## RETURNED FROM THE GRAVE.

"What in the world is the matter with you all?" exclaimed Mr. Lester, above the confusion and in his own emotion. "You are beseeching me as if for some great boon, hard to grant; I think the boon will be bestowed on me. Take her," he added, as he grasped Wiliam's hand; "take her, and keep her, and forgive me the past." nd forgive me the past."
"And, now that that is all right, I must be

going," said Lord Bane.
"Where?" asked Mr. Lester.

"Where I why to show myself in Danesheld with my son, and to make a few more calls on friends, as I have made here, previously to holding my levee at the castle. shall go about it rather charily, Lester, lest timid people may fancy it is a ghost coming in. Herbert thought me one the other night in the chapel ruins. It was the only time I ventured out while I was at Ravensbirds. The night was fine, I felt unusually strong, and I managed to walk as far as the ruins. Herbert Dane, it seems, had walked to the same spot, and we met. I know he took me for my own apparition, for he scuttered off like a man scuttered by one, while I stepped to the next window, and got inside. Are you ready, William? We go first to Wilfred

"To Wilfred Lester's!" involuntarily ut-

tered Wilfred's father. "Yes, sir, to Wilfred Lester's," replied Lord Dane, somewhat sternly. "His own flesh and blood have forsaken him, have abandoned him to the charity of a cold world, so it is time the world took him up. I intend to carry him and his wife to the castle, to-daypretty little Edith as she used to be, more ready with her kisses for Captain Harry Dane than Maria was -- and there they shall stay my guests and William's, until somebody can see about a home for them. In a measure I look upon this as my duty. Various tales have come to my ears-Danesheld gossip again!that my cousin Adelaide has set the father against the son. If so, I feel sure that Adelaide has had some base and crafty adviserpossibly she may find it to have been a member of her household. At any rate Wilfred stays with us until you and she comes to your

senses. Do you hear, Adelaide?" Lady Adelaide did hear, and looked terribly conscious and confused. But, what was more to the purpose, she looked repent-

They left the hall, and were about to step into the carriage, when they encountered Miss Bordillion, who was calling at it. Like some others had done, and like many others were destined to do before the day closed, she started back at the sight of Lord Dane. The facts were bastily explained to her.

"I told you that the time would soon come for you to welcome me again," smiled William, as he held out his hand. "Your door will be open, I hope, to Geoffry Dane, though it was not to William Lydney.'

"And Maria?" she uttered, unable to take in at once all the wonders.

"O, I had serious thoughts of running away with Maria," laughed he ; "but Mr. Lester has obviated the necessity. He tells me I may take her without."

Miss Bordillion gazed after the carriage, as it swept around the gravel drive, and at William's face, which still smiled upon her from the window.

"I never will be persuaded out of my senses again," emphatically uttered she. " My judgement trusted him, my heart spoke for him; but because others turned against him, I must needs do the same, and now I am just

Lady Adelaide had gone up to her chamber with their departure, and there sat Tiffle on a stool of thorny impatience. She was big with

"Not but what I'm grieved to have it to disclose, my lady, for it's awful iniquity," "Knowing your ladyship was not down, and hearing voices in the drawingroom, I made bold to put my eye to the key-hole; and there I saw-but its too barefaced to tell your ladyship, and makes me red all over, down to the extremities of my toes.

"Tell it on," said Lady Adelaide.

" My lady, there was that adventurer there, that Lydney; and he had got Miss Lester all held close to him, her face upon-if you'll excuse my mentioning the word-his breast, my lady, and was a-kissing of her like anything,"

"You and I may have been kissed in our day, Tiffle," was the cool response of Lady Adelaide. "I expect she will soon be his wife."

"His wife!" shrieked Tiffle, in her amazement. "Lydney's?" What, and go out with him a Botamy-Bay convict?" "Tiffle!" reprimanded her ladyship, in a

sharp, haughty tone. "Have the goodness to zecollect yourself; you are speaking of Miss Lester."

She pointed to the door as she spoke, and Title retired, cowed and thunderstruck. of the under servants met her, and said Shad was outside the back-entrance, asking for her.

"Shad! come here asking for me!" responded Tiffle, in a great amount of wrath. I'll teach him to come after me, audacious little reptile! That Granny Bean is torever you." wanting fresh stuff for her rheumitix."

