Huron Signal.

"The Greatest Possible Good to the Greatest Possible Number."

VOL. XXX. NO. 23. GODERICH, ONTARIO, WEDNESDAY, JUNE 20, 1877. WHOLE NO. 1583.

The Huron Signal,

(ESTABLISHED 1848,)

One of the Largest Papers published in Canada, Printed and published at Goderich, Ontario, every

WEDNESDAY MORNING,

At the Office, Montreal Street, adjoining the Market Square, by

THE SIGNAL PRINTING Co,

TERMS $1 00 per annum strictly in advance; $1.25 if paid within three months; $1.50 if paid within nine months, and over that time $2.00.

No paper discontinued till all arrears are paid, except at the option of the publisher.

RATES OF ADVERTISING:

Eight cents per line for the first insertion, and [illegible] cents per line for each subsequent insertion.

Local notices, 10 cents per line for each insertion.

Business cards not exceeding 6 lines, $4 per annum, from 6 to 10 lines $5.

The number of lines to be reckoned by the space occupied measured by a scale of solid Nonpareil.

Advertisements without specific directions, will be inserted until forbid, and charged accordingly.

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The above rates will in all cases be strictly adhered to.

Advertisements intended for insertion in any particular issue should reach the office by noon on Tuesday.

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G. C. Shannon M. D. PHYSICIAN, SURGEON, &c., &c., Goderich Ont., will visit patients at any hour, night or day. 1246-1y

DR. McLEAN. PHYSICIAN, SURGEON, CORONER &c., office and residence on Bruce Street second door west of Victoria Street. 1522 1-yr.

Dr. Cassady. McGill College PHYSICIAN, SURGEON, &c., Office, and residence corner South and Elgin Streets, Goderich, Ontario. 1530

ALEX. TAYLOR, M. B. PHYSICIAN AND SURGEON, &c., Office and residence, two door West of the Catholic Church, Goderich, April 11th, 1877. 1573-1y.

Cameron, McFadden & Holt. BARRISTERS, SOLICITORS IN CHANCERY, &c. Office, Market Square, Goderich. M. C. CAMERON, Q.C. W. H. MCFADDEN. F. HOLT.

B. L. DOYLE, BARRISTER AND ATTORNEY, SOLICITOR in Chancery, &c., Goderich and Seaforth, Ont. 1357

G. ELLIOTT, ATTORNEY-AT-LAW, SOLICITOR, IN Chancery, Conveyancer, &c. Crabb's Block, Goderich. MONEY TO LEND. 1372

Seager, Wade & Morton. BARRISTERS, &c., &c., Goderich & Wingham. C. Seager Jr. E. E. Wade, Goderich. J. A. Morton, Wingham.

Squier & McColl. BARRISTERS, ATTORNEYS AT LAW, SOLICITORS in Chancery, Notaries Public, &c., Goderich and Brussels, Ont.

Garrow, Meyer & Radenhurst. BARRISTERS, ATTORNEYS, SOLICITORS, &c. Office, corner Square and Hamilton Street, Goderich and Wingham. J. T. GARROW. G. A. RADENHURST. H. W. G. MEYER, Wingham.

E. CAMPAGNIE. LAW CHANCERY AND CONVEYANCING. Office—Over G. Parsons' Hardware store, Achenil Block, Market Square, Goderich. 1493

E. CAMPION, (LATE OF B. L. DOYLE'S OFFICE) ATTORNEY-AT-LAW, SOLICITOR IN CHANCERY, Conveyancer, &c. OFFICE—Over Lee's store, Market Square, Goderich, Ont. 1586 tf.

S. Malcomson, BARRISTER, ATTORNEY, SOLICITOR, &c. &c., Clinton, Ont. w35 MONEY TO LEND.

REV. C. FLETCHER, ISSUER OF MARRIAGE LICENSES Office, West side of St. Andrew's Street, Goderich 1442-1y

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J. T. DUNCAN, V. S. GRADUATE OF ONTARIO VETERINARY COLLEGE, OFFICE, STABLES & RESIDENCE, St. Andrew's Street, back of D. Ferguson's Store, and directly opposite the residence of Horace Horton, Esq., M. P. N.B.—Horses examined as to soundness. 1313

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PATENTS For inventors expeditiously and properly secured in Canada, the United States and Europe. PATENT Guarantee Bureau—Charge. Send for print, and instructions. Agency in operation ten years. HENRY GRIST, Ottawa, Canada, Chemical Engineer, Solicitor of Patents and Draughtsman. Feb 11th 1871. w-1

E. WOODCOCK, Land Broker, CONVEYANCER AND GENERAL AGENT, MONEY TO LEND At Lowest Rates, OFFICE—Acheson's Block, West Street over the Post Office, Goderich, Ont.

