

CHAPTER XXI.

It was for the moment an inexpressible relief to Dolly, to recognize in the verson who forced himself into the irresolute for a moment, but the path so abruptly, and now stood directly in her way, Hugh of the Maypole, whose name she uttered in a tone of delighted surprise that came from her heart.

"Was it you?" she said, "how glad I am to see you! and how could you' terrify me so!"

In answer to which, he said nothing at all, but stood quite still, looking at her.

"Did you come to meet me?" asked Dolly

Hugh nodded, and muttered something to the effect that he had been waiting for her, and had expected her sooner

"I thought it likely they would send," said Dolly, greatly reassured by this.

"Nobody sent me," was his sullen answer. "I came of my own accord.'

The rough bearing of this fellow, and his wild, uncouth appearance, had often filled the girl with a vague apprehension even when other people were by, and had occasioned her to her, whispered to her-some say kissshrink from him involuntarily. The ed her, but that's a fable. At any having him for an unbidden companion in so solitary a place, with the darkness fast gathering about them, renewed and even increased the alarm she had felt at first.

If his manner had been merely dogged and passively fierce, as usual, she would have had no greater dislike to his company than she always felt -perhaps, indeed, would have been rather glad to have had him at hand. But there was something of coarse bold admiration in his look, which terrified her very much. She glanced timidly towards him, uncertain whe ther to go forward or retreat, and he stood gazing at her like a handsome satyr; and so they remained for some short time without stirring or breaking silence. At length Dolly took courage, shot past him, and hurried

"Why do you spend so much breath in avoiding me?" said Hugh, accommodating his pace to hers, and keeping close at her side.

'I wish to get back as quickly as I can, and you walk too near me,' answered Dolly.

"Too near!" said Hugh, stooping over her so that she could feel his breath upon her forehead. "Why too You're always proud to me, near?" mistress."

"I am proud to no one. You mis-

an ecstasy. "Joe, dear Joe, this way. Help!" Her assailant paused, and stood

shouts drawing nearer and coming quick upon them, forced him to a roused from a sound rap. speedy decision. He released her, whispered with a menacing look, "Tell him; and see what follows!"

ly ran into Joe Willet's open arms. "What is the matter! are you hurt!

quite unable to answer him, and hung honest men's daughters can't cross ly on salads. ing as if her heart would break.

to have her hanging on his shoulder; lives."

no, not the least, though it crushed the cherry-colored ribbons sadly, and put the smart little hat out of all to lose. But I'd as lief knock them summer heat; genial, smiling, and deshape. But he couldn't bear to see on the head as any other man. How lightful. After dinner, in the sun-her cry; it went to his very heart. many are there?" He tried to console her, bent over rate he said all the kind and tender things he could think of, and Dolly let him go on and didn't interrupt him once, and it was a good ten min- but her. "About my height?" utes before she was able to raise her

head and thank him. "What was it that frightened you?" said Joe.

A man whose person was unknown to her had followed her, she answer- maybe could give a guess at the man, and a quarter. Profiting by experied; he began by begging, and went on to threats of robbery, which he was on the point of carrying into execution, and would have executed, but for Joe's timely aid. The hesitation and confusion with which she said this. Joe attributed to the fright she had sustained, and no suspicion of the truth occurred to him for a moment.

"Stop when the words are on your and very often afterwards, when the disclosure was rising to her tongue, Dolly thought of that, and repressed

man; the conviction that his feroci-

would be wreaked on Joe, who had said Hugh, turning to the locksmith's close to the wheel too. preserved her; these were considera- wife.

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er Hugh was in the stable.

do you want him for?"

Hugh!" Dolly turned pale as death, and felt testant at meals, unless it happened

an instant. Dolly darted off, and fair- fellow if we come upon him."

bing his eyes and shaking himself.

"They never rob me," cried Hugh, cately constructed as Mrs. Varden. with a laugh. "I have got nothing Thus, at dinner Mrs. V. stood at

scarce knowing what she said.

her keenly, like-like any of ours now? glasses thereof in slow succession, she I know all the people hereabouts, and stood steadily at ninety for one hour if I had anything to guide me."

then answered that he was wrapped pipe in the porch, and in consequence in a loose coat and had his face hid- of this prudent management, he was him.

