Buelph Evening Mercury

FRIDAY EV'G, DEC. 18, 1874.

HELENA GRAHAM.

THE BRIDE'S SACRIFICE.

THE BRIDE'S SACRIFICE.

CHAPTER XI.

"It's all for your good, my leddy, indeed it is; an' I think it my duty to warn you, my leddy, that Mr. Clinton ain't to be depended on. There!"

"Aunt Allie, what do you mean? Speak, and tell me what you are hinting at. What has Mr. Clinton done?" asked Helena, growing very pale.

"Well, my leddy, instead o' stayin' here, and thinking of you, as he ought, he's been prowlin' all hours of the night round the island with Miss Jessie, making love to her, I'll be bound."

"What?" cried Helena, in a tone that made the old woman lesp to her feet, as she sprang forward and caught her by the arm. "Dare you insimuate such a thing? I tell you he could not, and he would not—he dare not prove false to me!"

"Miss Helena! for heaven's sake don's

me!"
"Miss Helena! for heaven's sake, don't look at me with such wild eyes. I think she's bewitched him, I can't account for it no other way," said Aunt Allie, trembling before the awful wrath of those blazing eyes. "I only says what I knows. He's all the time talkin' bout her when he's 'long."

blazing eyes. "I only says what I knows. He's all the time talkin' bout her when he's 'long."

"It cannot be true; he dare not deceive me!" almost shricked Helena. "What proof have you of this? Speak! speak!"

"Miss Helena, you may assassinate me if you've the mind to; but I'm tellin' the trath. Since you left they ain't a minute spart. They've sailed in the night, an' gone trampin' about the island in the daytime; an' I've heard him callin' her his 'dear Jessie' when he's alone. I know 'tain't pleasant, nor likewise agreeable, for you to hear this; but I tell you for your good, 'deed I does."

But now the first fierce gust of passion was over, and pale and tottering, Helena leaned against the chimney-piece—her arm on the mantel, her head bowed upon it, shuddering, sinking, collapsed. All his neglect, that had puzzled her so long, was accounted for now. She was forgotten—deserted for this island girl.

So long she remained in that fixed, rigid attitude, that Aunt Allie began to grow alarmed; and she was on the point of commencing a consoling speech, beginning with 'Miss Helena, my leddy,' when the young girl lifted her head, and asked, in a hollow voice—
"Is this—this girl in the island still?"
"Yos, of course she is—down at Mrs. Ben's."

For a moment longer Helena stood, gazing steadily before her, with those wild, fierce, burning eyes: her face perfectly colorless, save that two dark-purple spots blazed in and out upon it like burning coals; her teeth set; her hands elenched. All the humiliation, the shame, the agony of being deserted, rushed like a burning torrent through her mmd. And with it came a fierce, demoniacal hatred of her idol, and a deadly wish to be revenged.

Starting suddenly up, she fled up the stairs, through the long. unlighted hell her.

of her idol, and a deadly wish to be revenged.

Starting suddenly up, she fied up the stairs, through the long, unlighted hall, out of the front door, and took the path leading to Mrs. Ben's. The bright moonlight lit all around with a pale, radiant glory.—And, standing near a rock, commanding an extensive view of the sea, Jessie stood, enjoying the beauty of the night, when suddenly a fierce grasp was laid on her shoulder, and seh looked up. Her vision was realized. Helena Graham stood glaring upon her, with her fierce, wild black eyes, her long har streaming dawn her back, like an aroused tigress reparing to spring.

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