

Jeannie Sinclair, OR, THE LILY OF THE STRATH.

CHAPTER XXIX. THE MONSTER NUGGET—THE NIGHT WATCH—WATTY'S ADVENTURE WITH A GRIZZLY BEAR—FAREWELL TO THE DIGGINGS.

Night was now at hand, and they made preparations for spending it, as they had spent the previous ones, in the open air.—Hitherto they had been careless and indifferent, but now they were anxious and uneasy, and particularly careful in the selection of a spot on which to encamp.

The night fell in perfect calmness and serenity, but ere the shadows gathered they had chosen a resting-place on a little knoll under a clump of trees near the edge of a vast impenetrable forest, where the growth of underwood seemed such as to defy exploration.

These or the like thoughts occupied the mind of William Denman as he and his companions sat together after supper, and silently and abstractedly contemplated the darkening prospect.

He, too, could now contemplate a joyous return to Strathmae, and his revealing himself there in a new and higher position, to terminate the abused power of Jacob McQuirk, and inaugurate a better state of matters at the Abbey—a place which his glowing imagination transformed into a bright sphere of happiness and harmony.

He was suddenly startled out of his reverie by the voice of Watty.—'Are ye sleepin', Mr Denman. Sleeping, Ned! sleeping at my post! What an insult, and you must apologize for offering it,' replied William with pretended indignation.

'Did I?' laughed Denman. 'Well, I confess my thoughts were running on Ned at the moment you spoke. On my honor, I was not asleep—my senses were both awake and watchful, and I have seen and heard nothing.'

'Say no more, I'm quite ready for a snooze. My notion is, that there is little need for watching at all.'

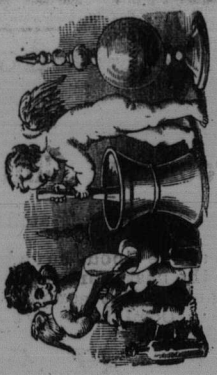
'Bless ye, sir, we dinna ken about that,' said Watty, as he rose up. 'If the diggers binna come into their pairs yet, some o' the devils o' Red Indians may be prowlin' about and they'll be the scent o' fox hounds, and they'll whup the skin aff a man's head afore he can count three. Noo I wadna just like tae gang hame tae Strathmae bauld in the pow, or wearing a wig. My certie Maggie micht lose notion o' me then.'

'That would be a dreadful result, sure enough,' observed William, and forthwith he disposed himself to rest for the night. For a long time Watty sat against the tree wide awake, seeing nothing and hearing only the distant cries of night birds and other animals that haunted the interminable wilds.

As he looked, he became conscious that the eyes were slowly moving nearer him, though he could hear no sound. Straining his vision to its utmost power, he at length discerned a large body gliding stealthily forward along the ground. This made him start in alarm, and the moment he did so there was a low, deep, angry growl.

'Heaven keep us, it's a bear!' muttered Watty. 'I have heard the folk hereawa' speak o' grizzlies, and that's one, as sure as my name is Watty Stewart. What in the world am I tae do! I would wauken the sleepers, but gif I move he'll spring. I can see he has crouched down a ready, and I have nothing but my knife. On the other hand, he may mak' his spring on Maister Robert or Maister Denman, and that wad be far waur.'

1869.



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Reference:—Drs. Clarke & Orton, McQuirk, Herod and McGregor and Cowan, Guelph; Drs Buchanan & Phillips, Toronto; Drs Elliott and Meyers Dentists, Toronto. Teeth extracted without pain Guelph 13th Jan 1869. dwly

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1000 Half Chests NEW CROP TEAS

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Young Hysons and Hysons Hyson Twankays Twankays Imperials Gunpowders

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Early Goodrich Seedlings, at \$1.00 per bushel.

SECURED, A SMALL QUANTITY OF

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Guelph, May 25th. dw

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Old Port Wine, Pale and Dark Sherries, Canadian Grape Wine

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IN WOOD AND BOTTLE, AT

JNO. RISK'S, No. 1, Day's Block.

Guelph, April 23. dw

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