Guelph Evening Mercury

THURSDAY EVNG, NOV. 20, 1873.

The Rival Clansmen:

A Scottish Vendetta.

CHAPTER VIII.

CHAPTER VIII.

AN UNHEEDED APPEAL—WHPRE IS FLORA

"I will not hold my peace," cried Flora, vehemently, while the tears filled her
eyes and trickled down her cheeks. "I
know that this man has arrived to perform the ceremony of marriage between
Ian M'Kenzie and myself, and I have
come to appeal to him—to his sympathy,
to his honour, to his position; to appeal
against being forced into a union which I
loathe to think of, against being forced to
marry a man I cannot love, and one who
has injured me deeply. Surely, sir," addressing Fender "if you hold your commission from Heaven to soothe and heal
human souls, you know that your Master
frowns upon all persecution and tyranny,
and means you to oppose it' Oh, I ask
you to say that yours will never be the
hand nor the tongue that will act in joining as together."

"Curse you, leave the room, girl !"
again exclaimed Cameron, almost beside
himself, while his voice shook with passion.

"Not unless forcibly, until I receive an

himsen, white in-sion.

"Not unless forcibly, until I receive an answer," exclaimed the brave girl reso-lutely, while she gazed with her sorrow-ful face earnestly into the eyes of Fen-

Interly, while she gazed with her borlowdul face carnestly into the eyes of Fender.

"I must say, Miss Macgregor, that I
can see no reasonable objection to proceeding with the ceremony," was the reply of the already half-tipsy preacher, as
he arose from his seat, steadying himself
by leaning upon the table.

"Oh heaven! would you, too, force me
into a union which can only be productive of misery? Think, man, had you a
daughter pleading as I am to be freed
from draining a cup so fraught with bitterness, would not your heart bleed for
her, and would not your heart bleed for
her, and would not you denounce her persecutors with all the vehemence in your
nature? Why then will you not feel for
and sympathize with one whose parents,
had they been alive, would have felt as
you, and would have opposed this proceeding?"

"There must be an end to this prating,"
shouted her uncle, stepping forward to
seize her. Dragging her to the table he
exclaimed, "Hore, M'Kenzie, come forward, and let us be done with it. What!
are you becoming chicken-hearted too?"
Ina appeared to be in a fit of abstraction
and when Cameron appealed to him he
paled and trembled violently. Then he
advanced with an appearance of reluctance.

But the words of Cameron seemed to

ance.
But the words of Cameron seemed to
nerve him. A flush overspread his features, and throwing back his head he ad-

nerve him. A mind overspread his earvanced.

With a wild cry, Flora disengaged her
hand from her uncle's grasp, and flinging herself at their feet, exclaimed—

"Oh, are your senses deadened to every
moral consideration? Have honour and
love no place in your souls? Does it
matter not though I tell you I am affianced to another, whom I love with the
whole strength of a woman's heart, and
who loves me in return with the devotion of a noble soul? Why would you
force upon me misery when Heaven has
held out the promise of happiness and
bliss? Oh, Hector, Hector, would that
you were here, were it only to strengthen
me!"

"You must learn to be obedient to
those who are you guardians," hiccupped
Mr.Fender, approaching to commence the
ceremony.

Mr. Fender, approaching to commence the ceremony.

Flora rose to her feet, an expression of calm resignation upon her saddest face. Ian held out his hand for her to take, but she rejected it, and, turning to her uncle and Fender, said quietly, though her voice trembled with agitation—

"As fate appears to have decreed it so, I suppose I must yield, but I should like to prepare myself for the bridal. Willyou grant me yet an hour in my own chamber before the ceremony?"

"What say you, M'Kennie?" inquired Cameron.

"What say you, M'Kenzie?" inquired Cameron.

"Yes by all means, I willingly grant Miss Macgregor an hour to prepare herself," responded Ian, overjoyed to hear the words just spoken by our heroine.

"Then go, my girl," axclaimed Cameron, "and we shall call on you an hour hence. I thought we should be able to make you see matters in a reasonable light."

Flora smiled sadly, and left the room.

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November 3.187

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A. C. Osborne,
A. C. Osborne,

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Gray Ploughs,

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46	OVERO	OATS	for	8.00,	"		10.50
66	OVER	COATS	for	11.00,	. "		13.50
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GUELPH, Nov. 10, 1873

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