

The Rival Clansmen:

A Scottish Vendetta.

CHAPTER IX.

FLIGHT OF FLORA—A SORROWING MOTHER—

OVERHAUN BY IAN.

"But, oh! cruel fate, I feel an overwhelming sense of weariness and languor stealing over me, and I much fear when my eyelids close in sleep I shall have taken my last look on earth, and sky. And not of these only. These, too, oh my darling child will I have you to desert! I cannot do that. I cannot die and leave you here, perchance to perish. Alas! though I were assured you were to live, I fear to leave you battle with life alone, and I will not do so; mother and daughter will die together."

"Would—Heaven forgive the deed? Alas! I cannot answer. I doubt it much, and yet how much easier would it be for me to die than to know that you were done with the world. And die I must. It will be a mercy for the child; and yet surely Heaven had another purpose in view, else why create it?"

"My brain is reeling; surely I am on the verge of madness. Heaven forgive me. How, how am I to act? Who, who will guide and direct me?"

Again she clasped the child tightly in her arms and strained it to her breast. While the deep sobs that escaped her told of the agony which was disturbing her heart.

The sun had now descended behind the western hills, and in the darkness which was closing around Flora had succeeded in leaving her place of concealment, and had approached quite close to the stranger without the latter being at all aware of her presence.

When, therefore, in the agony of spirit the poor girl had wailed out, "Who will guide and direct me?" she was startled to hear the reply from some one beside her—

"With God's help, I will."

She sprang to her feet, as she exclaimed—

"You, who are you?"

"A sorrowful girl, like yourself."

But the poor feeble girl was so weak that she did not stand, and she again sank to the ground, exclaiming as she did so—

"Oh, that I had sooner had your sympathy, and heard your kindly voice."

Sympathetic tears dimmed our heroine's eyes as she knelt down beside the unfortunate mother, and taking the child which had now awakened, in her arms, said—

"Here, my dear girl, is some food for you. I have been a listener to your soliloquy. I hope you will excuse me, but I was afraid to show myself until I was certain I had nothing in some respects similar to, yet differing from, your own. I am flying from those who ought to be my friends, and am afraid that I may fall into their hands. They wish to force me into an unholy union with a man I cannot love, knowing well that I am pledged to one whom I do love, and whom they hold prisoner. Excepting him I am without a friend in the world, and it is not yet many hours since I, too, looked on death as the only deliverance I could find from my sufferings and my trials."

But I reasoned thus, that death was preferable to dishonor, and that I would rather die than be dishonored; but so long as I was able to avoid that issue I would struggle to my utmost with adversity. If I can inspire strength and confidence enough into you to do the same, I shall be happy."

It was a pleasing sight, and reward enough to Flora to see the look of gratitude which shot across the face of her companion as she listened to her last words.

"Thank God for sending you to me," she murmured. "Encouraged and strengthened, I may yet struggle on."

She swallowed a portion of the food which Flora handed her, and after our heroine had descended to the side of the stream with her, where she quenched her thirst, she pronounced herself much invigorated both in body and mind; for, hungry, exhausted and despairing, she had struggled to this spot to lay herself down and die, and here the temptation had come upon her to deprive of life the sweet child which now nestled in Flora's bosom.

Strange, is it not, that these two poor weak girls should so strengthen each other? But it is, nevertheless, the exhibition of a phase of human nature for which we poor human mortals ought above all else to thank God. Without sympathy men and women would be useless. There is in every heart deeply implanted a strong yearning for the approbation, the good wishes of our fellows. When we are fortunate, we have it in the shape of applause and flattery; when in adversity, it is condolence and pity; and he or she who withholds commendation from those who are deservingly successful, or pity from those in distress, is lacking in obedience that divine of all commandments—"Do ye unto others even as ye would that others should do unto you."

Flora now determined that she would not go forward on her journey until her newly found companion should be able to accompany her. She knew the danger to which it exposed her, and the additional risk that Hector was likely to run by the delay, but she could not find it in her heart to desert this poor creature—the more especially as she already believed that she was aware of her identity.

"Will you accompany me to Castle M'Leod when you are able?" she asked.

"I will go with you anywhere," was the reply of the grateful girl.

"Then we will remain here until you feel strong enough to move," said Flora.

"My little stock of provisions will start us to-morrow, and before night I think I will be able to procure something else. I brought some money with me, and if we meet a kind-hearted shepherd we may be able to obtain some food from him for the rest of our journey."

Her companion was silent.

After a few seconds she looked up and said—

"I suppose you heard all I said to myself before you came to me?"

"Yes."

"Then you understand somewhat of the trouble which I have to bear up against? Before heaven I swear I am a married woman, though I can give no proof at present, and my husband has deserted me."

"Tell me," said Flora, looking steadily at her, "is your name Jeannie Gordon?"

The other started, and a look of amazement crossed her face.

"James Epps & Co., Homeopathic Chemists, London."

BREAKFAST.—Epps's Cocoa, GRATEFUL AND COMFORTING. "By a thorough knowledge of the natural laws which govern the operations of digestion and nutrition, and by a careful application of the fine properties of well-selected cocoa, Mr. Epps has provided our tables with a delicately flavoured beverage which may save us many heavy doctors' bills."