"Granny said I was to cut and tell ve, and not to mind calling at the house for once,' began Shad, in an undertone, when Tiffle

reached him. "Lord Dane's come back." "Come back from where?" cried Tiffle. "Where has he been?."

"Not him at the castle; he ain't Lord Dane no more. Tother's come, him what they says fell over the cliff, but he come to life again. He have took up his footing at the eastle, and t'other'll have to turn out. Granny said I was to tell ye as Lydney-

Well!" said Tiffle, impatiently, staring with all her eyes. "Get on quicker." "As Lydney have been in disguise, a-look-

ing after what folks did wrong, but not a-helping of 'em, as was thought. He's t'other's son, and his name's Geoffry Dane, and he'll be Lord Dane after him."

Tiffle gathered in the words, gathered in her own politics of the past, and fell back in a real fainting-fit.

## CHAPTER XXXI.

Never sure was such a levee seen or heard of. It had no parallel in history, ancient or modern. He majesty sometimes has a erowded court, her subjects pressing in to do her honor; but her crowds are all of that class who bask on the sunny side of life: no Lazarus must mix with them. The levee at Dane castle was of a different nature.

It appeared that Lord Dane, with his induction to the home of his ancestors, had taken a new lease of life, so well did he appear. His malady was of a nature to cause him at times excruciating agony, varied with interludes, lasting perhaps a week or fortnight, even more, of freedom from pain. His last attack at the Sailor's Rest, when he sent for Mr. Apperly, had been so violent as to induce a be-lief in himself and Mr. Green that the end was tast approaching, out he appeared now have completely rallied from it. Excite- terrupted William.

ment is of benefit in some cases; perhaps it had been so to him

The castle was thrown open at ten o'clook on the morning of the levee-a brilliant mornit—the anistocratic few of Lord Dane's lown such a lesson to us, that we shall never do it rank, who might claim the right of entree, again. Passing on shore a bit of tobacco, or not confined was it to the still more scanty few of the good and great; the poor fisherman was as welcome as the exclusive gentleman; and the poachers and emugglers were expressly told to be there. The lower end of the room was lined with the Dane retainers, in their handsome livery of purple, their white coats laced with silver. Bruff and Ravensbird stood behind Lord Dane: uncommonly proud was Bruff that day.

How fast the visitors flocked in, none could tell, save those who witnessed it, all pushing eagerly to welcome and do honor to Lord Dane. Had he been made of hands, there would scarcely have been sufficient to satisfy the ardent crowd. He stood with them outstretched; he had a kind look, 2 low heartfelt word for all. His son stood at his right hand, and he presented him individually to all. Wilfred Lester was also very near bim, treated by him with marked affection and distinction: Lord Dane was determined to do what he could toward bringing Wilfred back to his proper standing in society,-toward reinstating him in the respect of the world. Men saw with surprise that day that Squire Lester also paid consideration to his son: it must be remembered that the lust and worst escapade, the breaking into the hall, was not known or suspected to be his work.

"Ah, my lord," cried Mr. Wild, the surgeon, as he, too, offered his greetings to Lord Dane, "but it was not well of you to be attended by a stranger at the Sailor's Rest. Doctor Green has been but two years in the place, and I grew up in it; your father thought me skilful enough for him."

Lord Dane laid his hand on the doctor's shoulder.

"Wild," he laughed, "I appoint you surgeon in ordinary to me from henceforth; not that I shall live to employ you long; you must get my son to fall ill after I am gone, and exercise your skill on him. Why, man, don't you see the reason of my calling in a stranger instead of you. You would have kno vn me for Harry Dane at the first glance and would have gone crowing with the secret all over Danesheld; that would not have suited my plans just then."
Mr. Wild shook his head.

"It has taken me down a notch though, to think that you should have called in a stranger."

When the hall was full, and people had done coming in, so far as he judged, William Dane-no longer William Lydney-left his father's side and mixed with the crowd. Nearly the first his eye lighted particularly on, was Inspector Young.

"I hope, sir, you won't remember past times with resentment," began he, " and visit your displeasure upon me when you come into power as chief of Daneshold."

"What an idea!" laughed William. "I gave you credit for better sense, Young; or at any rate believed that you would give me credit for better. You did your simple duty, and none of us can do more. We shall be famous friends," he added, holding out his hand, and the gratified man took it graspingly. His night's rest had been spoiled by the thought that he had taken into custody and treated as a common prisoner, the Honorable Geoffry William Done.

