The Foster Brother;

The Orphan of the Wreck.

CHAPTER XVII.

As may be conjectured, the upspringing of love in George's heart tended to take his thoughts in a measure from that private personal subject which had just before begun to interest him so strongly. He did not now dwell on the mystery of his birth so incessantly, or with such a restless yearning of spirit. The sweet influence of the tender passion modified the intensity of his desart to discover his parentage, and to fathom the puzzling circumstances which had come to his knowledge concerning Mathan Garrett and the Captain. He had by no means forgotion these, only he did not place himself so purposely on the watch as otherwise he would have done; and but for an accidental encounter with another personage which roused his interest anew he might have made no progress in the elucidation of the mystery.

Though he had now been many weeks at Ardgowan, he had not yet been nearer Mossgrove than the brow of the ravine, on the other side of which the little property was situated. From that point he had on several occasions gazed with deep emotion on the house where he knew a year or two of his childhood had been passed, but he had never gone nearer it. The property was now in the possession of Nathan Garrett, and the house was tenanted by him, and as he and Nathan had never exchanged words, he had a repugnance so cross the ravine and enter the grounds, lest he should encounter the unamiable owner.

It happened, however, one frosty day in mid-winter, that in a solitary walk which he took across the park he went to maniable owner.

It happened however had be one state, and found himself at the edge of the ravine where a well-trodden footpath winded along its northern slope, and this path he followed for a long way, till it led him to a sequestered hollow, where the ravine gave place on the other side to an open space of two or three acres in extent surrounded on all sides by wooded slopes. At one end of this secluded amphitheater stood a neat thatched cottage, over whose porch a rose bush was carefully trained. Before the

moment, nodded, and, with a pleasant smile, called out in a hale, hearty voice—

"A fine winter day this, sir."

"It is a very pleasant day," answered George, advancing to the end of the little foot-bridge which spanned the stream, for he was pleased with the old man's appearance—with his serious yet placid countenance, and with the frank, encouraging tones of his voice.

"You live in a very nice place here," observed the youth, on whose bright open face the man continued to gaze with something of an earnest look.

"A very nice place, indeed, sir," was the answer. Will ye not step across, and take a better look o' it!,

"Thank you," responded George, crossing the bridge at once, and, entering the garden by a little gate at the lower end, he walked up the path and joined the old man.

A nearer view of the latter served to increase the first favorable impression which George had formed of him. He seemed to be over sixty years of age, and though his broad shoulders had begun to stoop and his hair was verging towards whiteness, he was by no means a man overcome by the infirmities of age. His round, pleasant features were gentle and kind in expression; his face was ruddy with the hue of health; and he had the aspect of being a man of intelligence and good nature, though there was also an air of sadness on his countenance, betokening serious thought, or, perhaps, a hard conversation, the nature and tone of the content of the con

experience.

He and George entered into a general conversation, the nature and tone of which made them pleasantly affected towards each other; for the utterance of honest, upright hearts never fails to beget confidence and friendly feeling.

Ontario Rifle Association.

ent of the Rifle Association is announced to take place at Toronto, on the garrison com-mon, on Monday next and following mon, on Monday next and following days. The matches will be eleven in number, as follows: All comers; affiliated associations; battalion; that for the cup presented by Sir Peter Tait to the Militia of Canada, in commemoration of the cup will be eleven in the Contario Team to Wimble don in 1871, and to be shot for annually by the members of any corps of militia in the Dominion; company; that for the Thomas C. Street prizes, with \$120 added by the Association; that for the President's prizes; small-bore; that for the Canada Company's prizes; that for the Marksman's stakes. In addition to the prizes in the enacties, there will be two given for the highest aggregate score made in the All-Comers' and Affilhated Association matches, and in those for the T. C. Street and President's prizes, viz: first prize, the silver cup, presented by His Excellency the late Governor-General, with two sovereigns added; second prize a silver cup. In all the matches the prizes are such as to make them well worthy of being competed for. They comprises \$1,371 in each, the Ladies' Challenge Cup, value \$125; a Wimbledon telescope and stand; 12 Martini-Henry Rides two presented by Mr J. Pridreau), the Merchaft's Challenge Trophy, value \$125; a match rifle, presented by Mr J. Pridreau), the Merchaft's Challenge Trophy, value \$125; a match rifle, presented by E. M. Reilly & Co., and the Elkington Challenge Cup, value \$125; with Sir Peter Tait's and the late Governor General's cups and silver cup before mentioned. The winners of prizes in the competition for the Marksman's Stakes will consistint the Ontario team will be paid to Ottawa and black to Toronto by the Ontario Rifle Association, and the successful competition for the Marksman's Stakes will not be paid their prizes Imperior of prizes in the competition for the Marksman's Stakes will not be paid their prizes Imperior of prizes in the competition for the Marksman's Stakes will not be paid the prizes Imperior of the Marksman's Stakes will not be paid to Ottawa and black to Toronto by th The matches will be eleven in

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