

THE WONDERFUL FLOWER OF WOXINDON.

An Historical Romance of the Times of Queen Elizabeth.

BY REV. JOSEPH SPILLMAN, S. J.

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CHAPTER XVII.—(Continued.)

Of Babington I had a full view. When I looked at the gallant young fellow, attractive in face and figure, in the heyday of youth and prosperity, I felt really sorry for him. The horrible scene at Tyburn rose before my eyes, and I said to myself, "O foolish man, are you aware of the awful risk you run in entering the lists with such a one as Walsingham?"

The conversation that passed between my uncle and the two young men has already been accurately reported by my friend Windsor. When they were gone, I could not help asking my uncle whatever induced him to offer one of the conspirators so responsible a post as that of body physician to the Queen of Scots?

"I had two motives," he replied. "First, I wanted to make sure that they really were hatching a plot for the liberation of Mary Stuart; for it is difficult that a harum-scarum young fellow like this Babington can possibly be engaged in a serious conspiracy. However it undoubtedly is so; Windsor managed to keep his self possession tolerably well when I made the startling proposal, but the other fairly betrayed himself. Then secondly, I wished to make them think themselves secure. It is of the utmost importance to me that they should attempt this enterprise. Mary Stuart's death depends upon it, as I told you when you came back from Paris. And I had reason to think they were beginning to get timid about it. Now this show of trust on my part will put them completely off their guard; we will see that a sharp watch is kept over this Mr. Windsor, who seems more to be dreaded than his friend. The surer they think themselves of success, the surer we are of it. I had the two children released only for the sake of keeping the worthy gentlemen in good humor. You may as well take them to Mr. Windsor's house, and that will afford you an opportunity of making acquaintance with the conspirators. Give a guinea to Topcliffe, and tell him not to be impatient, it will not be long before he has these young men in the toils."

Soon after Topcliffe came, bringing the two juvenile prisoners from Newgate. I remember still the impression that Anne Bellamy, herself little more than a child, and the merry, bright boy with his quaint way of talking made upon me. Nor have I forgotten the explanation he gave of image worship, which brought all the doubts suggested by the "Rationes" back to my mind. I asked myself on what our objections to the Catholic religion were founded, if a mere child, half in play, could so easily demolish one of the principal ones? The noteworthy occurrences that took place while we were on the river have been fully related by my friend Windsor; nothing therefore remains for me but to let him continue the narrative of the events that followed. I do this all the more willingly, because I should have little to tell concerning my last week in London, except my mental struggles, which would be quite as wearisome to read as they were painful to endure. It was not study that brought me to the light, but the exceedingly great mercy of God, of which I shall speak in the proper place.

One thing I must add: About this time Gifford returned bringing with him a letter from Mary Stuart, thus proving that the means of carrying on a secret correspondence through the good offices of the "honest man" had been successfully arranged.

I must now ask Windsor to take up the thread of the story where he left it and relate what happened subsequently to the memorable boating expedition on the Thames.

CHAPTER XVIII.

When we got back to the house, we found the horses standing before the door ready bridled and saddled. We told Topcliffe in as few words as possible what had occurred, and prepared to mount. Miss Anne rode on a pillion behind Babington, after the fashion of those days, and I took little Frith up before me on my saddle. Just as we started, I caught sight of Bill Bell, our hostman, standing by, and I remembered my promise to visit his sick daughter that evening. But he assured me that she was better, and begged me not to delay my journey on her account; so I contented myself with sending a message to my patient, to the effect that she might expect a call from me immediately upon my return, probably on the morrow, and meanwhile she should continue to take the medicine I had left with her. Then we struck into a quick trot, taking the nearest way out of London, for it was getting late, and

a powerful magnet attracted me to Woxindon. The shades of evening were beginning to fall before we reached the "Blue Boat" at St. Giles. We drew up under the oaks and stopped for a few moments, just to tell our host of the satisfactory interview with Walsingham, and refresh ourselves with the stirrup cup of sparkling cider which he brought out to us. Then onward we went through the meadows—already docketed in a deeper shade of verdure than when we passed that way before—to St. John's Wood, arriving at our destination about the time of sunset. The porter hastened to throw open the gate at our approach; and behold, as we rode through the grounds up to the house, a pleasing sight met my view, for who should be standing between the thick hedges of yew but Miss Mary, shading her eyes from the level rays of the setting sun, eager to see who was coming through the gate. When she discerned her brother and sister, she cried aloud with joy, and came running up to kiss and embrace them; and in the delight of this unexpected meeting many a happy grateful look was directed to Babington and me, especially when she heard that, to our intercession with Walsingham, the release of the two prisoners was due.

