#### HELEN MOIR

LOVE AND HONOUR.

A TALE OF THE CLYDE.

CHAPTER XXX.

GLOAMING BY PHE RIVER—THE BATTLE OF STEICH ERX.

Ritchie followed Edwin, who was walking towards some rising ground to the left, from which a view of the plain could be had, and of the ground towards hights. Here the youth stationed himself, and proceeded to take a deliberate survey of the seene.

His gaze rivetted itself on a steep ravin at the base of the Speichern heights, and near to the position of the French.

"I should like to make my way up yonder ravine, Ritchie," he said at length "Under that steep rocky slopes I shall be safe from the firing on both sides, and from behind a crag I may obtain a near view of the battle; but I have no right to take you so near the seene of danger, and you can remain—"

"I'll dae naes ic thing, Maister Edwin," cried Ritchie quieldy. "Fll gang where ye gang, sae never mention it."

"Very well, let us make our way, up the broken ground before us. Ha, the firing is growing earnest."

The artillery had suddenly oponed, and the terrific roar of battle was fairly begun. Motioning to Ritchie to move foreward, they went at a quick pace; they made a detour to the left, and, under cover of a large stretching row of wooded knolls, they succeeded in reaching the brink of the ravine, and found it even deeper than in the distance it appeared. A small stream ran down over the rock at the bottom, and broken footpaths winded round the rocks and crags which composed its side.

It was a strange sensation to climb the steep slopes of that solitary place, hearing the roar of the terrible strife, but seeing nothing of it. Ere long, however, the place would doubtless be taken possession of by one side or the other, and they hastened on to gain a point which commanded a view of the field.

"I wish we mayma be as far as it's pradent tae gae," remarked Ritchie, when they had ascended the ravine to a considerable distance, and the sound of the French firing in front seemed to come clear and distinct, as if close at hand.

"I believe you are right," returned Edwin: "but I was making f

and ever, as they clambered to the top of the slope, the roar of the strife rose with mighter volume on their car, and the Bable of sound grew terrific. It had no intermission now—no intervals of cessation—but rolled to and fro with unbroken though unequal din, and the air grew heavy with sulphurous smoke which hung in the sky like a canopy of gloom.

"Tak' tent, Maister Allerton," contimited Ritchie, as they neared the brow of the ravine; I hae heard several balls rattlin' amang the leaves, no far aff. Dinna be owre rash in exposein' yersell."

This recommendation was not unnecessary, for Edwin was pressing eagerly up the zteep, and might at any moment get exposed to the skirt of the iron shower that was diving so thickly in the vicinity, or even become a target for the marksmen on both sides. He listened to Ritchie's advice, and, Iving down flat on his face, crept in this position to the edge of the ravine, closely followed in the same fashion by his companion.

The scene that burst upon them there was tremendous and appalling, yet fascinating. The Prussians had crossed the plain in face of the fire that was directed on them from the heights, and were preparing to charge the heights themselves.

"My God, it is madness to attempt that!" shouted Edwin, in the horror of his astonishmenf. "Von Goben is insamely insuring the destruction of his army, See—oh see how the men fall before that munderous fire."

Ritchie lay and looked, but said nothing, the spectacle was to him so overwhelming. The flashing of the guns and rilles, the blaze of the mitraillenses, the deafening thunder, the lurid smoke through which hundreds were seen to fall and writhe in death-agony, presented a combination of sights and sounds which to a reflecting mind were beyond expression dreadful.

"God help us a'; hell ijsell canna match that," he at length ejeculated.

"Dat tis madness, I say," persisted Edwin. "The slopes of the Alma were nothing to these," rejoined Edwin. "In lay and the bartle of Speichern. At first the fortune of the day was

beights.

Edwin and Ritchie remained in the ravine till darkness had set in. They could not quit their station, for the firing still continued, and though its flereness was carried more into the distance, it was sufficiently near to render locomotion dangerous. And when, night having fairly settled down, they resolved to leave the spot in which they had been enseoned for hours, there was not light enough by which they could descend the winding paths of the gorge; they had, therefore, to scramble down the rocks into the plain, which, fortunately, they did in safety.

But, having got there, they knew not

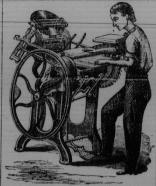
plain, which, fortunately, they did in safety.

But, having got there, they knew not where further to go. They knew nothing of the position of the Fruesian army, and to wander in search of it in the dark and over the reeking battlefied, strewn with the wounded and the dead, was not only hopeless, but too dreadful to think of: so they made their way as best they could to the village of Saarbruck, and, having with difficulty procured some provisions to satisfy their hunger, and with still greater difficulty found a place of lodging for the night, they threw themselves on the coulcr they had procured, and endured the most feverish and troubled sleep either of them had ever experienced.

It was late when they awoke, and one thought was of Herman and the procured of the most force of the mids of both at once. This coamon thought was of Herman and the procured of the most feverish and troubled sleep either of them had ever experienced.

Continued cr. 11 page.

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