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First in 1888—
Foremost ever since.

To have been "first" merely proves antiquity. To have remained first proves merit.



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LIMITED,
TORONTO.

Local Depot for Dunlop Carriage Tires.

Sewer Pipe Cements and Lime

At Lowest Prices.

J. & J. Oldershaw
KING STREET WEST,
Opp. Piggott's Lumber
Yard, Chatham

Spring Cleaning And Disinfecting

Carbolic Acid, Chloride of Lime,
Coppers, Caustic Soda,
Creolin, Camphor,
Borax, Ammonia,
Moth Balls, Sponges and Cloths
—AT—

Radley's Drug Store
King St., Chatham

Meet Me at Somerville's Ice Cream and Soda Water

Known as the Best in Town.

Pure, rich Ice Cream, made by the most perfect apparatus in absolutely clean rooms.
Refreshing, foaming Soda Water with exquisite Fruit Flavors.

Somerville's
Restaurant and Lunch Rooms
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Pure Gold Jellies

Nothing can equal them for a table jelly and so easily made. We have them in all flavors.

10c per Pkg.,
3 for 25c.

Upton's Jam, in jars 10c each.

Good Dried Apples, 3 lbs. for 25c.

Apricots, 15c per lb.

Dried Peaches, 2 lbs. for 25c.

Orange Marmalade, 10c per jar.

S. E. Smith
Grocer

Next But's Drug Store
King St. East.

Keep Minard's Liniment in the House.

ROLFF HOUSE

BY
G. H. BENEDICT.

"Really Mr. Saybrook, I cannot listen to you. You but do wrong to yourself to address me so. It is my error if I have given you the slightest reason to indulge a hope that I could look favorably on your addresses. I most truly cannot. I would wrong you to leave you under the slightest delusion. Believe me, it is impossible."

Ralph was quick to catch the implied admission of the generous-hearted girl that she might have unconsciously led him to hope for her favor.

"But why?" he made haste to urge. "Most truly, I have seen no reason to incline me to believe that your attitude toward me was such as to shut out the least admiring and loving, and cherish the fond hope to win you. But I will not, I cannot, indulge so terrible a belief as that you will deliberately decline to listen to my suit, and at least not give yourself time and opportunity to ascertain whether my attentions may not in time become more agreeable to you."

"It is needless, believe me, Mr. Saybrook," she replied. "Do not wrong yourself with such a hope."

"Ah, but, Rosa, I cannot help it. The thought of love may be new to you; but, my dear girl, you are now of an age to excite admiration and attract suitors, and why should I not seek to be among the number of your faithful worshippers? I could not expect to be without rivals, but, knowing my own heart, I can well indulge the hope of being able to surpass all in faithfulness and devotion."

Tears sprang to the eyes of the young girl. The situation was becoming very embarrassing for her, and she determined to cut it short by a candid explanation.

"Let me be frank with you, Mr. Saybrook," she said. "My faith is already pledged to another, and I cannot break it."

"Unwelcome as the news is to me," replied Ralph, showing no sign of discomfiture, "I do not see how it entirely shuts me out from hope. I had reason, perhaps, to suspect such a fact, but I also had reason to believe that it was not an objection that would prove in any way insuperable. Indeed, I did not know but that your relations in that direction had been broken off. Of course, you allude to Claude Rolff. Much as I respect and admire him as a friend, I cannot believe that he has lacked the sincerity and earnestness of a true manly character in his attentions to you. In fact without breaking confidence, I think I may say that he himself looked upon his sundering abroad as a practical sundering of all ties that bound him to his native land, and that he confessed as much, and I have also reason to believe that he has since formed new ties in the place of his present residence which would preclude the idea that he regarded any pledges he might lightly have made to you as binding. No, no, I cannot consider that his claims should shut out mine. Let me assure you, Rosa, kindly but earnestly, that all others save only yourself, perhaps, have regarded his attentions to you as lacking in real sincerity. I know that such is your father's opinion. I did not presume to indulge a hope of becoming your suitor without first declaring my intentions to him, and learning that he did not regard my character and hopes unfavorably; and I was given to understand by him that not only was your hand free so far as he knew, but that, even if an engagement did exist with Mr. Rolff, it could never receive his consent. He regarded, I assure you, others as of a kind that will never adapt itself to the circumstances of our quiet little community and peaceful ways, and that his leaving us is a practical sundering of all designs or probability of ever returning here. It would be but cruelty, Rosa, to deny me even the one fond lover's privilege of hope for one who I am assured has already proved false to you."

"I cannot believe it—I will not believe it," replied Rosa hastily, and with a sudden spirit that seemed to indicate that her feelings were much moved. "You all slander him; you all seem conspired together to deceive me. I cannot believe ill of him till I have better evidence than I have yet seen."