We were next conducted into the hall, where the venerable old lady sat in her armchair by the hearth. She was much shaken by the grief and agitation of the last two days; but her pale face flashed, and her eyes beamed with pleasure when her two grandchildren, looking bright and well, entered the hall. She kissed the laughing boy and the blooming girl on their foreheads, and extended to each of us a trembling hand. Her two sons also came in, besides several old retainers of the family, and for a few minutes the hall resounded with joyous clamour, as if it were forgotten that the house was a house of mourning, and that a few chambers off, the head of the house lay on his bier, still and silent in his last long sleep.

But when the first congratulations and inquiries were over, and the good grandmother heard that Frith was to go to Court in the capacity of one of the Queen's pages, her countenance grew grave. "Far rather," she said, "would I see the boy taken to Newgate or the Tower, than sent to Court, where every effort will be made to corrupt his innocence and destroy his faith." To this I could not say nay, for the same thought had occurred to me when Elizabeth expressed her royal will to have him for a page. But what could be done under the circumstances? Every one was aware of the Queen's violent temper; if irritated by opposition, she was quite capable of taking the child from my force, and we should only gain for ourselves a powerful and unscrupulous enemy. So I told the old lady, and she saw the justice of what I said.

I tried to restore cheerfulness to the family circle by the prospect that it would not be for long. An idea struck me as I was riding down from London, which, if I talked it over, might come to something. It was a plan for bringing about, with the assistance of a man whom I knew well, and who was under some obligation to me, the escape of Mr. Robert Bellamy from the Clink. If it succeeded, he would, of course, have to cross seas; in that case it might be arranged for the boy to slip away from Court and accompany his uncle to the continent, where he could be received and educated in a Jesuit College. It would doubtless be necessary to await a favorable opportunity for the execution of such a project, or a few months at most, Frith's morals would be hopelessly corrupted, or his faith undermined. I thought in saying this of our scheme for the liberation of Mary Stuart, which if carried out, would assuredly necessitate my flight to the continent. I told myself that provided Miss Mary accepted the offer of my hand, as I had little reason to doubt she would, I would persuade her to settle in some Catholic town on the Rhine. But all this I took care to keep to myself.

The old lady considered the idea of her son Robert attempting to escape from prison as too venturesome. But Remy was all the more pleased with it on that account; he volunteered his assistance, and declared he too would cross the Channel, since England was now no place for Catholics to live.

"Then you had better go at once, and take the boy with you," the old lady suggested. But that would have interfered sadly with our plans, for it would indeed have rendered them nugatory, and aroused the Queen's

displeasure against us. Therefore Babington and I exerted all our influence to induce them to send the boy for a short time to the Court, urging that it was quite possible that the Queen would ere long grant the prisoners pardon; whereas if the child were sent away at once, she would wreak her anger upon the inmates of Woxindon, or at any rate upon Robert, who was completely at her mercy.

"What is to become of us poor girls, if you are all going abroad?" Anne asked in a piteous voice. "Are we to be left behind with uncle Barthy and grandmother, unprotected and helpless? What a miserable thing it is to be a woman, dependent upon the will of another! If I were but a man, I know what I would do!"

Babington was so touched by this outburst of feeling on the part of the young lady, that he declared then and there, she should never want a protector while he lived, and if the estate were confiscated by the Crown, he would be proud to offer her a home. This speech evidently afforded the greatest satisfaction to Anne, more so than to her grandmother, who gave the young man to understand that under existing circumstances she considered such gallantries ill-timed. It was glad that I had kept silence, and contented myself with exchanging with Anne a glance, of which the blush that mantled her cheek showed that she comprehended the significance.

After a lengthened discussion it was decided that Frith should go to Court; but before giving a final consent, the old lady wished to ask the opinion of Father Weston, who was still in hiding in the old castle. One of the servants had already been sent to conduct the priest with all precautions, to the house; for it was thought that without too great risk he might say Mass before daybreak in the chamber where the corpse lay, and recite the prayers for the departed.

Frith who could no longer keep his eyes open, was sent off to bed; Mrs. Bellamy and the two girls also retired, leaving Babington and myself, with the two brothers of the deceased, to await the coming of the priest. We occupied ourselves in reciting the Psalter of Jesus for the suffering souls, uncle Barthy taking the lead with great devotion; we had almost got to the end when Father Weston entered. He would not allow us to break off, but joined us in the last sentences, and the "Ave" and "Requiescat" wherewith we concluded. Then he seated himself at the table and partook of a slight refreshment, conversing meanwhile very agreeably with us. I need hardly say that he listened with the greatest interest to the adventures of the children, and our interview with the Queen. His eyes sparkled with pleasure when he told him how Frith had distinguished himself as a controversialist; but on hearing of Elizabeth's command, he looked very grave. He would not give a definite answer, when we asked his opinion concerning the plan we had formed, saying he must have time to think over a matter which so closely affected the child's spiritual welfare, and seek light from God in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. He asked however at once, whether we had not thought of sending the boy abroad directly as the simplest way out of the difficulty, and the answer Babington gave, did not seem to satisfy him; He looked searchingly at the speaker; then rising up he asked leave to retire, that he might prepare himself for saying Mass. Though he was but young, I felt from the outset perfect confidence in the good Father, his manner was so quiet and unassuming, so simple and straightforward. I determined to go to confession to him, and ask what he thought about my acceptance of Walsingham's proposal.

