

The Rival Clansmen:

A Scottish Vendetta.

CHAPTER I.

THE VOW TAKEN—"COMING EVENTS CAST THEIR SHADOWS BEFORE."

"It is a dreadful night," muttered the young man, shrugging his shoulders and glancing furtively round the room.

When he again turned his attention to his father, the old man was in the act of raising himself to a sitting posture, and with Ian's assistance was able to attain to his position.

When he had recovered his breath after the exertion, he again turned to his companion and said—

"Ian, have you made up your mind?" There was an awe-inspiring earnestness in his tone, his gesture, and his looks.

The young man reddened to the temples, and appeared confused. Turning to the old man, he said, with evident effort and agitated voice—

"Father, do not press that upon me; do not ask me to make a vow. I shall endeavour to meet him in fair fight, and if I can, then I will avenge my brother's death; but to do cold-blooded murder shocks me."

A stern expression took possession of the chieftain's features, and a wild light gleamed in his eyes as he bent them fiercely upon his son and exclaimed—

"And this—is this the result of my care. What for did I tell you when you were but a boy of the fends between the McKenzies and the McLeods—the chivalrous daring of the former, and the mean, contemptible cowardliness of the latter? What for did I rehearse to you the ballads of our clansmen, telling of the victories we had gained over them, and of the interminable nature of the feud? What for did I tell you of the hatred which every McKenzie bore to the McLeods because of the clansmen and chieftains they have caused us to lose? I tried to inspire into you the true spirit of the McKenzies; have I failed? Surely not. Bitter, bitter was the feud between us before, but when the hand of a McLeod slew my son Ransald, your brother, then did the enmity become overpowering—then was my rage terrible—then did I swear that every son of the McLeods should die by my hand or by the hand of my kinsmen. My claymore has already drunk the blood of three of his four sons; one yet remains, and death by the hand of a McKenzie must be his fate. I cannot do it; the duty devolves on you, and do it you must. Tell me, Ian, do you wear a sword?"

But a spasm of mortal agony seemed to shoot through the frame of the old chieftain, stopping his utterance, contorting his features, and causing him again to fall back upon the straw.

The young man hurriedly placed a flask containing some kind of liquor to his lips, a portion of which he eagerly swallowed. Then he continued in a broken voice—

"Ian, why do you not answer? Swear that you will have the life of Hector McLeod, and let me die content. If you do not, I vow that I shall haunt you night and day throughout your existence, and upbraid you for your cowardice."

Ian trembled, and a hot flush suffused his cheeks.

"Father, why talk of cowardice to one whom you know to be no coward? I do not require to tell you to-day that the name is not applicable to me. You speak of haunting me; oh, why would you torture me thus? Why force upon me an obligation the fulfilment of which can neither benefit you nor me? To meet Hector McLeod in fair fight and run my claymore through him would, I repeat, give me no trouble—nay, even though I provoked him to fight; but to take an oath that I will have his life, and to prowl about after him, a man whom I have never seen—as a wolf dogging his prey—is what my soul, my honour, revolts from. You have already avenged Ransald's death, and why thirst for more blood?"

"I thirst not for more blood, but my oath shall be kept," replied the old man. Then he continued—"A coward you are. The day has been when I looked on you with pride, but since you have been in the lowlands I find you have been changed into a simple boy. I might have expected as much, but now there is enough of it. Go, leave me, cowardly wretch; I can die better alone than with such as you beside me to stifle the air with your foul breath. Go forth and seek your fortune, but marvel not, although you fail to find it, for your father's curse shall accompany you, go where you will. But to-night, frail and feeble as I am, will I go forth as the avenger of my dead son, and, alas! my only son. Oh, that I had but Gregor McDonald here to speak with me. He would give me assurance even yet."

These words were spoken with so much wild vehemence, and accompanied the old man with such a look of stern determination, that Ian was startled and astounded. But his astonishment was increased when he saw his father actually prepare to rise from the pallet on which he was lying, for the purpose of donning his clothes and going forth.

"Father, this is madness. You are unable even to walk in such a night. The wind would dash you to the bottom of the glen before you had advanced a dozen paces."

"Hector McLeod must die by the hand of a McKenzie; that alone will content me. Will you promise to do it—will you swear to do it?"

"I'll give you a few seconds to decide my answer."

"Fool, give you seconds to prepare your answer. Why should you require it? Think you that you have not suffered by the McKenzies? Where are the Leods of the first McKenzie who crossed swords with McLeod? They now belong to my enemies, the McLeods. Where is the house in which I was born—in which you were born? Burned, and by the McLeods. What caused your mother to take to the bed whence she never rose? A fray between the McLeods and the McKenzies. By the sword of my clansmen, think ye that time is required for an answer? Answer me at once—Do you swear to have the life of Hector McLeod; and more, to wage war for ever against the accursed race?"

