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CHAPTER XXV.—Continued THE BULK OF JESOP,

Willy crossed height after height and valley after valley at great speed. None knew the shortest route to take better than he, for of late he had graversed that distance very frequently and at all hours. In sonsiderably less time than an hour, therefore, he had passed Northfield, and

From where he stood the village was nearly half a mile distant, and Wily could not think of losing the time which would be required to go on by it ; he therefore hurried on, and was swiftly descending the slope, when in the field opposite, close by the side of the edge which had previously concealed her, he saw a woman tending a cow.

'Mrs. Tippet, by a' that's lucky,' ejaculated Willy. 'Dod. I couldna' has met in wi' a better hand.'

Instantly he shaped his course tothe field, he soon came within speaking Jessop himself was the first to feel the

demanded the redoubtable woman as he room. 'Dinna be angry, Mrs. Tippet,' re-

turned Willy. 'I am on an errand the nicht that maunna thole delay. 'Oh, it's you, is it?' she said, after this?' shadowing her eyes from the sun, which

dazzled her vision. 'Yes,' answered Willy, 'it's a' up wi' the smuggling noo, Mrs. Tippet. Baith been betrayed, and the gaugers are gaun the nicht tae empty their concealments.' 'Oh, mercy, wha's dune that?' she

Dickson's the man. Francia Dickson?

cried.

'Ay, blast him-him and nae ither.' anither. This explains which for him But if you value your safety you will and they made their way over the track and Pate was fetching at Bonner Dub come no further,' ganz yer ways, my man, and warn Jes- them. op, and I'se gis the alarm up bye. Wull

as it's dark, and Lieut. Grahame is tae a minute passed thus, during which the late, but no doubt he is hovering about

get away the stuff in boats.'

vel ped it.

Willy waited no longer for the ex- hind it empty. change of words, but glad at having found with renewed speed in the direction of of darkness. Eyemouth, while Mrs. Tippet laid a puicken its pace homewards.

On emerging on the quarry and looking gone. across Willy gave a great star, and his heart fell, for there was Duncan Dunbar ion had been for some time silent witand several of his men crossing the ter- nesses of what was going forward, conrace and approaching the front door of jectured that Jessop's object was flight, the building. In his desperate haste he and that he would be making good his made the signal, and waited impatiently for Marion to answer it. dansy Are they in? he breathlessly in-

quired. 'Whae,' asked Marion, wonderingly.

'Maister Dunbar and his men.

'Yes,' she calmly replied. 'But dinna be alarmed about that ; the Supervisor often pays Mr. Jessop a visit-they are intimate freends.'

'This is nae veesit o' freenship at ony and he heard Jessop coming out. rate, returned Willy. 'Marion,' he added, with uncontrolled excitement, 'Dickson has taken a bonny revenge on us a' for no getting you for his wife.'

shocked the poor girl that Willy had is an awful tob. Dickson has betrayed tenderly to support her along the passage us a', and they are gaun tae seize my to the kitchen, and it was several minutes uncle's stuff as sure as they hae gotten ere they were able to walk upstairs to the chamber to which Dunbar and his men time, for I locked them in upstairs." Thad gone.

company with the supervisor and his taken perpetual imprisonment will be my son feared that the officer of that district assistants. Marion had heard Willy's fate.' first signal well enough, but it followed The boat in which Willy had crossed front door, and on being on her way to and all three got into it in great haste, open it to Mr. Dunbar, she could not at- and made for the quay. tend to the summons. The presence of The moment they touched it, the other officers with the Supervisor did sprang up the steps. not produce any alarm in Marion's mind, cluded that the others had come to make land.' up a social party. Dreading no evil, The last words he uttered as he was chanced to be the very room which had vanished up one of the lanes.

ed brightly, and its light overcame the twilight dimness of the large room an far as to enable him to recognize his visitors.

Oh, ho, cried Jessop, that is the meaning of your extraordinary talk. And pray, from whom have you received this wonderful information ?

