TORONTO

## GERALD DE LACEY'S DAUGHTER

AN HISTORICAL ROMANCE OF COLONIAL DAYS

> BY ANNA T. SADLIER BOOK II CHAPTER X

A COUNTERPART The de Laceys reached the Colony of Maryland in safety. Had the pro-prietary government been still in the ascendant, with the Catholic freedom from every kind of intoler bers of the ancient faith might have settled down there in peace and security. But the Calverts, and the Catholic government they had found ed, were dispossessed. Persecution against dissenters, and of course against Catholics, was relentlessly enforced. Negotiations were continually in progress between the other colonies to restrict the liberties of Catholics, to render their position intolerable, and even to banish them entirely from the land. Intolerance like a fatal miasma had spread upwards from Virginia and downwards from New York and New wind of the War of Independence to

clear away this mist.

It was, therefore, deemed inadvisable that the fugitives should linger long in that congenial atmosphere where they were so cordially received. A plan was formulated by their friends in New York by which they were to be conveyed by the sloop "Anna Maria" to Sandy Hook, where they were to board the brigan. " Mermaid." of which the hon est seaman, Rogers, was captain. Once on board the brigantine, a safe the south was assured, where they might hope for at least a temporary security until a lull in the storm of persecution should enable them to eturn to New York.

Meanwhile, counterplotting had been going on in Manhattan Vries again appeared as the evil genius. The autumn winds were laying waste the garden which Evelyn had so carefully tended, and blighting with its chilly breath the of those splendid trees of Manhattan, when Captain Prosser Williams stood once more within the luxurious apartment which Vrow de Vries dominated from her chair. He vas walking up and down impatiently, glancing from the lean, dark igure of Mynheer Laurens, who had also been summoned to conference. to the living antithesis offered by

It irked Captain Williams much. in his present mood of fiery impaience, to have thus to propitiate his repulsive and uninteresting hostess. The latter watched him out of her dull eyes, in which smouldered a fire of resentment, as though she had been quick to read his thoughts. She purposely continued her conversation with her other guest until the young officer's imnatience had reached its limit And what," he said at last, " is

this notable intelligence which you so urgently invited me to hear?" "If you will but seat yourself," the woman said, "I will make known to you such late news as has reached

There was a hint of dryness in her tone, which served as a warning to her fellow-conspirator. He com-plied instantly with her request, and, seating himself ruthlessly upon one of the silver-laced chairs which were kept more for ornament than use, he prepared to listen. Vrow de Vries, slowly unfolding a letter, read it in a thick, guttural voice, which sounded as though her considerable apois impeded her utterance. The first part of that epistle proved a thorn in the flesh of Captain Williams. For it fitted in all too well with his own dark and brod thoughts, and forcibly reminded him w, in common with the good ople of Salem, he had been baffled fooled. For Goodman Cooke gave his sister a prolix account, em-bellished with many a flight of fancy in which superstition played its part, of the scene in the court-house at

Since no trace of Indians had been found in the town, and those in the nearest encampments were pursuing their ordinary avocations without any hostile intent whatever and professing utter ignorance of the late attempt, the believers in witchcraft, including a considerable number of the townspeople, were of opinion that the whole occurrence was an illusion of the senses, created by the evil power of the reputed witch and the spirits with whom presums. bly she was familiar. A panic had ensued, it was believed, in the course of which the witch had transported herself far beyond the limits of the

town. Captain Prosser Williams, visibly ored and with a bitter smile upon his lips, sat back in his chair play vanished from his mind with his de-

but he answered defiantly :

beyond our human judgment; and They were so fortunate as to find light. That, in itself, made him not attempt to answer his glittering gen- road official came along at this shall say that the powers of hell may

recalled both men to the subject of the letter, the conclusion of which was of sufficient interest to arrest officer. For Goodman Cooke had heard a rumor that two people, cor-responding exactly to the description about that a young sailor, who had been employed by Captain
Jenkins of the sloop "Anna Maria,"
those present were quite aware of
had openly boasted in a tavern, when in his cups, that his master was a smile played over their faces as about to take to Sandy Hook, near the door opened to admit the partic-New York, two fugitive dissenters.

On being plied with questions he had disclosed the date upon which

As Captain Prosser Williams for a southerly port.

carelessly in her best silver-laced and exclaiming: chair. It gave Vrow de Vries singu- "Well, old se lar pleasure to be thus pulling strings of which her husband was tar pleasure to be thus pulling ocean dry, as usual!"