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Made to Order on Short Notice, and repairing done neatly and promptly. Centennial Trunks, Valises and Satchels always kept on hand and sold at prices to suit the times. A well items carriages of every description at Cost Price. Parties wishing to be supplied with wood stock, hemlock lumber, by giving short notice, can have their orders filled. Remember the Carriage Factory, Hamilton Street. C. F. STRAUBEL. Goderich, July 12, 1876. 1534tf

NEW DOMINION BAKERY, on the corner of NORTH STREET, OPPOSITE DEFLOW'S STORE. If you want to get first class BREAD, CAKES, PIES, BISCUIT AND CONFECTIONERY Go to the NEW DOMINION BAKERY. For Oranges, Lemons and all kinds of Fruits in season. Oysters served in every style. Parties supplied on short notice. Wedding cakes made to order. WM. DOCHERTY.

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MONEY TO LEND.

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THE undersigned has any amount of money to loan from two to fifteen years, at a low rate of interest and favourable terms of repayment, payable by yearly instalments; rate of expenses will defy competition.

TRACE HORTON Appraiser for the Canada Permanent Building & Savings Society, of Toronto.

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THE CANADA LANDED CREDIT COMPANY, TORONTO.

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$20,000. PRIVATE FUNDS to lend on Farm and Town property at lowest interest. No wages purchased, no Commission charged, conveyancing fees reasonable. N. B.—Borrowers can obtain money in one day if title satisfactory. DAVISON & JOHNSON, Barristers, &c Goderich 1441-1y

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THE LIVERPOOL & LONDON And Globe Insurance Company.

Available Assets, $27,000,000 Losses paid in the course of Thirty-five years exceed FORTY MILLIONS OF DOLLARS!

Claims by CHICAGO FIRE estimated at nearly $20,000,000, are being liquidated as fast as adjusted without reduction. Security, Prompt Payment, and Liberality in adjustment of its losses are the prominent features of this wealthy company.

FIRE and LIFE POLICIES issued with very liberal conditions. Head Office, Court Street, Montreal. G. F. C. SMITH, President. A. M. ROSS, Secretary. MONTREAL

GODERICH AGENCY OF THE Trust & Loan Company of Canada, Incorporated by Royal Charter. CAPITAL—ONE MILLION POUNDS STERLING.

Funds for Investment. LOANS made on the Security of approved Farm City or Town Property for periods of Five years or to suit the convenience of Borrowers, and either repayable at expiry of time or by annual instalments. Payments in reduction of Loans will be accepted at any time on favorable terms. Approved Mortgages purchased. G. M. TRUEMAN, Agent Market Square, Goderich. 1317

Insurance! Insurance! Insurance!

THE STADACONA FIRE AND LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY is one of the strongest home institutions, having a Capital of $5,000,000 and a deposit with the Dominion Government of $150,000

The terms on which this First Class Company does business are of the most liberal nature and the prompt and equitable manner in which it settles all its claims are sufficient reasons to win for it a foremost position with the public in its line of business. The undersigned has also been appointed Agent for the OTTAWA AGRICULTURAL FIRE Insurance Company, for the County of Huron. This Company has a CAPITAL OF $1,000,000, and a Deposit with the Dominion Government of $50,000.

The class of risk taken by this Company is all non-hazardous, only taking that of farm property and private dwellings, thus offering the public the very best security at the very lowest rates possible to take this class of risk.

The undersigned would give a cordial invitation to all who need insurance of whatever nature, either to call at his residence, on Nelson street, or by letter, as all applications by letter will receive his most prompt attention.

N. B.—Money to loan on the most liberal terms. HUGH MacMATH. 1568-6m Insurance Agent.

SOMETHING NEW.

ROTARY SUCTION PUMP.

A Purifier of Water.

THE BEST WATER-DRAWER EVER PUT IN A WELL OR CISTERN.

Thousands in Daily Use.

THIS INVENTION is an atmospheric or Suction Pump with three Elastic Rubber Buckets or valves working air-tight and round glass in the bottom of the well to the top in a wooden tube, and so connected by a chain as to keep one always in the tube, and throwing an uninterrupted stream of water. It uses a crank or Reel for power.

