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:::: BY :::: G. H. BENEDICT. ______

"My early return," he said, "is no doubt a surprise. The war had hardly broken out, however, before I resolved to take the first opportunity to reach home. Mr. Saybrook had constantly assured me in his letters that there could be no outbreak of war, so I had not been led to anticipate it. But when I found that I was really shut out from my native land in her hour of peril, and when I came to think what changes might occur during the progress of the war, all interest in my studies deserted me, and I could think of nothing but the ways and means to return home. I left Dresden and went to Hamburg and other Dutch ports, but could find no vessels going to America. I then went to France, as I had heard that occassionally an American privateer would avoid the British blockade, and run into port for repairs. I went to Calais, and after waiting there until I was almost discouraged, I was gladdened one day by learning that a schooner had escaped the blockade and run into the harbor, and was probably an American vessel. I took a boat and went on board, and found, to my joy, that it was an American privateer. I at once of-fered the captain to ship with him as a common sailor, and, as I was an American, he took me at once. On our return was hurt in an engagement with a British brig, which accounts for my weak condition. But I shall get well 1f-if--

He hesitated, as if somewhat fearful to repeat the the ght that had occurred to him; and Mrs. Bruyn quickly replied: "I trust you will get well without any "If," Claude. You are young and of vigorous constitution, and a long and useful life should be yours."

"But, my dear Mrs. Bruyn, I would not care to live a moment if the dream of happiness I have cherished should be rudely destroyed. I think it needs no words to tell how truly Rosa and I love each other. No one else can ever fill her place in my heart. I am alone in the world, without kith or kin; my nds seem to turn to enemies; those whom I trusted with implicit faith have proven false and tried to rob me of my inheritance: and if, now, the one dream of happiness that I have cherished

The young man spoke with much emotion, and his evident suffering and pale, emaciated features, added to the apparent sincerity of his declaration.

"You are sure you speak honestly, Claude?" asked Mrs. Bruyn. "As I live, I do," replied the young

do not question the truth of your statement," continued the good lady; "but perhaps it is well to have an explanation of a matter that I confess has. influenced my opinions to a certain extent. Not many months ago, Mr. Say-brook exhibited a letter from you that eemed to indicate that you had formed connections in Europe that hardly ren. der your present statement of your feelings toward Rosa sincere." The young man colored, but it was with indignation more than embarrass-

"Carl Crum has told me," he replied; "of the base use made of a mere phrase in a letter of mine, written in humorous reply to some of Mr. Saybrook's suggestions that I might have become involved in love affairs in Europe. I now see through his double-eyed duplicity and villainy. It was his purpose not only to rob me of my property and of the only girl I have ever cared for, but to incite me to conduct that would destroy in my heart the pure love it chershed. Oh, weak as I am, if I had him here I would make him own his duplic-

ity or take the consequences."
"Do nothing rash, Claude," pleaded
Mrs. Bruyn. "Public opinion will come
to your aid if you have been wronged. Rely first on the law for justice, and do nothing to prejudice your cause. "And did you believe that I had so soon proved false and villainous, Rosa?"

he asked, turning impetously to the fair girl. "No, indeed, Claude," replied Rosa, with a frank and kindly tone that indi-cater her perfect confidence in him. "I did not doubt you for a moment, or believe there was anything in the letter that you could not readily explain. Mother can bear me witness in this. Yet where all was so dark and everything seemed conspiring against us, I could not explain your silence of your strange words even to my own mind, so I attempted no defence of you, but kept my belief in your good faith in

my own heart." Claude folded her impetuously to his "I knew it-I knew it," he exclaimed.