Well, that doesn't matter. Its ap currily is chiefly what concerns us, and was almost within sight of Coldingham of that we have now come to satisfy our In other words, said Jessop,

have come here to seach my house?" Just so," returned Dunbar, with

Make your search from kitchen to attic -I shall offer no obstruction. 'so be it,' returned Dunbar, and he spoke quietly lifted his hand and Hollow Craig.

pressed the knob in the wall, immediateheard, and the ponderous grate swung slowly out, like a door on its hinges wards her, and vaulting over the gate of From the position in which he stood.

one of triuminh

'Betrayed !' shouted Jessop, with tremendous fury. What traitor has don And scarcely knowing what he did, he

med the air of defiant opposition. Maister Jessop and Maister Adamson hae Supervisor, 'dare to enter this and your ing that no suspicions characters were in

pooh, that course is as foolish as it is not. 'Nae ither,' exclaimed Mrs. Tippett, with something like a shriek. 'There is should have been dead men ere now. 'No, I am not,' yelled Jessop, 'or you same place.

the ither nicht. Oh, the vagabonds— 'Upon him, men,' cried Dunbar, and he and his assistants made a simultaneous ing anxiously across the heights and out Juck nor thrive for it, and if the lads o' rush towards the aperture, when sudden- upon the shrouded sea. Cowdenhame are worth their lugs they'll ly Jessop touched a spring inside, and tis a stane aboot baith their necks and the grate fell back into its place, making throw them over Shittenhaugh, But an effectual separation between him and within the next two hours we can do

t an oath Dunbar again pressed there no be time to empty Hollow Orang the nob to reopen it, but either from before the gaugers come? They micht his eagerness or from some other cause it ed Eustace. and the coal-scuttle bonnet which en yielded at once, and the grate again as it is, I fear the cargo must go. awung forward, leaving the aperture be-

essop was gone, and when they cau-

'He's off,' shouted Dunbar, furiously. heavy stick across her cow's back to But that is the shaft which leads to the ing quickly transferred to it. concealments, and it is there he has

At this moment Willy, who with Marleapt into the first boat he saw and rowed escape by the passage which led to the across to the archway. The heavy door harbor, so to facilitate this he closed the was closed and fastened as usual, but he door of the chamber and locked it, thus securing the excisemen for the time belong in forcing it open.

'Noo, Marion,' he whispered, 'follow

And at his utmost speed he rushed down stairs and through the kitchen into future time. the passage. Just as he arrived at the point where the secret passage branched off, the solid masonry was sinking down,

'Ha, intercepted !' roared the smuggler, making a wild dash at Willy as he ran forward

'No, no, Maister Jessop,' exclaimed And in a few passionate words he told the youth. 'It's me-it's Willy. I came her all that had occurred. The news so tae warn ye, but I was ower late. This

Jessop lounged in a huge chair close to the strong arm of her lover.

All see ye hame the yerrfather's, he answered, 'and then I meen be, all and ower the heichts the Lowder.'

There received information that you again traversing the heights in the direction of the chiefest anugglers in Eye trow of St. Abba mouth, said Dunbar. In five minutes Willy had imprint

CHAPTER XXVI.

OINGS AT LOWDEN AND LOWDEN SHORE-CAPTAIN DONALDBOS. AND HIS LUG-

warning to Jessep, then Mr. Adamson set to work to make the most of the few share of his own stone concealed in the him with not a little currousty.

His first step was to despatch a trusty 'Dod, I couldna' hae ly on which a low creaking sound was messenger to Cockburnspath, with a message to the excise-officer there, to the effect that a large quantity of smuggled gin was concealed in the neighborhood of Lowden shore, and that if he came imresult, for the grate pressed against him, mediately to the spot it would be put 'Hey, man, what sort o' wark's that?' and pushed him into the middle of the into his possession. Such a message as this he well knew would bring the officer on the instant, and he devoutly hoped that his arrival would precede that of the Eyemouth gaugers at the same place.

This done all hands about the farm were mustered to empty the contents of two sacks, and convey the kegs to a safer sprung into the aperture, and there as- concealment. By dusk the kegs were got erly too. You are a cunning chield, but into the cart, and the scouts set to watch I rather think I shall be too much for 'Now,' he roared, glancing at the on some of the eminences near, reportlife shall pay the forfeit. I'm a desperate deed. and scattered in all directions, under in-'Pooh, man,' returned Dunbar, keep- junctions to find their way by different ing, however, at a safe distance. 'Pooh, paths to the shore of Coldingham Loch. Immediately after they were gone Mr. useless. We are armed, and you are Adamson yoked his gig, and he and Eustace getting into it, departed for the

