The Rival Clansmen

A Scottish Vendetta. CHAPTER XIX.

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THE PURSUIT.

Though outwardly calm, a terrible storm was raging in the breast of Heeter M'Leod. His grief at allowing Flora thus to be carried off was such as almost to unman him, and cause him to fling himself on the floor in a parcysm of frenzy; but the call of duty nerved him to firmeness and to immediate action, and his eyes flashed with the strength of a terrible determination, as he exclaired—

"I have dallied too long, but must now strike home. I will now fight to the death. One or other of us must fall. God knows the quarrel has been none of my seeking."

To him it had been a rude awakening. He had been asleep dreaming of the joys which to-morrow would bring to him, when suddenly the wild distressed cry of his aunt roused him from his slumber, and he started up, only in time to grasp an uplifted arm which was raised above him—a hand poising a dirk to send into his breast. In the dim light shed in the room by the smouldering fire he could not tell who was his opponent, but that he was an assaes in required no more proof than he already posseess.

The struggle was brief, but decisive. Nerved to the utmost effort, Hector wrenched the weapon from the villains' grasp, and plunged it into his body before he could spring back or draw another weapon.

Then springing from his bed, the cries of the count still counding in his sar.

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Then springing from his bed, the cries of his aunt still sounding in his ear, he donned his kilt and seizing his claymore rushed to the rescae. Too well did he understand what the uproar meant: he needed not to see the men, to know they were the emissaries of Donald Cameron and Ian M'Kenzie, if these villains were not themselves already in the Castle. Well, too, did he know there errand; and he paled as the suspicion of treachery within the Castle entered his mind—else how, he wondered, could those villains have gained access to it.

Dashing along the lobby, he was joined by some others of the clansmen who had also been roused, and then he was horrified to see Donald Cameron before him, with Anne M'Leod struggling in his arms. Wildly he rushed at him, but other forms intervened, and, struggle as hard as he might, they kept him back until Cameron and M'Kenzie, with his aunt and Flora, had made their escape by the secret passage leading from the Castle.

But now, anima'ed by the desire to re-

aunt and Flora, had made their escape by the secret passage leading from the Castle.

But now, anima'ed by the desire to rescue his aunt and his bride from the Lands of these villains, and to, if possible reverse the nature of the fend between himself and M'Kenzie by assuming the part of the aggressor and the avenger, did he dress with eager haste; and in a few minutes, fully equipped with claymore and target, and with his plaid around his shoulders, did he rush forth to join those of his clansmen who were ready to go with him.

Within Castle M'Leod all was now bustle and preparation. Fully twenty of the clan had been stationed around and within it, and these were preparing to follow their Chief. As Hector descended the staircase and entered the lall ten men stood waiting on him.

"Come, follow me, my clansmen," he cried. Then turning he cried to some of the others who were as yet only half dressed and half armed. "We go to the cairn at the back of Skerrywach; come, like the wind to the fray."

Then he rushed forth, his face pale, but wearing an expression of stern decision, which inspired confidence into those who followed his leading. It was the first jime young Hector M'Leod had led his clansmen forth.

The young moon had new set in the far west, and despite the white mantle with which the earth was covered, the night was dark and forbidding. The snow was deep, and the mountain tracks difficult to find, and will more difficult to keep. The wind blew in ferce gusts, corrying with it in huge clouds of fastly drifting snow, which pelted in the faces of these devoted men and impeded the 'ir progress.

carrying with it in huge clouds of fastly of fites grow, which pelted in the facer of these devoted men and impeded the right progress.

But linswervingly the hardy mountaineers held on, toiling and buffeting with the demnest, and wadir g through the Laow. The spet when he castle, and the path, which made a circuit round the hill, was difficult to tread, so that, though they would not be able to reach the place for half an hour, and in that time Hector feared those he sought might have made good their escape. But everything that was dear to him—everything he cared for—was at stake, and he must rescue Flora and his aunt from the villains who had so audeciously obtained possession of them.

The wind sweeps fiercely cound the shoulder of the hill, and the whole force of the blast, with its blinding showers of snow, is against them, but the brave clausmen draw their bonnets farther down upon their brows, and, setting their teeth harder and resolutely clutching their claymores, they speed forward, inspired ever and anon by a word from their claymores, they speed forward, inspired ever and anon by a word from their claymores, they speed forward, inspired ever and anon by a word from their claymores, they speed forward, inspired ever and anon by a word from the indignities which his darling might have suffered, nor think of the state of the poor girl's feeling, lest he should become unmanned and burst into tears—for a great flood of sorrow lurked in his bosom, and were the well-springs but opened, it would burst forth with overwhelming force.

But breathless and panting, though none the less determined, the clausmen have now more than half the distance accomplished, and ever and anon they peer through the raging, blinding night to see whether they can obtain a glance of those they seek. But they clausmen have now more than half the distance accomplished, and ever and anon they peer through the raging, blinding night to see whether they can obtain a glance of those they seek. But they cannot distinguish anything more t

Paristan Blood-Drinkers.— Dr. Decasine tells us that early every morning there is to be seen waiting at the doors of the great municipal slaughter-house at La Valette, a crowd of persons of both sexes, and of every class of society, eager for admission, their object being to drink the yet steaming blood of the newly-killed bullocks and sheep. It would seem that the belief is widely spread in Paris that the blood of freshly-slaughtered animals is a sovereign remedy for consumption, and, above all, for the frection generally known as "nervous debility." Dr. Decaisne does not hesitate to say that the physiological theory in which the drinkers of blood trust is as absurd as the practice is disgusting."



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