It was evident that Ian was labouring under strong feelings. His breath came thick and fast, and his lips all indicated a severe internal struggle. His father gazed earnestly at him to see the effect of the words he had just spoken. The result seemed to please him, for an expression of satisfaction crossed his features as he again lay back on the straw.

CHOLERA is scourging the capital of Spain. Latest accounts from there, to August 22nd, are to the effect that the population has been decimated by the dreadful disease. The panic prevailing was intense. The living had shut themselves up in their houses, not daring to stir out; the courts were closed, the markets deserted, and business generally stopped. To the horrors of the situation thus far, there is likely to be added, as the city of any kind is being brought to the city.

Grand Display of New Dry Goods

AT GEORGE JEFFREY'S.

The Proprietor has pleasure in announcing the arrival of this immense stock of



FANCY AND STAPLE DRY GOODS

Which will be found very attractive, embracing all the latest novelties in English, French and American Goods, as well as a choice selection of Canadian Manufacture.

Parties Visiting the Exhibition should Call and Examine this Stock

Before leaving Town, as it is the Largest and Best Selected ever brought into Guelph.

GEORGE JEFFREY, GUELPH

The Cheapest House in the Dominion for Fancy and Staple Dry Goods.



A MONSTER STOCK FROM EUROPE!

227 CASES AND BALES OF

NEW FALL AND WINTER DRY GOODS!

Ex-Steamships Corinthian, Manitoban, Prussian, and St. Patrick.

The Largest Display of Dry Goods ever shown in Guelph!

An assortment unequalled by any Retail Establishment in Ontario. A monster stock bought for cash.

HEFFERNAN BROTHERS

Beg to announce that their stock of goods for the Fall and Winter Trade is now complete in every Department. Our importations which are unusually heavy this season, have been carefully selected by Mr. Thomas Heffernan, who has just returned from Europe, where he has purchased extensively from the leading manufacturers of Great Britain and Ireland, France and Germany. DRESS GOODS — We direct particular attention to our display of Dress Goods, which for quantity, quality, and price surpasses anything ever before seen in Guelph. Over one thousand SHAWLS — We are prepared to show over one thousand Shawls of every variety, pattern and color. English Cloths, Scotch and Canadian Tweeds, Gents Furnishings. We show more goods in this department than any three houses in Guelph, and we sell a better Tweed at 75c. per yard than can be had at any other establishment at one dollar. In Ready-Made Clothing, Carpets, Blankets and General House Furnishings, our stock is simply immense, completely overshadowing the pretensions of other houses. MILLINERY & MANTLES — Our Show Rooms will be open during the week of the Exhibition. Everything that is novel and fashionable can be seen. Pattern Bonnets, Hats and Jackets direct from Paris, London and New York.

Noted for Cheap Dry Goods.

(Guelph, Sept. 13, 1873.)

HEFFERNAN BROTHERS.

GENT'S NEW FURNISHING STORE

IN GUELPH

WM. ANDERSON

Begs to intimate that he will open on Saturday, the 13th inst., in the premises

Adjoining Pringle's Jewellery Store.



A large, varied and choice assortment of Gents' Furnishing Goods, including a full range of Perfect Fitting Shirts in all sizes and prices, warranted to give complete satisfaction.

Fancy and Plain Flannels, cheap Shirts in cotton, winsey, and plain and fancy. Bows and Ties, a large choice. Scarfs in all the latest styles. Collars in all the new shapes, in linen and paper. Cuffs, new shapes, in linen and paper. Underclothing, a large assortment. Socks, in Lamb's wool, merino and cotton, plain and fancy.

Also, a choice stock of Ladies' Hosiery and Kid Gloves—the two button Kid from 75c. per pair. Hosiery in all the new colors—Claret, Brown, Greys, scarlet, White, Black.

WM. ANDERSON

Guelph, Sept. 9, 1873.

New Clothing Store.

THE ELEPHANT ARRIVED

On Wednesday, Sept. 3rd.

C. E. PEIRCE & CO.

Have great pleasure in stating that they have secured those splendid premises at present occupied by Hepburn & Co., and will open them about the 13th of September with an entirely new stock of

READY-MADE CLOTHING

and Gentlemen's Fur and Fishing Goods.

These Goods will be offered at such prices as will make them be sold.

Mechanics and Farmers, wait for the New Store—You will save Money.

Further particulars in a few days.

C. E. PEIRCE & CO.

GUELPH, Aug. 1873

Co-Operative Store.

