

The Rival Glansmen

A Scottish Vendetta.

CHAPTER XXV. TROUBLED DREAMS—AN OLD FRIEND CAUSES CONSTERNATION—A STRUGGLE—THE MARRIAGE CEREMONY.

It was a very unequal contest, and though Gordon had several times laid his stick across them, while as yet he was unwounded, he was rather anxious as to its result. But an unexpected turn was given to the conflict by Gordon suddenly finding his arms caught from behind, and firmly pinioned to his sides. It was but for a moment, when, with a violent effort, he released himself, and found that it was Fender who had seized him. But the momentary check had decided against him, for ere he could raise his stick to ward off the blow, the flat of Cameron's sword had descended with crushing force on his head, and he fell to the floor insensible.

"Now, M'Kenzie," exclaimed the Catfran, with glaring eyes, springing towards him. "You was well done, Fender."

As he spoke he raised his dirk to plunge it into the body of Gordon; but Mr. Blaikie, who had stood an amazed witness of the scene which had just been enacted, interposed and seized the up-lifted hand, as he cried out—

"Man, would you do murder in my presence? Stay your hand, or I will invoke the curse of Heaven upon you."

With a violent oath, Cameron flung off the hand, and was just about to send the dagger to Gordon's heart, when the latter moaned and struggled spasmodically with his hands. Suddenly a new thought seemed to strike Cameron, for he turned to M'Kenzie, and cried in hurried tones—

"Hey, Ian, cut down that bell-rope, and give it me. We shall bind and gag him in the meantime, and this old fool as well. The ceremonies must take place at once."

Almost as quick as he had spoken M'Kenzie handed him the rope with which Cameron had no difficulty in binding poor Gordon, helpless and insensible as he now was. A piece of wood was placed in his mouth, and he was then flung into a corner of the room by the two villains. The old man tremblingly protested against violence being done him, but he was now in the hands of men who heeded not his words, and in a short time he, too, was rendered helpless and laid on the floor beside his companion.

"Now, Fender," exclaimed Cameron, "we must lose no time. We must have the double marriage of immediately. The women shall be brought down at once."

Fender hesitated and gave no reply. He looked suspiciously at the corner where Mr. Blaikie and Gordon were lying.

"Have no fear, man, for them," exclaimed M'Kenzie. "I warrant that five minutes after the ceremony they shall be as quiet as death can make them."

"They are only spared now," exclaimed Cameron, "because I wish to enrage them in their last moments by witnessing what they came to prevent. I am in no mood for trifling, Fender, and they shall be made to learn that they are far from safe who venture to thwart the wishes of Cameron of Droghdaire."

"Upon that understanding, then, will I consent to go on, Mr. Cameron," returned Fender. "But, you know, it would be far from safe were the world to know that I did this under the circumstances. The safest way, however, is as you say, for these know too much already."

"Then let us have the matter ended at once," continued M'Kenzie, in a tone which betrayed much anxiety.

"Yes," replied Fender; "I am now ready to go on. Shall it be here?"

"Yes," responded Cameron; "in this room." Then he added with a chuckle, "Won't Flora Macgregor feel rather surprised when she sees Ned Gordon, who has been her champion once or twice already, lying unable to help her or even himself?"

"Better, I suppose," said Fender, "to allow the documents attesting the marriages to be made out after they have taken place?"

"By all means. Now, M'Kenzie, we shall go for the women."

As he spoke, Cameron strode to the door, followed by M'Kenzie. It was evident that Fender felt ill at ease alone with Mr. Blaikie, bound and speechless as the old man now was, for he strode to the window and gazed out, never allowing his face to turn in the direction in which the two men lay.

But two minutes had not elapsed when Cameron and Ian again entered the room, bringing with them Flora Macgregor and Anne McLeod.

Both women looked sad, and the time of agony through which they had passed had left its marks upon their faces. Traces of tears still lingered upon them, and sobs and sighs heaved up from their breasts. Both started when they saw Gordon and the old man lying bound, for they at once recognized the Lowlander, who had by this time recovered consciousness, and lay looking pitifully at the helpless women, and evidently writhing under the strong feelings which raged within him.

Anne McLeod appeared more composed than Flora, and stood calmly awaiting the pleasure of her persecutors; but her companion, suddenly springing forward, flung herself at Fender's feet, and made a passionate appeal to him to refuse to do the wicked deed which he was about to perform. But it was useless; with a brutal oath Cameron seized her hand in that of M'Kenzie, turned and locked the room door. Then motioning to Fender to go forward, he told him to proceed at once, and let them be off. Stepping forward, then, Mr. Fender drew from his pocket a small Testament—infamous villain, to claim the authority of such a book in the performance of such a deed—and, with a preliminary cough, proceeded to commence the ceremony of declaring Flora Macgregor and Ian M'Kenzie man and wife.

MANUFACTURE OF COCOA.—"We will now give an account of the process adopted by Messrs. James Epps & Co., manufacturers of dietetic articles, at their works in the Euston Road, London."—See article in Cassell's Household Guide.

SUICIDE NEAR AURORA.—Mrs. Gorman committed suicide by hanging herself to the limb of a tree, on Wednesday night, on the farm of Mr. Smith, second concession of King, near Aurora, cause temporary insanity.

THE HAMILTON MAYORALTY PROTEST.—Judge Ambrose gave judgment at Hamilton, on Monday, in the Mayorality protest case. The Judge decided that the Mayor had been duly elected.

The consecration of Bishop Crinon for the Diocese of Hamilton takes place on Sunday, the 19th inst., at Stratford, his present residence.



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GEORGE JEFFREY, WYNDHAM STREET, GUELPH,

Has just received the first of his Spring Importations per steamship Corinthian, consisting of

- 3 Cases plain Dress Goods ; 1 case Plain Silks, all new colors ;
2 " Striped Dress Goods, something new ; 1 case Striped Silks, cheapest goods in town.

ALSO, A BEAUTIFUL ASSORTMENT OF

Real Thread Laces and French Kid Gloves from the best makers in the World

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AT THE LION

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We have just received the latest styles of American lasts. Repairing done as usual.

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Guelph, Feb. 9, 1874.

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GUELPH TEA DEPOT

E. O'DONNELL & Co.

Are putting up to-day

- 320 caddies best dollar Young Hyson Tea for 80c. per lb.
600 caddies of the best 75 cent Tea for 50c per lb.
95 caddies of nice Sweet Tea at 40c per lb.
120 caddies of Japan Tea worth 75c, for 50c.
A few packages of Black Tea for 35c per lb.
10 hogsheads of Good Bright Sugar, 12lb. for \$1.
50 Ingersoll Cheese, very choice.

A very large stock of Groceries of all kinds always on hand Cheap.

Terms—Strictly Cash.

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In the Latest English and American Styles.

OUR DRESS DEPARTMENT

Contains everything New and Fashionable for the season, in Plain and Fancy Dress Goods, Silks, &c. &c., and Ladies will find no difficulty in getting suited. Full stock of Dress Trimmings, Dress Buttons, etc., to match materials always on hand. We will exhibit in a few days in our Mantle Department everything new for the season.

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