THE

AN HISTORICAL

ROMANCE

OF THE-

Queen

dence of the Archbishop of Glasgow

and of Thomas Morgan. The latter

had been a primary factor in the

first scheme for liberating the Queen

of Scots, and Elizabeth would glad-

But he slipped through Her Majes

Elizabeth sent the Order of the

Garter to Henry III., in order to

induce him to surrender the conspir-

ator to her, and the king, not dar-

ing to comply with her demand, yet

desirous to show himself her friend,

tonsigned him to the Bastille. This

did not prevent him from taking

part in all the intrigues set on foot

in behalf of Mary Stuart, for the

French policy at that time, was to

play a double game. Gifford shrewd-

ly guessed that Morgan was the

chief concocter of the new plot, and

so artfully did he dissemble and de-

ceive him, that he was soon in

nethod was to act the part of a

zealous Catholic, and feign an en-

thusiastic attachment to the Queen

of Scots. He even devised a crafty

veyed to her without the knowledge

her jailer. As the partisans

the royal captive desired above all

things to find some means of carry-

ing on a secret correspondence with

her, Gifford appeared to Morgan in

the light of an auxiliary sent by Heaven. He furnished him with

letters of recommendation to Cha-

teauneuf, the French ambassador in

London, who had hitherto refused

to comply with the request that he

would convey the letters to the

Queen of Scots. Mendoza was in like

the hypocrite, who simulated the

utmost devotion to the Catholic

cause, and whom the more cautious

Morgan had already taken into his

Thus by the beginning of March

Gifford was able to give me the par-

ticulars of two plots to effect the

release of the Queen of Scots, which

were already being carried out to

some extent. Of these one was the work of a certain Mr. Babington,

who had gathered around him a few

young Catholic noblemen with whose

co-operation he hoped to set the

Queen free by some "coup de main."

This same Babington had been in

Paris in February, and had been

carrying on negotiations with Mor-

gan and other of the exiles. But

the whole thing seemed very vague, and savoured more of a boyish ad-

venture than a serious enterprise

During his sojourn in Paris Babing-

ton had spent more time on the amusements of the carnival than

preparations for a political action,

although he had been in communica

tion with the Duke of Guise .- The

other project was of far greater mo-

ment; Philip II. was at last prepar-

ing in earnest for a descent upon

England. The Prince of Parma was

appointed leader of the expedition,

and the other arrangements were

and in order to concert operations

with the captive Princess, her

friends were desirous to make use

with her, which Gifford had sug-

This information appeared to me

so trustworthy and so important,

that I forthwith despatched a spe-

cial messenger to carry it in cipher to my uncle Walsingham. By the

word, to come to London, without

my departure being known, if pos-

sible, and to bring Gifford with me.

This I did in the commencement of

CHAPTER XIII .- On my arrival

in London, Walsingham bestowed on me great praise for the wisdom

I had shown in this most important

business. He told me that the ser-

vices I had rendered to Her Majes

ty's Government and to the Pro-

testant religion in England were

more considerable than I was aware

of, and that if I assisted him in

bringing the intrigue, he had then

in hand to a successful conclusion with equal prudence and sagacity,

he would prevail upon her Majesty

onfer upon me the honor

knighthood and make me a member of the Privy Council. He added that

in London,

messenger he sent me back

method of communicating

unner deceived; he too trusted

plan whereby letters could be con-

ssion of important facts. His

have sent him to the gallows.

fingers, and escaped to Paris;

Glizabeth. ‡

·CAP?

fimes of

F SUBSCRIBERS.

I., April 1st, A sub-:-Enclosed find \$1.00 escription. I am well the "True Witness," and get you some new

J. C. writes :- Enclosed .00 for your valuable

I. A. writes :- Enclosed We are delighted with provement, in our True Witness."

... ... 11 10

g executive is very st year will be eligible ect that in addition to terest will be taken in is at present the custo with the Westminthe end of June and

d harmony has alations. have been beyond the to contribute to the equal to any previous

F. SLATTERY. Hon. Secretary.

n of officers followed owing result :ident-H. E. McLaugh-

Thos. O'Connell, acclaresident-H. J. Trihey,

-president-T. F. Slat-

ary-P. Murphy, acclaon, secretary-F. Tan-

O'Connell was named he Senior League meet-kes place to-day.

I sold to a junk-man

y in the neighborhood hese letters and \$140 in been spent in sending from Mr. Blank.

ne was productive of a nany lessons in the forens of the imperiousness of the millionaire, and he lack of independence of the correspondents.