Who should William come npon next skulking near the door behind the servants and not daring to advance, but Ben Beecher. It was the first time they had met since the midnight encounter in Squire Lester's hall; Beecher and his two companions had been keeping themselves close and quiet since, but they had ventured to the castle this day, arguing that their absence might tell them worse than their presence; so they had assumed what bold faces they might' and followed in the wake of the stream. Their share in the exploit was known to two or three; it was perhaps suspected by Squire Lester; but there was no fear that further notice would be taken; for since thd disclosure relative to his son, Squire Lester had become as anxious to hush up the affair, as he had previously been to investigate it. William Dane knew this.

"Is it you, Ben Beecher, come to pay mea visit in my own house?" he cheerily began "More space to welcome you here than I had at the Sailor's Rest. Why don't you come forward to my lord? your father has already had his confab out with him."

"Sir, how could you go on deceiving us and blindidg us in this way?" returned Ben Beecher, in a tone of timid deprecation.

"If we had dreamt that you were the Lord Dane-or as good as the the lord-should we ever have let you know our secrets? Why, there is not a thing about us but what you know, even the very worst."

"I am glad I do," replied William. "It has just stopped our fun forever!" ut-

tered Beecher. "I hope it has," he laughed. "That is the very best calamity that could happen to

"Yes, sir; but you may just have us all took up to-morrow, and transported upon your sole evidence.

"No, Beecher, I shall not do that," he gravely answered. "I would much rather keep you here, in the hope that you will be loyal dependents of mine when I do become your lord. I wish that time might be very far off, Beecher; but I fear it is all too close. You say I had knowledge of the worst; I certainly did know of your ventures in the poaching line, and I did hold to the hope that there your sins ended. I never could have believed that you would rush upon the crime of midnight housebreaking. I should have been the first to give you into custody, had I known it. What could have possessed you

"Hush-sh-sh!" interrupted Beecher, glancing around him with a pale face. But the room was too full of humming commotion to affold a chance of its overhearing. "The whole fault was Wilfred Lester's; he beguiled us into it : I swear he did. Sir, he never put it to us in the light of a crime; he harped upon his own wrongs, his father's cruelty, and said would we help him to get out his own deed. I'm sure what he said might have talked a regiment of saints into helping

to engage-

him." "It was a crime and a disgraceful one," repeated William Dane; "all the accessories were bad. The disguising crape alone would have stamped you villains. It is all very well to lay the blame on Wilfred Lester, I do not deny he bears the chief share of it, to say the abstraction of the deed was the object; unless I am mistaken, your object was the

'plate-chest.' "When the men of our sort get put right in the way of temptation, you, being what you suspected me. But why should you have you are, sir, can't understand how well-nigh impossible it is for 'em to go aside from it,'

was Beecher's answer.

"Yes, i can, I can understand it all," in-

taking of a hare, or a stray goose, or a

chicken, have been in our line, but not them graver things. There is a set who dodge about Danesheld and other neighboring places, as their work or the police let them, and go into worse things, and we know 'em, and are friendly with em; but we have never joined'em, and we wouldn't do it, and that I declare's the touth. It was them I thought might have helped themselves to the box when it was missing, Mr. Lydney.

"Mr. Dane," corected William, mile.

Dash my memory! I wish it never had been Dane, though. Is Squire Lester, going to issue a warrant against us-does he suspoct it was us?" continued the man, again glancing around him.

"Whether Squire Lester suspects or not, I cannot inform you; he does not know. Do you know what my opinion is, Beecher?" "What, sir?"

"That the better mode of proceeding for all parties will be to do nothing; but to let the affair die out in silence. Were I Lord Dane, I should recommend that to Squire Lester with all my influence."

"Ah, if he would," uttered Beecher, his eyes sparkling.

" Allow me to recommend yon-all of you who were engaged in it-to be entirely silent. Never speak of it, even among yourselves; never let the name of Wilfred Lester, as connected with it, escape your lips. It is the only safe plan. Were he brought to book for it, you must inevitably be brought also; my own evidence, which I should be called upon then to give, would convict you. Remember, I saw and recognized you three in the house, but I did not see him in it."

"True, true," whispered Beecher. "Oh, sir! if you would but be merciful to us, and keep our counsel! We'd promise faithfully never to go upon your lands in return for it. I'm sure, if we had known, that night, that it was the young Lord of Danesheld who pounced upon us in the hall, and not Mr. Lydney, I, for one, should have been fit to go and hang myself. As to splitting upon Wilfred Lester, we should never do that for our own sakes."

