

THE WONDERFUL FLOWER OF WOXdINDON.

An Historical Romance of the Times of Queen Elizabeth.

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CHAPTER VI.—(Continued.)

In defiance of law, Parliament, Privy Council, and the express will and pleasure of our gracious Queen...

him with the blackest ingratitude. What the man said made little or no impression upon our guests...

As we were riding through St. John's Wood, when we had got about half way to London, we overtook Topcliffe and his troop...

Our way led through St. Giles-in-the-Fields, where in earlier times a small church had been erected in honor of the saint...

"I shall most certainly take both of them with me to London as prisoners," Topcliffe rejoined with a diabolical laugh...

Anne immediately said that she really did not know it, and would not tell if she did; while Frith declared he knew it, and nothing would induce him to betray it...

Then, though it went hard with me to do so, I appealed to Richard Page, and besought him, in his official capacity as mayor, himself to take Anne under arrest...

As we were passing through St. Giles on our way to London, Babington, who, contrary to his custom, had been the most silent of our party...

Before proceeding further with my narrative, I must go back a space, and speak of the consultations that were held and the resolutions taken in the aforesaid upper room in the Blue Boar in the course of the last winter...

CHAPTER VII. Hitherto I have left the part of narrator to my wife, although from the commencement of the third chapter, from the time that is of my arrival at Woxindon, I was myself in a position to relate a great part, or indeed all, of what occurred.

When my cousin had finished reading this document, there was perfect silence for a few moments. Then grandmother stood up and said, with a look that I shall never forget, but with perfect calmness of manner: "Nephew, I pray God that on the day when you must abandon all your earthly possessions, and must appear, as my son Richard did last night, before the judgment seat, that your treachery, and the document you have just read to us, the price of your treachery, may not occasion you bitter remorse."

Thereupon Page declared he had not acted in this way for his own sake, but for ours; it depended upon us alone whether we kept Woxindon or no. For the matter of that however, almost every stone on the estate was mortgaged to him, in consequence of our wilfulness, and the enormous fines our late father had incurred.

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shall be content if I can give equal satisfaction to the reader, and now it is my turn to record events of which she was not a witness.

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"We have got a new king for the nonce," cried I, "would that we had a new queen too." "You have forestalled me in what I was going to say," answered Babington: "God knows, Elizabeth is no more a true queen than I am a true king."

The Hymn of the Wind.

That voice of the winter night That glides through the gaunt pine trees, That faints 'neath the soft moonlight And swells o'er the rocking seas!

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