IAN WHO WINS

wins is the man who toils while the next

stands in his deep dis-

held high in the deade is the man who wins.

wins is the man who

pain and the wor learns from the man

finds in his mournful

e is the man who wins wins is the man who

ght paths and the , who lingers, now and

failure to rise again, e is the man who wins!

n who wins is the man

the envious in his ears, s his way with his head

the wrecks of the fail-

e is the man who wins.

ard Warner in Baltimore

J. GURRAN.

B.A., B.O L., VOCATE ...

Chambers, 180 St. James reet, Montreal.

The Wonderful Flower of Woxindon, By Rev. Joseph Spillman. S.J.

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To make a long story state. | potent Lord Burghley and the hand glass to his lips again, and silence for in a brief period of his charming daughter. | tised deceiver, for in a brief period he wormed himself into the confi-

After these introductory remarks he took me into his own private cabinet, to which until then I had but rarely been admitted, carefully closed the door, and bade me tak a seat by the fire, in front of which he pushed a small table. On this he placed two finely cut glasses, fill-ing them with old crushed port from a decanter that he took out of a cupboard in the wall. He then seated himself beside me, and sipping from time to time the generous liquor with evident appreciation of its fine flavor, spoke thus to me "Your health, my dear Francis. It has long been my habit when I have any specially important business to consider, to drink a glass of this old port-only one glass, and that slowly. And you would ones pulses, and you cannot think how many fortunate inspirations I owe to it. Well, we have an important matter to consider now. You will not be surprised when I tell you, that from the standpoint of a loval Englishman and a zealous partisan of the Reformation, I consider Mary Stuart as our most dangerous enemy.'

With this I concurred, for since her right as the granddaughter of Henry VII. to the throne of England was indisputable, and considering Elizabeth's age it could hardly any longer be hoped that she would marry, still less have any legitimate issue, the probability was that Mary would succeed her, and there by the maintenance of the reformed religion be imperilled. I said much to my uncle, who listened patiently and then replied: "I do not think there is much

cause for anxiety on that score.

Burghley has taken good care that Mary's fair name should be tarnished with a blot of which - whether she is innocent or not-the English Parliament can make use for the purpose of setting aside her right, that you consider indisputable. Our Parliament has brought more difficult things to pass than that during the last half century. No, the only chance Mary Stuart has of ascending the throne would be by a successful rising of the Catholics within the country, or through the invasion of a foreign power, on support of her claims. The first contingency is no longer to be dreaded. The case was very different eighteen years ago, when the Pope depose Elizabeth, and the most influential lords in the North took up arms. The fate of the new Queen and the new religion then hung upon a thread. Burghley completely loss his head, and the hour of peril showed him to be nothing of statesman, however clever he may be as intriguer. If Alba had ap-peared off the coast of Yorkshire at that juncture with half a dozen galleons, and landed a regiment of his redoubtable Spaniards, Mary Stuart would now be Queen, and the Smithfield fires would blaze afresh. now being concluded; Mary Stuart's That danger was happily averted, contrary to all expectations, and the deluded insurrectionists, by order of the Queen, who on this occasion proved herself to be a daughter of Henry VIII., expiated their folly with their lives. villages were depopulated. Since that time every year renders it less probable that such a rising would end in aught but failure. The number of Catholics has melted away only in Lancashire and some of the northern counties, are they a small majority, and the nobles who still cling to the old creed, are gradually being ruined by enormous fines

Very soon all the wealthy Papists will be reduced to beggary. Far more cause have we for alarm danger that concerning the other threatens us. As long as Stuart is alive, our Popish fellowcountrymen will exert themselves to bring about a Spanish invasion. You remember the conspiracy of Ridolfi. Two years ago a sche was affoat of a similar nature; now for the third time we are menaced by the same danger, and in a worse shape than heretofore. Once more I repeat : we shall never enjoy tranquillity as long as Mary Stuart is a in England. Hence her death becomes a political necessity.

To make a long story short, Gif- on obtaining the favor of the omni- and emphasis. He then raised his

> 'Uncle, you said, 'as long as she is a prisoner in England.' Supposng she were set at liberty?"

