Guelph Evening Mercury

SATURDAY EV'G, MARCH 29, 1873.

ANNABEL

THE TEMPTATION.

CHAPTER XI.

Half an hour later, when the lights were all out, and the mansion had been abandoned to utter silence, two forms stole stealthily forth by different doors and met in a secluded place among the shrubbery. The first to reach the spot was Barnard Hayes, and he took up a position under the shadow of a thick, overhanging yew, where he had not been more than a minute when the muffled form of Mrs. Langton silently glided towards him with rapid yet soundless footsteps.

"Barnard!" she whispered, in a low

voice.
"I am here," answered her brother, from the deep darknees under the yew.
She came instantly forward and joined him, the intense gloom effectually concealing them from observation even had anyone chanced to be abroad at that hour.

cealing them from observation even had anyone chanced to be abroad at that hour.

"Well, Augusta, this is a pretty turn things have taken. All my former work goes for nothing."

And tha, tone of the speaker was at once bitter and hopeless.

"For nothing did you say? No Barnard, we shall, we must sneeced."

"I don't believe it. Things went smooth my to this point, and having secured the eartificate so cleverly, I deemed the game was won. But this is an utter cheek-mate."

"Hush! speak not in this strain. I will not hear it; I will not brook failure. Think what must follow if the marriage be proved."

"Joseph must be mad," said the other."

"Did you not warn him?"

"No; that would have been the sure way to defeat, for he is impracticable. He would not join us in this, though bankruptcy and beggary stared him in he face. I told you before we must keep him entirely in the dark, for he would refuse to help us."

"To help us?" repeated Hayes angerly. "But he is hindering us—thwarting us, throwing all his force on the other side. In a word, Augusta, the game is lost."

"Lost, Barnard! Do I hear you aright? Lost!"

"I fear it is. If this man is found—this Jerry Just—a word from his mouth will reveal the place of the marriage. Thus, all is hopeless. The will can no longer be evaded; the girlgets Rockstone and—"

"Never—I tell you, never," burst forth Mrs Langton. "Means must be

"Never—I tell you, never," burst forth Mrs Langton. "Meaus must be taked to prevent such an issue."
"What can be done? We can't prevent Weston from going to America; we can't prevent him inding Jerry Just, it has is still there."
"Are you sure of that?" asked Mrs Langton, in a low, fierce whisper.
"I can't see how—do you?"
"You have heard what Philip Weston said about the American agent named Yorke. He is evidently no friend to Jerry?" Could he not be communicated with?"
"The New Store is the one formerly occupied by Mr. H. Berry, and lately by Mr. H. Berr

Yorke. He is evidently no friend to terry. Could he not be communicated with?"

"To what purpose? What could we learn from him?"

"If he knows anything of the man, and where he is."

"What then? Do you contemplate getting at Jerry and bribing him before Weston comes across him? That is a vain project. The character given sof him to night shows me so."

"That is not my thought."

"Then what is it?"

"Yorke is evidently his enemy; he is unserqualous, and might be induced to—"

"I can, usurs very tenly,

"A. B. PETRIE.

She paused. She did not dare to say what she thought Yorke might be inside deed to do, but the sudden pause was terribly significant, and Bannard started violently back.

"My very thought," he said. "It came the moment Weston spoke of the variance which had taken place between the two. But to tell you the truth, Augusta, I started back from it, for it meant something so dangerous that I concluded the game must be given up."

"You did" hissed Mrs. Langton with ferce intensity.

fierce intensity.

"Yes. This unexpected American business tramps our earl effectually."

"Oh, then," she sneered, "You had better save Weston the journey by giving him the information he as, going so far to seek. Confess the trick you played at l'anwell Row—appear before them in the dress and character of the Rev. Bartholomew Kidd, and present to them the certificate you so surreptitiously observed."

No," answered Hayes, "I shall, cer-nly do nothing to help them, but the per course is so dangerous that—

that—"
"You are afraid to take it," she hast"Aled, "Very well. But know this,
"Journal of the same. I il' added. "Very well. But know this, Birnard—I do not give up the game. I am resolved to win it, only if I doit by myself it shall be for myself—you understand?" In plain words, I and my family would not share in the result." His sister fixed her blazing eyes on him, and hodded aftirmatively.
"Hum—that would be a dear price to pay for hesitancy, and after all the stake is worth the venture, dangerous though it be."

is worth the venture, dangerous though it be."

"Ah—I thought you would not be long in seeing it in that light. You will go into this, then?"

Barnard paneed for fully a minute in deep thought. Then he said in the tone of a man who had fully resolved—

"I will."
"Good." she realied, her eves emit-

"Good," she replied, her eyes emit-ting a still brighter flame. "And how will you proceed how open the matter

will year preced how gone has matter to Yorke."

"I will intrust the business to Sam Lortón. He is the man to carry it out, if it can be done."

"Who is he?"

"One who is indebted to my professional skill for being this moment at large in Liverprofi instead of in the chains at Portland. Only some cash must be forthcoming, for he must be sent to America.

"How much?"

"Thirty pounds."

"How much?"
"Thirty pounds."
"I shall procure it. Seek him out and give him his instructions, and have him despatched at one."
"It shall be done Augusta. But"—and he grasped her arms and brought his face close to hers—"there is one certain way by which the threatened evil can be averted."
"Name it," she returned.
"The death of Annabel within the year."



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THOMAS WARD.

(Late of Crown Hotel),

Proprietor.
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A very fragrant Fumigator FOR THE SICK ROOM

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