"You wouldn't know him if you saw The horse was accordingly put in, manicious grin.

antly, until the Maypole lights were that he never had, and moreover that but over the Monument and the top agency. near at hand, twinkling their cheerful he couldn't read, Mrs. Varden declar- of Saint Paul's in love, that man was assurance that directly he had housed was, however, that Mr. Willet, al- quite provoking. what I dare do if I have a mind. pole bar at last, where the locksmith word, entering the portals of Mr. There was something so thoroughly ily with Joe, whom he could not the same account of it that she had sions, and the looks and gestures by which they were accompanied, that her great fear of him gave her new with his faired, for herides that her devices the may be a soon as the with his faired, for herides that her devices the herides that her devices the may be a soon as the family were stirring next day. That her great fear of him gave her new with his friend; for besides that he done, they sat down to tea in the strength, and enabled her by a sud- by no means approved of an adven- bar, where there was an uncommon den effort to extricate herself and run turous spirit in the abstract, it oc- display of buttered toast, and-in or-

self with a stout stick, asked wheth- for want of sustenance, and might have a decent halting-place or hair-'He's lying asleep before the kit- way house between dinner and supchen fire, sir," said Mr. Willet. "What per-a few savory triffes in the shape of great rashers of broiled ham, "I want him to come with me to w ah being well cured, done to a lock after this bracelet and letter," fu, , and smoking hot, sent forth a answered Joe. "Halloa, there! tempting and delicious fragrance. Mrs. Varden was seldom very Pro-

as if she must faint forthwith. After that they were under-done, or overa few moments, Hugh came stagger. done, or indeed that anything occuring in, stretching himself and yawn- red to put her out of humor. Her ing according to custora, and present- spirits rose considerably on beholding every appearance of having been ing these goodly preparations, and from the nothingness of good works, "Here, sleepy-head," said Joe, giv-ing him the lastern. "Carry this, har and toast with great cheerfuland bring the dog, and that small ness. Nay, under the influence of and leaping the hedge, was gone in cudgel of yours. And woe betide the these wholesome stimulants, she sharply reproved her daughter for be-

"What fellow?" growled Hugh, rub- ing low and despondent (which she considered an unacceptable frame of "What fellow?" returned Joe, who mind), and remarked, as she held her he? What was he like?" with a great was in a state of great valor and own plate for a fresh supply, that it what was it! who was it? Where is he? What was he like?" with a great many encouraging expressions and as-surances of safety, were the first words Joe poured forth. But poor little Dolly was so breathless and ter-rified that for some time she was boots to be shown in a state of great valor and bustle; "a fellow you ought to know of and be more alive about. It's well for the like of you, lazy giant that you are, to be shoring your time away in chinney-corners, when arises in foreign parts who lived chief-

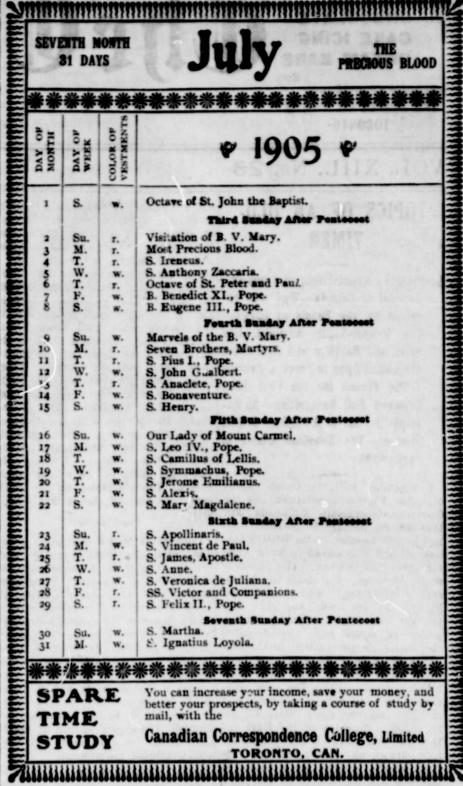
upon his shoulder, sobbing and cry- even our quiet meadows at nightfall The proceedings of such a day ocwithout being set upon by footpads, casioned various fluctuations in the Joe had not the smallest objection and frightened out of their precious human thermometer, and especially in instruments so sensitively and deli-