"She would have been set at liberty long ago," he rejoined, "if she would have agreed to two conditions, the surrender of her claim to the throne, and the adoption of the reformed religion. During eighteen years of captivity the woman has obstinately refused to do either the one or the other; the first through love for her son, who certainly repays her maternal affection in the most exemplary manner; the second on account of that inconceivable fanaticism which but Papists display. You will live to see Henry of Navarre turn back on Calvin and go piously to Mass, though he now do well to do the same. It quickens as an abominable idolatry. If Mary Stuart had adopted the tenets of Knox, the Lords of the Covenant would have held her to be a virtuous Queen, even were she in reality guilty of her husband's murder, which those worthy nobles laid to her charge. And if she had abjured Popery when in England, she might perchance have been raised to the throne. In a word, she has rejected the conditions on which her liberty was offered her, and they cannot be dispensed with. If she were released and sent to Scotland, we should be placing her son, who is a Protestant and our ally, in a most difficult position. Fourteen years ago, when Morton was regent, the Lords of the Covenant demanded her surrender; they would have taken her into custody on the tried and executed her forthwith. But the proposal came to nothing, because of the somewhat extrava gant demands of these godly folk, and the parsimoniousness of our Queen. A few thousand pounds might then have secured England and the Reformation from all further fear on account of Mary Stuart. But Elizabeth wanted to do things more cheaply, bad policy, in my opinion. Thus Scotland

> Her death is the only solution of the difficulty." The words of Caiphas occurred to my mind as I listened to my uncle But I remembered that shortly after her flight to England, the Queen of Scots had been pronounced guilty by the Judicial Court at Westmineter of complicity in the murder of Darnley; and the hatred to her, im planted in my mind in my boyish days, led me to say that she ought to be condemned and executed. Walsingham looked at me sarcastically as he sipped his wine.

is out of the question as a home

for her: still more France or Spain

"Undoubtedly," he replied. "There are, it is true, some legal niceties but an able diplomat need not let them stand in his way. Burghley represented to the Queen long since that it would be well in self-defence to make short work with her detested rival. Justice would warrant such a measure; and deeds of that nature are, God knows, of no infrequent occurrence in the annals our country. The Queen would only be too well pleased, that course she would openly feign great indignation and send the executor of her secret wishes to the gallows as his reward, in public testimony to her innocence. She has no learnt in vain in the school of Machiavelli. No one has however yet been found to carry out her wishes. Last autumn the prisone was consigned to the charge of a fresh jailer, Sir Amias Paulet, rough fellow, who hates her with the hate of hell. I know on good authority that he was informed the Queen's desire. But the man is either too honorable or too pru dent; he declared that if they the hangman to him with a rant signed and sealed, he would make him welcome and leave him free to perform his duty. But i was no use to talk to him about such wishes, since he would neithe carry them out himself nor depute another to do so, as long as Mary Stuart was in his custody. Thus we hould be no nearer our end now than we were eighteen years ago but for some young Popish noble men who are playing into ou hands."

I looked up in surprise, and my uncle continued, a slight smile play-Walsingham uttered the last words in a low tone, but with deliberation ing round his lips: "We have

thank you, my dear Frank, for putting us on the track of a delightful little conspiracy. Acting upon the information you gave me, I took steps to ascertain what truth there was in the statements made by Gifford-who appears a most useful fellow-in respect to Mr. Babington. It proved to be a fact that he and half-a-dozen young noblemen of his own age and Papists like himself, have formed a league with the object of liberating Mary Stuart. They hold their meetings 'Blue Boar' in St. Giles-in-thefields. This was notified to me some moths ago; but I thought they were so young and so gay, that they only met for their sports, and could do no worse mischief than perhaps render assistance to of the seminary priests and Jesuits who are prowling about. However I bade my spies to keep their eye on them, and I find Gifford is right, they are hatching a plot for the release of the Queen of Scots. It appears to be a romantic sort of affair, for the good lads have not a spark of practical common amongst them. Look at Babington he is brave and venturesomeenough but how vain and frivolous! Three or four others excel in sports, football and the like, and there are a couple of poets to bot. They have probably read in their school-books: Dulce et decorum est pro patria mori!" and they think themselves called to heroic deeds. I am sorry for the silly fellows. Unless I help

honor they covet." "You mean." I said. "as soon as you have the necessary proofs, to arrest them and put them on the rack to make them confess, and so nip the conspiracy in the bud."

them, they will never attain the

"I should have expected more ense from you my dear Frank,' rejoined my uncle. "I have already told you, this conspiracy is a perfect godsend to us. Joking apart I shall do everything I can to make it easy for these young gentlemen to carry out their project-up to a certain point, of course. Do you not see how it will be a means of bringing about the death of our

I thought for a moment, then I suggested that he should lay an ambush of armed men who would cut off their flight, and put . them and the Queen to death.