ADVANTAGES OF THIS PUMP.

1st. Their case of work.
2nd. Throws a constant stream.
3rd. Purifies the water.
4th. No expense for repairs.
5th. Warranted not to freeze.
6th. No stationary valve in the well to get out of order.
7th. A larger quantity of water drawn in proportion to the size of Cylinder than any other pump, and with less power.

WM. DICKSON, Agent Box 147 Goderich, Ont.

Poetry.

Lines

WRITTEN ON THE DEATH OF THE LATE JOHN DUCKHAM.

Gone beyond the darksome river,
Only left us by the way;
Gone beyond the night forever,
Only gone for endless day;
Gone to meet the angels' faces,
Where our lovely treasures are;
Gone awhile from our embraces—
Gone within the "gates ajar."

He has only gone before us,
Left us like the morning dew;
But we know he's watching o'er us,
Waiting for the good and true.
He is waiting for us only,
Where no pain can ever mar;
Our dear friend who left us lonely
Beckons through the "gates ajar,"

Gone where every eye is tearless—
Only gone from earthly care.
Oh, the waiting, sad and cheerless,
Till we meet our loved one there;
Sweet the rest from all our roving—
Land of hope and hope afar;
Lo! our Father's hand so loving
Set the pearly "gates ajar."

C. G. N.

London, Ont., June 14th.

A Noble Deed.

[From the German of Lichtwer.]

An aged father, rich in store
That years of honest toil had gained,
Divided 'twixt three sons his wealth,
But said that one thing yet remained.

"A diamond ring; and it shall fall
To him who shall, to gain the prize,
The noblest, worthiest deed perform,
A deed of valor, good and wise."

The sons departed, different ways,
Determined each the prize to earn!
Three months gone by they came again,
And to their father spake in turn.

The eldest said: "A treasure vast
A stranger in my keeping left,
No witness saw, yet I returned
The treasure, nor once dreamed of theft.

"Was not the deed a noble one?"
"Your course was only just, my son,"
Replied the father, "shame to him
Who any otherwise had done.

"Tis duty to be honest; we
Are so commanded, nor should plead
Merit for obedience. You performed
A righteous, not a noble deed."

The second spake: "I saw my chance,
As I was journeying on the strand,
A poor young child sink 'neath the wave
I plunged and drew him safe to land.

"I periled life to save the child;
Was not the action noble?" "No,"
The old man said, "you but achieved
The duty we to all men owe."

Then spake the youngest son and said:
"I saw mine enemy asleep
Upon the trembling, caving brink
Of an abysm, dark and deep.

"His life was in my hand; I sprang
And drew him from the fatal spot."
"A worthy deed!" the father cried,
"The ring is thine, my boy, for what
Can be more noble than to do
Good unto him that wrongeth you?"

Mayhew, the Millspinner,

OR,

THE STOLEN WILL,

'No use, Annie, no use,' he groaned, 'I'm doomed, I'm past all hope; no man has sunk so far as I have, and got up again. Besides, my girl, it is you, only you, who would stick to me in my degradation, because I am your father, though God knows I have been the worst father ever a daughter had. As for Lawrence Mayhew, he's a good lad, but he has only his father to look to, and when it comes to taking you at the risk of being cast off by him, anyone will know what course he'll take; and after all, Annie, neither you nor I can blame him, only it gives you the greater cause to curse me, for I have done it all.

'Hush, father. Only have faith and hope, and the past may be all overcome and forgotten. I have news for you—important news. Lawrence has not given me up, and he wishes us to be married now—immediately.'

In the extremity of his amazement he raised himself up and gazed on her in silence.

'Are—are you joking, Annie!' he at length asked.

'No, father, indeed I am not. It is true—quite true.'

'And his father—does he know?'

'Yes.'

'He does, and Varley Mayhew consents to this?'

'No, alas! he forbids it.'

'I knew it—I knew he would. Now, was I right? It is absurd—foolish—if Lawrence ever to expect it, and it was worse for him to buoy you up with such a hope, only to have it dashed to the ground. Then it is all ended between you?'

'No, his father gave Lawrence the alternative of renouncing me or of being renounced himself. He chose the latter, and they have parted forever. I have also been dismissed from the factory, but Lawrence is in hopes of procuring a situation, and we are to be married immediately.'

