

The Foster Brother;

The Orphan of the Wreck.

CHAPTER XXX.

THE SNOWSTORM.

"What an earth is that!" exclaimed George.

"Goodness only knows—a sheep, probably—a sheep lost among the snow."

"Merciful heaven, no; it is a man," cried George, in a hoarse voice, as after searching down among the snow, his hand came upon a human face.

"A man!" roared Harry; "truly that cannot be."

"Either a man or a woman," responded the other; "Ha! there is life at any rate."

"Most decidedly there was life, for as George spoke the object rolled away from beneath them, and a voice possibly de- manded—

"What do ye want? Can ye no let a body lie?"

"Who are you?" asked George.

A loud snore was the only answer.

Quick as thought George pounced upon the figure, and shook it, much evi- dently to the figure's annoyance, for the same hoarse voice again muttered in great displeasure—

"Let me alone; I tell ye I want tae sleep."

"If ye sleep there you will never awake again. Help me, Harry; help me to shake him, or he will miserably perish."

This startling discovery having fairly surprised them out of a sense of their own evil plight, Harry laid hold of the recum- bent figure, and the two youths shook and rubbed it with rough persistence.

"What the devil are ye doin' that for?" demanded the voice in angry re- monstrance. "Was I deasin' ye ony ill?"

"Harry, a thought strikes me," said George. "That voice—I seem to have heard it before; and if I mistake not, it is the half-witted messenger who carried my letter to Matthew Greigson."

"What! Jamie Welsh? Can it be possible?"

"Atwood, and I'm just Jamie Welsh," returned the object of their attention. "Sae ye had better be wiser wi' me ony mair. Mind, I'm tallie' ye."

"But, Jamie, you must get up," bawled Harry. "Ye'll dee if you lie there."

"Deil a fears o' me deein'," was the response. "There's naebody dees when they want tae sleep."

"We must leave him up," said George. "We cannot leave the poor fellow to per- ish here. Let us bear him to the em- bankment."

"Come with us," bawled Harry, giv- ing a violent pull to Jamie's passive arm.

"What for will ye know lat me sleep?" demanded Jamie, in a thoroughly offend- ed tone. "I dinna ken ye ava, but whae'er ye are, I never did ye ony ill."

"Tis no use to reason with him," said George. "He is insensible to his condition. Up with him at once, or all three will be buried here among the drift."

Without farther parley, therefore, they each laid hold of an arm of the recum- bent and drowsy man, and began to pull him out of his lair. The action roused Jamie into violent resistance, for the mo- ment he felt himself being dragged to his feet he writhed and wriggled, and pulled against them, vociferating as he did so—

"Oh, ye blackguard tormentors—ye deevil's buckies—that winna let an honest man lie in his bed. Eh, Lord, but ye'll catch it for this yet. I'll set the constables on ye, see if I dinna."

Then, finding that this threat produced no effect, but that his assailants persisted in dragging him from where he lay, he went on—

"Ye're daft, you twa—clean daft—just like the lave. Oh, sirs, but it's an awfu' thing to be the only sensible man in the kintra. Aweel, aweel—carry me whaur ye like, for I canna resist ony langer. Save us, if the loons are haulin' me cobbie, and it comin' on o' snow. If I dinna gar the constables hang them for this, I see winder."

The resistance of Jamie on the one hand, with the force necessary to over- come it on the other, was productive of one good effect—it brought some little heat back to them, and kept them from being utterly benumbed. When, there- fore, they had succeeded in carry- ing Jamie under the lee-side of the embankment, where they were all sheltered from the snow and the wind, they felt a positive glow of warmth come over them, and the reaction took so great effect on Jamie that the small modicum of wit which he possessed returned to him—he remembered then where he was, and also what was the state of the case, so as no longer to consider the two youths as his tormentors, but assistants who had come to him in his emergency.

The Atlantic Monthly for January.

The January number of the "Atlantic Monthly" has been received from the publishers. The contents are as usual varied, and the reading matter first-class. The prospectus of the "Atlantic" for 1873 promises some interesting papers, as will be seen by the following pro- gramme:—

In the January number is commenced "Chapters of Autobiography," by Bobt. Dale Owen, whose varied life in connection with the rise of manufactures in England, the Socialistic Movement in this country, the Political Affairs of thirty years ago, the career of a diplo- matist at the Neapolitan Court, and the growth of Modern Spiritualism, affords abundant material for an instructive and delightful narrative. "The Trial of Queen Caroline," by William Dorsheimer, (Author of History of "Fremont's Hun- dred Days"), a striking passage of his- tory, of which the publishers can promise the most attractive treatment. In five numbers. Several chapters of "French- man's History," by Francis Parkman, author of "The Jesuits in North Amer- ica," etc. The conclusion of Mr Parton's popular and brilliant "Life of Jefferson," now approaching its most important period. "Episodes of the Hassler Ex- pedition," by Mrs. Louis Agassiz, in which some of the most interesting events of Mr. Agassiz's recent voyage will be noticed. "Studies of American Popula- tions," in three or four papers, by Prof. N. S. Shaler. "A Story of Southwest- ern Life," in three parts, by W. M. Baker, Author of "The New Timothy," etc. "A Story," in several parts, by J. W. DeForest. "Gunna," a romance of Norwegian Peasant Life, by Hjalmar H. Boyesen. "Chance Acquaintance," a story of American travel and sojourn, by Wm. D. Howells. The present is an ex- cellent time to subscribe for this, the best of the American magazines. Copies can be ordered through any of the book- sellers in town, who receive the numbers as soon as issued.

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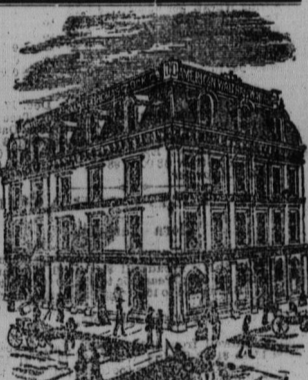
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