"God bless you! The devotion of a lifetime will be too little reward for your faith in me, Rosa, 'Say no more, Claude," answered Mrs. Bruyn, quietly separating the lovers. "I believe in your fidelity and

goodness, and see through Mr. Say-brook's evil plans. But much wrong has been done, and it may be hard to right it. It is not advisable to prolong this interview. If you wil receive a little advice from me, I will suggest a course that may lead to the evil that has been done being corrected "Oh, most gladly," replied the young

man. "Mr. Bruyn is deeply incensed at what he regards as your treacher and recklessness," continued the lady, "and it will be difficult to reverse his opinion. Indeed, he looks upon you as hopelessly fallen from good. But although I fear for the result, I am com-pelled to suggest that you go to him and endeavor to explain all that seems wrong to him in your conduct. He will not approve of your resuming your friendship with Rosa unless you disabuse his mind of the impression he has gained—no doubt chiefly through Mr. Saybrook's influence. It would be wrong for Rosa to disobey him, and hold communication with you clandes-tinely in anyway. I could not approve of such a course, and I cannot believe that she would so forget her duty. I have accompanied her here, because thought it was necessary there shou

which Dodd's Kidney Pills are the only certain cure. In Dropsy the Kidneys are actually dammed up, and the water, which should be expelled in the form of urine, flows back and lodges in the cells of the flesh and puffs out the skin. Remove the filth which plugs up the drain. Restore the Kidneys to health. There is only one Kidney Medicine

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peran explanation that would perhaps prevent future trouble. So far as I am concerned, my dear Claude, I would willingly admit you to our home as the most welcome of guests and friends; but it is not my province to decide in this matter, and you will have to se cure Mr. Bruyn's consent before again attempting to see or communicate with

The young man's head dropped. "This decision seems hard," he said. "I am fearful-but, no, I will do as you say. I am strong in my own sense of integrity; I may have been foolish, but criminal-never. I think all can be explained, and I will trust in Mr. Bruyn's

justice and charity." With this understanding the interview erminated. Claude was allowed to give Rosa a farewell kiss, and to whis per to her a pledge of his unalterable devotion, which was returned by glance that assured him that she could be trusted to the uttermost and then he turned away his soul filled anew with indignation toward the author of

his unhappiness. He took early occasion to have an interview with Mr. Bruyn. The old farm er received him curtly, and only after the most earnest pleadings gave his consent to even hear his explanations. But this concession was of no benefit above all others is to be ruthlessly show tered, I shall regret that the wound a received on board the Harpy did not convinced in spite of all the earnestdefended his conduct.

"No, no, no," he said at last, "I tell you young fellow, that I've made up my mind on this matter. You're none of the kind for my Rosa. She must marry a sensible, plain fellow, with no rattle-brain notions about him. You don't are for her, and she's made up her make trouble for you to go to sparking her again. I was a fool to allow it in the first place. Now, don't say anything more. I've had enough of it. You can never have her-let that end it. No is as good as a clubbing with me. If you can't take the first and stay away from here, you may get the second to help your understanding."

Thus insultingly rebuffed, Claude turned away, and returned to his temporary home at old Carl Crum's utterly disappointed and miserable, and meditating a dozen expedients in his mind to restore his relations with Rosa.

CHAPTER XXX. Recognizing that he had a hard bat-tle before him, Claude devoted himself heart and soul to the contest he had in hand. The thought of regaining his property, and taking revenge on the knavish lawyer, was some relief to his wounded feelings. There was balm in action, at least, and day and night he gave his time and thoughts to consultation with his lawyer and to details of the proposed suit. He did not rely, alone on such legal talent as the little village afforded. He retained the services of an experienced and prominent lawyer from a neighboring town, who

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villainy, which he was convinced from Claude's statements had been perpe-trated by Anthon- Sayonook.

The name of this lawyer was Halstead. He was a short, keen, cool man whose sharp gray eyes and broad leow indicated unusual mental acute.esa. After a careful study of the situation, Mr. Halsted decided on his plan of care-

paign. He determined that it was necessary to undermire the enemy's defences by counter-plots, and, if possible, to create a defection in his camp that would lead to a revelation of the methods by which the forgery of the deeds had been accomplished. Choosing his agents with keen judgment, he sounded every person who had in any way been employed by lawyer Saybrook, and was not long in getting a hint that the widow Grewy would become a valuable witness if she was won over to their service. And this -alas for feminine constancy!-was not a difficult matter. Lawyer Halstead, it happened, was a bachelor of considerable wealth. Though verging close on to sixty, he was still well preserved, and of a gallant and vivacious disposition not unlikely to impress the fancy of a susceptible and lonely widow

like Mrs. Grewy.