The two young men then seated gnorant, and having her part as he had his, in the movements of the whence the officer, leaning back in tion within her to be even temporarily the association of men for whom her husband, in their public pealousy of her late neighbor, which had been fanned into a flame by her husband's praise. But whatever her sentiments or those of Henrious easy, but he had no choice but to

Captain Williams' aspect. His by one, including Mynheer de Vries, apathy had vanished as if by magic. who had suavely greeted the young For, just when he felt himself bailled at every point and the coveted prize unconscious of the new act in the seemed to have slipped from his grasp under circumstances most humiliating to his self-esteem, here was an opportunity offered to regain all that he had lost and to take a quite ignorant of recent developnotable revenge upon those who had outwitted him, while doing a service to Lord Bellomont and the State which should merit a rich reward.

Moreover, the hope of finally security that the urbane and polished man of the world had pulled certain strings ing the person of Evelyn sprang which had brought to naught their again into life. For that ill-starred late machinations in Salem town. love of his had but increased with They little guessed that, as a result the obstacles by which it had been of his appeal, Lady Bellomont had confronted, and never had its ardor put Captain Ferrers upon the scent, been greater than when Evelyn had and had asked leave for that officer appeared pale, helpless and in bonds on a frivolous pretext, which the image rose before him as he had granted en it then, and filled him with an

steps might be taken to bring these interested showed signs of stirring, two fugitives to justice. The pallor of Prosser Williams' face was heightened by two spots of dull, red color in either cheek. His eyes gleamed with a baleful fire, and his breath came short and sharp. He dared not trust himself to speak. The conflict of emotions was too strong, and he feared that it would become too painfully evident mined to have a word with him and to the eyes that were watching him. He rallied sufficiently, however, to reply to the questions which Hen. in leaning over to whisper to the ricus Laurens was already putting, as to what should be done in the present emergency. The two men conversed together purposely in lov tones, which were not always audible to their singular hostess, observed them with a smile of pure content. For she knew she had set in motion whatever engines of de-struction they might choose to employ. It was agreed between the teristics of the bigot. He was ready confederates that the services of Greatbatch should be called into resolutely shut his mind to the truth.

requisition, since Prosser Williams held him in the hollow of his hand. Just now when Lord Bellomone was making furious efforts for the suppression of illicit trading, it was wall of intolerance which it seemed impossible for the most aggressive impossible for the most aggressive manufacture. piracy, was still at large simply be cause he was protected by an influential member of the Household, who also stood well with Lieutenant Nanfan and the other prominent men of the extreme Protestant party. apparently taking Mynheer Laurens nto his confidence, concealed from

him his ulterior plans for obtaining possession of Evelyn as his wife. If nis lips, sat back in his chair play.

In mis ulterior plans for obtaining like the dassel of his sword hilt. All disposition towards credulity had vanished from his mind with his departure from Salem, and he was interest and her father would still be spared all annoyances. If this from the "machinations of Rome," plan had failed, she must be seized little thinking that his existence was ing with the tassel of his sword hilt. possession of Evelyn as his wife. If All disposition towards credulity had Lacey's friends in Manhattan were at the bottom of the affair. He was curiously iritated, moreover, by the solemn interest with which Henricus Laurens listened to the recital. He could not refrain from saying, in an obviously sneering tone:

"Are you also, Mynheer, a believer leave with scant ceremony of Vrow plain, Chapman's best liked friend de Vries, the two hurried off towards was a man who differed from him in the tavern of Der Halle, where ut he answered defiantly:

de Vries, the two hurried off towards was a man who differed from him in the tavern of Der Halle, where Greatbatch was sure to be found one man to differ with another.

who him there. As a sharp cutting wind may was blowing outside, the tavern appeared particularly inviting, and Prosser Williams laughed.

"Devilish they may be in their deeds, these Papists." he said, "but at least they have the wit to despise at least they have the wit to despise loosened, he was drinking, swearing and grumbling when the two young men entered the room. He no longer uttered public denunciations of His Excellency, since Prosser Williams had put him upon his guard. But, since grumbling was his favor-ite pastime, he usually found some pretext for its exercise, and just of the father and daughter, had arrived in Maryland, where they were known to consort with Jesuits sent out by the home government to and other Papists. Also it had been prey upon the colonies in general bruited about that a young sailor, and honest traders in particular.

the "Anna Maria" was to sail. He knew nothing further, save that the heat indoors, it was universally conpassengers were to be put aboard ceded that he merited the title some vessel sailing for overseas or His satin waistcoat was as gaudy in coloring as it was rich in material The fat woman's eyes sparked with triumph as she read, for well his curled and perfumed locks. She knew the delight with which she knew the delight with which cringing civility as the approaching cringing civility as the approaching created him with a careless Excellency's Household, who now sat nod, striking him on the shoulder