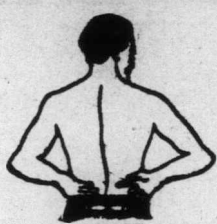
Having obtained permission to go to his room as soon as I was ready, I withdrew from the others in order to examine my conscience. This done, I presented myself before the priest, and made a humble and contrite confession of my sins and shortcomings, which were alas! not few in number; and he had set me my penance, and was about to pronounce the absolution, I told him I wished under the seal of confession, to ask his advice about an affair of importance. Then, without mentioning any names, I disclosed our project to him, and acquainted him with the offer Walsingham had made to give me the post of physician to the Queen of Scots.

(To be continued.)

Only a Mask.

Many are not benefited by the summer vacation as they should be. Now, notwithstanding much outdoor life, they are little if any stronger than they were. The tan on their faces is darker and makes them look healthier, but it is only a mask. They are still nervous, easily tired, upset by trifles, and they do not eat or sleep well. What they need is what tones the nerves, perfects digestion, creates appetite, and makes sleep refreshing, and that is Hood's Sarsaparilla. Pupils and teachers generally will find the chief purpose of the vacation best served by this great medicine which, as we know, "builds up the whole system."

Minard's Liniment Cures LaGrippe.



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A sure sign of Kidney Trouble. Don't neglect it. Stop it in time. If you don't, serious Kidney Troubles are sure to follow.

DOAN'S KIDNEY PILLS cure Backache, Lame Back, Diabetes, Dropsy and all Kidney and Bladder Troubles. Babington was so touched by this outburst of feeling on the part of the young lady, that he declared then and there, she should never want a protector while he lived, and if the estate were confiscated by the Crown, he would be proud to offer her a home. This speech evidently afforded the greatest satisfaction to Anne, more so than to her grandmother, who gave the young man to understand that under existing circumstances she considered such gallantries ill-timed. It was glad that I had kept silence, and contented myself with exchanging with Anne a glance, of which the blush that mantled her cheek showed that she comprehended the significance.

Price 50c. a box or 5 for \$1.25, all dealers. DOAN KIDNEY PILL CO., Toronto, Ont.

THE ADVANCE GUARD.

BY MARION MOIR.

Up savage summits, one by one, We wound our way, the pilgrims of the sun; We saw below the prairies, and the steep Stern canyons where the storm-born torrents leap; Above our heads hung red the dying rose On the smooth crest of Continental snows. Then through an ice-cleft, on the ridge most high, We pressed in silence, saw a wider sky— The sinking sun on cedar groves and pine, On long low levels fit for fruit and wine,— And, as that sunset crimson paled above, Thrilled with the solemn joy of those who love And die for country, seeing that we bore The hope of homes where none had been before. —Ave Maria.

Children are often attacked suddenly by painful and dangerous Colic, Cramps, Diarrhoea, Dysentery, Cholera Morbus, Cholera Infantum, etc. Dr. Fowler's extract of Wild Strawberry is a prompt and sure cure which should always be kept in the house.

Minard's Liniment cures Burns, etc.

About all the use average man ever makes of his ancestors is to inherit weak points from them.

Milburn's Heart and Nerve Pills cure Anemia, Nervousness, Sleeplessness, Weakness, Palpitation, Throbbing, Faint Spells, Dizziness, or any condition arising from Impoverished Blood, Disordered Nerves or Weak Heart.

The average man will do more for revenge and stubbornness than for right.

British Troop Oil Liniment is good for man or beast. Relieves pain, reduces swelling, allays inflammation, cures cuts, burns, bruises, sprains, stiff joints, bites of insects, rheumatism, etc. A large bottle for 25 cent.

Those who make hay while the sun shines are the most liable to get a sun stroke.

A Red Hot Season.

During the hot season the blood gets over heated, the drain on the system is severe and the appetite is often lost. Burdock Blood Bitters purifies and invigorates the blood, tones up the system and restores the lost appetite.

Some people regard a secret as they would a pound of candy—too good to keep.