Walsingham smiled as he answer ed: "The same idea occurred to me. But I think we shall not let them go so far as that. Sir Amias Paulet has written orders from the Privy Council, in case of any attempt at escape, to take the life of his prisoner at once. He has promised to do this, and he will keep his word without scruple. A sudde and violent death would not however look well for the Government I should very much prefer that Ma ry Stuart should "in forma juris be condemned to death before a tribunal composed of the first nobles of the land. That would give the matter a better appearance in the eyes of foreigners, and our own people could cast no reproach on the Government. Mr. Babington and his colleagues are going to help us to obtain such a judgment. Reach lown the statute book of the last Parliament, and turn to the new en actment 27th of Elizabeth, concerning conspiracies against the life of he Queen.

I did as he desired, and read the statute which ordained, with every possible proviso, that every person who should participate in a conspir acy against Elizabeth's life, was to be put on trial for his life before a Court of twenty-four Commissioners to be nominated by the Crown

'Every person," Walsingham repeated. "What does that signify " What is the object of this new law? It was not wanted for the conviction of English subjects who against the life of their Sovereign. The object is therefore to brin within reach of the headsman's axe every person whatsoever, be their rank and prerogatives the highest In a word, the bill was framed and passed to provide against the very contingency which we have been

supposing. "A most wise and judicious meas are," I replied. "But there is no question now of a plot against Elizabeth's life, only of Mary Stuart's rescue. Moreover she appears, as far as we know, to be in ignorance of the existence of the conspiracy.'

"It is very plain, my Frank," rejoined my uncle, "that you are not sufficiently well versed in the ways of Machiavelli. Do you eally imagine that Mary Stuart, after eighteen years of captivity, unjust captivity, knowing as she does that Elizabeth has designs upon her life, would not repay her royal sister in the same coin, were the opportunity afforded her? Doubtless she would authorize these young gentlemen to remove Elizabeth out of the way, if that were

the only means of attaining her end. If proof were wanted, we need only apprehend them, and put them to torture, and I will engage that as soon as they felt the thumb-screw, or found themselves in the embrace of the scavinger's daughter, not to speak of the other pretty toys in the Tower, one or other of the six would soon confess that Mary Stuart was privy to their de signs against Elizabeth. But we can nanage without coming to the torture chamber. This Gifford, whom you brought with you from Paris, has devised a most ingenious plan for the exchange of letters between the conspirators and the captive Queen. If they fall into his trap, as I have no doubt they will, -we shall be able, within the space of a few weeks, to produce in black and white ample proof of the complicity of Mary Stuart with Babington and his comrade in a plot against Elizabeth's life. The matter appears to me perfectly certain. That is why I said that Babington's conspiracy xactly corresponded to my wishes Now do you understand me?'

I answered that I did, and that I admired my uncle's acuteness. course I was heartily willing to cooperate with him, as the welfare of Her Majesty and the stability of the reformed religion were at stake We must adopt the maxim that the end justifies the means, and as this principle was learnt in the Jesuits' school, we might console ourselves with the knowledge that we were turning their own weapons against them. My uncle laughed, and said he must confess he had never heard that saying from the lips of a Jesuit, but that every diplomat acted upon it, as nothing could be done in state-craft unless it were followed.

Finally I asked him what he

thought of Parma's scheme, what measures he intended to take against it. He shrugged his shoulders, and said the project might take definite shape, but not for some time yet. He had learnt through Cherelles, one of the French ambas sador's secretaries, that a packet of letters to Mary Stuart had long lain at the embassy awaiting delivery. The letters he hoped through Gifford, who was highly recommend ed to the ambassador, to get into his own hands, and acquaint himself with their contents. The best thing to be done at present was to get the Queen of Scots out of the way. That would completely take the wind out of their sails, and render a Spanish invasion little short of purposeless. Now, while Philip could hope to set Mary Stuart upon the throne, and to place the Prince of Parma by her side it was quite a different thing; whereas were she once dead, a descent upon England would appear like reprisals, and it is highly questionable whether he would fit out his galleons for such a purpose. Philip was far too wise to attempt a war of conquest, or to dream of the possibility of place ing the crown of England on the head of a Spanish prince. He would find he had opponents more diffi-cult to deal with than the Dutch, though he had enough on his hands with them just then.

"What we have to do now," said in conclusion, "is to carry out our design in regard to the Queen of Scots. The first step is for Gifford to lay his toils, in order to intercept the correspondence between Babington and the prisoner. Then we will leave Babington and his friends to do their work; they must be closely watched, but not allowed to suspect that their movements are ment comes, the fowler will pull the tring, and the six green finches, together with the royal bird, will be fluttering in his net. With ordinary prudence and determination we cannot fail success.