Annie's intelligence caused Stephen Berge to tremble with astonishment and emotion. His disordered eyes were fixed on her face with a gaze of startled intensity, and what might have struck him as painfully significant was the fact that on her face no blush was visible though she was telling that which few maidens can utter even to a parent without a rosy suffusion of cheek, called forth by manly shyness, modesty, and pleasure. Those of Annie presented no such signs of lively confusion, but, instead, paleness, anxiety, and earnest concern, as if her communication was fraught with very serious solicitude; as, in truth, it was—and her father was the cause of it, for the result of that connection with him which Lawrence was about to form in his union with her was so full of possible shame and trouble as to overshadow with its darkness and gravity the brightness of the marriage joy.

But her father had no such power of observation. He was struck only by the nature of the communication, for he had assumed it as certain that Lawrence Mayhew would not think of marrying Annie after the misfortunes had come upon them. To find, then, that he was true to her still, and so true as to incur disinheritance, filled him with speechless admiration. Words failed to express his sense of the youth's noble self-sacrifice; and though their immediate marriage meant, as he thought for he deemed nothing less possible his losing her, and being left alone, yet such a measure of his former generosity rendered amid the wreck of his nature that he had no wish to prevent or even delay the marriage.

'And Lawrence has acted thus? he faltered. 'He has given up his father and his father's wealth for you; he is to take you in the poverty I have brought you to! Well, highly as I thought of him, I could not have believed this. It—it is very noble of him, and—and you are to be married immediately—did you say immediately, Annie?'

'At once, father. Lawrence said when we parted; and indeed it will be necessary, seeing that I cannot now be at work.'

A look of wanest misery and utter hopelessness sank as it were into his hollow countenance, and for some moments he kept silent.

'Well, well,' he at length groaned. 'It is not for me to object. I have no right to do it—none—none. I deserve to be left alone—and—and—I will die all the sooner.'

'Father, what mean you?' Annie. 'Do you think I am going to leave you?'

'Of course you are. Did you not say you and Lawrence are to be married immediately?'

'Oh,' she exclaimed with a burst of tenderness. 'Do you think it possible I could desert you—leave you in your present state—helpless, hopeless, solitary, desolate? Father, believe me I am not capable of this, and had it been made the condition of our marriage I should never have consented. But Lawrence is as incapable of asking it; nay, he was eager to assure me of the contrary. You are to live with us, father. You are to go where we go, and be better cared for than ever, for you will not be let alone all day as you have been. I will ever be with you father.'

'What—what—what do you say, Annie!' gasped Stephen Berge, in uncontrollable amazement. 'I am to live with you? Is it true? Has Lawrence consented to it?'

'He did not merely consent, he proposed it, assumed it as a thing of course and of certainty!'

'God bless him. He's a noble lad, Annie—a noble lad. Not one in ten thousand would have done it—nobody but himself—nobody but himself. God bless him—God bless him,'

And Stephen Berge cried like a child—weeping and sobbing on Annie's bosom, to which he had been drawn, as a child to the tender heart of its mother. And just like a mother, with a deep and holy tenderness as much akin to maternal filial affection, she soothed and comforted him, kissed his burning brow, stroked his dry graying hair and strove by every art to restore him to calmness.

Nor was she long in succeeding. Strong drink had so weakened and shattered him that he could not experience strong emotion for any length of time. At the end of a few minutes his shaking body returned to its normal tremulousness.

When he became perfectly quiet, Annie prepared to make the appeal which she had destined from the first, and for which an auspicious moment seemed to have come.

'It is very generous, very noble of Lawrence,' she whispered. 'It is conduct which deserves the best possible return. We cannot be sufficiently grateful for it; we cannot do enough to recompense him or be too anxious to make his sacrifice as light as possible.'

'But you will make him a good wife, Annie. He could not find a better anywhere. You are poor enough, alas, and I am to blame for that; but in all else you are the equal of the best lady in the land, and you will make him very happy.'

'I shall try, father; but you will help me, won't you? Oh, say that you will help me.'

'Of course I will, but I am not good for much now. I am a poor miserable creature, Annie. It is little I can do to help.'

'Oh, you can do much, father; you can do everything, if you will only give up drink. Hitherto I have died with you for your sake, and even more for your own; and now I beseech of you even more earnestly for the sake of Lawrence to conquer your weakness, to free yourself from the chains that bind you, to return to your former self, to be again honored, respected, and happy. Oh, do not bring disgrace and misery on Lawrence by continuing as you are, or else it were better a thousand times that we should not be married. But you will try, father; promise me that you will try.'

