

HELENA GRAHAM,
—OR—
THE BRIDE'S SACRIFICE.

CHAPTER VII.

Down by the shore, under the shade of an overhanging willow, he knew Jessie had a favorite seat, where on pleasant days she used to take her work. Here he was sure of finding her, and in this direction he bent his steps.

She sat sewing under the shade of the drooping willow, singing softly to herself, and looking like some sylvan goddess of a sylvan scene, or some beautiful nymph, just risen from her grotto of coral and crystal.

Radiant and bewildering was the smile and blush with which she welcomed him—a smile and blush that might have been found too strong even for more potent principles than his.

He seated himself beside her with a look of moody abstraction all unusual with him, watching her covertly from under his eyelashes, as she bent smiling and happy over her work.

For a time, Jessie chatted gaily on various common-place matters; but at last, catching her tone from his, she too grew silent and thoughtful. She bent lower over her work, wondering if she had offended him, and involuntarily sighed.

He heard it, and said—
"And wherefore that sigh? Are you unhappy?"

"No, not unhappy; but troubled."
"And why should you be troubled, bright one? What can there be to grieve one so fair?"

"I—I—fear I had offended you," she answered, timidly. "You appear out of spirits."

"You offend me, gentle one—you who never offend any one in your life! No, no, it is not that."

"Then you are unhappy?" she said, shyly.

"Yes, I am miserable—wretched!" he cried, vehemently. "I wish to heaven I had never been born!"

"Oh, Mr. Clinton, what has happened?" she cried, laying her hand on his, and looking up wistfully in his face.

Her touch, her tone, her look, swept away every remaining trace of fidelity. He forgot everything he should have remembered—his vows, his honor, his truth—and saw nothing but the bright, radiant, bewildering vision before him.

In an instant he was on his knees at her feet, exclaiming, with impassioned vehemence—

"Jessie, Jessie, my life, my dream, my hope, I love you! See, I am at your feet, where my heart, my name, my fortune, long have been. With my whole heart, and soul and life, and being, I love you with a love stronger than death or the grave. All the devotion and hopes of my life I offer you, if you can only say you love me."

He was pale and panting; his eyes were fierce and burning, his tones low, thrilling, and passionate.

Trembling, shrinking, blushing, yet with a deep, intense, fervent joy thrilling through all her heart and being, Jessie listened. The blood swept in torrents to her face, neck, and bosom, which rose and fell with her rapid breathing. She dared not look up to meet his ardent, burning gaze.

"Jessie, Jessie, my love, my life, look up—speak—answer me! Tell me that you love me!"

Still no reply, only those downcast eyes, deepest blushes, and quick, hurried breathing.

"Speak, speak, my beautiful love! Only one word from those sweet lips—but one touch of your dear hand, to tell me I may live! he cried, growing more wild and impassioned.

With a low, glad cry of intense joy, she buried her blushing face on his shoulder.

"Thanks—my heart's thanks—for this, sweetest, loveliest Jessie!" he cried, with exultant joy, pressing her yielding form to his bounding heart. "My life, with all its hopes, energies, and ambitions, shall be devoted to but one purpose now—that of rewarding you for your priceless love."

"Oh, Mr. Clinton, your love is all the reward I ask," she said, in the deep, earnest voice of perfect trust.

"Not Mr. Clinton now, sweetest Jessie. I am Herbert to you now and forever. Let me always hear that name in music from your lips, and earth has no higher boon in store for me."

"But, oh, can you love me thus—me a poor little, nameless, uncultured girl, while you are rich, distinguished, and highly connected? O Herbert! will you not some day repent this choice—you who might win the highest and fairest in the land?"

"Repent! never—never! Perish my heart if it ever admit of any love but thine; paled by my arm if it ever encircle any form but thine; accursed be my lips if they ever perjure the words I have spoken now; lost for ever be my soul when it is false to thee," he cried, with passionate vehemence.

"O Herbert, dearest, hush! I do not doubt you—heaven forbid! I should die if I thought you could be false to me."

BLOODY AND FATAL AFFRAY.—A bloody affray occurred in Brantford, resulting in the death of one Donald McKinnon at the hands of one James McNamara, took place some time between the hours of 3 and 5 a.m., on Sunday, in a low, rowdy house near the eastern limits of the town, known as "Zurries." The parties in the affray have had ill feeling towards each other for some time, and this is the second time during the past week that they have been known to have quarrelled.

From the appearance of the combatants, they must have been fighting for some time, as McNamara, when taken, was covered with blood and his face badly bruised and swollen. After the first onslaught, or when McKinnon's blood first flowed from the knife, he went into the room, closed the door and threw himself on the bed, and said, "Let me lie here and die." At this time McNamara was in another apartment, but gathering himself up, he muttered, "Let me finish him," when he kicked in the door and gave him the final thrust. He then left the house by a circuitous way, and called at the house of an acquaintance, James Griffin, a respectable man, to whom he represented that the police were after him for an old and frivolous scrape. Griffin let him in, and he threw himself down on a lounge and soon fell asleep. This was about the hour of five o'clock in the morning. Thus matters remained till the dawn of day, when the police, having been summoned, traced the footsteps of the guilty party through the snow, which had just freshly fallen, from Zurries to Griffin's, and as we have said by a roundabout way. McNamara offered no resistance, but quietly surrendered himself to the officer of the law and was conducted to jail. The coroner's jury summoned to enquire into the death of McKinnon have returned a verdict of wilful murder against McNamara.

A large propeller is to be built at Owen Sound this winter, by A. M. Smith & Co., Toronto.

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GEORGE JEFFREY'S

Sales in this Department exceed his most sanguine expectations. See Price List below:

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- 300 Pieces of those heavy home-made Flannels, yard wide, 25 cents, worth 40 cents.
500 Pieces, all wool, extra heavy millers' grey cloth, 50 cents, worth 75 cents. See this lot.
260 Pieces fine scoured Wincey, at 10 cents. We give 15 yards checked ditto, for one dollar.
769 Pieces lovely Dress Goods, a special bargain, 18 cts, worth 37½ cts.
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10 Bales Hudson Bay Buffalo Robes; good value.
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