So saying Walsingham filled our glasses again with the ruby colored wine, and bade me drink to the prosperity of Babington's conspiracy, which was to bring about the

CHAPTER XIV. - My uncle. whose custom it was to set his agents to watch one another, con-signed the unhappy apostate Gifford to the charge of Thomas Philipps and Arthyr Gregory, two spies, or members of his secret police, lived in St. Paul's Churchyard. With them Gifford, who had introduced to them under the name of Nicholas Cornelius, took up his abode, and they seldom let him out of their sight. Walsingham went to see him there one evening, carefully disguised, for he could not let him go to his own house. What was then concerted between them, I did not know until later.

My uncle had already mentioned to me one of the secretaries of the French ambassador, named Chereiles, whom he had bribed, a young man, leading a gay life, and head and ears in debt through gambling.

He was one of those men who are ready to sell their own soul to the devil and their master's secrets to his enemy for the sake of a ful of gold. Through him Walsingham learnt that Chateauneuf had received instructions to exert himself on behalf of Mary Stuart, as much as possible, without attracting observation and especially to expedite her correspondence. private secretary of the ambassador, Cordaillot by name, was intrusted with the interests of the royal captive, and the packet of letters of which Cherelles had spokwere in his safekeeping. Since the Queen of Scots had been removed from Tutbury to Chartley, and Sir Amias Paulet had replaced Sir Ralph Sadler as her guardian, no letters had been permitted to reach her. What Walsingham wanted Gifford to do was to obtain posses sion of these letters under the promise of forwarding them to Mary and then place them in his hands For this his reward was to £100.

Gifford was introduced to Cordaillot by Cherelles. His Catholic name, and the excellent recommendations he had brought from Paris, carried weight; also the scheme he had concocted appeared feasible. Cordaillot spoke to his master in Gifford's favor, and asked permission to entrust the letters to him. But M. de Chateauneuf was a very cautious man, and he distrusted Gifford. Therefore, after questioning him narrowly, he dismissed him with polite phrases, to the effect that he was glad to see a young man of good family displaying such zeal for the Catholic cause, and he would let him know if his services were required. For the present there was nothing of importance to be forwarded.

"What a fox the man is?" my uncle exclaimed, when Gifford communicated to him in writing the result of his first attempt. "At any rate, it proves to me that the letters are of the greatest consequence. Chateauneuf intends to send a messenger to Mendoza and Morgan, to convince himself that the letters of recommendation are not forgeries. We must have patience for another

Walsingham's surmise was correct. We heard from Cherelles that a messenger was despatched that very day to Paris; and about a week later Gifford was summoned to the embassy. The report must have been satisfactory, yet M. de Chateauneuf was too wary to commit himself to the proposed plan without a trial. He therefore gave Gifford a letter which compromised nobody, as it was merely an inquiry after the Queen of Scot's health. This letter was opened by Arthur Gregory, and after a copy of it had been byPhilipps, it was fastened again so skillfully that no one could have discerned the least fault in the seal, for Gregory and Philipps were marvellously expert at such manipulation, and on that account their services were well remunerated. When my uncle read the letter, he exclaimed: "That is just what I expected, an experiment on Chateauneuf's part. Francis, you must ride to Chartley to-morrow and give Sir Amias Paulet my instructions. Giffor can go by another road with one of my people and try his luck." Accordingly the next day I started

on my way. The distance to Chart-ley, which is on the borders of Staffordshire and Derbyshire, not far from Burton-on-Trent, is 130 miles, so that it took me two days hard riding, to get there. As Walsingham's nephew I was well receivobserved. And when the right mo- ed by Sir Amias, uncivil though he was at his best. He asked me whe-ther at last I was bringing Her Majesty's command that the head of the Moabitish woman, who angered his just soul with her idolatries, was to fall by the executioner's axe? And on my replying in the negative, he grumbled and snarled like the old bear that he was. When I explained that my coming and Walsingham's message were to prepare the way for what he sired, his temper improved a little. I proceeded to tell him of the trap that was to be laid for his prison er, and that as soon as we had obtained proof in writing that she had designs upon Elizabeth's life, she would be arraigned before a criminical court, in accordance with the new statute. At that he looked well pleased; however he paced to and fro in the room muttering to himself for a while, then he stopped in front of me and said:

(To be continued.)

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