

The Rival Clansmen

A Scottish Vendetta, CHAPTER XXI.

A DARK DEED—A WELL-KNOWN VOICE—A LONG JOURNEY—THE WITCH OF BEN-LAIR IN DANGER.

"Nay, you cannot go on an empty stomach," said the old man, restraining him. "Enas and I have had supper, but we set aside as much as will serve you. I will lay it before you, and while you are engaged filling yourself my son will go out and see whether he can learn anything that may be of service to guide you."

"I will gladly do so," responded the young man, cheerily, as he rose and donned his plaid preparatory to going forth.

"I know not how to repay such kindness," said Hector. "I am but a mere stranger to you."

"Personally you may be," said Enas, "but the M'Leods are known far and near as those who would befriend and help in the time of need; and not the least deserving the name was Malcolm M'Leod. I shall return soon and tell you what my success has been, if success it be."

"Ay, haste ye back, my son," said the old man, "though you must not neglect to tarry if tarrying is to effect anything."

The young man stepped out, and Murdoch again invited M'Leod to partake of the food which he had so graciously placed before him. Hector was much in want of it, and he cheerfully conceded to the old man's request to sup before he left. Mutton, venison, and home made bread were spread out in abundance, and a draught of rich goat's milk washed them down.

He ate hurriedly, but thought he lingered long over the repast. However, when he had concluded Enas had not returned. M'Leod now felt refreshed and strong, and was eager and impatient to be again upon the track; and, although anxious to wait and learn whether Enas had anything of importance to communicate when he returned, he would rather have gone for himself and resumed the search, though ignorant as to the proper direction to take. For he could ill brook a moment's idleness from the work which he had set before him. He could not bear the idea of remaining idle while those he loved required help, and while those he hated gloated in their triumph.

Old Murdoch tried to calm the proud, impetuous, chafing spirit, and even pointed out that it was hazardous attempting such a pursuit alone. It was not, he thought, an altogether hopeful task.

But earnest and truthful although these words were, M'Leod could not view them so. Notwithstanding the reverses with which he had again and again met, he was still buoyant and hopeful, and grew more and more impatient as time wore by and still no sign of Enas returning.

But suddenly he started from his chair and his face, while a hot flush overspread his face. Then he sprang forward, and, clutching his claymore, muttered huskily to old Murdoch—

"That is Donald Cameron's voice; I cannot be mistaken."

There was the sound of voices outside; but they had suddenly ceased, and opening the door the young Chief dashed out and gazed about him.

The snow still lay white upon the ground as in the morning, and all around was quiet and clear—the scene being softly lit up by the young moon, which sailed majestically in the blue ether overhead.

Between M'Leod and Ben-Meugach were two figures moving rapidly away, and to the right, just close beside the inn, another figure of a man was to be seen, also receding from the spot where our hero stood.

"It was Donald Cameron's voice I heard," he again muttered. "I may be on the track still, which shall I follow?"

A moment he stood to think. The figure to the right had now disappeared, and those in front were rapidly increasing their distance from him.

"Might not the two before him be Cameron and M'Kenzie?" This was the thought that rose in his mind, and it had no sooner occurred than he resolved to satisfy himself as to the verity of it.

He was now rested and invigorated, and with this fresh hope in his mind he felt that he was able to accomplish what- ever might be required of him. His first impulse was to dash forward, overtake the men in front, satisfy himself whether they were actually those he believed them to be, and if so, attack them at once. But other and more prudent considerations suggested themselves to his mind. If these men were really Cameron and M'Kenzie, the probability was that they were under the cover of night proceeding to some place where the women were concealed, and his appearance would at once cause them to change their route; or if he engaged and killed them he was to be farther from his object than ever, for then the whereabouts of Flora might never be known; or, on the other hand, if he was to fall, from whom was help to the women to come? But again, he if these were not Cameron and M'Kenzie, he would be going forward save himself, perhaps, a long journey and much precious time.

Still, as he reasoned, he was moving forward, keeping pace with those he followed, and neither gaining distance nor losing it; and finally, he resolved to continue doing so, wheresoever they might lead. Something told him he was doing well, and he was impelled to go on. Nor was it necessary that he should at all times keep them in sight. As already stated the snow lay white and deep, and the moon shone overhead with sufficient clearness to permit their track being easily followed. And it might be better that he should keep so far behind, that they could not readily see him; for if they were bent on anything surreptitious, the knowledge that they were dogged and followed might deter them from it. And that their object was secret and clandestine he did not doubt, judging from their appearance and movements as far as he could see them.

They appeared to be both armed, for he had occasionally seen the gleam of a weapon or weapons; they moved stealthily along as if to court concealment, and they spoke in so low tones that scarce a sound reached Hector's ear.

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NEW SPRING DRESS GOODS

GEORGE JEFFREY, WYNDHAM STREET, GUELPH,

Has just received the first of his Spring Importations per steamship Corinthian, consisting of

- 3 Cases plain Dress Goods; 1 case Plain Silks, all new colors;
2 " Striped Dress Goods, something new; 1 case Striped Silks, cheapest goods in town.

ALSO, A BEAUTIFUL ASSORTMENT OF Real Thread Laces and French Kid Gloves from the best makers in the World

To be sold at reasonable prices.

GEORGE JEFFREY, GUELPH Direct Importer, Guelph.



THE LION LARGE ARRIVALS OF SPRING GOODS FROM BRITAIN!

1000 pieces of Prints at 12 1/2 cents, Worth 16c,

AT THE GOLDEN LION. J. D. WILLIAMSON.