'Do you think I haven't tried, Annie?' he returned huskily. 'Could I see you degraded, beggared, robbed of all by the course I followed, and not try to abandon it? Ah, you do not know—no one knows the power of this demon till he gains a hold. He is ruthless, inexorable, invincible. Once his as I am, and body and soul are lost forever.'

'No, no, father,' cried Annie, with a fearful shiver. 'The chain, I know, is strong—terribly strong—but it may be broken. I will help you, Lawrence will help you, God will help you; strength will come with every effort, and the power of your enemy will be broken.'

'If you were always with me there might be some hope,' he murmured, a faint gleam lighting up his haggard face. 'But left alone as I have been, with only my wrongs and misfortunes to brood over, I helpless, and when temptation came, as it did last night, when the man came in and asked me to the public house, I was defenceless.'

'Who was the man?' asked Annie. 'Mayor saw him first, for he knocked at her door, asking for you; but he was a stranger to her.'

'And to me, too,' rejoined her father. 'I never saw him before, and know not who he is.'

'Then what was his purpose?'

'He had heard of my misfortunes, and wished to know how far Varley Mayhew had defrauded me.'

'But he must have had a personal object in this?'

'What object could he have? And yet,' said Berge reflectively, 'he seemed particularly anxious to know all about Mayhew and his family history, about his cousin, Rachel Carsbrook, and his uncle's will. For a mere stranger he showed great curiosity.'

'What name did he give?'

'None. After he had heard all I could tell he went away and left me with—with the brandy. After that I remember nothing.'

'This is a very singular,' said Annie. 'Depend upon it this man must have had a purpose to serve, and, with heartless cruelty, he used you as a tool. He must have known, too, that you were alone. But that shall not occur again, father. I will be always free from such temptation. Only promise that you will try, dear father, and try to do your very utmost.'

Though his throat was dry and burning, though his tongue was parched and every organ quivering with the intense craving of his miserable appetite, the pleading face and eyes, the supplicating voice, the yearning attitude of Annie awoke the paternal affection, which strong drink had deadened but had not been able to eradicate, and, with faltering lips, the promise was given.

'I will try, Annie. God helping me, I will try.'

And she thanking him, oh, so fervently, for she doubted not that, with his own earnest cooperation and her increasing watchful devotion, his rescue and reformation were sure. Poor girl, she knew not how truthfully he had told her of the irresistible power of the enemy that held him or of the long and mighty struggle to be endured ere he could overcome. Had she obtained an adequate view of the truth, she might have been less sanguine; but, in the fulness of her heartfelt gratitude, the vision of future happiness filled all her view.

The rest of the day she spent in making what preparations she could for the coming of Lawrence. This was an event which gave her no little concern, for her lover had not been to their humble home for many months, either to see how desolate and poverty stricken it had become, or to behold the physical and moral wreck of her father. She had steadily prevented this from motives easy to guess. She wished to conceal at once the extent of debasement and the privations and suffering to which she herself was subjected.

But she could not prevent his entrance now, and it taxed her ingenuity to the utmost to hide the painful destitution which, with all her striving, it had been impossible to avert. What brushing and scrubbing could do to produce brightness and comfort she did unsparingly, and the thought struck her to get the loan of a table and a few chairs and other articles from Marjory to give more of a furnished aspect to the room. But instantly she repudiated the suggestion as something deceitful, as an attempt to deceive her lover, with whom she felt there should be now no concealment, but perfect openness, as well as unlimited confidence. So she resolved not to adopt this little artifice, and after doing her utmost to make the bareness bright and shining, she dressed herself in her best clothes and sat down by the fire to await his coming.

CHAPTER XII.

LAWRENCE MAYHEW FINDS FRIENDS IN NEED — THE OPENING OF BRIGHT PROSPECTS

We have seen how this important day of crisis and resolution was spent by Annie, after she and Lawrence had parted at the entrance to Spinner's Court. Let us now see how it was spent by Lawrence himself.

He said to her as he quitted her side that it would be to him a busy one, and, under the consciousness that it must be so, he turned into the first quiet street he could find, to reflect calmly on the position, realise all that had to be done, and arrange a plan for its accomplishment.