—Civil Service Gazette. Made simply with boiling water for milk. Each packet is labelled—James Epps & Co., Homeopathic Chemists, London."

STeam saw-mill for sale.—On the west corner of Lot 40, Con. 3, Minto, known as Lemon & Wright's Sawmill. The mill is in good running order, machinery new. There is a good supply of water on the premises. The log yard contains four acres, and is well situated on good rolling ground, and in the midst of a well timbered section of country; about eight miles from Harrison, six from Palmerston, and six miles from Fordwich, a station of the T. G. & B. R. in the centre of Howick. For terms and particulars, apply to John Livingston, Harrison, or by letter to Mr. W. J. Paterson, Agent, Guelph.

VALUABLE FARM FOR SALE. The farm occupied by the late James Forster, being the southeast half of lot No. 7, in the 3rd concession of Eramosa, 100 acres, 60 cleared, the remainder good hard wood, chiefly beech and maple. There is a nursery of choice fruit trees ready for transplanting, and an ever-falling spring well. The buildings consist of a frame house, a large frame barn, shed and stable, with other useful buildings. This property is situated two miles from the village of Rockwood, and six from Guelph. For further particulars apply on the premises, or by letter to Rockwood P.O. —MRS. JAMES FORSTER. Aug 27, 1873.

WILLIAM LEMON, ISAAC WRIGHT. Minto, Aug. 24th, 1873.



Great Clearing Sale of Fancy and Staple Dry Goods for Thirty Days AT GEORGE JEFFREY'S, WYNDHAM STREET, GUELPH.

George Jeffrey will commence his Great Annual Sale, on THURSDAY, the 27th NOVEMBER, when he will offer the whole of his extensive stock at such prices as will ensure a speedy clearance. Also, a wholesale stock of New and Fashionable Dress Goods at less than manufacturer's prices. Over 8000 yards new Serges, all new colors, at 20 cents a yard, worth from 45 to 50 cents. Over 6000 yards new Striped Serges 25 cents, usual price 50 to 55 cents. French Merinos will be sold equally low, and the balance of our Fancy French Dress Goods at much less than regular prices. FURS, FURS! Just to hand another lot of those Furs which have created so much excitement, equally low. Come at once and get a good choice. Millinery and Mantles! The balance of this department will be cleared out regardless of cost. This great sale is called several weeks earlier in order to give our customers the benefit of New Goods at a seasonable time. The stock of FANCY GOODS is the largest in the Province, so that parties in want of Christmas presents will do well to call at once as the entire stock will be reduced in price. Every Lady in Guelph and surrounding country should visit this Establishment during the sale and judge themselves.

All Goods charged During the Sale will be at the Regular Prices.

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Store Crowded from Monday morn till Saturday night.

SECOND ARRIVAL OF NEW GOODS!

50 Cases and Bales New Goods JUST RECEIVED!

150 pieces of that noted Cheap Wincey at 12½c; 200 pieces of Horrock's White Cottons at 10c.

The cheapest Goods and Most Fashionable Goods is to be seen at the Golden Lion.

New Millinery Hats and Bonnets, New Dress Goods, New Stripe Shawls, 250 sets Furs, 5 bales Buffalo Robes, 20 bales Cotton Bags.

READY-MADE CLOTHING,

The Largest and Cheapest Stock in Guelph.

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100 boxes new Valencia Raisins, first of the season; 75 splendid Ingersol Cheese, 10 hhds of Good Sugar at 13lb. for \$1. 10 sacks best Mocha Coffee, 15 sacks of the Finest Java Coffee, 18 sacks of the best Rio Coffee at 30c.

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600 Caddies of the Best Dollar Green Tea for 80c., in any quantity.

A few Packages of very fine Black and Japan Tea for 75 cents per lb. 500 Barrels of the Best Salt at \$1.20 per barrel.

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IS NOW

IN FULL OPERATION

affording an opportunity to intending purchasers of inspecting the construction of these celebrated instruments. All new Instruments

Warranted for Six Years; Tuned (if in town) free for one year. Second hand taken in exchange or repaired.

TUNING ATTENDED TO PROMPTLY. Prices lower than any imported, and quality and finish unsurpassed. Show Rooms and Office,

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G. B. FRASER,

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Two doors above the Wellington Hotel.

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While thanking the public generally for their liberal patronage heretofore bestowed upon him, would respectfully inform them that he is still prepared to supply them with all kinds of

Biscuits, Pastry, Bride's Cakes, Confectionery,

OF EVERY DESCRIPTION.

Bread, plain and fancy, always on hand and delivered. W. J. LITTLE, Guelph, Oct. 17, 1873.

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Previous to alteration of premises, we will allow

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FRUITS, &c.

New Raisins, New Currants, Fresh Fancy Biscuits, Choice Smoking Tobaccos, Sugars broken loaf and ground, Rice, Oatmeal, &c.

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Guelph, Oct. 11, 1873

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