> It was now quite dark and moonless less moor by the dim light of the stars. As they moved on, the former kept look-

'My chief fear now is for Donaldson, he muttered. 'If he should come in little or nothing to save him from the

'Has the cutter been seen vet?' inquir-

would not yield, and he stood stamping 'No. your brother the Lieutenant hav 'That's impossible,' rejoined Willy, and swearing, while his men could only ing learned experience by his former fail-They'd be along the brae heids as sune look on in helpless inaction. More than ure, will not appear on the scene till be aff the Heid wi' his cutter to catch supervisor continued his frantic efforts to and will discover the lugger the moment manage the spring. At length he put she draws near. If I had only got twenty. 'Hech me, than a' is lost,' cried Mrs. sufficient restraint upon his passion to four hours longer warning, I would have Tippet, with a doleful shake of her head, give a gentle, steady pressure, when it managed to give him intelligence—but

They had gained the crest of a rounded eminence, and the bright sheet of water lay before them surrounded by such effectual means of rousing the tiously entered they came upon the brink bare, un wooded heights. At the upper smugglers of Coldingham, he started off of a cavity, which seemed a black abyss | end grew a mass of sedges and other water plants, and here, beside a boat which was drawn up, the kess were be

> 'That's the style, lads,' said Adamson neouragingly. 'Work with a will, and we'll save the stuff from the hands of the harpies vet.'

He dismounted while he spoke, and took from the box of the gig a mass of of each. This was tumbled into the now loaded boat, and two of the men got in and rowed into the middle of the loch that face betrayed no sign of uneasing ing, although he knew they would not be among the sedges. Here a length of or discomfiture. rope was fastened around each keg, and it was dropped to the bottom-the cork, of course, floating on the top, thus giving the means of pulling up the keg at some

> This work proceed with great celerity, and by the time the boat was emptied others of the carts had come to the side of the loch, whose contents were ready to

In less than two hours the whole of the kegs were safely deposited at the bottom of the loch—the boat put again into its house, the carts away, and the lonely sheet of water left to its usual solitude.

When they returned to the farm-house William had arrived with the news of what had taken place at Jessop's. They yours. If ye want tae escape there's now knew that the Supervisor and his men would make their appearance very Escape! repeated Jessop. 'Yes, I shortly, but as yet the messenger had not To that chamber we shall proceed in must escape for I am ruined; and if I am returned from Cockburnspath and Adamwould be too late.

Presently the scout stationed on an almost immediately on the knock at the was still at the mouth of the archway, eminence which overlooked the road, Supervisor was only equalled by his ascame running in with the intelligence tonishment, that a compact body of men were coming slowly across the moor. On hearing this the farmer at once gave orders that 'Farewell,' he whispered, 'I must not all should disperse, so that the officers for Mr. Dunbar often looked in upon remain a moment here, and we shall when they arrived might find everything Jessop of an evening, and she had con- never meet again, for I must leave Scot- in its usual quietness, and perceive no indications of the hasty work that had been done, or that their visit was expecttherefore, she led the way upstairs to rushing away, and before Willy had as-ed. Acting on this injunction, the men the room where Jessop sat, and this sisted Marion out of the boat he had withdrew to their houses, Ralph located himself in the kitchen, and the group in the secret communication with the un- Oh, Willy; what's tae be dune?' ask- the parlor assumed an appearance of perel Marion, as trembling she leaned on fect unconcern. At Mr. Adamson's re- kept within the bounds of your duty,

ket, and the good farmer put on his discharge it with unwarrants ble insoler specialise and began reading aloud a par. But so minion of the Government shall sayand out of the Courant.

An unmistakable indication of the arlength given by the furious barking of one of the house dogs, which was im-mediately followed by the tramp of several feet, and a loud knock on the front

servant girl answered the seamons, while Mr. Ademson went on unconcernedly with his reading, which he did not stop Nosconer had Willy left Lowden to give | till the Supervisor atood within the room with his men at his back. Affecting only then to be first aware of his pp hours which would inhervene before the Laid the paper on his lap and looked up arrival of the officers. Much had to be with an expression of great astonish-done in the interval, if he was to be ment, the others trying to imitate him in work in which you are engaged tonight. saved from the utter win, and still more this as well as they could. It was the if he was to disappoint Dunbar as he had first time Eastace had seen, the redoubtdesigned, and secure the informant's able Mr. Dunbar, and he sat regarding to say is that I shall not permit you to

'Mr. Dunbar!' exclaimed Adamson, who would have thought of seeing you

here at this late hour? 'Not you, I dare say,' returned Dunbar, 'but duty sometimes brings us exose officers abroad at hours not of our own choosing."