The position itself was grave—nay, momentous—seeing that it involved the sudden revolution of his life. He was brought, almost within an hour, to contemplate an entire change of prospects, to confront and provide for an utterly altered order of things as regarded his social and financial relations. His sphere of duty and action had suddenly shifted its character, and not only so, but its first measures and difficulties demanded immediate attention and solution. There was no opportunity for delay; he was required to act decisively and at once.

And now that he was alone and able to exercise private thought, did he regret it?—did he shrink from the difficulties and responsibilities that beset him, and wish that the rupture with his father had not taken place? No. Not for one moment did this feeling approach his mind. He was sustained by a full and lofty sense of right; his bosom swelled with the proud inward assurance that his integrity, his honour, his happiness, were in the path he had chosen, and that those would bear him forward in triumph. All that was needed was courage, prudence, resolution, and as these qualities entered largely into the elements of his character, the result appears in no way doubtful.

But for all that it was a crisis which in its greatness and suddenness required the exercise of all its mental and moral strength, and it was not till he had traversed the quiet street several times that his plan of action was settled. But settled it was at length, and, being the result of vigorous thought and clear perception, he instantly set about its prosecution by making his way with a firm, unhesitating step, to a large factory which stood surrounded by many others in that hollow of the town beyond which the lofty Law rises with steep abruptness, high above the smoke which issues from the numerous stalks at its base.

To a stranger it is something dreary and oppressive to proceed into the narrow lanes which give access to the public works. On all sides rise lofty walls of red brick, pierced by rows of windows, dull and dirty with ever-whirling atoms within. From the height of the buildings and the narrowness of the paths the sunshine cannot penetrate, and thus a perpetual shadow reigns over the scene. A shadow, but not silence. Nay, the very opposite of silence, for the noise of machinery is deafening and incessant. Never pausing, never decreasing, the volume of sound rolls on with unceasing roar, giving one the idea that a blind iron force is let loose, which in its headlong speed may cause destruction.

Those, however, are the feelings only of a stranger. To one acquainted with the interior and all that is progressing there, the lofty buildings, the shadow, and the noise are suggestive of the triumphs of human skill—the mystery of man over Nature's awful force, making it his servant, his very slave, in the pursuit of busy industry and the production of wealth, which serves materially to increase the sum of human prosperity. Here thousands upon thousands earn their daily bread and from hence are sent forth those productions of the loom which furnish forth the marts of commerce, and send fleets of freighted ships to the ends of the earth.

Many a time had such thoughts as these passed through the mind of Lawrence Mayhew as he threaded the factory lanes and listened to the mighty roar of steam and iron, but on the present occasion he was too much engrossed with the business that brought him, to have any such reflections. It was with the mechanical step of one familiar to the place that he advanced and passed in by the side gate of one of the largest of the mills, where he was respectfully saluted by the man in charge, to whom he was well known.

'Is Mr. John at home?' he inquired.

'Yes, sir,' was the cheery reply.

'Shall I find him in the mill or the counting room?'

'I think he'll be in the warehouse, sir; they are packing.'

With a nod and a word of thanks Lawrence directed his course to a range of lower buildings partially detached from the main pile, and entering by the wide open door, was at once in the long rooms where the manufactured goods were stored, and where, as the gate keeper had intimated, a number of men were engaged in packing bales for despatch.

To that of inquiry as to where he would find the junior partner whom he designated Mr. John, he pursued his way among the woven webs, till at the end of the largest room he entered a little square glazed compartment where sat by himself at a desk a fair haired, round faced, blue-eyed man of Lawrence's own age. He did not look up when the other went in, but hearing his entrance, and supposing it to be one of the packers, he said, applying blot sheet to the sheet of paper under his hand—

'Here you are, Collin's. This is the last of them now, so you can finish off, and——Hilloa, Lawrence, is it you?'

'Yes, John, it is I. Are you very busy?'

'I'm done, thank goodness. I've been at these invoices since seven this morning. We feel the want of Stevens very much, and will do it till his place is filled.'

'Ah, his place is not filled yet, then,' said Lawrence.

'No, we have had many applicants, but none suitable. As you know, the place is an important one, and we give a good salary to get the right man.'

'Would I do?' asked Lawrence, with a smile.

'First rate,' cried the other, with a loud laugh, never dreaming that Lawrence was intending more than a joke.

'You can at least receive my application and lay it before Mr. Armidale.'

'Very good,' laughed John again.—'Where are your testimonials?'

'Suppose you give me one,' suggested Lawrence.

