The Foster Brother

The Orphan of the Wreck.

CHAPTERXXVII.

willingly, if he could be proceeded inst by himself; but thet, you see, t be done. Look here, Manby; my must be sealed to everyone but yournthis matter. Even Harry must ir know it, and far more must it be sealed from Lilies. You underd?"

concealed from Lines. You understand?"

"I do," said the doctor, after a pause.
"But I question much if the thing will
hide. There is more under it all than
has come out yet. The conversation you
overheard between Garrett and the Captain points to something deeper and
darker than anything that can yet be
fathomed. Are you certain they don't
know you to be the child of the
wreck?"

"They will now, for Harry was to see

know you to be the child of the wreck?"

"They will now, for Harry was to see his father yesterday."

"But did they not know it before?"

"I cannot think so—nay, I am sure of it. But what if they did? Would you draw any inference from it?"

"Yes, I would," said Manby, without a moment's hesitation. "I would infer, then, that they had another motive for murdering you beyond the desire to destroy the man who had won the love of Lillas."

"What motive could they possibly have besides that?"

"Who can tell? But I am persuaded that should reason return to Walley we shall know it. Ah, that reminds me. I must go and see him."

"Can I accompany you?" cried George starting up.

"Surely. The presence of no one

must go and see him."

"Can I accompany you?" cried George starting up.

"Surely. The presence of no one can distrip him in his present state. I have had him removed to one of my own rooms up stairs, so as to have him more closely under my inspection."

Manby led the way up stairs, and they entered a room partially darkened and utterly quiet. George's heart beat violently as he approached the presence of the human being who was so mysteriously connected with himself, and on whose state of mind so much that was personally important depended. Through the gloon he saw a human form rise slowly and silently up from a chair by the side of the bed. This was then rures, who was there in constant watching, ready to report the slightest change in the state of the invalid.

"Raise the blind, Mary," said the doctor in a low tone.

This was done, and the clear frosty light from the west streamed into the apartment, and fell full upon the bed and its occupant.

aburement, should be impossible to describe the sensations experienced by George when his eye fell on the still, white face which lay upon the pillow. He was drawn forward as by a spell, and gazed silently down upon the motionless obset.

silently down upon the motionless object.

The eyes were closed, the hair was white as snow, and the features which were in perfect repose, were not unpleasant to look at. To George's view it seemed as if he gazed on the countenance of of a venerable old man who calmly and soundly slept. A placid peace rested upon it, such as hes on the the face of innocence. There was no sign of trouble, of wildness, or unrest, and the breathing was very low.

One long, transparent hand lay above the ceverlet, and the doctor laid his fingers on the wrist and felt the pulse, and as he did so the ticking of his watch in the silent room sounded in George's ears like strokes of a hammer.

"Ah! Still little or no change," muttered Manby.

"There is no sign of madness in that face," whispered George.

"That is the source of my chief hope," answered his friend. "The expression has entirely changed since he went down so low. I am anxious now, though, that he should rally, for if this lasts much

has entirely changed since he went down so low. I am anxious now, though, that he should rally, for if this lasts much longer the weakness will become so great that he may not revive at all, but die by utter prostration. Mary, I think you had better give him the medicine every three hours instead of four."

"Very well, sir," was the nurse's quiet answer, and the two men quitted the room as silently as they entered it.

"What is his state?" asked George, anxiously.

"What is his state?" asked George, anxiously.

"Very critical. Death is coming, but I hope and fully expect that immediately before it he will rouse up like the expiring torch which flickers and burns brightly up ere going out."

"There is no chance that he will recover and live on?"

"None; the physicial balance is gone past restoration. Now I must leave you for an hour or more till I go my rounds. You will find a book or two in the parlor which may amuse or interest you."

"Nay, I'll write to Harry. I promised that I would in the hurried note I sent him.

him.

"So be it. Remember me, of course, say what a lecture I mean to give him for having deceived us all so shamefully in concealing his real name."

The letter was written and despatched that night under cover to Matthew Greigson, but it was not destined to reach the hand of him to whom it was penned—at least for present; for, to the intense surprise of the two friends as they sat together at dinner on the following day. Mrs. Curtis ushered in a visitor whe proved to be none other than Harry him self.

"Bless my soul, Harry," exclaim anby. rushing forward and grasping and. "Why, this is a delightful s

rise."

George stood dumbly regarding him, nd Harry, after returning Manby's reeting, sprang towards him, laid his ands firmly on his shoulders, and gazed ith a long intense look of loving yet prowful inquiry into his face.

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Guelph, Nov. 6th, 1872.

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