> Well, old sea-dog, drinking the ocean dry as usual !"

had his, in the movements of the day. It responded to a latent ambi-

"Remain here after these others or official capacity, had a profound have gone. Mynheer Laurens and I respect. Also, it gratified her idle have business of weight to discuss

Laurens who showed great pleasure obey, since he was far too deeply in at this important information and at the circumstance that the date mentioned still allowed time for action, they were mild in comparison with those of the chief conspirator. There was no lack of interest now in Cantain Williams' aspect. His by one including Mynheed de Vrice. the courtroom at Salem. Her Governor in a fit of good-humor had

Now Mynheer, as he sipped his almost intolerable longing to look upon her again and to hear her voice, even if it were in anger or contempt. He forgot Vrow de Vries, who was watching him curiously, and Herizage him than the syoung men might be planning; whether, they were simply passing an idle moment, or about to engage in some shady transaction with the and Henricus Laurens, who, how-ever, was chiefly concerned at the moment with the thought of what he strolled out at the door with a find out what was afoot. For he had noted Captain Williams' action smuggler, and had surmised what

TO BE CONTINUED

## THE SHORTEST WAY HOME

Chapman had most of the characteristics of the bigot. He was ready The stale slanders against the Catholic Church found a ready lodgment in his mind, and he added to them

In his ordinary every day intercourse, John D. Chapman was all that any reasonable person could de-He was free and easy and anfan and the other prominent open handed, and had a personality that was at once agreeable and incaptain Prosser Williams, while gratiating. But the mention of the Catholic Church was always sufficient to transform the man. He saw red. Every aggressive instinct bristled

Strange things occur which are whenever his vessel was in port. Lawrence Higgins was a ray of sun-

able. He was middle-aged, with a family; Chapman was in his late twenties; and in the enjoyment of She pursed her lips in an endeavor family; Chapman was in his late twenties; and in the enjoyment of single blessedness. Higgins was red-headed and hopeful; Chapman "Do you mean to say that it would do no good to prove to him that he's "For God's sake!" he cried, don't try to go in there. You can't possibly do him any good, and you're risking your own life."

The priest halted for a moment and

tact in a business way, and their dealings were always mutually satisfactory. Higgins never wanted the scratch of a pen from Chapman, and Chapman said he would willingly trust his life to Higgins. It was a source of wonder that two men so radically opposed to one another in so many things could get along so agreeably. Higgins explained this by saying it was a law of nature for opposites to agree, and that Chapman was sincere. Larry had a profound respect for sincerity. Chapman, on his side, was convinced that Higgins was honest, and said one could not ask for more than complete honesty.

In the course of time. Chapman came to break bread at the Higgins' home and while there met the various members of the family, including Agnes Higgins, the fair-haired daughter who was a replica of her father, with the added advantages of youth and a convent education. There was mutual admiration, be tween the young folks, but Agnes knew of Chapman's anti-Catholic tendencies and was disposed to look at him askance. The light of faith shone brightly in her blue eyes, and she was not the sort of person to permit the slightest reflection against her Church to go unchallenged. After dinner at that first visit came the inevitable clash between the girl and the young man. He had no thought of provoking a controversy. but the words persisted in coming

"I admire your father immensely. he said in a patronizing way, "in spite of his blind faith."

Evidently," she retorted calmly enough, but with flashing eyes, "you not know the meaning of the word.

Oh," he replied jauntily, "I think

"I'm sure you don't." she said Faith, as we understand it, firmly. "Faith, as we understand it, is belief in revealed religion. We are confident that it is divine and, that being the case, nothing else matters. It is not easy to explain to the worldly minded. It is a gift—a gift from God. If you haven't it, nothing else in the world can take its place. If you have it you can afford to dispense with everything

'And you condemn those that have

Not at all," was the quick reply, "I only pity them from the bottom of my heart. The distribution of the faith is one of the mysteries that my poor mind can never fathom. I only know that it may often be withheld from the great ones of the world and the poor savage in the wilds of Africa.

But what good does it do?" All of the greatest and most unselfish deeds in this hard world come from faith. It is faith that enables priests and nuns to devote their whole lives to the good of mankind. What they do, they do without money and without price. There is no earthly incentive. They do not work for the applause of men.

