as you proposed; nothing was easier than to separate the brother and sister, and then our dirks found their hearts, and buddington Loch offered for their bodies a ready place of concealment."

"And has Donald returned with you?"

"He has, and is in the Castle. We arrived in Ross-shire last night, and heard of the bad luck of the band, and at once hastened here."

"My good fellows, you shall be duly revasted for your services to me." exclaimed M'Kenzie exultingly, the old glare of triumph returning to his face. "Put up the horses and rest ye a while now."

Then he turned and entered the Castle.

now."
Then he turned and entered the Castle,
meeting Cameron, who had been standing
luring the above colloquy in the door-

way.

"Success has been with me this time," he exclaimed, "and there is now no obstacle in the way of my marrying Flora Macgregor—if, indeed, there ever was. The lowland cur has met his deserts, and way has been suggested by which Hector M'Leod may be got rid of. He must die, Cameron."

Cameron."
"He must," was the reply of Droghdairch. "I see no safe course unless he dead, and his death we must accomplish. Come, let us consider the

hish. Come, termatter.

As he spoke, he led the way to a room in which Gregor was found to be already seated, and the three set about hatching a new plot to accomplish the death of Hector M'Leod.

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GUELPH, March 21, 1874

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