

ANNABEL
OR
THE TEMPTATION.

CHAPTER VIII.
THE TELEGRAPH SURPRISE—A GLAD SURPRISE—THE MYSTERY STILL IMPENETRABLE—THE DEATH CHAMBER AT ROCKSTONE.
"I need not tell you, Joseph," he went on, after a short silence—"I need not tell you that I have made what atonement I could. You will not be surprised to learn that my will has been altered."
"Certainly not. It was right and proper that you should do so."
"I would have felt it wrong to do so had you been in other circumstances, Joseph, but you are wealthy. Neither you nor Augusta need Rockstone, or any of my property, and you have no family to desire anything for, so it will affect you nothing, the change of my will which makes Annabel my heir. But I have made you her guardian, Joseph. You do not refuse the trust?"
"I take it willingly, gladly," answered the merchant. "I receive it from you as a sacred deposit, and shall do my best to be faithful to it so long as she needs guardianship. But it is not likely that this period will be short, since she and Weston are betrothed. You do not object to their marriage, I suppose?"
The old man shuddered, and a spasm crossed his sharp-drawn features.
"Object to their marriage?" he repeated. "Oh, I have suffered too much from an old wrong of that kind to repeat it. No, no; Annabel is free to wed Philip Weston. For both their sakes, I recommend that one year should elapse from my death ere they are united. This would be no hardship, for they are both young. I have also another object in view. I mean it as a test of their love and the nobility of their character. I do not for a moment suppose that wealth and a high position will cause Annabel to forsake and discard Philip; but the change is for them so great and unexpected that a year is not too long to give them for maturing their thoughts. Your guardianship of Annabel will therefore extend to that period at least, and perhaps longer, for I cause it by my will to continue until her marriage. If from any cause she should die unmarried, then Rockstone and all else which is mine reverts to Augusta and you, as before. These are the conditions of my will, Joseph. I know you say I have done right—Ah, I—I think I hear the sound of wheels."
They listened; but the merchant heard nothing. The hearing of the dying is, however, often very acute, and Seymour again repeated that he heard the sound of the chaise coming.
In a few moments Mr. Langton heard it likewise, faint and far off, but gradually drawing near, and becoming more distinct.
"Now, now—you hear it now," gasped the sufferer, with growing excitement.
"Yes, Seymour, I hear it. Compose yourself. Cease your agitation, or you will unfit yourself for the meeting with your niece."
"The draught—give me the draught," he whispered, with something like convulsive energy.
"Mr. Langton again applied the silver jug to the old man's trembling lips, and greedily he drank the contents."
"There—I feel stronger again. Oh, Joseph, do your mission earnestly on my behalf. If she comes not to me before I die, the bitterness of death will be increased tenfold."
"Trust me, dear Seymour, I will bring her to you. I am sure I shall."
By this time the vehicle had drawn up at the front entrance, the hall door was heard to open, footsteps sounded on the tessellated floor, and the servant was heard showing the new-comers into the library.
"Now, Joseph—now the crisis has come. Oh, Heaven support me, and bless me with the assurance of her forgiveness."
The old man nervously extended his thin shaking hand, which Mr. Langton pressed in both his own. Then with a smile of encouraging confidence he quitted the room, and descended to the library to meet Philip and Annabel.
INQUEST AT THE JAIL.—The Hamilton Times says:—Yesterday, at 3 p. m., Dr. White held an inquest at the County Jail upon the body of a woman named Matilda Cummings, who, for the past ten years, has been one of the most notorious street-walkers and vagrants Hamilton has ever known. The unfortunate woman was only twenty-eight years old, and had served seventy-five terms in the County Jail. A few days ago, when before the Police Magistrate, she looked as if her days were few, she being unable to walk from the City Hall to the Jail, so effectively had disease and disunion wrought their work. The jury, after hearing the evidence, returned a verdict of death from natural causes.

BRKFAST.—Epps's Cocoa.—GRATEFUL AND COMFORTING.—"By a thorough knowledge of the natural laws which govern the operations of digestion and nutrition, and by a careful application of the fine properties of well-selected cocoa, Mr. Epps has provided our breakfast tables with a delicately flavoured beverage which may save us many heavy doctors' bills."—Civil Service Gazette. Made simply with Boiling Water or Milk. Each packet is labelled—JAMES EPPS & CO., Homoeopathic Chemists, London.

MANUFACTURE OF COCOA.—We will now give an account of the process adopted by Messrs. James Epps & Co., manufacturers of dietetic articles, at their works in the Euston Road, London. See article in Cassell's Household Guide, 32nd edition.

JAMES H. JOHNSTON, Esq., Montreal, writes in August, 1871, as follows: "I affirm me great pleasure to bear testimony to the benefit received from using Epps's Compound Syrup of Hypophosphites. I found it a nervous tonic of great power and efficacy, curing me in a short time from general debility and nervousness, and I became robust and vigorous under its influence, and gained considerably in weight withal."

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