'Oh, you are on a visit of duty. Not me. I hope ? 'I am sorry to say it is to you, Mr.

'What-although you found how tho ughly you had been hoaxed the last

Why, yes, I have found out that I stuff is on the premises. was hoaxed the last time, and very clev-

'To the point, sir, if you please.!' said the farmer with a show of anger. 'I am the farmer. not disposed to manifest good humor at eing insulted and inconvenienced by our domiciliary visits. If you choose o give heed to every idle tongue that wags in your ear I am not inclined to submit tamely to the consequences of here. your credulity. Now say at once for what purpose you are here tonight. 'To search your premises.'

mething contraband? "I do

'Another hear has been perpetrated you, I suppose.' No-not this time,' replied Dunbar, ontidently. 'I might have made this eizure without coming to the house at

mpany us-'By all means,' said Adamson in a one of offended indifference. 'You will want lights. I suppose?

'We have lights,' rejoined the super 'Get out your lanterns.' Four lanterns were lighted on the in-

side of the house. Ralph came from the C. Polson & Co., Kingston, propa kitchen and joined them. With a bold, unhesitating air, the Supervisor led the way to the stackyard.

casting glances of triumph at the farmer as they went along. The latter maintained an expression of equanimity. which Dunbar set down to the strength of his fancied security, and he confidently anticipated being able to confuse and overwhelm him immediately. With the directness of one whose information was accurate and minute, the

Supervisor went to the second row of stout cords out into lengths, with a stacks, and paused at the first which square piece of cork fastened to the end Dickson had named. Then he turned round and looked into the farmer's face with a significant smile. To his surprise

'You are a capital actor, Adamson,' he remarked.

What makes you say so?

Because you can put on an uncor cious look, though you know well mough that within a few feet of us lies that which when discovered, will prove

'I know no such thing, sir; so you give me credit for too much. 'Very well. Now men, search that

In a moment the lanterns were lowered, and speedily an exclamation of triumph escaped the lips of the officers, for at one place the sheaves were loose and could be easily drawn out. A dozen of them were quickly tumbled out, and Dunbar himself dived into the interior.

But he came again in less than a min te, breathless and furious. 'That concealment is empty!' he oared .- "Try the next stack.

The cavity in the next stack proved as destitute as the first, and the race of the

'Well, Mr. Dunbar,' said the farmer with a little laugh, 'have you made a fortunate seizure? 'Curse ye for an old hoary-headed

fox,' thundered the Supervisor, wholly beside himself with passion, and advance ing upon Adamson, as if he would strike

Eustace at once stepped forward and confronted him.

Beware, sir, he storaly said. 'I have kept silent so long as you have quest Lilias brought out her work bas- though methinks you are inclined to

like you,' was the answer, Do you know who I am, air? Liam

nan, and an officer of the reverevenue,' returned Eustage scornfully, butyou show few signs of being a gen

But that is a discussion on which I have no inclination to enter. All that I have vent any of your spite or passion on my friend, Mr. Adamson.

"Oh, ho! You mean to resest me in the execution of my duty?' exclaimed the Supervisor, becoming cowed before the firmness of the indignant youth.

'Not so,' rejoined the latter. long as you keep to your duty, however offensively performed, I shall not deign to notice you ; but dare again to address Mr. Adamson in such a way as you have already done, and I shall take a very summary way of teaching you manners. 'I see how it is,' cried Dunbar. 'You are acting as a foil, but it won't do. The

Where have you any proof of that? demanded the farmer 'What are these holes in the stacks

for ?' quiered the supervisor. 'Perhaps they are ventilators,' laughed With a few more strong exploetives,

Dunbar turned round to his men. 'Search away,' he shouted. may have mistaken the stacks after al'. There is no mistake about the stuff being

At this suggestion the men dispersed, and began an inspection of the whole stackyard. But every rick they examin-'Oh, you expect to find concealed here ed was solid, and no cavity could they discover where stuff could be concealed.

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