"Only one," said Dolly faintly, for everybody looked at her. "And what was he like, mistress?" subsided, she fell rapidly, went to said Hugh with a glance at young Willet, so slight and momentary that the scowl it conveyed was lost on all "Now she was at summer heat

again, in the shade; an'i when tea was "Not-not so tall," Doily replied, over, and old John, producing a bottle of cordial from one of the oaken "His dress," said Hugh, looking at cases, insisted on her sipping two ence, the locksmith took advantage of Dolly faltered and turned paler yet; this genial weather to smoke his

den by a handkerchief, and that she fully prepared, when the glass went could give no other description to down again, to start homewards directly.

him, then, belike?" said Hugh with a and the chaise brought round to the dread with which he had inspired in positions Miggs assented freely. Poor door. Joe, who would on no account her.



"I should not," answered Dolly, be dissuaded from escorting them un- This interruption, and the conse- for these restoratives, but rather bursting into tears again. "I don't til they had passed the most dreary quent wakefulness of Mrs. Varden, the worse, indeed; and seeing that she lips." A hundred times that night, wish to see him. I can't bear to and solitary part of the road, led out who had been nodding in her sleep up was really ill, both Mrs. Varden and think of him. I can't talk about him the gray mare at the same time; and to this point, except for a minute Miggs were moved to compassion, any more. Don't go to look for these having helped Dolly into her seat or two at a time, when she roused and tended her in earnest.

A deeply rooted dread of the treat you not to go with that man." the saddle. Then, after many good- audaciously taking hold of her to shaped itself into their usual course "Not to go with me!" cried Hugh. nights, and admonitions to wrap up, prevent her nodding herself out of the of policy, and though Dolly was in a ous nature, once roused, would stop "I'm too rough for them all. They're and glancing of lights, and handing-in chaise, put a restraint upon the swoon, it was rendered clear to the at nothing; and the strong assurance all afraid of me. Why, bless you, of cloaks and shawls, the chaise roll- whispered conversation, and made it meanest capacity, that Mrs. Varden that if she impeached him, the full mistress, I've the tenderest heart ed away, and Joe trotted beside it- difficult of resumption. Indeed, be- was the sufferer. Thus when Dolly measure of his wrath and vengeance alive. I love all the ladies, ma'am," on Dolly's side no doubt, and pretty fore they had gone another mile, Ga- began to get a little better, and passand that good lady protested she hold that remonstrance and argu-

ed with much severity, that he ought himself. The road was a very good "Good-night-if I must say it," to be even more ashamed of himself one; not at all a jolting road, or an said Joe sorrowfully. than before, and strongly recommend-ed him to save up his pocket-money side of the chaise with one little would have added, "Take care of that for the purchase of one, and further, hand, all the way. If there had been man, and pray don't trust him," but both gone. What an unhappy girl 1 pearance of deep attention, gradually an important part of his duty, and Hugh beside him. long way, made none the shorter by star? her safely in the Maypole, he would her safely in the Maypole, he would return to the spot with a lantern (for it was now quite dark) and make strict search for the missing articles, which there was great probability of his finding, as it was not likely that Joe's desire-when, as they were get- in an sit yourself down by the fire; per. The search was wholly unsuccessful, ting clear of the forest and emerging there's a good dear-do." the rider, who now came panting smith, when they reached the parlor, foolish. shuddering. "Hugh!" said Joe. "What errand not at all well to-night." are you upon?" ing under his breath, with a very crying very much. mvself! not going to turn yet."

Dolly, however, grew none the better

things, Mr. Joe, pray don't. I en- (more happiness!) sprang gayly into herself to scold the locksmith for But even then, their very kindness briel stopped at his wife's desire, ed into that stage in which matrons further on any account whatever. It mother represented to her, with tears

