

ANNABEL OR THE TEMPTATION.

CHAPTER XV. BARNARD HAYES AND DICK MATTOCKS COME TO TERMS.

"I have it," he said. "The young fellow would tell how he had mauled the robber. Curse him, I hope to pay him off for it yet. And Mrs. Langton would call to mind the errand on which I had come to Nell. That is how I have been smoked."

"Exactly, but for certain reasons she communicated her knowledge to no one but me. Your sister does not seem to have suspected you. Mrs. Langton alone saw how it was, but, as I tell you, she confided it to no one but me."

"And why did she tell you?" "Because I am her half brother. I am Barnard Hayes, the attorney. You may have heard of me."

"What, the lawyer as got Squinting Dick through the Beak's Court?" Hayes nodded.

Dick shut up his clasp knife at once, and abandoned his attitude of suspicion and menace.

"Why didn't you tell me that sooner?" he said. "Had I known you were Lawyer Hayes, I wouldn't have got into such a funk. But go ahead; I begin to see daylight now, and want to find out how the land lies."

"It lies due west, with a golden harbour for you to sail into if you choose," was the mystical yet significant answer.

"All I say you do? Look at the chart then and give me the soundings, for hang me if the mist is not still too thick for me to see through."

"It will thin away presently. Let me tell you some consequences which attend your attack on the old man. First and foremost, it cut Mrs. Langton out of her cousin's property—a fine estate in Yorkshire, and thirty thousand in the funds."

"Never."

"Fact. And who do you think comes in for the prize instead?" "Haven't the least notion."

"The girl and the young fellow who came up at the time."

"What!" shouted Dick, with a fierce oath, and at the same moment almost leaping from his chair. "The crimp who—who—?"

"Who directed such striking attention to your arm?" said Hayes with a dry laugh. "Aye—the same."

"And I have been the means of bringing him such a windfall—a fellow that I would give my right hand to be revenged on. Curse him, I have wished ever since to come across him again. I have sworn by eternal blades to pay him off for that blow, and I will do it."

"That's right, Dick. I'm glad to hear you say so, for you'll have a capital opportunity. You may have the means of inflicting on him torture a thousand times greater than he gave you."

"How—tell me how?" roared Dick with passionate vehemence. "Only show me the way and you'll not find me slack to go into it."

"I was sure you wouldn't. But hear how the windfall comes to light in this direction. The young girl was no other than the old gentleman's niece—the daughter of his only sister, who had married against his will more than twenty years before. He had cast her off, and had never heard of or asked after her again. But no sooner did the old man learn that the girl was his sister's daughter than he altered his will—which gave all he had to Mrs. Langton—and left everything to the girl. The youth who was with her in her lover—Philip Weston he is called—they will be married shortly, and, of course, now that the old man is dead, they will inherit everything, unless you give us your aid to prevent it."

"Can my aid prevent it?" demanded Dick, with fierce excitement.

"It can, through the plan which Mrs. Langton and I have formed."

"Then I'm your man in this," cried Dick, with another oath. "Aye, through thick and thin I'm your man. I am ready now to drink to what I refused before."

And Dick lifted his still unasked-for to his lips, and drained the vessel which contained it at a draught.

Having thus skilfully and dexterously brought Dick into the proper mood for his purpose, the lawyer fully unfolded to him all that it was necessary he should know, and that was positively everything, for it was absolutely essential that Dick should be made to understand the entire particulars in order that his cooperation should be procured, and that he should undertake the highly important part which they were desirous he should sustain in the iniquitous plot which Mrs. Langton had concocted. Dick listened to the recital with keen attention. His eyes shone with a glittering light from the moment he began to comprehend the scheme which it was proposed to carry out. To him it was simply magnificent—far above anything he had ever planned or dreamed of planning—and its singular ingenuity all of him with admiration. He was all the more able to judge of its feasibility by having himself noticed the extreme likeness which existed between Annabel and his sister. Brutal though he was, he was startled and touched a little to learn that the whole plot was based on Ellen's expected death; for though she had, the last time he saw her, spoken unreservedly of that event as likely soon to take place, he had looked upon it as a mere imagination on her part, and had, in fact, never once thought of it again. What he heard now, however, showed him that it was no imagination, but a reality which others besides herself expected soon to find realized, and, divested as he was of all the gentler feelings of his human nature, the intelligence did not come to him wholly like water spilt upon adamant. She was his only sister, his only earthly relation—the one link between him and an innocent and happy youth, which some times, in the darkness and silence of a sleepless night, he had thought of with a vague regret. But, oh, though not so lost as to feel nothing, the feeling was but superficial and momentary, for immediately he got over it, and was occupied wholly in considering the practicability of the daring and ingenious device, which by its very ingenuity had a strong attraction for him. His own part in the scheme he understood fully, and had naturally an aversion to it, for it involved his residence at a solitary out-of-the-world place at which in his younger days he had grown so disgusted. To return to it again, and remain there as Annabel's jailer, was not a palatable prospect, and had it not been sweetened by certain tempting features, he could never have been brought to entertain it.

