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Auctioneers.

The Braes of Yarrow An Historical Tale of the Sixteenth Century.

Haughtily the stranger continued, without the slightest explanation vouchsafed—

'The knowledge of the contents of the missive that fellow succeeded in carrying safely to its destination was of the highest import to me. You have failed to procure that for me, and yet you'—to Tushielaw—"ask me to close the palace doors in the face of an unfortunate lady; and you'—to the friar—"ask me to secure for you the lord-ship of Birram.'
'It is my right, 'said Mess Simon frowning; 'the late lord was my father's brother, and, dying without issue, I am his heir through my father,'
That is, you would have been the heir direct had your mother been your father's wife.

This was pronounced with a cool contempt, under which the subject writhed. 'All the priests in Christendom could not have made me more the son of Heron Barras whose name I bear.'
'Or less worthy of the honours you seek.'
'These are hard words, my lord, and unwise, since I have it in my power to retailiste.'
'Soh! you threaten.'

ate."

'Soh! you threaten."
'No, I only warn."
His lordship's lips moved scornfully.
'And think you, sirrah, that I will heed
your warning or your threats?
'It may be well to do so,' said Simon, significantly.
'Bah. Why man, do you know what it is
you want me to do—to raise you to the peerage?'

you want me to do—to raise you to what it age?'
And you, my lord, do you know what it is you ask us to do—to raise you to a throne.'
The retort struck home, and his lordship started fercely.
'You lie, churl—' then checking himself he said with suppressed rage, 'you mistake my motives. In all that I do my first thought in the retorn of the said with suppressed rage, interrupted.

'You lie, churl—'then checking himself he said with suppressed rage, 'you mistake my motives. In all that I do my first thought is for my country.'

'And the second for Douglas,' interrupted Simon, with a sneer.

'I have no mind to discuss my actions with you,' said his lordship, haughtly, 'enough that for what service you may do me you shall be requited,'

'Then I am satisfied, 'rejoined Simon, or Heron Barrass, as we had better call him, since we know that to be his real name.

During this discussion Tushielaw had been standing with arms folded moodily watching the disputants.

'I, too, am satisfied, he said now, 'but your lorship will understand that in what may be to do I do not question your reasons. I am content to know that in serving you I serve myself.'

'Wherein lies the ground of my confidence in you,' said his lordship, rising and drawing his cloak about him. 'I have told you what I desire, and if the result be as I wish I shall not fail to help you in your claims.'

Barras bowed his head submissively, for to him the latter words were addressed.

Gilbert found himself drawn away from his point of observance at this stage of the proceedings.

'We must go,' said the Chevalier in his

dings. must go,' said the Chevalier in his

Car.
They were conducted stealthily to the door and before they had reached the middle of the street they heard the tread of three men descending the outside staircase.
Did you recognise them?' questioned the

Chevalier.

'Yes. Tushielaw, the half brother of Lady
Spens and Douglas. My poor lady needs help
indeed since so much power opposes her.

'And shall have help, fear not. Now for

"And shall have help, fear not. Now for the bairn."

As he spoke the Chevalier opened a door of a house nearly opposite the one they had just quitted. They passed into a dark room where by the aid of a flint a light was procured. Gilbert surmised correctly that this was the same house into which he had been taken some hours previously to clude the pursuit of Tushielaw and Barras.

Here he was left alone for a few minutes, and when the Chevalier returned he carried wee Alice in his arms. He held her to his breast with a singular tenderness, and he passed her to Gilbert the sitatingly, as if refunctant to part with her. He suddenly drew her back to him, and said, with an inexplicable emotion in his tone—

"Stay, I will carry her to the lodgings of her mother. That will avoid any difficulty in passing the Port."

Gilbert was struck by the manner and the soice, and silently followed the man, who seemed to have become strangely interested in his affairs and also those of Lady Speach. When they returned to the street the fog was slowly rising from the city and the chill air of morning swept coldly up the hill. The Chevalier with the solicitude almost of a woman folded his cloak around the child, and at a quick pace they proceeded towards the Cowgate.

Arrived at Mrs. Nichol's door, Andrew, looking fatigued and anxious, made his appearance.

"Saints save us, Maister Gilbert,' he said

looking fatigued and anxious, made his appearance.

'Saints save us, Maister Gilbert,' he said holding up the light, 'Whar hae ye been roring a' nicht?'

'Never mind that, Andrew. What I have brought here is worth roving twenty nights for. Here is Alice.'

'Hooly,' cried the vetran with a jump of joy, 'but that's guid news for my lady. She has been up this three hours walking about, no able to sleep, asking every five minutes if ye had come back. Hooly, hooly, but this is braw news.'

The old man's exclamations of joy brought Lady Spens to the door.

'The bairn, Gilbert,' she cried, grasping him by the arm, 'you have found her, have you found her?'
'She is here? said Gilbert, stepping aside, and revealing the Chevalier, who still held her in his arms.

her in his arms.

With a cry of delight the lady sprung forward and snatched the precious one from theman's arms; and as she covered the child with passionate kisses she did not see that the man's cyes were fixed upon her with a strange yearning, and he trembled.

TO BE CONTINUED.

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Quelph, June 15.

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Grounds open at 9 o'clock, Games to commence
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D. NUNAN, Secretary.

Guelph, 17th June.

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