

Jeannie Sinclair,

OR, THE LILY OF THE STRATH.

CHAPTER I.

SOME PRELIMINARY WORDS ABOUT THE STRATH. The exact locality of the Strath in which the principal scenes of the following story are laid must, for certain reasons, remain indefinite. That it is north of the Forth our readers will easily understand, because in the south of Scotland such places are not called straths, but dales. North of the Forth, then, our strath is situated, but how far north we shall not say. There is a wide range of country in which it may be supposed to be, and its identity may well be lost amid the many valleys bounded by hills and watered by a flowing stream, which exist in this noble, rugged, and picturesque land of ours—the

Land of brown heath, and shaggy wood— Land of the mountain and the loch. The strath in question we shall call Strathmae; but our readers need not expect to recognize it under this designation, for if any of these know of a strath which bears a name approaching to this, we tell them at once that it is not our Strathmae. The real locality will doubtless be recognized by those who reside in the neighborhood, because the "People's Journal" circulated in every nook and cranny, "frae Maidenkirke tae John o'Groat's"; and no doubt it is read in the strath to which our story refers. Be it so. This is a contingency which we cannot avoid, nor is it one which there is much reason to regret, because the incidents to be related must be to some extent known to them already. No great number of years have elapsed since the drama in real life which we have undertaken to depict was played out, and neither the persons nor occurrences have had time to become only traditional in the secluded valley which forms the stage whereon it was evolved. To the residents, therefore, the main features of our story will prove themselves familiar, and in their case we cannot be charged with making revelations which regard to the feelings of survivors would incline us to suppress.

But while we studiously avoid fixing the locality of Strathmae with a minuteness which would cause it to be widely recognized, there is no harm in giving a general indication of its situation; while a pretty full and accurate description of its features is absolutely necessary to the right understanding of our story.

Strathmae, then, is inland. It is far from the sea, and fifty years ago it was as secluded and rural a valley as one could meet with in Scotland. There were, however, very few inhabitants had little to do with the great world without. They lived by themselves, shut in by the high hills which bounded the strath on either side, and it was only the richer folk among them—the owners of the various estates and their families—who journeyed at times to the far cities, which had been heard of only, but never seen, by the bulk of the people, some of whom had not even travelled so far as the town of Shawhead, which lay some ten miles distant from the strath, and where the fairs and markets of the district were held. In the strath itself there was not such a thing as a goodly-sized village; nothing but hamlets of from a dozen to two dozen houses connected with the larger estates, and farm "towns," the latter consisting of nothing more than the house of the farmer and the thatched cottages of the hinds and outworkers, who "showed" and "herded" in summer, and "shored" the crops in harvest.

The inhabitants of Strathmae lived their primitive Scottish life in contentment and happiness. If they had small connection with the world and knew little of its ways, they were also free from many of its vices, and were bothered with few of its social requirements. Their pleasures were simple, and their pleasures few and unsophisticated; but on this account these pleasures yielded all the more gratification. The happiness enjoyed by dwellers in the rural and remote parts of Scotland is due to the introduction of modern social habits, consequent on the increased facilities of travel and communication, was of a truer, a more intense, and more genuine character than is experienced now-a-days. Railways and such like have spoiled and even banished the old primitive, but sweet and rapturous joys of rural Scottish life. There may linger still here and there amid the deeper recesses of the land, but everywhere within reach of the iron highway which has penetrated the once secluded glens and valleys, social change has taken place which causes those who knew Scotland in the olden-time, and the sweet, rural life which her country people led, to sigh for the vanished past and its delights of heart and soul which are gone forever.

TO BE CONTINUED.

Shipwreck on the Irish Coast.