"Possibly you are right as regards the evidence," replied Ralph, who shrewdly saw that it would not do to press the point at present. "I confess I can hardly believe so ill of Claude myself as his actions would seem to warrant. It is a point that perhaps a little lapse of time will settle clearly. All I ask, my dear girl, is that you will not forbid me to indulge a hope that your hand will yet be free for me to sue for with all the ardor and deep love that is in my heart."

"This request is as humble enough, but Rosa was scarce listening. She was deeply agitated, and felt a hasty impulse to break away from the disagreeable interview.

"You must excuse me now, Mr. Saybrook," she said hurriedly. "I cannot listen to you longer. I have duties awaiting me in the house. Good day!" Turning almost abruptly, she proceeded with hasty steps toward the house.

The young man watched her disappear, and then turned to retrace his steps toward the village. He whistled to himself lightly as he walked along, and he evidently was not disappointed at the reception his declaration had received. His only object had been to establish himself as a declared suitor for the maiden's hand, and in that object he had been perfectly successful. He was resolved that not one rebuff, nor a hundred, should discourage him. He meant to win by persistence, address and opportunity, and time and fortune, he well knew, were in his favor.

CHAPTER XVII.

The excitement caused by the disappearance of Leeb, Backett, and the public surmises in regard to the reasons therefor, naturally came to the ears of lawyer Saybrook and his son.

"Leeb seems to have managed that

BACKACHE?

If you have Backache you have Kidney Disease. If you neglect Backache it will develop into something worse—Bright's Disease or Diabetes. There is no cure but the rubbing and doctoring your back. Cure the kidneys. There is only one kidney medicine but it cures Backache every time—

Dodd's Kidney Pills

Little job of getting old Margaret out of the house very neatly," remarked Ralph as they were discussing the matter.

"Yes," responded the other. "He said he'd try to fix it, and he has succeeded very finely. But I am puzzled to know why he keeps himself so quiet while trying to keep up the mystery; but I have my suspicions somewhat aroused. To tell the truth, I haven't just too much confidence in Leeb. He's just a trifle too smart to be trustworthy. It is now four days since he has reported. Suppose after dinner we walk over and see what is up."

Ralph assented; and, dinner being over, they proceeded to visit Rolff House.

As they drew near the old place, it looked as silent and deserted as if it had not had an inhabitant in years.

They approached the great front door and the elder Saybrook placed his hand on the heavy iron knocker and sounded an alarm vigorous enough to have awakened the soundest sleeper. It was some seconds before the echoes ceased reverberating through the vacant halls and rooms.

They waited; but there was no answer. The summons was repeated. Still no answer. Again and again did Anthony Saybrook repeat the knocking in the loudest possible manner, but no response came save the muffled echoes from within.

"This is strange," he muttered, testily. "What can it mean? Is it possible that Leeb has been up to some knavish prank, and left the place? Dear me! I'm afraid—I'm afraid we've made a grave mistake. There—the door is locked. Luckily I brought a key with me. Here were lots of things in the house that were worth the stealing. Why was I such a fool as to trust a man I knew to be a scamp?" Oh, dear! will it ever get the door open?"

The lawyer had been fumbling with unsteady hands with the lock of the door, but at last the wards flew back and the door was opened. He had been ed into the house. It had flashed across Anthony Saybrook that perhaps Leeb might have taken advantage of the opportunity afforded him to break into the old vault, rob it of any valuables it contained, and make good his escape. Hence his sudden agitation.

They made a hasty search of the rooms off from the old hall, and called loudly for Leeb, but there was no response.

"Let us go down into the cellar," exclaimed the elder Saybrook, who was plainly very much dismayed and discomfited by the mysterious disappearance of Leeb. "I'll warrant we'll find his traces there. Yes, yes, I know his game, the old rascal. But we must have a light. Where can we get a light?"

"Let us look around," interposed Ralph, who was of a less excitable nature than his father, but equally intent upon solving the mystery of Leeb's strange actions.

After considerable search, they discovered a tinder box and the same old lantern with which Carl Crum had guided the lawyer down to the lower regions of the house on a previous occasion. The lantern had in it a piece of candle. Managing to light it, they proceeded cautiously through the dark passages and stairways down to the old cellar. The door was open, and a key in it.

They entered, and stood for a moment in a sort of trepidation, vainly casting their eyes about in an effort to pierce the darkness of that subterranean den.

ABSOLUTE SECURITY.

Genuine

Carter's Little Liver Pills.

Must Bear Signature of

W. D. Carter

See Face-Simile Wrapper Below.

Very small and as easy to take as sugar.

CARTER'S LIVER PILLS. FOR HEADACHE. FOR DIZZINESS. FOR BILIOUSNESS. FOR TORPID LIVER. FOR CONSTIPATION. FOR FALLOW SKIN. FOR THE COMPLEXION.

