

MARGUERITE'S SECRET

hands to her lips before she released them. She was very much exhausted, and tuning to the doctor, whispered, in a voice nearly extinct through faintness: "Doctor, I must live an nour langer—one hour zonger, doctor—is there no potential drug that will keep life in this frame for an hour?"
"You may live many hours, or even days—nay, you may even recover, dear lady—for while there is life there is hope. Now, you are only exhausted, and this will restore you," said the physican, pouring out a cordial, and p-acing it to her lips.
"Thank you; yes, this is reviving!" answered Mrs. Helmstedt, drawing one deep, free breath.
"And now you must lie still and rest"."

answered Mrs. Helmstedt, drawing one deep, free breath.

"And now you must lie still and rest."

"I will—soon. Dear friends,' she continued, addressing the group that were around the ued, "you will please withdraw now and leave me alone with my child. Go you also, dear Ralph, and leave Margaret with me. You will have her all to herself soon. Well, then, kiss me before you go," she added, seeing Ralph Houston hesitated. He bent down and pressed a reverential kiss upon her cold forehead, and a loving one upon her fading lips, and then arose and silently followed the others from the room.

And the mother and child were left alone.

The near committed traves and dark.

alone.

The room seemed strange and darkened. The shadow of some "coming event" other than death hung over them.

Mrs. Helmstedt lay with her hands folded in what seemed prayer; but was only deep thought.

Alargaret stood affectionately waiting her wishes.

her wishes.

Neither spoke for a few minutes.

Neither spoke for a few minutes.

Then Mrs. Helmstedt said, in a changed and solemn voice, whose sound caused Margaret's heart to thrill with strange dread:

"Come hither, my dove."
"I am here, sweet, dear mother," reied the giri, striving to repress her

lied the girl, striving to repress her rice.

The lady opened her eyes.

"Come sit upon the bed beside me—
it so that 1 can see your face—give your hand."

Margaret obeyed, silently praying to tood to give her strength to repress the lood of tears that were ready to gush out.

forth.

"Little Margaret, for, though you are an affianced bride, you are still my little Margaret," said the lady, closing her fingers upon the soft hand and gazing fondly into the dark, true, tender eyes of the maiden, "little Margaret, some time ago, when your loving heart led you to leave a festive scene to rejoin your loneig mother, and you surprised me prostrated with grief and dismay, you implored me to confide my sorrows to your faithful heart; and I told you that if ever I was driven to trust the terrible secret of my life to mortal man or woman, it should be to my loving, loyal child—only to her. You remember?"

"Oh, yes—yes, mamma!"

"That time has come, my dove! I have a precious trust to bequeath as a legacy to some one; it is a secret that has been the grief and bane and terror of my life; a secret that lies as yet between my soul and God; yet must I not go hence and leave no clue to its discovery."

"Little daughter—as I said once before—I love many; I worship one; I trust only you; for of all the people I have known, loved and respected, you are the most true-hearted, I think also the wisest. Dear child, I will not bind you by any promise to keep the secret to be entrusted to your charge, for I feel sure that for my sake you will keep it."

"Through life and unto death, mam-'Little Margaret, for, though you are

"Through life and unto death, mam-

"Through life and unto death, mamma; the rack shall not wring it from me; may God so keep my soul as I shall keep your secret, mother."

"Nay, nay, there is a contingency, my child, under which you might reveal it; and it is to provide for this possible contingency that I feel constrained to leave this secret with you."

"I will be faithful, dearest mother."

"I know it, my dove!—sit closer now and listen. But stop—first go and see if the door is closed."

"It is closed, dear mother."

"Ah, but go and lock it, my child."

Margaret complied.

waited anxiously for her summons.

Presently the bell rang, and Nellie Houston sprang up quickly to answer it.

And soon after she left Margaret ap-Houston sprang up quickly to answer it.
And soon after she left Margaret appeared, but with a face so changed, so aghast, that all who beheld it were stricken with fear and wonder. It wore no expression of grief, or terror, or anxiety—it looked as if all these emotions were impossible to it, henceforth—it looked award and appalled, as though some tremendous reveiation of sin or affering, or both, had fallen like a thunderbolt upon that young brow, and stricken childhood from it at once and forever.