preserved her; these were conver-tions she had not the courage to over-come, and inducements to secrecy too he sought to be ashamed of himself, he sought to be ashamed of h such sentiments being more consis- all her lowness of spirits Dolly kept other hand that he was by no means must remember it was the common Joe, for his part, was a great deal tent (so she argued) with a benight- looking up at the stars in a manner tired, and would turn back presently, lot of humanity, and in especial of too happy to inquire very curiously into the matter; and Dolly being yet too tremulous to walk without as-too tremulous to walk without astoo tremulous to walk without as-sistance, they went forward very from this imperfect state of his more plainly showed that if ever a man Varden was obdurate, and being so less, and were bound to make up their sistance, they went forward very slowly, and in his mind very pleas-als, Mrs. Varden further opined were-not to say over head and ears, was not to be overcome by mortal minds to meek endurance and patient flurried and worried that day, she resignation. Mrs. Varden entreated her to remember that one of these days she would, in all probability, have to do violence to her feelings sofar as to be married; and that marto teach himself the contents with all an executioner behind him with an he had turned his horse's head, and riage, as she might see every day of my hand. My bracelet, too," she saidl clasping her wrist. "I have lost them both!" "Do you mean just now?" said Joe. "Either I dropped them then, or ter out, and left her to edify the rest." In the touched that hand, Joe couldn't have helped doing it. From putting his own hand upon it as if by chance squeeze, and when the chaise had had not in storing her court. "Either I dropped them then, or ter out, and left her to edify the rest and taking it away again after a gone on for some distance, to look through this vale of tears here ourse they were taken from me," answered Dolly, vainly searching her pocket and rustling her dress. "They are gone on finding that Mr. Willet's who her with are not finding that Mr. Willet's without taking it off at all; as if he, were were fixed mon her with are not fixed mon her with an are not fixed mon her with an are not fixed mon her with are not fixed mon her mon her with are not fixed mon her Dolly, vainly searching her pocket and to do, and finding that Mr. Willet's without taking it off at all; as if he, gered on the spot where they had which alone upheld and prevented the escort, were bound to do that as parted, with the tall dark figure of her from dropping, she must have am!" With these words poor Dolly, who to do her justice was quite as to him, whom she entertained with a most curious circumstance about this home; and whether the coachmaker would have become of that errant sorry for the loss of the letter as for her bracelet, fell a-crying again, and bemoaned her fate most movingly. That great workings were taking Joe tried to comfort her with the place in his spirit. The simple truth turned her eyes on Joe, that it was home at last-at last, for it was a were, a shining light and guiding (To be Continued.) Be Sensible and the tightness of his embrave, her strength failed her, and she could go no further. "Hugh," cried the panting girl, "good Hugh; if you will leave me I will give you anything-everything I have-and never tell one word of this to any living creature." "Work have have never tell one word of this to any living creature." have—and never tell one word of this to any living creature." "You had best not," he answered. "Harkye, little dove, you had best not. All about here know me, and no If ever you are going to tell, stop and his wife and old John were yet Willet's brain as they stood ajar, and In this unconscious than ever. Is the dearest, sweetest little woman when the words are on your lips, and keeping high festival. think of the mischief you'll bring, if you do, upon some innocent heads of the intelligence in a solution were yet will be intelligence in a solution were yet will be intelligence in a solution were yet will be intelligence in a solution were yet along the mischief you'll bring, if when the words are on your lips, and keeping high festival. Mr. Willet received the intelligence in a solution were yet along in all the world, that he doesn't talking very little above a whisper, in a cone of commissing in all the world, that he doesn't talking very little above a whisper, in a cone of commissing in all the world, that he doesn't talking very little above a whisper, and wishing the road could be you this day. I never will believe but you do, upon some innocent heads that you wouldn't wish to hurt a hair of. Bring trouble on me, and I'll speech for which he was so eminently them in return. I care no more for much—why should 1? I'd sooner kill a man than a dog any day. I've ne-ver been sorry for a man's death i all my life, and I have for a dog's." There was something so late; and all my life, and I have for a dog's." There was something so late; and all my life, and I have for a dog's." Of course, this is certainly very an-Varden, and the cry "a friend!" from "Martha, my dear," said the lock- band. No reasoning could be more up, and checked his horse beside "if you'll look to Dolly yourself, or The man who does not appreciate let somebody else do it, perhaps it tenderness from a woman has never "This man again!" cried Dolly, will be only kind and reasonable. She yet existed. One may probably imahas been frightened you know, and is gine he does not, or he may dislike a superabundance of attentions from In fact, Dolly had thrown herself the fair sex, however conceited he "I come to ride back with you," he upon the sofa, quite regardless of all may be, but he will appreciate one answered, glancing covertly at the the little finery of which she had been woman's tenderness, and care as much locksmith's daughter. "He sent me." so proud in the morning, and with as any woman likes being made to "My father!" said poor Joe; add- her face buried in her hands, was feel how her husband's every thought is for her happiness. unfilial apostrophe, "Will he never At first sight of this phenomenon Just as some men grow lax in their think me man enough to take care of (for Dolly was by no means accustom- attentions to their young wives, so ed to displays of this sort, rather do too many young wives forget to "Av!" returned Hugh to the first learning from her mother's example keep ever burning the furnace of their part of the inquiry. "The roads are not safe just now," he says, " and you'd better have a companion." In a safe in the indication of the "Ride on then," said Joe. "I'm she; that her life was a continued the sailor, the fisherman, the miner, scene of trial; that whenever she was the farmer, the mechanic, and all who Hugh complied, and they went on disposed to be well and cheerful, so live lives of toil and spend their exagain. It was his whim or humor sure were the people around her to istence in the dull routine of tedious to ride immediately before the chaise, throw, by some means or other, a tasks and who are exposed to injurand from this position he constantly damp upon her spirits; and that, as ies and ailments that those whe toil turned his head, and looked back. she had enjoyed herself that day, and not do not know, will find in Dr. Dolly feit that he looked at her, but Heaven knew it was very seldom she Thomas' Eclectric Oil an excellent she averted her eyes and feared to did enjoy herself, so she was now to friend and benefactor in every time of