But your people are priest-rid-That is the bigot's catch phrase. she replied, "and, like most catch

phrases, it is meaningless. No one has more personal liberty than mem bers of the Catholic Church. Their only check is their conscience. The Church, in the person of the priest, serves them from the cradle to the grave. It is their guide, their coun-selor, their consoler. They are often disobedient and ungrateful, and if they fail in the end, it is their own

He had a desire to prolong their conversation, but he looked at his watch and found it was time to leave. He looked at Agnes with a

"I admire your loyalty," he said, but I'm perfectly satisfied that you are wrong. I can put a dozen questions to you that I'm sure you won't be able to answer."

You can make it a hundred." she "and I'll answer them all. I'll guarantee that most of them are misrepresentations and slanders that were answered before either of us were born.

She said good-bye to him courte ously enough but within she was raging. His calm assumption of su-periority rankled in her breast and she was eager for the time when she could take up the cudgels in behalf of that which she held dearer than life itself. Her father, who had heard the last part of the conversation,

turned to her indulgently: Agnes, you talk like a theologian -you're a regular doctor of divin-

The girl shook her head protest-You know I'm nothing of the kind, but I'd be ashamed of myself if

tionately. your breath on Chapman."
She looked at her father in surprise. "You don't mean to say that you let his charges go unchal-You don't mean to say that

faith that's in me."

at the dark side of life. Higgins was a devout member of the Catholic Church; and Chapman had no form of faith except a confirmed opposition to Catholicism.

"That's just what I mean. I've met men of his type before. He's intellectually vain, and if you were to prove that he was wrong, it would be confirmed to prove the way wrong the was wrong to prove the way wrong the world be confirmed to prove the way wrong the was wrong to prove the way wrong the was wrong to prove the way wrong to prove the way wrong the way wr imiliate him terribly."
She locked at him hopelessly.

Then he's a hopeless bigot. Is He's a bigot, but not hopeless.'

She gave a gesture of impatience. "Dad," she protested, "it's hard to understand you. How can you pretend to respect a man for his big-

Because it's honest bigotry," he smiled.

'The fellow has the courage of his convictions. He would be converted more easily than the chap who is indifferent, or the man who says that Also, he is quite different from the professional bigot—that is, the man who uses his bigotry as a means of money making.

e nodded her pretty head wisely. "I think I see what you mean. It makes me understand why you respect him. But isn't there some way of making him see the truth ?" Higgins smiled at the enthusiasm of the girl.

There are many ways, but as I've explained to you, controversy is the least desirable. It just has to come to him naturally as the sense of reason comes to a child. This may take a long while, but you know my dear, the longest way round is, after all, the shortest way home.'

'Dad," she cried impulsively, "I'm beginning to think you're a wise

He patted her on the head again Don't talk that way, or you'll spoil me entirely."

Chapman and Agnes met only at

rare intervals after that, but on these rare occasions he did not harp on his hobby, and she had nothing to say about religion. But each of them felt keenly interested in the other. Her loyalty to her faith had impressed him and caused him to admire her, but without changing his views of Catholicism. Agnes on her part, studied him carefully and came to feel with her father that, no matter how mistaken he might be, he had the virtue of honesty.

It was three months after the first discussion between Chapman and Agnes that the young man and Lawrence Higgins went on a business trip together. They sat in the smoking car of the express train and discussed a number of subjects in which they were mutually interest-

Suddenly, in the midst of their talk, there came a dreadful crash, and in the twinkling of an eye chaos reigned. Chapman found himself sprawling in the aisle, and when he looked up he discovered Higgins jammed between two seats. It was only a matter of a few moments to extricate him, and fortunately neither of them were injured beyond few scratches and bruises. The air was filled with dust and din : the car windows were broken, and they heard moans coming from a dis-

What is it?" asked Chapman, as oon as he was able to speak.
"Wreck! that's plain enough," re-

plied Higgins, "our car turned on its

we going to do about it?" dows. They had to move carefully outspoken way:

to avoid injury by glass and splinters "I'd like to meet Father Fisher. out eventually they managed to climb out into the daylight. Passengers were running in all directions, and help had already been summoned. First aid was given to the injured, many of whom

were lying on the damp grass in various stages of consciousness. Chapman and Higgins joined the to him. other volunteers in doing all they could for the afflicted ones. While thus engaged, they came in contact with a man wearing a Roman collar

who seemed to be performing the labors of three persons at once.
"Well, Father Fisher," exclaimed that style." Higgins extending his hand, "I never

expected to see you here!"
"Larry my boy," retorted the other, clasping the proffered palm in his own begrimed hand. "I'm glad to be able to see you walking about on two sound legs."

ing, and there's a man in the ruins calling for a priest!"