Ralph Houston, who was waiting for her appearance, sprang up to meet her, and, alarmed at her expression of countenance, hastened toward her, exclaiming:

"Margaret, Margaret! what is it s".

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Ralph Houston, who was waiting for her appearance, spraing up to meet her hand, alarmed at her expression of countenance, hastened toward her, exclaiming:

"Margaret, Margaret! what is it?"
But, with a gesture of almost solemnity, she waved him away, and, silent as a visitant from the grave, passed through and left the room.

Ralph gazed after her in consternation, and then turned upon her father a look of mute inquiry.

The colonel gravely shook his head, and remained silent.

Margaret did not return.

Some hours subsequent to this, near midnight, were assembled, in the chamber of death, old Colonel and Mrs. Compton, the Houstons, Dr. Hartley and Mr. Wellworth—all the family and friends, in fact, except Margaret. She had not made her appearance since. With that look of annihilated youth, she had passed through the parlor, and gone out. All wondered at her absence from the dying bed of her idolized mother; but none expressed an opinion upon the subject.

The chamber was dimly lighted by a shaded lamp that stood upon the hearth, and, reversing the natural course of light, threw the shadows, in strange, fantastic shapes, to the ceiling. It is propared from both; fantastic shapes, to the ceiling. It projected the shadow of Mr. Wellworth, between the sh

who stood at Mrs. Helmstedt's feet, up over the bed, until it looked like the form of some dark spirit, swooping down to snatch the soul of the dying.

Mrs. Helmstedt lay on her back, with her head quite low, and her hands wandering gently over the white quilt, as if in search of some other clasping hands—sometimes murmuring softly to herself in calm delirium, and occasionally opening her eyes and looking around cognizantly, as though recognizing all who were present, and missing one who was not.

Néllie stood at her right hand, often bending anxiously over her.

Another hour passed; and still Marguerite Helmstedt lay in a state of gentle, whispering delirium, varied with brief lucid intervals. Was it in the former or the latter of these conditions that she breathed the name of her mother, then of her father, then of Nellie?

At the sound of her own name, Mrs. Houston bent to listen to her words.

"Nellie, dearest," she murmured, very softly, "when prisoners die, their bodies are given up to their friends, are they not?"

"Yes, surely, dearest Marguerite, when they have friends to claim their common to take some little refreshment previous to resuming his watch in the previous to resuming his watch in the space room above.

"What do you think do you think of her now, doctour linguistive free in the previous to resuming his watch in the space room above.

"What do you think he previous the huse here and watch in the spanie remained the little was far spent. No one thought of retiring to rest. The doctor for toke a lamp and a book and went softly uptairs to sit and watch in the room adjoining Mrs. Helmstedt's. And the party who were left below gathered around the little wood fire that, even the you have fee

not?"

"Yes, surely, dearest Marguerite, when they have friends to claim their bodies," answered the lady, greatly dying woman's delirium had now taken.

"And if they have not friends, they are buried in the prison grounds, are they not?" continued Mrs. Helmstedt.

"Of course, I suppose so, dear Marguerite."

querite."
"But, Nellie, I have friends to claim
my body, after death, have I not?"
"What do you say, dearest!" inquired Mrs. Houston, bending closer
down, for the voice of the dying was
nearly extinct.

nearly extinct.

nearly extinct.
"I say, Nellie, dear, when my spirit
flees, it would not leave this poor, racked frame behind in the prison. Claim
my body, Nellie, and bury it anywhere;
anywhere! out of this prison!"
"Yes, dearest Marguerite; be content;
I will do it," answered Mrs. Houston,
soothingly, as she would have spoken to
a manise.

maniac.
"What does she say?" asked old Mrs.

a maniae.

"What does she say!" asked old Mrs. Compton.

"Oh, nothing to any purpose, mother. She is wandering dreadfully in her mind," whispered the unsuspicious Nellie. And if calmed by her friend's promise, Mrs. Helmstedt lay perfectly quiet for a few moments, and then her fair, thin hand went wandering over the quilt, as if to clasp that other loving hand, and not meeting it, she opened her large, dark eyes, turning them about the dusky room, as if in search of some one; then she raised and fixed them, with a wild gaze, upon that sinister shadow that swooped over her head.