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me," answered Dolly. 'Fall back, if you please, or go on."

'Nay, mistress," he rejoined, endeavoring to draw her arm through his. "I'll walk with you."

She released herself, and clinching her little hand, struck him with right good will. At this, Maypole Hugh burst into a roar of laughter, and passing his arm. about her waist, held her in his strong grasp as easily as if she had been a bird.

'Ha, ha, ha! Well done, mistress! Strike again. You shall beat my face and tear my hair, and pluck my beard up by the roots, and welcome, for the sake of your bright eyes. Strike again, mistress. Do. Ha, ha, ha! I like it."

"Let me go," she cried, endeavoring with both hands to push him off. "Let me go this moment."

"You had as good he kinder to me, Sweetlips," said Hugh. "You had, indeed. Come. Tell me now. Why are you always so proud? I don't quarrel with you for it. I love you when you're proud. Ha, ha, ha! You can't hide your beauty from a poor fellow; that's a comfort!"

She gave him no answer, but as he had not yet checked her progress, continued to press forward as rapidly as she could. At length, between the

savage in the manner of these expres- sufficiently praise or thank. any man in broad England, and it a scuffle, the consequences would aswas but a fruitiess expenditure of suredly have been expensive and inling arms again before she had gone a hundred vards.

as well as any drawing-room gallant?'

to free herself again. "I will. Help!" from your lips. 1 pay myself! Ha, ha, ha!"

"Help, help, help!" As she shrieked with the utmost violence she could | exert, a shout was heard in answer, of himself. and another and another.

welcome, when Dolly stopped suddenly and with a half scream, exclaimed,-"The letter!"

"What letter?" cried Joe.

"That I was carrying-I had it in lost them both!"

hair of. Bring trouble on me, and I'll speech for which he was so eminently that description of vegeta is usually its companion. The search was wholly u

fleetly from him. But Hugh was as curred to him that if his son and der that they might not grow faint nimble, strong, and swift of loot, as heir had been seriously damaged in

energy, for he had her in his encirc- convenient, and might perhaps have proved detrimental to the Maypole business. Wherefore, and because he "Softly, darling-gently-would you looked with no favorable eye upon" fly from rough Hugh, that loves you young girls, but rather considered that they and the whole female sex were a kind of nonsensical mistake "I would," she answered, struggling on the part of Nature, he took occa-

sion to retire and shake his head in "A fine for crying out," said Hugh. private at the boiler; inspired by "Ha, ha, ha! A fine, pretty one, which silent oracle, be was moved to give Joe various stealthy nudges with the elbow, as a parental reproof and gentle admonition to mind his own business and not make a fool

Joe, however, took down the lan-

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