

ANNABEL OR THE TEMPTATION.

CHAPTER XX. ARRIVAL AT DUDEN. That night's ride was a long and dreary one, across a portion of the Yorkshire wolds, over wild, bleak heaths, through deep and desolate solitudes, where isolated houses stood miles and miles apart, along partially deserted roads, where the wheels sometimes sunk in ruts, and at other times bumped against large stones. To Annabel it was intensely lonesome to be carried thus into the wild, her only companion a man whom she had now come thoroughly to fear, and dislike, amid the darkness of night, the hour waxing late, and no prospect of the journey terminating. The situation was alarming beyond description, and as such she felt it.

Between her and Dick perfect silence had been maintained from the time they left the safe side, though often she longed to break it by asking if their journey was nearing its termination. But his manner had been so gruff and rude all that day that she shrank from holding intercourse with him, and devoutly wished that their arrival at a place of human habitation would put an end to a position which had become so dreadful. She had made up her mind, should they come to a village or an inn, to take a bolder course with Dick, to insist on knowing more precisely what was the object of all their singular proceedings, and to put an end to a situation which was neither seemly nor proper. Annabel could not help bitterly blaming Mrs. Langton in placing her in such a disagreeable and improper predicament, and so soon as it was safe for her to do so she determined to terminate it, even though she should have to perform the rest of her journey on her own resources.

The hope to reach Rockstone soon had begun to fade in her heart, for the desolate and solitary region in which they were borne so resembled to the fertile and beautiful country by which that estate was surrounded. They must therefore be still a long distance from it and the hour was wearing on to midnight.

With anxious eyes Annabel scanned the scene in front, in the hope of beholding a light to give token that they were approaching some human dwelling. But vainly did she gaze on all sides in this search. Universal darkness lay on the shrouded landscape, and overhead beamed the stars in peaceful but distant stillness.

Once they came upon a beaten road more like a highway than the paths they were traversing, and as they turned into it Annabel's hope rose high, for she deemed that ere long it would lead to town or village. But scarcely had they kept by it for a hundred yards when the horse's head was suddenly turned to the left, and again they struck into a broken and grass-grown by-path, which led them further and further into solitude.

Annabel's heart beat within her, and she could scarcely breathe no longer. "Dick," she burst forth, "I can bear this suspense no longer. Do tell me where we are going?" "You will see in a little now," responded Dick, "for we haven't far to go."

"But we cannot be near Rockstone?" "Well, no, we are not." "Then we are not going there to-night?" "No, we cannot make the distance. The horse is a good one, but he has had a long ride of it, and needs a rest. So do you and I for that matter, and we shall have it now before half an hour is over."

"At an inn," cried Annabel eagerly. "Well, summit of that sort," answered Dick with an inward chuckle, and they again retraced their steps.

The half hour had nearly expired when they descended into a hollow, the brow of which they had been skirting for some time, and crossed a narrow bridge over a stream. On the other side was a long dense wood, by the side of which they continued their way, the hollow lying close upon their left.

"How well I know every turn and corner of the old place," muttered Dick to himself. "It's many a year since I saw it, but it ain't a bit altered. Blow me, if ever I expected to be near it again. I hope as how Hayes has sent in plenty of stores, for I'll be hanged if it won't take it all to keep me in such a desert. I thought it had enough before I saw the world, but now it's ten times worse, and it will take all the fire I am to have for the job to stand it. Then there's the revenge—that counts, for something, and that's what I ain't likely to forget so long as those stinging twinges shoot through my arm. Curse that young prig—I shall pay him off now."

Such were Dick's silent and concealed thoughts as they drove along the side of the wood and turned sharply round a corner, where a clump of trees seemed to have detached themselves from the main portion of the plantation, and to have driven hither in their insolation for they had reached a larger growth, and spread their dark branches abroad with wider sweep.

From the faint track another track equally faint diverged, and into this latter the horse was turned, when they were in less than a minute driven within a clump of trees, and then it was that Annabel saw that the latter surrounded a large unlighted building, of irregular shape, encircled by a high wall. This seemed to be the place where their journey was to end for the present, and where Annabel in her weakness felt glad that it was so, a strange feeling of dread also overcame her at sight of the gloomy pile, so like a prison—dark, silent, and solitary.

ATTEMPTED ROBBERY.—On Sunday morning an attempt was made by a man representing himself as being from Rochester, to carry off a watch and some money lying on a table in the Arley's Arms Hotel, St. Catharines. The would-be thief and another man had called and ordered breakfast at the hotel, and while it was being prepared, he entered a room adjoining the dining-room, where the articles were lying on the table, and while in the act of putting them in his pocket, was observed, and seized, and the valuables taken from him.

MANY persons use the phrase, "He is a brick," without the least idea that it is supposed to be of classic origin. It is said that King Agesilaus, being asked by an Ambassador from Sparta, why they had no walls for Sparta, replied, "We have." Retorting to his marshalled army, he said, "There are the walls of Sparta; every man you see is a brick."

"MARTHA, does thee love me?" asked a Quaker youth of one at whose shrine his heart's fondest feelings had been offered. "Why, Seth," answered she, "we are commanded to love one another, are we not?" "Ah, Martha, has that then regard thee with that feeling the word call for?" "I hardly know what to tell thee, Seth. I have tried to love my lover on all hands, but I have something thought, perhaps, that thee was getting more than thy share."

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THE FINEST ASSORTMENT OF DRESS GOODS IN CANADA!

Heavy Black Corded Silks from \$1; Colored " " " \$1; Japanese Silks and Grenadines in every quality; Tasso Linens for Dresses and Costumes; the most useful and stylish goods in the trade from 12c. per yard.

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This Department is now in operation. Ladies wanting new and stylish Bonnets and Hats ought to visit this establishment. Real Laces in great variety, the only place in town where the genuine article is kept.

Thomson's Glove Fitting Stays, every size. GEORGE JEFFREY, GUELPH

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Lloyd's Euxesis For Shaving, without the use of Soap or Water, SOLD AT PETRIE'S NEW STORE.

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Savage's German Baking Powder, Is superior to any in the market.

SODA WATER, The best Soda Water and finest Syrups at PETRIE'S NEW STORE.

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PIESSE & LUBIN'S RIBBON OF BRUGES, A very fragrant Fumigator For THE SICK ROOM

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Warranted for Six Years; Tuned up in town free for one year. Second hand taken in exchange or repaired.

TUNING ATTENDED TO PROMPTLY, Prices lower than any Imported, and quality and finish unsurpassed. Show Rooms and Office, WEST MARKET SQUARE, GUELPH, ONT.

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JUST IMPORTED A GOOD YOUNG HYSOON TEA... for 50 cents per lb. A FIRST-RATE GUNPOWDER TEA... for 50 cents per lb. A CHOICE BLACK TEA... for 50 cents per lb. AN EXTRA JAPAN TEA... for 50 cents per lb. THE BEST DOLLAR GREEN TEA... for 50 cents per lb.

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A Large Stock of Choice and Favorite Brand Cigars.

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Belonging to the Insolvent Estate of John A. McMillan is being sold at a tremendous sacrifice. Large additions have been made from the insolvent's store in Bellinwood, and the whole must be sold without reserve to wind up the Estate.

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