The Stock of Fall and Winter Clothing

(formerly owned by Mr. Galloway)

WILL BE SOLD AT THE FIRST COST.

Men's Wool Pants \$2.50, former price \$4.00

Vests 1.50, " 2.25

Coats 5.00, " 7.25

Suits 10.00, " 15.00

Boys' Wool Suits 6.00, " 8.50

The Stock of Hats and Caps

From Seaforth will be sold for one half the usual retail prices.

J. C. JACKLIN & Co.

GUELPH, Sept. 6, 1873.

HART & SPEIRS,

Conveyancers, Land, Loan, Insurance and General Agents,

4 Day's Block, Guelph

In reference to the above, Wm. Hart begs to inform his friends and the public that he has entered into partnership with Mr. Jas. S. Speirs in the above business, and while expressing his grateful acknowledgments for the liberal share of patronage bestowed upon him for the past three years, would respectfully solicit a continuance of the same to the new firm.

All business entrusted to us will receive prompt and strict attention.

Deeds, Mortgages, Wills, Leases, &c., &c.

neatly and correctly prepared. MONEY always on hand in sums to suit borrowers, on mortgages or good personal security. No delay or extravagant charges. Our list of Town and Farm Property is large and varied, and parties in want of real estate of any kind should call on us before purchasing elsewhere.

Agents for the Commercial Union Assurance Company of London, England.

HART & SPEIRS,

Mv14-dw Day Block Guelph, Ont.

SPRING AND SUMMER, 1873.

POWELL'S

BOOT SHOE STORE

Call and examine my new stock of

LADIES', GENTS' & CHILDRENS

Boots and Shoes,

Which for moderate prices, style and workmanship, can be surpassed in the town.

Particular attention paid to

Custom Work and Repairing.

West side Wyndham Street, Guelph.

Guelph, April 8th, 1873 dw

FANCY GOODS

AND

Variety Store,

UPPER WYNDHAM STREET,

Next to the Wellington Hotel.

All kinds of Fancy Goods

BERLIN WOOLS,

Constantly on hand.

All orders promptly attended to.

MRS. WRIGHT,

Guelph July 4, 1873. dw

J. MARRIOTT,

Veterinary Surgeon,

M.R.C.V.S., L., H.P.V.M.A., having arrived in Guelph from England, and taken up his residence here, intends continuing the practice of his profession. Orders left at the Mercury Office, or at H. A. Kirkland's, Paisley Street, opposite Howard's new foundry, will be promptly attended to.

Having had great experience in all diseases of Horses and Cattle, all cases placed under his treatment will receive the greatest attention. Charges moderate. oldway

E. A. A. GRANGE,

Veterinary Surgeon

Graduate Ontario Veterinary College.

Office—No. 6, DAY'S BLOCK, UPSTAIRS.

All calls at night will be attended to by call-office.

N.B.—Horses bought and sold on commission.

May 17, 73, oldway.

RICH^d. CLAYTON.

THE CASH STORE

UPPER WYNDHAM STREET, GUELPH.

R. C. has great pleasure in informing the inhabitants of Guelph and surrounding country that he has just returned from Europe with a complete assortment of

NEW DRY GOODS

CONSISTING OF

Silks, Shawls, Mantles, Millinery

Flowers, Feathers, Ribbons, Laces,

Dresses in all the New Fabrics,

And all the new colors; Hosiery, Gloves, Cloths, etc., all of which he is determined to sell at the smallest living profit.

R. C. will be prepared to show on TUESDAY FIRST and following days the contents of

Over 100 Cases of Goods!

Bought direct from the Manufacturers at the lowest cash prices. He has therefore every confidence in calling the attention of all intending purchasers to the following

LIST OF PRICES:

In the Dress Department—27in Heavy Winseys at 11c per yard; Real Aberdeen do. from 15 cents; New washing Camlets in plain and fancy from 12c; New Crossian Cloths from 12c; Plain and Figured Lustres from 12c. French Merinoes, Frills, Lustres, Repps, Serges, Sultana Cords, Crapes, Maritimes, and Balmoral Crapes in all the newest shades at Clayton's Cash Store.

In the Heavy Department—Scarlet and White Flannels from 50c; Prints from 8c; A B Cottons from 8c; Good 3/4in White Cottons from 12c. Quilts, Sheetings, Towellings, Hollands, Blankets, Lace Curtains, &c., &c. at Clayton's Cash Store.

The Fancy Department is replete with all the Novelties of the Season at Clayton's Cash Store.

R. C. has secured the services of a first-class Cutter from one of the best Houses in New York, and any one favoring him with their orders may rely on obtaining a perfect fit at Clayton's Cash Store.

