CHAPTER IX.
THE RYSTERY CAVELLED.

And then it was that Philip pressed her hand to intimate how cordially he

approved of her decision.

approyed of her decision.

She quitted her lover's side and followed Mr. Langton upstairs to the door of Mr. Seymour's chamber. It was a few inches ajar. He pushed it silently open and motioned Annabel to enter. Then, waiting only till he saw her approach the bed towards the outstretched arms of the dying man, he closed the door, and returned to the library to rejoin Philip.

If before entering the room Annabel felt kindly disposed towards her uncle, one glance at his white, wistful face, so full of intense pleading anxiety, and at the trembling arms which he stretched towards her, made her doubly anxious to cast away all hard thoughts. She ran to the side of the bed, throwing of her bonnet as size did so, and kneeling there she gazed into his longing eyes with a look of pity and affection.

"Annabel," he faltered, "do—do you know—has Joseph—Mr Langton told you—"

"That you are my uncle? Yes."

of pily and affecting open with a look of pily and affecting open with a look of pily and affecting open with a look of pily and a fostering open with a look of pily and a fostering open with a look of pily and and —you hay pot rofused to some to me? Oh, that I had strength congh-to throw myself on my knees between you to see for pardon. But if I do not kneel in body, Annabel, I kneel in spirit. I am dying, and my chief trouble is that I have not you do giverness. Grant me but that, my child, and I shall depart in peace. I do not deserve it. I had strength on the hardship is law in filed on the bardship of your complete your angelie work, and take, away the bitterness "My por ungle," said Annabel. In my mother's name and in my own, I received your on the cold man's white lips who he heard the bissfall words, was torminated by a gurgle in his throat and a violent chart of heard the bissfall words, was torminated by a gurgle in his throat and a violent chart of heard the bissfall words, was torminated by a gurgle in his throat and a violent chart of heard the bissfall words, was torminated by a gurgle in his throat and a violent chart of heard the bissfall words, was torminated by a gurgle in his throat and a violent chart of the property of the subject to the dying man. But, sias, relief yas sto omne sho hands the his antity to receive a lim as he death struggle which had come upon time, and the property of the subject to make the his of this violent charting involuntarily at five hades as she strove to support him. Where mature fight with death is of this violent charting involuntarily at five hades as she strove to support him. Where mature fight with death is of this violent charting in voluntarily to receive a line. I was fet the best of the subject to make the him the himself of the subj

ras has come.

It was in this eruol form that death came to Mr. Seymour. The seat of the malady was in the throgeneused originally by the violent compression given by the general came of originally by the violent compression given by the general came of the sufferer, issued in a process of suffection, which had use but the first but frightful course to run ere nature yielded and death was triumphant. But at length the former was subdued, and gradually the dying one serived from consciousness into the mysterious, darkness behind, where he was withdrawn from all common experience and could not followed, either in thought or sympathy, by those around. But if they could not follow him, they were at least immensely, relieved to behold his sufferings lessen as he receded from their ken. The spasms ceased; the death sweat, which Annab conventigation his brow as it rose, collected of any general support during the seven years he had been in business in the missiness in the throat support during the seven years he had been in business in the missiness in the throat support during the seven years he had been in business in the one formerly or cupied by 2tr. H. Berry, and tately by 2tr. At. Borre, as the Confectionery Store, the two seven in the first of which had its brief but frightful and its brief but frightful and the process of suffice and an interpretation of the Public, to prevent in the plant of the Public, to prevent in the plant of the Public, to prevent in the past seven years.

Have the Public for their large and like at all support during the seven years he had been in business in Guelph.

The New Store is the one founding the seven years he had been in business in the throat support during the seven years he had been in business in the subject to prevent of the suffer by 2tr. H. Berry, antitutely by 2tr. At. Forte, as the One in business the number of which had the public by 2tr. H. Berry, antitutely by 2tr. At. Forte, as the Confection of the subject by 2tr. H. Berry, antitutely by 2tr. At. Forte, as the o the receded from their ken. The spasms cased; the death sweat, which Annabel wiped from his brow as it rose, collected no longer; the appealing expression of the eyes was changed for the dull haze of departing sight; the hard labored breathing became quieter; the pulse sank lower and lower, and so imperceptibly did the change come at the end, that they could not tell the precise moment when the spirit quitted its tenement of clay. Even the doctor, who was present, scrupled for some noments to announce that all was over, but the aveil stilness put doubt at an end, he broke the silence by the selami nutimation that the owner of Rockstone was no more.

but the awful stillness put doubt at an end, he broke the silence by the soleann intimation that the owner of Rockstone was no more.

And," he added, "I have no hesitation in saving that his death is due to the violence he received in Liverpool. Our friend was as surely killed on that eccasion as if one marderorus blow halded prived him of life. And if the robber had been caught, and were how to stand his trial for the crime, the charge against him would be that of marder."

They left the room in silence, Mr. Langton and Annabel being the two most affected by the death they had just witnessed. The nowly discovered relationship, and the solemn character of the interview which proceeded the old man's dissolution, served to deepen the impression made by the dread scene. When she withdrew with the others, she was not conscious either of their number or their personality; she was dimly aware of several forms being around her, but had not specially noticed anyone; it was therefore with a kind of bewildered surprise that on entering the lower room with the rest she found herself folded in the arms of a tall, grand-looking lady, who kissed her, and made otherwise a great demonstration of affectionate friendship.

"My dear, sweet pirl," said this magnificent stranger, "this distressing event is not without its alleviation since it begins our acquaintanoschip. We have never seen each other before, but I am your dear mother's cousin, Mrs. Langton and how you must permit me to supply the pipe. We shall love acan cherwise and the other stranger, "this distressing event is not without its alleviation since it begins our acquaintanoschip. We have never seen each other before but I am your dear mother's cousin, Mrs. Langton and low you must permit me to supply the pipe. We have not considered the pipe and the

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