Two churchwardens were once disputing about the proposed site for a new graveyard, when the first remarked, "I'll never be buried in that ground as long as I live." "What an obstinate man," said the second; "if my life is spared, I will,

THE FIRST ARRIVAL OF NEW GOODS AT GEORGE JEFFREY'S.

THE SUBSCRIBER BEGS TO INFORM THE PUBLIC THAT HE HAS JUST RECEIVED OVER TWO HUNDRED AND FIFTY PIECES OF McNAUGHTAN & THOM'S BEST PRINTS Which he will sell at 12 1/2c. per yard, being usually sold at 16c. per yard, in beautiful New Designs and Colors.

Ladies ought to come early and get a good choice of those UNPRECEDENTED CHEAP GOODS! Also, another Lot of Lace Collars at Half Price. GEORGE JEFFREY, GUELPH!

GREAT SALE OF Watches, Jewellery, etc. AT R. CRAWFORD'S OWN STORE.

Next the Post Office, FOR ONE MONTH LONGER.

An Immense Sacrifice. Guelph, March 4, 1873.

MEDICAL DISPENSARY. Just Received, a Large Supply of LUBIN'S "GRAND TRUNK," The most elegant and fashionable Perfume of the day.

RIBBON OF BRUGES, A very fragrant Fumigator For THE SICK ROOM

MEDICINE SPOONS, TEA AND DESSERT SPOONS. A fresh supply at the Medical Dispensary. G. B. McCullough, Dispensing Chemist (Late McCullough & Moore) GUELPH.

HART & SPEIRS, Conveyancers, Land, Loan, Insurance and General Agents, 4 Day's Block, Guelph

NEW Lumber Yard IN GUELPH. The subscriber has opened, under the supervision of Mr. Richard Maddock, a Lumber Yard on Paisley and Oxford streets, Near the G. W. Railway Station, and is prepared to supply the various descriptions of building and other lumber.

Shingles, Lath and Pickets. Lumber, etc., delivered in either large or small quantities, in any part of the town, or delivered by the car load on the track here, at any station on the G. W. R., or in cars at the Mill siding north of Walkerton.

Bill Lumber saved to order, and delivered with promptness.

Sokissippi Mills Lumber Yard. CHARLES MCLE, Proprietor. Guelph, April 21st, 1873.

NOTICE To Masons, Plasterers, Farmers, and Others.

The subscriber keeps on hand a large quantity of First-class Fresh Lime, Cut and Best Stone Sills, Lintels, Corners, Marble Sockets, etc., etc., which he is in a position to sell at a very low rate to parties who favor him with their patronage. As he intends enlarging this branch of industry, he will offer inducements that few men in the trade can offer.

FOR SALE—Lot 71, on Wyndham Street, known as the Blacksmith Shop Lot. Clear title and immediate possession given. Also, a first-class stone house to rent. Apply to Denis Coffey, Guelph, December 27th, 1872.

CASH, CASH, CASH! GRAND SHOW ROOM OPENING WITH ALL the NOVELTIES of THE SEASON! French Pattern Bonnets, French Pattern Hats, MANTLES, JACKETS, COSTUMES, &c., AT MODERATE PRICES. R. CLAYTON, Upper Wyndham Street.

P. S.—I have secured the services of Miss Moore to manage the Millin Department.

Anderson's Bookstore, W. Wyndham Street, Guelph. WALL PAPERS! Every Style, Variety, Pattern and Price. Before You Purchase Your Wall Paper Go To ANDERSON'S BOOKSTORE, GUELPH. Cheap as the Cheapest!

JAMES CORMACK, TAILOR and CLOTHIER, Begs to announce to his customers and the public the arrival of his SPRING IMPORTATIONS! His stock is now complete in BROADCLOTHS, Fancy COATINGS, Fancy VESTINGS, Fancy TROUSERINGS, English and Scotch Tweeds; Also, a large and varied stock of CANADIAN TWEEDS! READY-MADE CLOTHING BOYS SUITS! Gent's Furnishing Goods of the best quality and latest styles. NO. 1 WYNDHAM STREET.

SMOKERS, FOR A GOOD SMOKE Use the "Myrtle Navy." See T. & B. on each plug. Price so low that all can use it.

PLUGS. Just received, a quantity of the celebrated Gray Ploughs, from Scotland, manufactured by Gray & Uddington, near Glasgow; THE PORTER, ONTARIO & VICTOR Steel board Ploughs; also some cheap Cast Iron Ploughs on hand. Prices from \$7.50 to \$30. A good assortment of Stoves and Tinware for sale cheap. W. HEATHER, Corner Woolwich-st. and Eramosa Road Guelph, 2nd April, 1873.