"Beecher, will you make a bargan with me? If I undertake that—through my inflaence, or my father's with Squire Lester-you thall never be proceeded against for this midnight crime, even should your participation in it come to Squire Lester's ears, will you promise, on your parts, to drop the disreputable lives you have hitherto been leading, eschew expeditions against game and game-

keepers, and let the Dane lands alone?" "Yes, we will," answered Beecher, eagerly. "In our first encounter in the wood, which you may not have forgotten, I told you that it was no busines of mine did you prowl about the Dane preserves all day, a gun in one hand and snares in the other, seeing they were not

mine. Virtually they were mine, at least my father's, but actually they were in possession of him who was then called Lord Dane. I told you, also, that if they were mine, the affair would be very different. You must see that it is, Beecher. It is my duty now to protect the lands, and I shall do it." "I can't gainsay it, my lord," returned Beecher, who seemed lost in thought.

"What slips of the tongue you do make!" merrily cried William: "I am no more 'my lord' than I am 'Mr. Lydney;' you are dreaming of the future, I expect. The ex-lord, 'Mr. Herbert, had a reverence for game, people I did not do you the injury of trying to put say; I have more reverence for one man's you wrong with others. Many and many a well doing than I have for all the game in time though, have I wondered that Sophie England: nevertheless. I respect and shall did not suggest because she knew about uphold the game-laws. Cannot you and I and Lady Adelaide, and also that I imparted contrive to remain friends, Beecher, in spite of them?"

" Friends!" echoed the man, with deep feel-

"I said friends. It will be your fault if we are not. You cannot suppose I shall take advantage of the past in any way; of the knowledge which circumstances brought to me touching your pursuits. You once said, Beecher, that had you been dealt with in a kinder spirit, you might have been different men. Suppose you begin to be so from this day, and I will help you. Wrong doings will not fit you for the next world, or speak for you when you get there."

Beecher made no answer; his face was

working. "You shall have constant work on the estate, and be well paid for it in fair wages; a more safe and certain living than what you obtain from your night expeditions. The estate has been well kept up, but its laborers have been neglected; I shall hope to go upon a different plan, to make it a model one.

"The estate or the men?" cried Beecher, with little regard to the laws of grammar. "Both," smiled William Dane. "The men must be true to me, and I will be true to them. They must give me their best service, and I will ever consider their true interests in a kind and watchful spirit; in short, I intend that we should be friends in the best sense of the word, they and I, identifying our interests one with the other. Will you be one, Beech-

The man had stole his hand out before he

answered. "Ay, I will, sir; "I'll do as you wish me for I'm pretty near tired of the life I have led

"A bargain! and we will neither of us go from it," whispered William as he shook it. But there was another colloquy, one perhaps more interesting to the readers, taking place in a further corner of the apartment! and those holding it were Herbert, ex-Lord

Dane, and Richard Ravensbird. "Concealment for us all is over with its necessity, Ravensbird," Herbert Dane was observing. "Your conduct of the past puzzled me; let me hear its explanation."

Ravensbird looked at him steadily. "Are you speaking of the time of the accident, sir? when my master fell from the

heights?" "Iam. I thought your manners then were remarkably strange. To begin with, you protested to me that you could lay your finger upon the man who had caused it. What induced you to say that? and to whom did you allude?"

"Shall I speak out freely, sir? I must, if ] speak at all."

"I wish you to speak out, otherwise I should not have desired you." " Then sir, I entertained no manner of doubt that my master had been deliberately pushed over: murdered. And I believed it

was you who had done it." "The doubt was upon me at the time that done so?"

"Because I knew that both you and he were after my Lady Adelaide. I was his servent, firm to his interests, and it was I who told James to say that dinner was being waited him that she favored you and not him. I tor.

"Once inside the house took into it, too, had been the previous evening in the ruins, by the squire's own sons and the plate chest and I saw your meeting with her. Sir, why handy, it was hardly in the nature of man not frown upon me in that haughty manner? I to help themselves,"pleaded Beecher. "We am speaking out at your request, but I can be should never have put our necks in the noose silent if you will. I told my master that you on the morning of the levee—a brilliant morn-to help themselves, pressed according to the noose silent it you will. I told my master that you ingli winter, with a blue sky and a bright should never have put our necks in the noose silent it you will. I told my master that you ing in winter, with a blue sky and a bright of meeting there, and It was known to be Lord Dane's pleas.