Interviews were arranged, in which, little by little, the confidence of Mrs. Grewy was gained, and step by step was learned from her every detail of the plot for the possession of Rolff had enabled her to obtain, in spite of

the secrecy with which the lawyer and his son supposed they had conducted

their conferences.

The first intimation that lawyer Saybrook had of the mine that had been arranged to be sprung under the very citidal of his defences, was afforded by the retirement of the widow Grewy from his house and service. She refused to give any explanations, and was firm against all promises and cajolements. The lawyer, in his desperation, went even so far as to lag his hand and fortune at her feet; but

it was too late.
Thus aroused, lawyer Saybrook put himself on his mettle to meet the enemy's plans. But the more he examined into the matter, the deeper and more dangerous he found the plans that had been laid for his destruction The defences he had imagined so impregnable had been undermined in a dozen places. Leb. Sackett had been none too cautious in some of his statements as to the nature of his engagement with the lawyer, and witnesses stood ready to come forward and unfold the plot to rid Rolff House of the protection of Carl Crum and old Margaret. Moreover, the tools the lawyer had used as witnesses of his irregular papers had been tampered with, he found, and were not to be relied upon in case they were brought under the cross-questioning of a sharp lawyer.

Look which way he would, lawyer Saybrook saw defeat and disgrace awaiting him, and the door of a felon's cell, to his fearful imagination, stood yawning to receive him. His confidence and shrewdness deserted him. He became demoralized and almost imbecile

To be Continued.

DISTRICT DOINGS.

MITCHELL'S BAY.

Rev. Mr. Clark, of Baldoon, delivered an excellent sermon on Sunday to the Canadian Foresters of Court Royal, of Dover, No. 796, in Hugh Allen's grove. There were visiting courts present. Court Pride, A.O. F., was largely represented at the hall, as was also Court. Kent, No. 6, Chatham, C. O. F. The procession was formed at the hall and narched to the grove to the music of the Bay Band. After the sermon the visiting brethren returned to the hall, sandwiches and coffee.

FLORENCE.

Miss J. Sangster is visiting friends n Dresden and Detroit W. Thompson and wife have return

d from Dresden. John King, who has been employed with the R. Calderwood Co. during the past three months, is leaving this week for Cedar Springs.

The recent floods caused by the

heavy rains last week did considerable damage to the crops, some along the river bank being totally ruined.
Mrs. H. Lendon and family, Leamington, are visiting relatives i own and vicinity.

Miss Olive Webster has returned to her home, after a pleasant visit at Harow and Chatham.

Mr. and Mrs. Arthur McCreary left

ast week for Wallaceburg, where they will reside permanently.

R. Campbell has resigned as principal of our village school and pur-Springs. They leave this week to take

On Sunday next, July 13th, Rev. Mr. Jeffrey, of Sacred Memorial Church, Detroit, will conduct the Presbyterian anniversary services at 10.30 a.m. and 7 p. m. Special music will be furnished.

Rev. Mr. Jones, of St. Matthew's, and Rev. Mr. McMullen, of the Methodist Church, our new resident minis-ters, preached their first sermons here on Sunday last. The respective

on Sunday last. The respective congregations are much pleased with their pastors.

St. Matthew's Guild, feeling that they could not allow their pastor and his wife, Rev. and Mrs. H. R. Diehl, to depart without showing them their appreciation for their services and the friendship felt towards them, gave a large social forwards and enough con the large social farewell and supper on the rectory ground last Tuesday evening. Their many other friends of other denominations were present. After a pleasant evening had been spent a good program, consisting of music and addresses, was listened to, the chief feature being a nicely worded address read by Mrs. W. P. McCreary, and a purse containing \$42 presented by Miss Ida Bodkin, to the pastor and his

wife. Mr. Diehl replied very feelingly, What is put into the first out into the whole of it.

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