Backache, swelling of feet and ankles, puffing under eyes, frequent thirst, scanty, cloudy, high colored urine and all urinary troubles lead to Bright's disease, dropsy, diabetes etc. Doan's Kidney Pills are a sure cure.

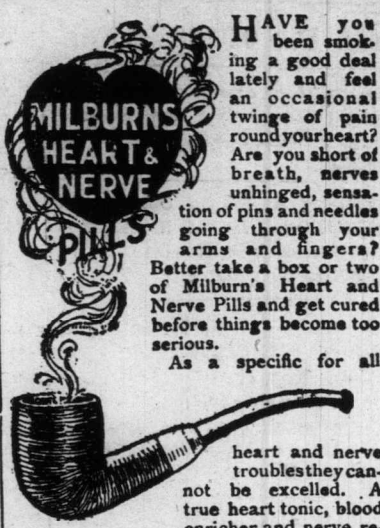
Minard's Liniment the best Hair Restorer.



Is a purely vegetable System Renovator, Blood Purifier and Tonic.

A medicine that acts directly at the same time on the Stomach, Liver, Bowels and Blood. It cures Dyspepsia, Bilioussness, Constipation, Pimples, Boils, Headache, Salt Rheum, Running Sores, Indigestion, Erysipelas, Cancer, Shingles, Ringworm or any disease arising from an impoverished or impure condition of the blood.

For Sale by all Druggists.



Have you been smoking a good deal lately and feel an occasional twinge of pain round your heart? Are you short of breath, nerves unstrung, sensation of pins and needles going through your arms and fingers? Better take a box or two of Milburn's Heart and Nerve Pills and get cured before things become too serious. As a specific for all heart and nerve troubles they cannot be excelled. A true heart tonic, blood enricher and nerve restorer, they cure nervousness, sleeplessness, nervous prostration, smoker's heart, palpitation of the heart, after effects of a gripe, etc. Price 50c. per box or 3 boxes for \$1.25 at all druggists, or will be sent on receipt of price by The T. Milburn Co., Limited, Toronto, Ont.

MISCELLANEOUS.

HOW THE PARSON FIGURED IT.

After a sermon by an old colored preacher in Southwest Georgia one of the brethren said to him: "Br'er Jenkins, how fur off, you reckon bell is?" "How ol' is you, Br'er Thomas?" asked the preacher. "Well, sub, ef I don't miss my kalkerations, I is 64." "Well," said the preacher, "w'en you wuz bo' inter de worl' bell wuz dez sixty-four years off; en all I got ter say is, dat ef you ain't in sight er it now, it ain't yo fault!"

Milburn's Laxa-Liver Pills regulate the bowels, cure constipation, dyspepsia, biliousness, sick headache and all affections of the organs of digestion.

If morality is on the increase it is not a good comment on our forefathers.

Don't marry for money, but for love, and if the girl has money try to love her.

Minard's Liniment Cures Garget in Cows.

The only credit a liar ever merited was for telling a lie the same way twice.

The best luck that could befall some men would be to lose their reputation.

I bought a horse with a supposedly incurable ringbone for \$30.00, cured him with \$1.00 worth of MINARD'S LINIMENT, and sold him in four months for \$85.00. Profit on him \$54.00.

MOISE DEROSSE, Hotel Keeper, St. Phillip's, Que., Nov. 1st, 1901.

Every woman who wears a mother Hubbard loose ought to be given a belt.

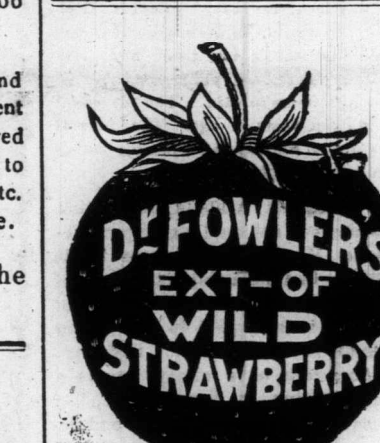
When a spendthrift has grown old he is fully prepared to acknowledge what a fool a good fellow is.

Minard's Liniment relieves neuralgia.

What is the use of women wearing bosom distenders when men know all about the fraud?

Mens felt hats at Week's & Co. We are having a splendid sale of our Christy Hats this year beating all other year's hollow. We give the best value and have a big stock of the latest styles to choose from. We will be glad to show them to you Weeks & Co. The People's Store.

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From Pictou for Charlottetown on arrival of train leaving Halifax at 12.30 and Sydney at 6.40.

From Charlottetown for Pictou at 9.15 a. m., connecting there with day trains for Cape Breton and Halifax. At North Sydney with steamer Bruce for Newfoundland. At Halifax with C. A. and Plant Line for Boston.

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