Of our own accord, but Will I ester, be took and she were in the habit of meeting there, and I get bloked out for it. When, that same me that all should attend it, of whatever de us into it and that's how it was. If it was and I get bloked out for it. When, that same gree, high or low of whatever character, had the last word I had to speak, we never did night, a struggle took place on the heights or good. Not confined to the Dives of life were such a thing afore, and the fright has been close to the ruins, ending in my masters depended to the Dives of life were such a thing afore, and the fright has been close to the ruins, ending in my masters destruction, I naturally looked abroad for motives that might have induced it. Danesheld gave me the credit for it. I knew that I was innocent—that I had not been near the place; and my own suspicions naturally flew to you. I felt as certain, Mr. Herbert, that you had done the deed, as that I had not done it; and if I could have entertained a doubt at all, you vourself drove it away." "In what manner?"

"You told me that you could hang me, that the threats against Captain Dane which I had uttered in your presence in the morning would be sufficient to hang me, if you chose to disclose them. I said to you then, why did you not hang me? and you replied that you would not go out of your way to do it, for you had no ill-will against me, and that if you got me hung on the nearest tree, it would not recall the past, or bring the dead back to life. I had my common-sense about me, and I knew that if you were innocent, you would be the first to tell of those threats. I was but an obscure servant, you were one of the Danes, and his cousin. Just for a little moment that story of the packman staggered me; but I soon threw it away as worthless. Sir, you and I were playing a crafty game with each other then. You saw I suspected you; I felt sure that you saw it; you urged me that it would be better if I quitted Danesheld; I answered that I should stay in it, and I boldly demanded of you the preference, when you were granting the lease of the Sailor's Rest. Mr. Herbert, I felt that you would not dare to refuse me."

"What could have been your attraction to Danesheld?" inquired Herbert Dane. "One would have thought you would be glad to quit it, after having been arrested for the mur-

"That is just the reason I remained in it sir. I felt as certain that the time would come when I should be cleared, as certain as that the cloud had fallen. It occurred to me at the time to declare my suspicions to Lord Dane: but in the first place I had no proof that it was you, and in the second my lord was so bitter against me, believing I was the transgressor, that he would probably have refused all credit to anything I might have said. Thank a good Providence that it is at last fervently continued Ravensbird cleared !" "and in a brighter manner than any of us expected."

"Ay," echoed Herbert Dane, in a tone of unmistakable relief. "If I lose my wealth and honor, Ravensbird, I gain peace. There is one thing never accounted for; your absence from the Sailor's Rest for an hour and a hall that same night, and your refusal to state where you were.

"I was in no mischief," answered Ravensbird, a comical look on his grim countenance. I was doing a bit of courting, and I did not choose to proclaim my private affairs for the benefit of Danesheld. I had spoken a hasty word to Sophie when I left the castle in the morning, and whispered her to meet me in the evening, when my Lady Adelaide should be dressed for dinner. Sophie came, and we were pacing about in the field-path behind the castle all the while. It was bright moonlight."

"Pray did you honor me by imparting your suspicions of me to Sophie-after the catastrophe occured?"

"Not I, sir," returned Ravensbird, shaking his head. "Sophie's no better than other women, where the tongue is concerned, and it would pretty soon have been all over Danesheld. I never disclosed it, Mr. Herbert to a living soul; if I suspected you myself it to Captain Dane before he kicked me out; but she never seemed to glance at the phase of the question, and I was glad she did not." "You must have been thunderstruck when

the life boat brought him ashore."

"Thunderstruck?" echoed Ravensbird. that's not a strong enough word, sir; there's no part of speech in the English language that is; and I thought what a jackass I had been to mistake that body, cast up, for his I did not know him till-let me see, I think it was the next night; he had kept himself covered over with the bedelothes, and hid his face with that purple shade, so that I had not had any look at him, to speak of. The next night he began talking about Danesheld, saying he had once been near the place; and what with the astonishment at hearing of its changes, and what with finding that I was as true and attached to him as ever I had been in my life, why he pushed the shade up and let me see his features. The surprise pretty well knocked me down. We were obliged to tell Sophie, because she would have recognized him as readily as I, and he could not always keep his face hid; and his eyes got well directly, affording no excuse for the shade How Sophie succeeded in keeping the secret and mortifying her tangue as long as she did will always be a joke against her; but my lord threatened her with unheard of penalties if she disclosed it."

