

HELEN MOIR

OR— LOVE AND HONOUR.

A TALE OF THE CLYDE. CHAPTER XXII.

THE SECRET PLOTTERS—HELEN'S MUSINGS—SHE IS DRAWN INTO THE SOLITUDE.

Obviously, the important question could not be settled within the compass of a morning's meeting. It required long and solitary meditation in some quiet and sequestered spot, where the outer harmonies could steal into the inner depths of her being; where, free from disturbance and interruption, she could listen to the still, small voices of truth and duty, which never refuse to speak to ears patiently and attentively opened to their utterances. And, as she divined that Edwin's tidings would bring Hermann to her very swiftly, she saw the necessity of holding this private communion with her heart and mind that very day. She resolved, therefore, to watch for an opportunity to steal off into the solitude. And that opportunity came at an early hour in the afternoon, when her father and Mrs. Allerton had settled into a conversation, absorbing to themselves, regarding the events at Allerton Hall during the years immediately subsequent to the painful and enforced departure of the unfortunate youth. Engaged thus, Helen was enabled to withdraw from them unperceived, and summoning Ritchie, she asked him to row her across the loch.

"Weel, Miss Heelen," observed the latter as they skimmed the surface of the water, "yesterday was a grand and wonderful day for us." "Emma tell me how did I am. And to think that Mrs. Allerton is yer aunt, and Master Edwin yer cousin! It's just like what I reads o' in novels." "Indeed it is so, Ritchie. And I think, too, of the amazing rapidity with which the whole has transpired. Two months have not yet elapsed since you and I were quickly engaged in our several vocations in Glasgow—you in the wine vault, and I in Herr Rheinbach's fine mansion—and neither of us dreaming of anything strange about to happen. Yet what revolutions of circumstances have we undergone since then. Things have indeed come so quickly that their course can scarcely be traced."

"I can trace the cause well enough," replied Ritchie. "That vagabond Frenchman has bronched about the hale affair. If the impudent second hadna presumed to mak' love to ye, ye wadna hae roused his spiteful miltice to write the letter to the Herr. But for that letter ye wad hae been still the governess o' the lassies, and nothing o' a' this that has happened doon here at Ardenwald would hae been heard tell o'. Sae, if Dubosque was the devil himself, his evil designs hae turned out for guid. But hoo are ye pleased wi' yer father, Miss Heelen?"

"I love him, Ritchie—I love him with all a daughter's pride and affection," answered Helen, with sparkling eyes. "I was sure o' it," exclaimed Ritchie. "Did I no tell ye owre by there in the kirkyard that he was a brave, a bonny, and a generous youth. I jaloused, tae, that he was better born than he let on, and ye see I hanna been wrang. Nor was he sae muckle to blame about that paper as we were made to think. They ca'd him a criminal and a forger, and sic like names, till aye wad hae thought he was the greatest second-order that ever walkit the yirth. Fair chield, he was a thousand times mair to be pitied than to be blamed, noo that a' the cots and ins hae been explained."

"You think, then, my father's crime was not great," said Helen, in an eager tone. "Great!" repeated Ritchie. "I think it was mair hardly a crime aye. He was drawn intae it, depend' on it, Helen dear, he was drawn intae it by that Philip Jordan. Maister Edwin thinks that as well as me, for he and I had a crack about it this mornin' afore he left for Glasgow. He thinks, and I think tae, that the hail thing was planned by the gambler, and they shared the five hundred pounds among them. It's as plain as a pike-staff that when Jordan got your father's confidence he resolved to mak' his ain o' him, and the pickles o' siller he lent him noo and then was just tae get him in his power. Then he got him tae the gambling house, and lured him on the play. Nae doot he was cheated, and pitied wi' drink till he was got intae the fit state for their purpose. He wasna himself when he signed the paper, and kannel little or naething about what he was doin'. Then, as for the name he signed, it was natural anouch for him tae dae that tae, for it was the name he had answered tae for months and months afore. In fact, in our opinion there was nae crime committed aye. In the e'e o' the law, nae doot, it could be said o' forger, but yer father was nae mair a forger in intention than I am; and if the richt way o' the story had come tae Glenravin, it wadna been a blow to his yer pair mother."

"The proof of the boat touching the ground cut short Ritchie's very logical remarks, and as Helen quitted the boat she pressed his hand in token of the comfort his words had given her. He did not know how important they were, as bearing on the subject which Helen was on her solitary way to discuss in the quietude of a neighbouring gloom."