Another fearful catastrophe has occurred on this coast, by which the lives of the ship's crew have been lost. The brigantine Earl, of Portmadoc, Wales, bound for Waterford with a cargo of corn, had got safely down the channel on Friday evening, notwithstanding the tempestuous weather. She was bearing round for Waterford harbor, when about 3 o'clock on Saturday morning she was driven in toward the Bannow coast. Only one resource was left the captain to keep his vessel off the rocks—namely, to cast his anchors, which he accordingly did. This measure had the desired effect, and the vessel rode to her anchors all day up to about 3 o'clock yesterday, at which time it was low water. She then struck the ground, which had the effect of loosening all her seams, and she took in water rapidly. There were five crew on board in the hold, and under these circumstances the crew abandoned her. The vessel's boat was accordingly launched, and all hands having got into her, she was steered for the shore. The sea raged fearfully, and it was evident to those on shore, who watched with breathless anxiety the progress of the tiny craft, that she could not possibly live in such a storm. She struggled gallantly with the giant waves till she had got over nearly half the distance to the shore, when a mountain wave broke upon and sunk her. The spectators gave an agonized cry as they saw the torrent of water pour upon all that remained of eight human beings and eternity. As those on the shore stood looking at the shipwreck, an object riveted the eyes of all on shore upon it. At first it was indistinct, but as it approached nearer the shore it was found to be a man clinging to an oar. From the manner in which he guided the frail spar which his legs were clung to the oar, the great waves broke upon him, and it was the wonder of every one present how he lived in such a storm. While he came near the shore a young man named Kelly took the end of a line, and rushing into the waves, saved the sailor, as he was nearly exhausted.

A child of D. Cummings, Goderich, died on the 28th ult. from the effects of a scald. Such accidents appear to be more fatal to childhood than all others combined.

Jones who was hanged in London the other day was not interred in the goal yard, but in one of the city cemeteries. The spot where his remains rest is unknown to the public.

Dr. Dodge who came dodging round Guelph, and thought it was remarkable slow place because the people would not believe in his humbug, has been arrested in London on a charge of obtaining money under false pretences. He promised to cure a woman of epilepsy for \$10 and not fulfilling his contract her husband took action.

Special Notices.

ALLEN'S LUNG BALSAM! FOR THE CURE OF CONSUMPTION! And all diseases that lead to it, such as Coughs, neglected Colds, Pain in the Chest, and all Diseases of the Lungs. AS AN EXPECTORANT IT HAS NO EQUAL. It has now been before the Public for a number of years and has gained for itself a World-Wide Reputation. Physicians recommend it in their practice and the formula from which it is prepared is highly commended by Medical Journals. Call at the Druggists and get a pamphlet. Every Druggist sells the Balsam. PERRY DAVIS & SON, Proprietors, 17, 19, 21, 23, 25, 27, 29, 31, 33, 35, 37, 39, 41, 43, 45, 47, 49, 51, 53, 55, 57, 59, 61, 63, 65, 67, 69, 71, 73, 75, 77, 79, 81, 83, 85, 87, 89, 91, 93, 95, 97, 99, 101, 103, 105, 107, 109, 111, 113, 115, 117, 119, 121, 123, 125, 127, 129, 131, 133, 135, 137, 139, 141, 143, 145, 147, 149, 151, 153, 155, 157, 159, 161, 163, 165, 167, 169, 171, 173, 175, 177, 179, 181, 183, 185, 187, 189, 191, 193, 195, 197, 199, 201, 203, 205, 207, 209, 211, 213, 215, 217, 219, 221, 223, 225, 227, 229, 231, 233, 235, 237, 239, 241, 243, 245, 247, 249, 251, 253, 255, 257, 259, 261, 263, 265, 267, 269, 271, 273, 275, 277, 279, 281, 283, 285, 287, 289, 291, 293, 295, 297, 299, 301, 303, 305, 307, 309, 311, 313, 315, 317, 319, 321, 323, 325, 327, 329, 331, 333, 335, 337, 339, 341, 343, 345, 347, 349, 351, 353, 355, 357, 359, 361, 363, 365, 367, 369, 371, 373, 375, 377, 379, 381, 383, 385, 387, 389, 391, 393, 395, 397, 399, 401, 403, 405, 407, 409, 411, 413, 415, 417, 419, 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