"You must have known that Captain Dane

when he fell, had a son living in America?" "Of course I knew it, sir; but I did not consider I was bound to disclose it. I like to let other people's business alone. I argued that the young gentleman, who was then fourteen, would be safe to come over and see after his father, and it would be time enough then for me to bear testimony here that he was truly his son. When the years went on, and Master William never came, I used to fear he was dead, and wondered who had inherited all the money. But that I did not care to leave the inn and Sophie to take care of themselves, I might have gone over to the States to see how it was, for the lad was always a favorite of mine; worth his weight in gold; and thankful I am that he has turned up at last."

The levee came to an end, and the castle resumed its quietness. Herbert Dane remained for the present the guest of Lord Dane, as did Wilfred and his wife, and the strange sensation caused by the return was beginning to subside in Danesheld.

A family dinner-party was about to be held in the castle, no guests invited save the Lesters and Miss Bordillion. Miss Dane, who till officiated as the castle's mistress, made her appearence in the drawing-room on the appointed evening, a pertect marvel of gauze, ringlets. flowers, and pretty colors.

Edith was with her quiet and sad; and soon arrived Lady Adelaide, her husband, and Maria: next, Miss Bordillion. In short, all had assembled except Lord Dane. "Dinner is served, my lord," announced

out: but William spoke hastily. "His Lordship is not here yet, Bruff." "Oh-I beg your pardon, sir. I understood

Bruff, throwing wide the door for them to pass

"Bruff, you had better apprise my lord," cried out Miss Dane.

He went across the corridor to Lord Dane's room, and knocked at it. There was no re-ply. Bruff knocked again. Still there came no answer, and the man then tried the door. Et was fastened. He went back to the drawing-room and beckoned out William.

"Sir, I can't get into my lord's room, and I cannot make him hear. I fear he must be

"Dead," was on Bruff's tongue, remembering the precarious state of Lord Dane, but he did not utter it. William hastened to the door. The rest, who had caught sight of Bruff's alarmed countenance, followed him. William put up his finger for silence, and his ear to the door, but not a sound was heard. "My dear father, are you ready? We are

waiting for you," he said, in a clear distinct voice.

No response. "Do, pray, speak just one word, Lord Dane if only to assure us you are not in a fit," cried Miss Dane, in coaxing and trembling accents for she was easily alarmed. "Harry, then! won't you speak ?"

"I shall break open the door," said William, hurriedly. "Had you not better"-he looked at the ladies-"go back to the drawingroom?"

The door was forced, and there lay Lord Dane on the hed He was not dead, but he appeared to have fainted; feeling ill, he had probably thrown himself on the bed for a few minutes' rest.

"Mr. Wild and Dr. Green instantly," whis pered William to Bruff. Lord Dane revived to speech and conscious ness before they arrived, but death was upon

"The night will close it, William," he said, "but I have waited for it long. Maria, taking her hand, "you will be William's wife?

"Yes," she answered, through her tears. "Don't wait for months and months to

elapse first, because I have just gone," he continued to them both. "Remember, it is my wish that you marry shortly; and I leave my blessing upon it. William will be here alone. Where is Adelaide?" he resumed, looking around, after a pause.

She had remained in the drawing-room with Miss Dane. One of them went for her.

"Come close to me, Adelaide," he said, when she came in ; " stand by your husband: between your husband and Wilfred. Old grim Death has come for me child; but I must say a few words to you before he penetrates quite in. Did it ever occur to you that you must sometime be where I am lying-on your death-bed?"

Very pale and troubled looked Lady Adelaide, but she did not answer.

"There is but one thing will serve you when you come to it—a clear conscience. look back now on my past life, and vainly gasp forth the yearning wish that I had in many cases acted differently; though, of witful injustice, I cannot charge my memory. It is not, however, to tell of my faded life, my sins and my atonements, that I speak; they lie between me and my mercitul Father, to whom I am hastening. Adelaide, when you come to this hour, what will your conscience say to you for the manner in which you have treated Wilfred Lester?"

