

HELEN MOIR

OR—
LOVE AND HONOUR.

A TALE OF THE CLYDE.
CHAPTER XXXI.

EVIL NEWS FROM SCOTLAND—EDWIN AND
RECEIVE IN DEEP DISTRESS.
Behind and to the right lay Gorse, with
an immense wall stretching daily
towards the heights in front, where was
the hottest of the fight. These heights
consisted of two parallel ridges—a lower
and a higher, with a narrow valley or
ravine between. On the lower ridge
were the Prussians, and on the higher
position to occupy, since the foe was
high above them on the other side of the
ravine, and were able to subject them to
a raking fire. But German persistency
and immensity of numbers promised in
the end to make up for the disadvantage
of position, for yonder immense wall held
endless hosts of reserves who were, and
had been since dawn, emerging in a steady
unbroken stream to come swarming for-
ward in the face of the most deadly fire,
which often shook and shattered their
ranks, but never stayed their onward
course.

This was the sight which presented
itself to the eyes of Edwin and Ritchie,
and long it fascinated them like a spell,
making them oblivious of the dead and
dying men lying on the ground at their
feet, till along, hollow groan from a body
against which Ritchie stumbled caused
him to look down, and what he saw when
he thus looked made him unmindful even
of the battle raging in the distance.

It was a face hideous and distorted that
glared up at him, yet a face not altogether
strange even in its hideousness. He look-
ed again, steadily, fixedly, and the hateful
eyes upturned to his own, bent on him a
baleful light of recognition.

Ritchie gave a violent start, and looked
with doubt and incredulity, till seeking
confirmation of his thought in the form of
the rest of the man's body, he had it with
startling reality in the long, lank arms, the
claw-like hands, and short thick legs and
misshapen trunk. He could doubt no
longer. The man who lay before him was
desperately the Hunsback.

"Mercy on you!" ejaculated Ritchie.
"Is that you?"

The vindictive gleam in the eyes deep-
ened, and a bitter smile lurched round
the lips; but the man lay silent and otherwise
unresponsive to Ritchie's peculiarly Scot-
tish question.

"Heavenly powers, it's just you!" vocifer-
ated Ritchie, leaping over him, and the
conviction of his identity giving strength
every moment that he gazed. Then with
the decision of a deer he bounded to
where Edwin stood, wholly absorbed in
watching the battle.

"Maister Edwin," he gasped. "Oh,
sir, here's a discovery! Ye see you man
lyin' yonder?"

"Lying where?" asked Edwin, in amaze-
ment, at Ritchie's extreme excitement.

"At the side of yon lair,"
"With two or three others beside
him?"

"Just that, sir. Weel, guess ye wia
it?"

"Who is it—do you know him?"
"Ay, and sae dae ye, sir."
"Good God!" cried Edwin with sudden
pale, "it is not—not Hermann? But it
cannot be; he came safely through yester-
day's battle."

"No, no," exclaimed Ritchie. "It's
that ill-decided creature, the Hunsback."
"It's who?" shouted Edwin, gazing on
Ritchie in the belief that he had suddenly
gone insane.

"As shure as I'm leavin', sir, it's Jaquin,
the humpback. Come awa', come awa'!"
Wholly incredulous, Edwin ran with him
to the spot, but the first glance he had of
the prostrate form his incredulity began
to vanish. He recognised the humpback
in a moment, and stood gazing down upon
him in eager breathlessness.

Jaquin lay motionless, and transfixed
with which he had favored Ritchie.
He was desperately wounded, his
could see by the deathly paleness of his
face, and by the blood which flowed from
his side, which had saturated his dress
and the ground on which he lay. But
weak and helpless though he was, his
fervor of nature had not left him, as
was indicated by his clenched teeth and
the sound upon his distorted features.

Emerson Council.

The Council met at the Centre Inn on
the 13th of May, pursuant to adjourn-
ment, all the members present, the Reeve
in the chair. The minutes of last meet-
ing were read and confirmed. A deputa-
tion from School Sections No. 2 and 7
appeared before the Council and were
heard at length in opposition to separa-
ting lots No. 9 from their respective sec-
tions. Petition and applications for im-
provements of road were received. Moved
by Mr. Dickieson, seconded by Mr. Dunfield,
that Rosa Ellis receive the sum of \$5,
Mrs. Jones, \$10, Mr. Waller, \$5, Mrs. North
\$10, and the children of the late Mrs. Paterson,
\$14. Moved by Mr. Harris, seconded
by Mr. Dunfield, that, whereas the sup-
posed error in Allan McCullough's taxes
has been found incorrect, he be refunded
\$1, instead of \$4.30. Moved by Mr.
Harris, seconded by Mr. Dunfield, that
John O'Brien be paid the sum of \$5 for
the use of the Council Room, and that
the Reeve grant his order on the Treasurer
for the same. The subject of the pro-
posed alteration in the School Sections
in the lower or South half of the Town-
ship was next discussed at considerable
length, when it was moved by Mr. Harris,
seconded by Mr. Dunfield, that the Clerk
be instructed to notify the residents on
lots No. 9, across the Township, that the
Municipal Council contemplate removing
them from School Sections No. 2 and 7
and attaching them to the lower sections
and forming three School Sections out of
these detached lots and School Sections
No. 1 and 8. It was moved in amend-
ment by Mr. Dickieson, seconded by Mr.
McKerlie, that the School Sections re-
main the same as they are at present,
in eight sections. The original motion
was carried by the casting vote of the
Reeve. Moved by Mr. McKerlie, seconded
by Mr. Dunfield, that Mr. Adams be
paid the sum of \$12.70 for gravel taken
off the west half of lot 26, con. 4, for
road purposes. The Council on motion
then adjourned to meet again at the Centre
Inn as a Court of Revision, and for
general municipal business on Monday
the 3rd of June, next, at 10 o'clock, A.M.
J. A. DAVISON,
Township Clerk.

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JOHN JOHNSTON.
Minto, April 2nd, 1872.

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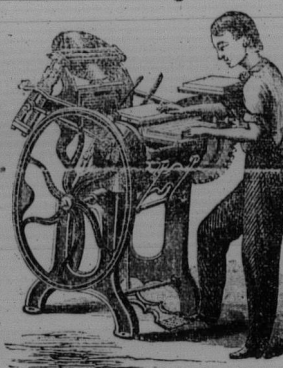
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