Golden Lion, Wyndham Street, Guelph.

12lbs. of Good Bright Sugar for \$1.

CHOICE IMPERIAL New Crop Teas 50c. per lb

J. E. McELDERRY, 2 DAY'S BLOCK, THE NOTED TEA HOUSE

Change of Business.

We beg leave to intimate that with the intention of devoting our time exclusively to the Wholesale Manufacturing, we have disposed of our Retail and Custom Business to Messrs. R. MACGREGOR & CO., who will carry on the business, and for whom we bespeak the patronage of all old customers, and the public generally. From an acquaintance of some years we can confidently recommend them as worthy of a liberal support.

W. D. HEPBURN & CO.

WITH reference to the above we have the pleasure to state that we have purchased the stock of Messrs. W. D. HEPBURN & Co., on favorable terms, and are making large additions to the same, which will be complete in a few days.

In respectfully asking for the patronage of all the old customers and the public generally, we hope to secure the same by keeping first-class goods, selling at the most reasonable prices, and offering the largest and best assortment in town to choose from, keeping it, as it has been in the past, the leading Boot and Shoe business in Guelph.

Custom Work will receive special attention, and satisfaction guaranteed. Repairing promptly attended to as usual. R. MACGREGOR & CO. Successors to W. D. Hepburn & Co.

FRESH FISH

RECEIVED DAILY PER EXPRESS.

- Fresh Cod, Fresh Haddock, Fresh Flounders, Lobsters, Herrings, Salmon Trout, Speckled Trout, Fresh Oysters, cans full.

HUGH WALKER, Wyndham-st., Guelph.

Guelph, Feb. 19, 1874.

Being about to leave Guelph, to seek a home in the Far West, I hereby give notice that all the goods and groceries to be disposed of in six weeks. Sale to commence on Monday, the 6th inst. \$45,000 worth of Dry Goods and Groceries to be disposed of in six weeks. Sale to commence on Monday, the 6th inst. MR. G. B. FRASER G. B. FRASER, Wyndham Street, Guelph.

ALTERATION OF PREMISES

GOODS SELLING REGARDLESS OF COST.

RICHD CLAYTON IN ORDER TO CLEAR OUT THE BALANCE OF HIS IMMENSE STOCK OF

DRY GOODS

"HAS RESOLVED" On and after Saturday, the 3rd of January, 1874,

TO OFFER FOR ONE MONTH HIS ENTIRE STOCK REGARDLESS OF COST

THE GOODS HAVE ALL BEEN BOUGHT AT THE LOWEST CASUAL PRICES, AND IT WILL WELL REPAY ANY ONE TO

SEE OUR GOODS BEFORE PURCHASING.

- NOTE THE FOLLOWING LINES: Good Factory Cotton for 9 cents; Good Bleached Cotton for 8 cents; Horrockses Cotton for 10 cents. See them Scarlet Flannel for 23 cents. White Flannel for 25 cents. Shirting Flannels, good patterns, for 26 cents a yard, well worth 45 cents. Winceys for 9c, rare value.

Dress Goods in Endless Variety at any price.

MANTLES AND SHAWLS WILL BE SOLD TO SUIT EVERY ONE.

BLANKETS, SHEETINGS, QUILTS, LACE CURTAINS, WINDOW HOLLANDS, CLOUDS, BREAKFAST SHAWLS, CROSSOVERS, &c. &c. &c.

Ladies, the above Goods can all be seen by calling at THE CASH STORE, Upper Wyndham Street.

No goods advertised but can be seen. Give us a call. RICHARD CLAYTON, UPPER WYNDHAM STREET

Guelph, Jan. 3, 1874

TO THE OWNERS AND BREEDERS OF HORSES AND OTHER DOMESTIC ANIMALS. GENTLEMEN—having been appointed Assistant Demonstrator of Anatomy in the Ontario Veterinary College, Toronto, I find it necessary to be absent from my practice for several days in each week during the winter months, but I will return to Guelph every Friday evening, and remain at O'Connell's Union Hotel, Macdonell street, until the following Monday, where I can be consulted on the diseases of horses and cattle. Thanking you for your past favors, and soliciting your future patronage, I am, gentlemen, Yours obediently, E. A. ORANGE, V.S. Guelph, Jan. 6th 1874.

AUCTION SALE OF FARM STOCK AND IMPLEMENTS.—Mr. Thomas Ingram has been instructed by Patrick Mulrooney to sell by public auction on Lot No. 11, Concession 8, Puslinch, 4 miles from Guelph, on the Brock Road, on Monday, March 23, 1874, at 12 o'clock, the following valuable property:—1 mare 7 years old, 1 horse 5 years old, 1 aged pony, 10 cows in calf, 1 Durham bull two years old, 4 steers rising two years, 2 heifers rising 2 years, 4 spring calves, 23 ewes in lamb, 1 Cotswold ram, 2 breeding sows in pig, 6 store pigs, 1 wagon, sleigh, buggy, cutter, buffalo robe, wheelbarrow, cutting box, fanning mill, grain cradle, forks, barn shovel, plough, 2 pair of harrows, sugar kettle, set of double and single harness, hay rack, grind stone, turnip slicer, kitchen table, some chairs, and a quantity of other articles too numerous to mention. No reserve, as the proprietor is leaving the farm. TERMS:—\$5 and under, cash; over that amount 9 months credit on approved notes. THOMAS INGRAM, Auctioneer, Puslinch, March 3, 1874.