THE THOROUGH BRED AYRSHIRE BULL belonging to the subscriber, will serve cows on his farm. Terms, \$1 for the season. ADAM GERIE, Lot 17, 4th Con. Puslinch.

New Dry Goods! Wm. Stewart. Has much pleasure in stating to the public that he has secured many lots of desirable New Dry Goods under current prices, and they will be offered.

At Decided Bargains! Piles of Scarlet Flannel at 25c Piles of Grey Flannel at 35c Piles of Winey from 10c Piles of Clouds in white, grey, and colors, from 50c

BLANKETS ALL PRICES All Wool TWEEDS from 50 cents. Dress Goods. The Choicest and Newest. Prices to suit everyone. Wm. Stewart. Guelph, Dec. 13, 1872.

NEW GOODS. MRS. WRIGHT. Begs to inform her numerous customers and the public that she has just received a nice variety of Toys and other Fancy Goods suitable for the Season.

MRS. WRIGHT, UppR WyNDHAM Street. Next to the Wellington Hotel. Guelph, Jan. 25, 1873.

NEW COAL YARD. The undersigned having opened a Coal Yard in Guelph is prepared to furnish all kinds of Hard and Soft Coal at moderate prices. Orders left at the store of John A. Wood, Upper Wyndham Street, will be promptly attended to. GEO. MURTON, Guelph, Nov. 1, 1872.

PARKER'S HOTEL, DIRECTLY OPPOSITE THE MARKET, GUELPH. First-class accommodation for travellers. Commodious stabling and an attentive hostler. The best Linens and Cigars at the bar. He has just fitted up a room where Oysters will be served up at all hours, in the favorite style. Pickled Salmon, Lobsters, and Sardines. Guelph, Feb. 1, 1873.

FASHIONS For Spring and Summer. All the Novelties of the Season. A Splendid Line of New Goods! JUST ARRIVED At J. HUNTER'S. The Largest and Best Stock in Town of Sewed Mullins, Edgings, Trimmings, Frillings, Braids, Point Lace Trimmings, and materials; Ladies' Corsets and Underclothing; Infant's Waists, Robes, Wrappers, etc. Chignons, Braids, Coronets; Curls, and Switches in real hair; also, in Dutch, Silk, and Mohair. Jewellery and Small Wares. In great variety, and cheaper than ever. SPEN—Another Lot of those Celebrated Rock Crystal Spectacles. A full assortment of Madame Demorest's reliable and fashionable patterns for Spring and Summer. Stamping done to order with neatness and dispatch. AT J. HUNTER'S Berlin Wool, Fancy Goods, and Toy Store, Wyndham Street Guelph.



THE BEST AND CHEAPEST HORSE BILLS. In the County printed at THE MERCURY OFFICE. FOUR CUTS TO CHOOSE FROM. Bills printed on the shortest notice. Call and See Specimens. SPRING AND SUMMER, 1873.

POWELL'S BOOT & SHOE STORE. Call and examine my new stock of LADIES', GENTS' & CHILDRENS' Boots and Shoes. Which for moderate prices, style and workmanship, cannot be surpassed in the County. Particular attention paid to Custom Work and Repairing. West side Wyndham Street, Guelph. Guelph, April 8th, 1873.

ROBERT CRAWFORD, PRACTICAL Watch and Clock Maker, Jeweller. Wyndham Street, Guelph. Gold and Silver Watches, Chains, Breeches, Rings, etc., Hair Plate and Device Work, Clocks and Time pieces, Jewellery repaired and made to order. Picked Goods in variety. Guelph, Feb. 12, 1873.

HOTEL CARD. "The Right Man in the Right Place." THOMAS WARD, late of the Crown Hotel, begs to inform the travelling public that he has acquired possession of the Victoria Hotel, next door to the Post Office, where he hopes by courtesy, attention, and good accommodation, to merit a fair share of public patronage, both from old and new friends. The best of Liquors, Wines, Cigars &c., constantly on hand. A good hostler always at attendance. Remember the spot—next door to the Post Office. THOMAS WARD, Proprietor. (Late of Crown Hotel.) Guelph Dec. 14, 1872.

NEW BUTCHER SHOP. The public are respectfully informed that the undersigned has opened a Meat Shop, in Hat's Block, and will supply customers with meat of the best quality, at the lowest rates. Meat delivered in any part of the Town. CHAS. FENNELL, Guelph, Dec. 20, 1872.

RAGS AND WASTE PAPER. Wanted, and must be had by the 1st January. Fifty Tons of Waste Paper, old Newspapers, old Pamphlets, or Waste Paper of any kind, to be sold at the highest price in Guelph. The highest price will be paid at the Bag and Waste Paper Depot, corner of King and Queen streets. Address "RAGS or WASTE PAPER," 216 and 218 King Street West. Will receive from 115 to 100¢ per ton. HAMILTON, Dec. 14, 1872.