Without a word, Father Fisher left

them and hastened in the direction

indicated. Instinctively, Chapman and Higgins followed. The first car, like the others, had been derailed and was on its side. The upper portion was in flames, and beneath the side any fault with you." next to the ground they could see the body of a stalwart man pinned down. subject to another. Chapman spoke

some way of reaching the sufferer. railroad company for their failure to The only opening was by way of a provide proper safeguards for their window from which the sash had employees and for passengers. prise. "You don't mean to say that you let his charges go unchallenged?"

He smiled.

Oh, if he makes a specific misstatement I correct it, but I never which and which was now smoldering as if ready to burst into flames. Father Fisher got down on his hands and knees and began to crawl through the aperture. A rail-

The priest halted for a moment and looked at the other with perfect calm-'No earthly good," he said quietly,

but there's something else."
Before any one could interfere, he had gone all the way in and was by the side of the stricken man. Those on the outside witnessed a remark able cransformation. They saw the face of the man who was pinned be neath the weight of the debris. It had been distorted with pain, but the moment Father Fisher took his hand. the poor victim's countenance cleared assumed an expression of tran

quility. They saw the priest reach into his pocket and pull out a stole which he slipped about his neck. He bent his ear toward the victim, and his lips began to move. Everybody realized that the poor man wa making his confession.

The moments seemed like minutes to the awe-stricken onlookers. Presently the priest lifted his hand and made the sign of the cross over the prostrate one. All understood now that the last rites of the Church were being administered to the dying m Instinctively everybody—regardless of religious belief—lifted their hats and stood in reverent silence, until the ceremony was completed. Chapman watched the scene like fascinated. The poor fellow lifted his head by a supreme effort and, looking affectionately at the priest smiled contentedly. The next moment he fell back dead. Fisher closed the eyes of the corpse and crossed his arms reverently and

then, and only then, began to craw

out from the dangerous position. Lawrence Higgins had moved closer to the burning car, and his lips were moving in prayer. The aperture through which the priest had entered get through alive? That was the question in every mind. He did, but his hair and his eyebrows were singed, and he was burned and bruised from the fire and falling timbers. It was Higgins who gave him a helping hand and pulled him to a place safety. Involuntarily burst into applause. Involuntarily, the But Father Fisher, if he heard, paid no attention to the demonstration.

Thank God, Larry," he said to his friend, "I got there in time.'

'I thought so, Father." "Yes," added the priest, as much to himself as to the other, "the poor fellow got what he has prayed for all his life-a happy death. Chapman could restrain himself no

A happy death!" he ejaculated. A happy death in that inferno?"
The priest looked at the speaker

uriously. Yes," he said, simply, "that is one of the most consoling of all the consoling things about the Catholic Church. how to live but it teaches them how to die.'

Before anything more was said a messenger appeared to summon the priest elsewhere. Others needed his attention and ministrations. And for more than an hour he worked with amazing energy, giving spiritual help and consolation while the doctors, who had arrived, were caring for the physical needs of the victims. Wrecking crews came upon the scene, and before noon of that day all signs of The young man glanced about him the catastrophe had been removed, in a dazed way.

"I believe it has. But what are ness as usual. and the world went about its busi-

Three days after the train wreck As he spoke he noticed a means of Chapman called on Higgins at the escape by way of two broken win-

Would you mind taking me to see him some night? Certainly not." replied the red-

haired one, looking at his friend curiously. Chanman caught the look and said

Oh. I'm not going to talk religion Higgins laughed in his loud, hearty,

wholesome way.
"Sure, you don't suppose Father
Fisher would bother his head with talking religion to you, do you? He's too busy a man to waste his time in

And somehow Chapman Higgins was entirely candid in his statement. He had half hoped that there might be something controversial in their conversation, but he did

not want to be placed in the position of inviting it.

They found Father Fisher in his study, clad in a threadbare black Before there was a chance to say anything more, a woman came running up to the priest, wringing her caseock, smoking a strong cigar and reading a book. He greeted them cordially.

it easy for the night."

"In that event," suggested Chap-

man, "you may have no desire for The priest laughed. 'I'm glad to have you, and if you

The talk drifted easily from one couldn't give an account of the aith that's in me."

The possibility of saving his life was of the wreck, but before he could remote. It would take heavy machin-finish the praise he wished to give He patted her on the head affectory to move the obstruction, and bethe priest, the latter had taken the nately.

fore that could be obtained he would conversation in his own hands and die. The priest looked about for turned it into a denunciation of the

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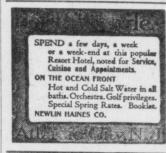
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