

The Rival Clansmen
A Scottish Vendetta.

CHAPTER XXI.

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

And Hector M'Leod lay, exhausted and helpless, in care of Murdoch M'Donald—all unconscious of the danger which threatened him, all unconscious that his bitterest enemies were ready at any moment to seize the opportunity of plunging their weapons into his bosom.

But the young Chief was assiduously cared for by the old man and his son. After the landlord left they had succeeded in restoring him to consciousness; he had gazed around for a few seconds, and then sunk into a peaceful refreshing slumber. They had laid him on their own bed, and when the shadows of night drew around, father and son were seated before the fire talking in subdued tones, while M'Leod still slept on.

The old man seemed to be full of strange, weird stories, which he poured into his son's ears. Stories they were of the long ago past—stories, some of them, of the high, noble, and daring chivalry, while others were of dark midnight raids and of cruel and bloody murders; some of them were traditional legends, whose scenes were far away, while others were parts of his own experience, with their scenes in and around Kintoch-Ewe.

One there was which seemed to interest him strangely—the tale of a dark murder which he had witnessed on the north shore of Loch Maree. It was nearly gloaming on an autumn day, full twenty years before, when he was proceeding homewards, that he heard angry voices in altercation with each other. Cautiously he drew near the open glade, in which were standing two men, both young. One was a handsome, pleasant-looking youth, dressed in Lowland attire; he had a clear skin and bright blue eyes. The other was a heavy, coarse-looking Highlander, with a wild, savage look, and it was he who spoke the loudest and fiercest. He called the other an impudent Lowland dog, a smooth-faced, lying villain, who had betrayed his innocent sister. The Lowlander, who really looked an honorable lad, appeared pained at the other's words, and a flush of indignation mantled his cheeks as the latter insinuation was hurled at him.

"Man," he said, "you know that you speak falsely. You know that I am as truly wedded to your sister as ever man was wedded to woman. I have shown you the proof of it, and have shown you how it is impossible for me to avow my relationship to her at present. She trusts me—fully trusts me—and but for me you might never have known that your sister's child was begotten in honorable wedlock; she never would have told you, so earnest was she that my wishes might be observed."

"The other," continued old Murdoch, "appeared to be somewhat mollified by these words, and with a strange eagerness of manner, though apparently struggling to appear outwardly calm, asked that he might be reassured again by examining the papers. The Lowlander cheerfully drew from his breast a small packet, which he handed to the other, who received them with such a grin of triumph upon his face that I confess I from that moment felt misgivings for the safety of his companion."

"Nor was I long in doubt as to the accuracy of my fears. The Highlander, seeing them up, said that he would be the custodian of them, whereupon the other with flashing eyes demanded them back. "You would quarrel with me?" exclaimed the Highlander, glaring fiercely at his companion. "You are welcome to do so; and even as he spoke, and swift almost as an eagle's flight, did he spring upon him and bear him to the ground before he could raise a hand to defend himself. The next moment I saw a gleam of steel, then a cry, mortal agony rose upon the air; I, too, raised a cry and bounded forward, for I was a stronger man then, and was fain to grapple with the cowardly villain who had taken so foul an advantage of his companion."

"But he fled like a timid deer, and I hurried to the wounded man. A dagger yet stuck in his breast. I pulled it out. The young man moaned something, but the only words I caught were, 'Before heaven, Mary Come on is my wife, and little Fios is my child. I am dying; God bless them. I—' But a rush of blood filled his mouth, and a spasm shot through his frame; and though I held up his head for a minute more he made no further motion. He lay in my arms dead—cruelly murdered."

"I heard a rush of feet, and the dangerous position in which I was flashed across my mind. Those who approached had doubtless been attracted to the spot by the young man's cry and my own; and if I were found with the dead body beside me, and the weapon which had caused the death-blow in my hand, would not the suspicion of guilt rest on me? Somehow this thought came upon me so suddenly and so powerfully that I could not resist the impulse born with me to fly from the spot and avoid the danger. And fly I did, carrying the dagger with me. I placed it, when I reached home, in a hole in the wall of my hut, and built it up. There it has remained, and I have never examined nor seen it since that night. Before placing it away I took one hurried glance at it. It was covered with gore, but I remember distinctly of seeing upon the hilt the letters 'D. C.' Who the murderer was I never—"

But at this moment a noise behind attracted their attention, and turning they saw Hector sitting up in the bed gazing at them.

FOR SALE OR TO RENT,
A Blacksmith Shop,

Situated on the Gravel Road, Minto Township, 5 miles from Harriston, same distance from Palmerston, half acre of land, good shop, having two fires, an excellent dwelling house and good stabling. This is a good chance for an industrious man, as there has always been a good country trade done on the premises. The above will be sold on easy terms, or rented for any number of years. Possession given on the first of January, 1874. Apply to the undersigned on the premises, or by letter to WELLSINGTON WILSON, Coteswood P.O., Minto do5wt

NOTICE.