"Will I wait here or fer ye at the loch?" asked Ritchie as she was moving away. "Do not wait at all," she answered. "I shall walk home by the head of the loch, after a ramble up Glenravin."

"Ye've never gaun up Glenravin?" cried Ritchie, in astonishment. "Quite by myself, Ritchie. There is nothing to fear."

"Lillian ken about it, though. If that second-order o' a Frenchman should be provin' about?"

"This is Saturday, and Dubosque will be in Glasgow, though were he even in the neighborhood I should not expect to encounter him in Glenravin. Good-bye, Ritchie, I shall be back in the evening."

"But Heel, Heelan, dear," persisted Ritchie, calling after her in a tone of alarm, "I think ye're doin' wrang tae wander sae far. It looks tae be thunder the day."

But Helen only smiled her fearlessness of such a contingency, and, with a gentle wave of her hand walked steadily away. Ritchie sat motionless in the boat, looking after her with a dubious, anxious, and dissatisfied expression on his face. Then slowly, reluctantly, and with a misgiving shake of his head, he took up the oars and pulled out into the loch on his return voyage.

A FRIEND IN NEED.—Dr. Wistar's Balsam of Wild Cherry is a friend in need. Who has not found it such in curing all diseases of the lungs and throat, coughs, colds and pulmonary affections, and best, best, best, consumption? The sick are assured that the high standard of excellence on which the popularity of this preparation is based, will always be maintained by the proprietors.

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(BROMO CHLORALUM) NON-POISONOUS, POWERFUL DEODORIZER and DISINFECTANT.

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The Best and Safest Disinfectant for all Contagious and Pustulent Diseases,

SUCH AS CHOLERA, TYPHOID FEVER, SCARLET FEVER, SMALL POX, &c. &c.

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NEW Breakfast Shawls and Sontags.

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NEW HATS NEW CAPS

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NEW TIES

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AT THE GUELPH CLOTH HALL.

SHAW & MURTON. Guelph, Feb. 18, 1872. Wynndham-street, Guelph.

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AHEAD OF ALL COMPETITION

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FISH, FISH, FISH, FISH,

Quite a variety suitable for the Season.

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350 Packages OF NEW SEASON TEAS

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FOREIGN and DOMESTIC LIQUORS

Hotel Keepers and Families supplied with pure Brandy, Rums, Gins, Wines, Old Scotch, Scotch and Canadian Whiskies from the best distilleries.

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Barrels Fine New Dairy Salt in Good Order; Half Barrels Trout and White Fish and Lake Herring.

JACKSON & HALLETT, General Grocers, Wyndham-Street, Guelph Sept 26, 1871

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A pleasant and gently stimulating tonic containing all the valuable properties of the best Calisaya or Yellow Bark united with other aromatics in a vinous menstruum. It is particularly adapted to females, children, and those with weak or delicate stomachs.

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MCCULLOUGH & MOORE, Dispensing Chemists, Guelph, Jan. 20, 1872

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The following valuable properties are offered on the most favorable terms:

No. 15. A Splendid Farm in Peel, County of Wellington, containing 100 acres, 75 acres cleared, and in good cultivation, the balance covered with hardwood, and watered by a good spring creek; brick house and log barn situated two miles from a Railway Station, and 12 miles from a Gravel Road. Terms easy.

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A BARGAIN. 900 ACRES in the Township of Port Hope, County of Grey, in the immediate vicinity of the Toronto, Grey and Bruce R.R. Will be sold cheap. Also, 700 acres in the Township of Minto, Co. Wellington. Terms easy.

No. 19. THAT excellent farm situated on the Grand River, within 2 miles of the village of Fergus, consisting of 300 acres, 220 cleared, the balance in good hardwood, 4 acres seeded with timothy and clover, with a leg house, the buildings consist of one roughcast dwelling house, two workmen's houses, bank barn, with stables and root house under the same, all in good condition. There is also an excellent orchard with trees in full bearing. This is, without exception, one of the finest farms in the County of Wellington, and well adapted for stock raising. Terms easy.

No. 20. 176 ACRES in the Township of Southampton, County of Bruce, about 2 miles from the thriving village of Port Egin, an important station on the Wellington, Grey and Bruce Railway; 130 acres cleared, the balance covered with hemlock and hardwood, with a leg house, and double log barn. There is also a good water privilege on Snake Creek, with 14 feet head.

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Also a fine assortment of BOY'S CLOTHING very nice and cheap, made in London, England, and a large assortment of Men's

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Guelph, Oct 1, 1871