At this moment the door was quietly opened, and Margaret entered. Her face had again changed. It now wore the look of one who had, in this short space of time, suffered, strugglest and overcome—of one who had gazed steadily in the face of some appalling trial, and nerved her heart to meet it—the look, in short, of a martyr who had conquered the fear of torture and of death, and was prepared to offer up her life. But from this night, through all time, Margaret's face never resumed its youthful character of simplicity and freedom.

On coming into the room, her eyes

Its youthful character of simplicity and freedom.

On coming into the room, her eyes were at once turned toward her mother, and the first object that met their glance was the large, starry eyes fixed, as if magnetized, upon the swooping shadow on the ceiling.

Margaret went at once to the fireplace and removed the lamp from the hearth to the mantelpiece, and placed an alabaster shade over it, thus reducing the spectres, and bringing the uning the spectres, and bringing the uning the spectres, and bringing the uning the spectres.

an alabaster shade over it, thus reducing the spectres, and bringing the unnatural relations of shadow and substance into harmony again. Then she went softly to her mother's side and slipped her hand into that wandering hand, that now closed fondly and contentedly upon it. The clasp of her child's slender fingers seemed to recall the wandering senses of Mrs. H@mstedt. Her dark eyes softened from their fixed and fiery gaze, as she turned them on her loving child, murmuring:

"I know it, my dove!—sit closer now and listen. But stop—first go and see if the door is closed."

"It is closed, dear mother."
"Man, but go and lock it, my child."
Margaret complied.
"It is fast now, dear mother."
"Come then and sit upon the bed where you were before, so that I can sey your sweet face; give me your dear hand again—there!—now listen."

Meanwhile, the friends assembled downstairs, in Mrs. Helmstedt's parlor, waited anxiously for her summons.
Presently the bell rang, and Nellie Houston sprang up quickly to answer it. And soon after she left Margaret ap."
"My dear child, I myself am of the principle of the mother's side for an instant, to hear what he had to say."
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"My dear child, I myself am of the principle of the mother's side for an instant, to hear what he had to say."
"My dear child, I myself am of the principle of the mother loving child, murmuring:
"And presently she said: "It is time 'Margaret' my little Margaret'."
And presently she said: "It is time 'Margaret' while in the provide my my the proposition, until Mrs. Helmsted's side for an instant, to hear what he had to say."
"My dear child, I myself am of the principle of the mother' was the proposition, until Mrs. Helmsted's side, the proposition, until Mrs. Helmsted's sid

long ago, Margaret," said Mrs. Helmstedt, speaking with a playfulness strange and incomprehensible to her child, who, though her heart seemed almost breaking, and though these tender words and acts weakened and unnerved her, prepared to comply. Once more she lay down by her mother's side, and felt the gentle hand upon her neck, and the cooing voice in her ear, as that dying mother sought, as heretofore, to soothe her child to sleep.

Let us draw the curtain and leave them so.

them so.

The friends, dismissed from Mrs.
Helmstedts deathbed, reassembled in the parlor. The doctor lingered there for a moment to take some little refreshment

SHAH IS MASTER.

ERSIAN ATTEMPT AT SELF-GOV

ERNMENT SNUFFED OUT. Parliament Buildings Bombarded by

the Cossacks Now a Mass of Ruins

—Many Persons Killed—Prominent Nationalists Under Arrest. Teheran, June 23.-After a bloody fight, which was waged around the Par

liament buildings, the city was comparatively quiet to-day, although the Cossacks were camped in the streets and squares. Cossacks and soldiers early in the morning surounded the Par-liament buildings and demanded that a number of persons whose arrest the Shah had ordered be forthwith handed number of persons whose arrest the Shah had ordered be forthwith handed over to them. Parliament refused to comply with this demand, and shots were fired at the troops, several of the soldiers being killed. Orders were at once issued from military headquarters that the Parliament buildings be bombarded, and the bombardment commenced soon after 10 o'clock. While this was in progress bombe were thrown from the Parliament buildings and the mosque adjoining, disabling one of the guns and wounded the gunners.

Eventually the balls of Parliament were cleared, but not before many persons had been killed and wounded. The bombardment continued until 3 o'clock in the afternoon, when it suddenly ceased. In the meantime the troops pillaged the political clubs in that neighborhood and numerous residences of influential members of Parliament, in which work they were aided by the populace.

The number of casualties is suknown.

which work they were aloue by the populace.