"She burst into tears; the last sentence

was uttered imperatively. " My dear, you have been guilty of terrible injustice; and I think that your eyes must have had perverting scales thrown before them," pursued Lord Dane. "Wilfred is your husband's eldest son; he has an equal right to partake of his substance with your own children; but you have driven him upon the world without means or resource, that they might enjoy the more. Do you imagine that injustice such as this, can be acceptable to God? or that it will be permitted to pros-

per ?" A deep silence, broken only by the sobs of

Lady Adelaide. You must change this course of conduct and repair the injury, if you would obtain peace at last. I speak to you, more than to Lester, because you have been the chief actor and mover. What could possibly have so

set you against Wilfred Lester?" "It was Tiffle," broke out Lady Adelaide, in her emotion. "She is always exciting me

against him." "Show Tiffle the door," returned Lord Dane, with a touch of his old fire. "I must leave you reconciled."

He took Wilfred'a hand in his open palm, and looked at hers. She immediately put hers into it. Mr. Lester did the same. "And now yours, Edith," said Lord Dane.

The four hands were clasped togethertoken of the reconciliation, the good feeling, that from that hour was to dawn upon them. "Love and unity," murmured Lord Dane. Strew your path with them, and they will stand by to serve you ever; scatter it with thorns, and they will turn and prick you at the last. Adelaide, they are my dying words to

All too quickly there was another levee at the castle; but this time the world came in with saddened faces and subdued tread, pressing on to the death-room. The flag floated half-mast high over the gate, and the trestles stood on the flag-floor, bearing their bier-William Henry, seventeenth Baron Dane lay

Never was there half the followers at any funeral of the Danes, as at this. The interment took place on a cold, bright day—the blue sky overhead, and the white snow covering the ground and the landscape. A marked contrast did that long, sable train present-all walking-to the glitter of the snow; as they wound round from the castle-gates to the private chapel at a short distance-not the chapel of the ruins. The officiating clergyman advanced first in his surplice and hood; the coffin was borne next, attended by its pall-bearers; after it, bareheaded and alone, walked Geoffry William, now Lord Dane; behind him came Herbert Dane and Squire Lester; next, the Earl of Kirkdale and Wilfred Lester; others followed, and last, the servants, Bruff and Ravensbird heading them. And thus the true William Henry Dane was at length consigned to the vault of his ancestors, side by side with that unknown stranger who had been burried for him.

Mr. Apperly produced the will on their return to the castle. It was dated but very recently-after the late lord had taken up his abode at it. A handsome sum was bequeathed absolutely to Herbert Dane, equivalent to twelve hundred a year; Miss Dane gained an annuity of three hundred. A remembrance was left to Lady Adelaide, and five thousand to Wilfred Lester, as " a thank offering for having saved my life, and that of one far more precious to me; my dear son, Geoffry William." A thousand pounds was left to Bruff, and two thousand pounds to " my faithful friend and servant, Richard Ravensbird; a like sum-two thousand pounds-was directed to be equally divided said Maria Dane." between the castle servants; and the rest of his large fortune was bequeathed to his sonto him by law.

"What a wealthy man he has died?" quoth

be gossips. So he had. But he had spent nothing like the whole of his income abroad. William Lydney had been fully justified in asserting that Squire Lester was entirely welcome to Maria's fourteen thousand pounds.

CHAPTER XXXII

Once more there was a large gathering of the people at Danesheld. But this time it was not of a sad nature, neither did it take place at the castle, but at the residence of Squire Lester. Following the injunction of his father, William had not long deferred his marriage, and on as balmy a day as May ever brought forth, he was united to Maria.

They had returned from church, and were now seated at the breakfast, a goodly company. Lord and Lady Dane in the middle of the table; opposite them, Mr. Lester and Lady Adelaide; Wilfred sat by his sister's side, and Edith by Lord Dane. Many friends were present. Bruff, in attendance on his lord, paraded his portly form by the sideboard, to the admiration of Squire Lester's less exalted staff of servants, and Ravensbird had invited himself to wait upon anybody. As to Sophie, she had quitted the Sailor's Rest for the hall at six o'clock that morning, protesting in all her national vanity that nobody but herself could turn out Miss Lester fit to be seen.

Miss Dane was present, in the most ravishing of costumes-so coquettish and siry that it was difficult to believe anybody but Sophie, with her French taste, had had a hand in it. Herbert Dane was not there. He had left, to take up his residence in Paris, and there he would probably remain for a permanency. He had always favored the gay city, and England was no longer a sunny land to him. Miss Dane lived in his house covered with the ivy-the reader visited it one evening when he was Herbert Dane. Very vexed was she to leave the castle, but where was the help for it? Soon after Lord Dane's death, when future plans were being talked over, and Wilfred and Edith had returned to their own cottage, her brother told her she might occupy his old house, as he did not intend to do so.