'All right. I'll give you a tip-topper, in this style:—'This is to certify that I have been intimately acquainted with the bearer, Mr. Lawrence Mayhew, during the last ten years, and know him to be in all respects a very honest, worthy fellow. His character is unimpeachable, his abilities are of a very high order, and his qualifications for the situation for which he is now an applicant are such as to warrant me in saying without hesitation that he will perform the duties in such a manner as to give his employer the very highest satisfaction.' There, will that do?'

'Very well, indeed, John. And if you will support my suit with your father in the way you have now spoken, I think I will have some chance of getting the post which Stevens has vacated—will you?'

'Of course I will. Egad, Lawrence, my boy, I should only be too glad to find the right man; it would take a deal of responsibility off my shoulders. By the way, could your Liverpool or London connections assist me? You would do me a real service if you could help us to the right thing.'

'Bring forward rivals!' returned Lawrence, with a pointed smile. 'My dear John, I have not such confidence in my own merits as to risk that, and circumstances have reduced my generosity to such a low ebb that I will rather use my efforts in my own behalf alone. When may I know if the application is successful or the opposite?'

'Take care,' exclaimed John, with a merry twinkle in his blue eye. 'I may make out an agreement, and in your present mood you may be rash enough to sign it.'

'I should do nothing more readily.'

'And I should be very apt to hold you by the legal power you gave me; so take care, my boy, or you may deprive Mayhew's mill of a chief prop.'

'Meaning myself,' added Lawrence.

'Even so, my sprightly joker.'

'Then let me tell you that the chief prop in question is removed from Mayhew's mill already; and what you have been taking for a joke, John, is on my part a thing of all seriousness. I do in truth and verity apply for the vacant place in your counting house, and shall esteem it a great favor indeed if you can prevail on your father to give it to me.'

John Armidale looked steadily at the speaker. He would have treated the matter as a joke still, but he knew Lawrence was no inveterate joker at any time, and it was very unlikely that he should go so far in the way of fun in such a direction. Besides, by the fixed gaze he bestowed on his friend's face he saw a gravity and earnestness there which betrayed feelings of deep and serious import. He therefore grew grave, anxious, and interested.

'One moment,' he said, gathering up the invoices which lay on the desk, and handing them to a man who waited outside to receive them. With a few words of direction, this clerk was dismissed; and returning, John closed the door, saying—

'Now we are alone, and safe from interruption. What is the meaning of this, Lawrence, for I see you are really in earnest, and have something important to tell me?'

'I have indeed, John—something all-important to me, and, as you are my dearest and closest friend, I wish to give you my entire confidence.'

John was too much surprised to utter a word. He seated himself, with his gaze fixed on the other's face, in an attitude of wondering and alarmed expectation.

Lawrence, in a low calm, steady tone, told him all. John knew before of the affection subsisting between his friend and Annie Berge. He knew, too, all about her father's misfortunes—how he had given himself up to intemperance, and what noble self-denial Annie had displayed in the dire adversity which had overtaken them. He was therefore in a position fully to understand and appreciate the revelations which were made to him.

Nevertheless he was astounded and deeply concerned, yet his heart responded with throbs of unbounded sympathy and admiration of that Lawrence had planned for Annie. And young, ardent, generous himself, he fully approved of it, and was ready with heart and soul to lend his aid to the utmost. This assurance he conveyed to Lawrence by the warmth with which he grasped his hand, by his flushed face and glittering eyes.

'You will lose nothing by this in the end,' he said. 'You would do as you mean to do, but had you done aught else you would have lost all I know of you. The only dark cloud in the prospects is Mr. Berge. Here you are involving yourself in a fearful difficulty.'

'I am fully aware of it; yet in this I am but sharing the burden which Annie, poor girl, has borne so long and so bravely. For her sake I will bear it, and am not without hope that we may succeed in effecting his reformation.'

'I doubt it,' returned John. 'I fear he is sunk more deplorably and hopelessly than you imagine. She knows it; hence the sublime act of renunciation which she would have performed when she entreated you to give her up. Noble as she is, she could not have resolved on such an unparalled sacrifice till all the prospect of his reformation was extinguished; and if she despairs in the matter, none else need hope.'

'Well, but circumstances hitherto have been greatly against his recovery. He has been of necessity left alone, but with Annie constant's beside him to watch and tend him, and with the cheerful stimulating influence which I shall strive to exert——'

'Yes,' interrupted John; 'if human power can manage it, you two together will succeed. And if the fairest remnant of his former nature remains, you have a fulcrum for the lever. In any case, be sure you are bent on is honestly earned yet all right. I did not forget, as it meant to disturb you. I only indicated it as the one dark cloud in your sky—a speck, for all else is bright.'