Notice is hereby given, that application will be made to the Parliament of Canada at the session thereof next, after the expiration of six months from the date of this notice, by HENRY WILLIAM PETERSON, of the Town of Guelph, in the County of Wellington, in the Province of Ontario, Barrister at Law, for a Bill of Divorce from Emma Peterson, his wife, of the Town of Guelph, aforesaid, on the ground of Adultery. HENRY W. PETERSON. Dated at Guelph this twenty-fourth day of November A.D. 1873. woom

FARM FOR SALE—Lot number Four, in the 8th concession of Luther, containing of 200 acres, being well watered. There is a good new frame house, log barn and outhouses and some small improvements. The good land is well adapted for farming. For information apply to Wilson Dynes or Wm. McDonald on the premises, and F. J. Chadwick, Guelph. 523-wt

GREAT MAMMOTH SALE
GEORGE JEFFREY, WYNDHAM STREET, GUELPH,
Offers the Balance of his Stock of
Fancy and Staple Dry Goods at an Immense Reduction!
Previous to Stock-taking. Everything must be Cleared Out before the 1st of March.
Remnants of Table Linens, Remnants of Prints, Remnants of Sheetings,
Remnants of Towellings, Remnants of White Cottons,
TO BE RUSHED OFF AT ANY PRICE
FURS This is the last chance for Cheap Furs, as the balance must be disposed of. Regardless of Cost.—A few of those Cheap Dress Goods still on hand, but going fast. Remember this is the Great Remnant Sale of the Season. Parties looking for bargains should call at once.
FURS
GUELPH, JAN. 17th, 1874
GEORGE JEFFREY, 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 Foot 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. dw

FIRST PRIZE BISCUITS
JAMES MASSIE,
Manufacturer of
CHOICE CONFECTIONERY AND BISCUITS,
Alma Block, Guelph,
Invites the attention of the Trade to the Superior Quality of Goods now produced at his Manufactory. Having introduced many new improvements, and employing only first-class workmen, and possessing every facility, he is prepared to supply the trade with a class of goods unsurpassed by any manufacturer in
OSZENGES, all flavors;
DROPS, assorted flavors and shapes;
GUM and LICORICE DROPS,
CONVERSATION LOZENGES,
MOULDED SWEETS, new patterns;
SODA, SWEET and FRUIT BISCUITS,
FRUIT BISCUITS,
GINGER NUSS,
CHEWING GUM,
ROCK CANDY,
LICORICE.
A Large Stock of Choice and Favorite Brand Cigars.
His Biscuits took the first prize over all others at the London Western Exhibition, 1873. The only place where they were entered for competition. All Goods carefully packed and shipped with despatch.

JUST RECEIVED
AT
G. B. McCullough's
NEW DRUG STORE
A LARGE SUPPLY OF
"Handy Package Dyes"
In all shades, comprising
Scarlet, Dismarck, Salmon, Rose, Slate, Blue, Magenta, Brown, Ponceau, Maroon, Black, Violet, Garnet, Green, etc.
Each package warranted to color one or more pounds of goods. See sample card in window. Price 15 cents per package.
ALSO, THE
Depilatory Powder
Warranted to remove false hair without injuring the skin.
G. B. McCULLOUGH,
Dispensing Chemist
No. 3, Day's Block,
Next door to J. E. McDermott's and directly opposite John Horsman's.

Leaving Town—Bound for the West, the Great Northwest.
\$45,000 worth of Dry Goods and Groceries to be disposed of in six weeks.
MR. G. B. FRASER
Being about to leave Guelph to seek a home in the Far West, would cordially thank his many kind friends for their continued patronage for the past fifteen years, and as he is likely to be but a short time in Guelph, he has decided to sell off at such a bargain as to sort up, as many of the goods will be sold at 15 to 20 per cent below Toronto or Montreal Wholesale prices. All goods will be marked in plain figures, and sold at cost. No account price will be made. A special discount will be allowed on purchases over \$25. This sale is genuine, the proprietor having to give up possession of his store on the 1st of May next.
G. B. FRASER,
Wyndham Street, Guelph.

TO THE OWNERS AND BREEDERS OF HORSES AND OTHER DOMESTIC ANIMALS.
GENTLEMEN—Having been appointed Assistant Demonstrator of Anatomy in the Ontario Veterinary, 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 Coghlan'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. GRANGE, V.S.
Guelph, Jan. 6th 1874. w

JACKSON & HALLETT,
IMPORTERS,
Wholesale and Retail Grocers, etc.
New Fruits, Teas, Coffees
Etc., Crop 1873, comprising
New Table Raisins,
New Valencia Raisins,
New Currants,
New Figs, Almonds, Nuts, etc.
TEAS, TEAS.
Choice Gunpowder Tea at 50 cents per lb.
Choice Young Hyson Tea at 50 cents per lb.
Superior Young Hyson Tea at 75 cents per lb.
Finest Young Hyson Tea at \$1 per lb.
Choice Fresh Black Teas at 50 cents per lb.
Finest Fresh Black Teas at 75 cents per lb.
Selected Japan Teas at 75 cents per lb.
Reduction to parties taking a box.
Also, our own importations of genuine Brandy, Wines, Scotch and Irish Whiskies Wholesale and Retail.
JACKSON & HALLETT,
Lower Wyndham-street, Guelph.
Guelph, 1873 dwcm

ALTERATION OF PREMISES
GOODS SELLING
REGARDLESS OF COST.
RICHARD 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 CASH 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,
Guelph, Jan. 3, 1874
UPPER WYNDHAM STREET