"Oh, thank you all the same, Herbert," was Miss Dane's hasty reply, "but I would prefer to stop at the castle.' "At the castle! How can you? You will

Miss Dane rather offended, went off on the spur of the moment to find William. In a pretty little speech, all airs and graces, and Lydia-Languish looks, she proposed to remain with him as housekeeper.

not be wanted here. Ask William if you

"But I shall soon be bringing a housekeeper home, Cecelia," was his reply, in a laughing tone of remonstrance.

"Oh, dear! then it is true? I never did put the question direct to you or to Miss Lester, and could not think of paying attention to the insinuation of others. I should manage the household better than she will, being accustomed to it: I wish I could stay, William -only as a cousin, of course," simpered she, casting down her eyes and blushing cheeks.

William thought it about as direct an offer as a gentleman could well receive. He suppressed the merriment in his eye, and replied in a grave tone:

"I fear you have spoken without counting the cost. I am young ; you are-young, too; what would scandal-loving Danesheld say?' "O, dear?" shricked Miss Dane, with a start. "would it, do you suppose? I never did think of that. Then I may as well accept

Herbert's offer of his house. She hastened from the room, her silk apron held before her eyes, and William burst into a fit of laughter; so prolonged and irrepressible that the sober Bruff, who just then came in, thought his young lord had suddenly gone

Miss Dane, therefore, took up her abode in the offered house, with a cordial intimation that the castle would be delighted to welcome her at any and every opportunity; and here she was at the wedding. Perhaps the next best thing to being the bride, was to be one of the bridesmaids, for in that capacity

did Miss Dane officiate this morning. The breakfast had proceeded to the toast giving. The health of Lord and Lady Dane had been drunk, and William was standing, a flush on his handsome face, to return thanks, when the door slowly opened, and a tall, spare stranger, with a military air, and his sallow features bronzed, stood at it, leisurely surveying the company. The company, in their turn, surveyed him, and William paused. He seemed to strike upon their senses somewhat after the fashion of Banquo's ghost. A dead silence supervened, and not a few of the visitors began to wonder whether this could be a second Lord Dane sprung from

the dead. "Which is Edith?" Curious words to come from him, and the sea of faces stared in blank consternation, Edith's not less blank than theirs. Suddenly, there was a faint, yearning cry, and Miss Bor-

dillion sprang toward him. "My brother! I am sure it is my brother!"

"Yes, it was Colonel Bordillion. He had just landed from India, having come home without apprizing any one."

Oh, there was congratulation! Mr. Lester pressed forward, Lady Adelaide, others who had known him many, many years ago-all with their eager welcome. Edith could not remember him; he had parted from her, a child of six, when she was sent over from India; and she stood confused, scarcely understanding who it really was. He looked around, perhaps naturally, for the youngest and the fairest, and drew close to her and Maria, surveying each alternately.

"You are Edith," he said, laying his band on Maria. "Oh, papa, papa, no-it is I!" said [Edith; then, as she fully realized that it was her

father, flung herself into his arms with a burst of hysterical tears. I am Edith." "And you?" said Colonel Bordillion, smiling upon Maria, after he had given a few

moments to Edith. "I am Maria Lester," returned she, totally oblivious at the moment of her new name. "And you must be Wilfred?" continued Colonel Bordillion, surveying the tall, hand-

some form that arose between Maria and Edith. "Not so, papa. This is Lord Dane. Wil-

fred is standing at your elbow."

Colonel Bordillion greeted his son in-law, and then turned to Lord Dane, his eyes ranging over his noble features and manly bear-

"It is the face and form of a Dane," he said. "But I knew not that there was a young heir to inherit. And what is the cause of this festive assemblage?"

"Nothing but a wedding-breakfast," laughed Lord Dane. "I have been making the young lady my wife." "Why, you have just told me your name was Maris Lester," cried Colonel Bordillion,

smiling down upon her blusblng face.

"Forgetting that she has laid it aside forever," put in Wilfred. "She should have

Colonel Bordillion sat down with them. He was an exceedingly guileless, open-speakcounting the revenues of Dane, which came ing man, and he entered without ceremony upon his own affairs before everybody,