The number of casualties is unknown, but it will be very large. The Parliament building are practically in ruins. The firing was confined to Parliament square, other parts of the city being comparatively quiet. Large numbers of leading Nationalists, including priests and members of Parliament, have been placed under arrest. placed under arrest.

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Examine Your Chest.

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GIVING UP THE SEARCH.

All Hope of Findnig Oliv. Dupraw Abandoned.

Winnipeg, June 23.—C. P. R. officials report that practically every foot of ground where the unfortunate child, Olive Dupraw, may have wandered after being lost near Pine, has been gone over so carfeully that it is impossible for the body to be there, and not be discovered. The search has been exhaustive and thorough, and if no trace is found by to-morrow night or Thursday at the latest, the search will be abandoned. It is felt by all that it is a hopeless task, but humanity demands that nothing be left undone.

The child's mother, who eloped from Fort William two years ago with a man who was boarding at her house, is now in Duluth, and has been under careful surveillance since the strange disappearance of little Olive. She positively claims to know nothing of the child's whereabouts. Winnipeg, June 23.-C. P. R. officials

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mona sleeves, embroidery collar and cuffs, worth regular \$2.00, Thursday's sale price 98c \$2.00 Waists for \$1.49

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GOLD AND SILVER MARKS

Senator Kerr Dengunces the Propos Act. Ottawa, June 23.- The Senate to-da,

was taken up with a consideration of the amendements to the gold and silver the amendements to the gold and silver marks act, which proposes to at once apply the provision that no jewelry shall be brought in or made in Canada and sold as gold unless it is at least nine karats fine, nor called sterling silver unless 97½ per cent. pure silver.

Senator Kerr deelared this the most drastic piece of legislation which had ever been introduced into the Canadian Parliament. It absolutely declared that a certain class of the goods should not come inao Canada. It had been stated that the Canadian manufacturers were united in fayor of this act. Senator Kerr

mited in favor of this act. Senator Ker united in favor of this act. Senator Kerr was not surprised that they were, for this law proposed to absolutely protect them from cheap jewelry, which could be made cheaper in foreign countries than they could make it, while it could not prevent the Canadian manufacturer from making as low grade, an article as he pleased.

he pleased.

Hon. Mr. Scott said the purpose and the effect of the bill would only be to protect the purchasers of jewelry from being imposed upon by fraudulent marks which dishonest manufacturers placed upwhich dishonest manufacturers placed upon goods and called gold. The bill did not propose to prevent articles of less karat being imported, but declared that they could not bear marks which might mislead the public. The bill was demanded by the trade, which was suffering from the effects of large importations of cheap and improperly marked jewelry.

jewelry. Senator Gibson protested against the amendments now proposed to a bill, which had been agreed upon by all the manufacturers of Canada. The Toronto manufacturers had not kept faith with other manufacturers on such a bill once pefore. He declared that this bill was in of the manufacturers of the city pronto and against the whole of

After further discussion at the evening progress.

BIRTHPLACE OF 'PHONE. Dr. Bell's Statement Ought to Set-tle It.

Brantford, June 23 .- Interviewed thi afternoon, the inventor of the tele-phone, Dr. Graham Bell, who is here on his way from Washington to his summer home in Nova Scotia, reiterat-

on his way from washington summer home in Nova Scotia, reiterated that Brantford was the birthplace of the telephone. "The idea of the telephone," he said, "occured to me here, and, moreover, the first a shall long-distance transupission of speech took place between Brantford and Mount Pleasant in 1876."

Lately Boston, Mass., has claimed to be the birthplace. Mr. Bell said certain experiments were carried on there, he having to go to the States to procure instruments. But so far as the idea and first transmission of any length are concerned, he again made it plain that Brantford's title is indisputable.

NOT GUILTY OF MURDER.

Man Suspected of Killing Torontonian in New York Acquitted.

in New York Acquitted.

New York, N. Y., June 23.—Joseph Goldman, aged 18, who was arrested on suspicion of being implicated in the murder of Albert E. Nowell, of Toronto, June 12th, was exonerated by a coroner's jury to-day and discharged. The verdict stated that Nowell, who was beaten to death by a gang of roughs, had been killed by "unknown persons."

Perhaps the man who never marries prefers to fight life's battles single-handed.

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