CURE SICK HEADACHE.

death, which the feeble flame of the candle only made more visible.

Then they advanced slowly and with extreme caution in the direction of the old vault. A sudden chill of dread had struck to their hearts, inspired by the mysterious gloom of the old cellar and the reaction from the eager excitement that had led them to penetrate its depths. As they approached the vault, carefully throwing the light of the lantern ahead of them, a slight was suddenly presented to their eyes that caused them both to start back with an exclamation of horror. The form of a man was lying on the damp cold floor, buried beneath the weight of a huge stone that had fallen from above upon him. Summoning courage to investigate more closely, a glance showed that the form was that of Leeb, Backett. He was stone dead, and presented an appearance well calculated to excite horror even if it had been witnessed under less terrifying circumstances. The stone was across his breast, as he lay stretched upon his back; his face was twisted back and turned toward them; his glassy eyes protruded; and blood had flowed from his mouth and nostrils. It was evident that his life had been crushed out at once.

The two men glanced at each other with blank countenances. "Well, this is horrible," said the elder Saybrook, as soon as he could compose himself to speak. "I did not expect any such result as this. Let us look about. Yes, yes, I see; I had been making an attempt to get into the vault. See here where he has been to work trying to break through the door. Yes, and here is where he has nosed the stones above, however, and one has fallen upon him as he approached to see the effect of his operations, and crushed him to death. Strange and fatal reward of his knavery! What a spectacle! It leads one to think of the stories they tell of the Evil that keeps guard over the vault. I'm not superstitious, Ralph; but this thing unman me. Let us get out of the cellar as though the Evil One himself were ready to seize them, tumbling over each other and falling sprawling on the cellar bottom. Fear added to their confusion, and they were some time in finding the door. But they at last succeeded in doing so, and hastened up the narrow stairs into the dark hall above. Here again they were in trouble, and some moments of fearful suspense were passed ere they discovered the stairway that led to the upper hall. They finally succeeded in gaining the door by which they had entered, and drew easier breaths.

"Where?" exclaimed Anthony Saybrook, "that is the worst scrape that ever I got into. I wouldn't be shown there again for a thousand dollars."

"No, nor for ten thousand," added Ralph. "I never was so scared in my life—I'll own to that. I'm all in a tremble, and it's lucky I did not break my neck. I've got some good bruises as it is."

"And I, too," added the elder, with rueful countenance. "Curse the house! I'm afraid it is bound to bring us ill luck. I suspect it is the devil's property after all. But let us get home. We must have this matter attended to. Of course, this event will arouse tenfold more gossip in regard to the old place. The superstitious will be more assured than ever that it is haunted by evil spirits. I confess that Leeb's strange death staggers me for the moment. I must have time to get over my fright before I can think clearly about it."

"One thing is certain," interposed Ralph, who had somewhat recovered his coolness by this time, the gate of the yard being passed, "Leeb has been foiled in his game of robbery, and the old vault is safe. It is good luck, after all."

"Well, perhaps so," responded the other. "But I hate terribly to be taken in by any one in such a manner. Still, as you say, it is good luck that the vault is safe, but what it contains I confess I don't know, though I suspect there is something valuable in it. This affair will make a big talk; but of course it will be seen at once that Leeb was the cause of his own destruction, or if some are superstitious enough to attribute it to supernatural means, so many no doubt will, it can make no difference to us. I suspect we will have difficulty now to get some one to put in Leeb's place; but even if we have to look the old house up, this event will inspire such dread that I do not believe any one will be so bold as to molest it hereafter."

Thus discussing the matter, they soon reached home, and, after a short rest and consultation, the proper authorities were notified of the tragic accident that had happened in Rolff House.

An Ancient Arch.

In laying the water pipes to supply Jerusalem from Solomon's pool the old aqueduct passes through a tunnel under a mountain, and in this tunnel was discovered a perfectly constructed arch built before the time of the Romans.

A Big Bog.

The bog of Allen, the biggest in Ireland, is in places forty-seven feet deep.

Refrigerated Flowers.

The florist has grown independent of seasons. You no longer have to name a date on which you want a certain blossom, and he will have it ready for you. The art of retarding flowers was always curious, and now it has widened out into very large dimensions.

Haydn.

The father of Haydn, the composer of "The Creation," was a wheelwright and often scolded his son for neglecting business.

Keep Minard's Liniment in the House.

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is SOAP

Pure Hard Soap.

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This is the time when the new wheels are creating a great deal of talk. No enthusiast has better foundation for claims for the excellence of his favorite than those who talk of the

"Hyslop"

It's a wheel made for service and easy riding. The price is lower than first-class wheels have sold for in the past.

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Choice Clover Seed, Timothy Seed, White and Black Oats, Barley, Corn, Beans, Buckwheat,

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Use Kent Mills Gold Medal Flour.

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