And so they continued for some time longer, when Lawrence rose to depart, saying that he had much to do, and was anxious to see his father and Annie as soon as possible. John accompanied him to the outer door, and they parted with a cordial shake of the hand, and a mutual hope that they might soon see each other under more favorable circumstances than those which had brought them together that day.

Lawrence, on his way to his father's, called at the office of the Liverpool and London Insurance Company, and effected a policy on his life for the sum of $2,000, payable to Annie Berge in the event of his decease within twelve months from the date of the policy, which was to be void if he survived that period. This he did in the fulness of his heart, and with the hope that, should he be cut off by any accident before he had time to make a will, Annie would be provided for by his father.

He found the latter much better than he had expected, for the excitement had acted like a powerful stimulant, and he was now under the influence of a strong reaction. He was sitting in his chair when his son entered, and he at once commenced with the subject which was uppermost in his mind, the fate of his will.

'Have you been to your cousin's, Rachel Carsbrook, and inquired if she has any knowledge of her father's will?'

'I have not, father, but I shall do so this evening, when I go to see Annie.'

'Do so, by all means, and let me know the result as soon as you can. I cannot rest till I know the fate of that will. If it be lost, I shall be a beggar, for I cannot remember the contents, except that it was in your favor and Annie's, and that it was made in Liverpool.'

'Do not let the thought trouble you so much, father. If it be lost, we must be patient and wait for the discovery of your cousin. We have your word that it was in our favor, and we have no reason to doubt it.'

'But it may be years before she returns, if she ever does. In the meantime, what will become of me? I shall be a beggar, and you will be a beggar through me. I cannot bear the thought. It will be the death of me.'

'Nonsense, father! Why should we be beggars? Mr. Armidale is a kind, generous man, and he has a high opinion of me. I shall ask him to give me a situation in his office, and I have no doubt that he will do so. We shall be quite rich enough for all we need, and happy as we have been for many years past.'

'Perhaps so, perhaps so, if you can find your cousin. But I cannot rest till I know the fate of that will. Go to her at once, Lawrence, and let me know the result as soon as you can.'

'I will, father, if you promise to lie down and try to sleep till I return.'

'I will, I will. Only let me know the result of your visit to Rachel Carsbrook.'

'I will, father, and now I must hurry on my way, for it is growing late.'

'Stay one minute. Have you any money? I have none to give you, but I can borrow for you.'

'I have plenty, father, more than I need for my own wants. Good-bye, I will be back as soon as I can.'

'Good-bye, Lawrence, and God bless you! Bring me some good news.'

'I will, if I can, father.'

Lawrence left the house and bent his way towards the lodgings of Rachel Carsbrook, which were situated in a street not far from the Market Square. He was well known to the people of the house, and was at once ushered into the parlor where he found his cousin and her lover, Harry Morton, seated together. The reception he met with from both was of the most cordial character, and they were eager to know what had brought him so early in the morning. He was not long in making them acquainted with the cause of his visit, and they were as much interested in the matter as he had been himself. Rachel was sure that her father had left a will in his favor, and that it was made in Liverpool, but she was quite sure that it was not lost, for her father had spoken of it to her a few days before his death, and had told her that it was safe in the hands of a friend who would produce it when the proper time came. She was sure that this friend was a lawyer, and that he was a man who lived in a large house with a garden in front, but she could not remember his name, though she had heard it a hundred times. She was a little girl at the time, but she remembered her father speaking of him as a man who had been very kind to him in his early days, and whom he had served faithfully in his prosperity. She was sure that if he was still living he would be the man to have the will, and that he would be sure to do his duty by her cousin, and see that she was put in her rights. She was very glad that Lawrence had come to them, and they would do all they could to help him and Annie. She was sure that her father had left a will in their favor, and that it was made in Liverpool, and that it was not lost, but she was quite sure that it would be found, and that Lawrence and Annie would be married and be very happy.

Lawrence was much pleased with his cousin, and he was very glad that she was so sure that her father had left a will in their favor, and that it was made in Liverpool, and that it was not lost, but he was sorry that she was so sure that it would be found, and that he and Annie would be married and be very happy. He was very glad that she was so sure of all this