A large assortment of Ready-made Clothing always on hand at Clayton's Cash Store.

Upper Wyndham Street, Guelph.

2 DAY'S BLOCK.

Just to Hand, a fresh supply of

JUDD'S

Celebrated Pressed ROSE SOAP!

J. E. McELDERRY,

2 DAY'S BLOCK.

THE NOTED TEA HOUSE.

PLUGS.

Just received, a quantity of the celebrated

Gray Ploughs,

From Scotland, manufactured by Gray & Uddington, near Glasgow.

THE PORTER, ONTARIO & VICTOR

Steel board Ploughs; also some cheap Cast Board Ploughs on hand. Prices from \$7.50 to \$30.

A good assortment of Stoves and Tinware for sale cheap.

W. HEATHER,

Corner Wainwright-st. and Bramosa Road, Guelph, 2nd April 1873. dw

THE TRIUMPH WASHING MACHINE.

—We have manufactured it over

four years; has

proved a perfect

success. Persons

will do well to test

our Washer before

buying any other; they are simple, strong and durable, and will save clothing, strength, time, health and hands. You can fasten on a wringer and do the whole work—washing, ironing, wringing, &c. Theobald Fenwick, dealer in St. V. Furniture, &c., Quebec-st., Guelph, Agents. Address Isaac Erb & Son, inventors, 40, 42, 44, 46, 48, 50, 52, 54, 56, 58, 60, 62, 64, 66, 68, 70, 72, 74, 76, 78, 80, 82, 84, 86, 88, 90, 92, 94, 96, 98, 100, 102, 104, 106, 108, 110, 112, 114, 116, 118, 120, 122, 124, 126, 128, 130, 132, 134, 136, 138, 140, 142, 144, 146, 148, 150, 152, 154, 156, 158, 160, 162, 164, 166, 168, 170, 172, 174, 176, 178, 180, 182, 184, 186, 188, 190, 192, 194, 196, 198, 200, 202, 204, 206, 208, 210, 212, 214, 216, 218, 220, 222, 224, 226, 228, 230, 232, 234, 236, 238, 240, 242, 244, 246, 248, 250, 252, 254, 256, 258, 260, 262, 264, 266, 268, 270, 272, 274, 276, 278, 280, 282, 284, 286, 288, 290, 292, 294, 296, 298, 300, 302, 304, 306, 308, 310, 312, 314, 316, 318, 320, 322, 324, 326, 328, 330, 332, 334, 336, 338, 340, 342, 344, 346, 348, 350, 352, 354, 356, 358, 360, 362, 364, 366, 368, 370, 372, 374, 376, 378, 380, 382, 384, 386, 388, 390, 392, 394, 396, 398, 400, 402, 404, 406, 408, 410, 412, 414, 416, 418, 420, 422, 424, 426, 428, 430, 432, 434, 436, 438, 440, 442, 444, 446, 448, 450, 452, 454, 456, 458, 460, 462, 464, 466, 468, 470, 472, 474, 476, 478, 480, 482, 484, 486, 488, 490, 492, 494, 496, 498, 500, 502, 504, 506, 508, 510, 512, 514, 516, 518, 520, 522, 524, 526, 528, 530, 532, 534, 536, 538, 540, 542, 544, 546, 548, 550, 552, 554, 556, 558, 560, 562, 564, 566, 568, 570, 572, 574, 576, 578, 580, 582, 584, 586, 588, 590, 592, 594, 596, 598, 600, 602, 604, 606, 608, 610, 612, 614, 616, 618, 620, 622, 624, 626, 628, 630, 632, 634, 636, 638, 640, 642, 644, 646, 648, 650, 652, 654, 656, 658, 660, 662, 664, 666, 668, 670, 672, 674, 676, 678, 680, 682, 684, 686, 688, 690, 692, 694, 696, 698, 700, 702, 704, 706, 708, 710, 712, 714, 716, 718, 720, 722, 724, 726, 728, 730, 732, 734, 736, 738, 740, 742, 744, 746, 748, 750, 752, 754, 756, 758, 760, 762, 764, 766, 768, 770, 772, 774, 776, 778, 780, 782, 784, 786, 788, 790, 792, 794, 796, 798, 800, 802, 804, 806, 808, 810, 812, 814, 816, 818, 820, 822, 824, 826, 828, 830, 832, 834, 836, 838, 840, 842, 844, 846, 848, 850, 852, 854, 856, 858, 860, 862, 864, 866, 868, 870, 872, 874, 876, 878, 880, 882, 884, 886, 888, 890, 892,