

HELEN MOIR

OR—
LOVE AND HONOUR.
A TALE OF THE CLYDE.
CHAPTER XXXVI.
THE CONSUMPTION OF HAPPINESS—CON-
CLUSION.

During those November and December days devoted by Hermann and Helen to love's sweetest dalliance, and by the inmates of the Rheinbach Villa generally to preparations for the double marriage at Christmas, the war was progressing with giant strides, and was proving in every quarter favourable to Germany. The capitulation of Sedan, the fall of Metz, and Strasbourg, and the close investiture of Paris, proved that the cause of France had become hopeless and desperate. Her friends and her foes were alike convinced that she was crushed and prostrated, and that any object she could now have in prolonging the struggle was to secure the best terms of peace.

In a social and domestic point of view, the war had been a terrible calamity for both victors and vanquished. Trade had been temporarily ruined, industry paralysed, a huge mountain of debt incurred, and thousands upon thousands of precious lives lost. Prussia had secured German predominance, and offering German unity, but she had paid an immeasurable price for it. Mourning, desolation, and sorrow had been sent into every home in the Fatherland. On every hearth sat Rachel weeping for their gallant children, and refused to be comforted, because they would return no more to gladden their eyes. They had not even the sad pleasure of visiting their graves in the "God's Acre" of their own village, for an undisturbed grave under French turf had received them, and while there was wide in this thought that they had been sacrificed for the good of their country, this patriotic pride could not dry the tears of bereavement, or bind up the deep wounds of sorrowing hearts. Therefore grief was spread over all the land, and lamentation, mourning, and woe lay like a pall over every roof-tree.

The thought of this chastened the gladness of four friends at the Rhine. They could not forget that few had come out of the furnace so little scorched as themselves, or that while they had emerged into sunshine and brightness, the lives of thousands around them were shrouded in deep and bitter gloom.

Old-wise they say, if quiet and subdued—was full and satisfying, and the days flitted on towards that day which was to consummate their happiness—the twenty-fourth day of December—the day before Christmas.

On the afternoon of the fifteenth, a little group of seven stood on the landing-place at Natchicht, waiting the arrival of the steamer from Lower Rhine, and all the seven seemed radiant with gladness.

Herr Von Rheinbach was there, and Madame leaned proudly on his arm. A different man is the Herr to look at now, than when we saw him in the early part of this story. The hard expression of his features had softened much. He had learned that there was other things to live for than money and social position; he had obtained a truer view of life and the relative and comparative value of earthly things; and he was now able to enter as he had never done before into the softer and gentler feelings of the heart.

This blessed change had been hailed with tears of thankfulness by his nobler wife, who by her patient submission and silent influence had helped not a little to hollow the influence which circumstances had produced. And now she rejoiced in the same silent manner on account of the change which had come.

David Bridgforth was there, and he, too, was happy in the recesses of his sacred heart. Precious to him had been the uses of his sore affliction. His strong manly nature had been purified, till he had become meek and gentle in spirit, and made to rejoice with gladness in the blessings which had brightened his lot in those latter days.

Hermann and Helen were there—she blooming in all the beauty of a maidenhood matured by culture, and sanctified by the purest love; and he restored almost to his former self, full of health, sturdy of cheek, and bright of eye as a restored check could make him. He no longer wore his arm in a sling—yes, the very arm which had the marks of his wounds were almost unnoticeable, and if his brow was a little paler than of yore, it waited, as he said, but the inspiriting breezes of the Scottish mountains, standing by the Clyde to drive it as a force, and efface the last trace of the illness from which he had recovered.

Mignon Lessing was there, and perhaps the sparkling beauty of her face was most marked of all as she sent her blue eyes, dancing with delight, down the river to catch the first glimpse of the coming boat, which was bringing to her the dear object of her heart's affection.

And finally, Ritchie Dunlop was there, as usually he was not the least happy of the seven. Ritchie had not lost in the least of his cheerfulness, and his kindly Scottish character by his sojourn in a foreign land, but had continued to utter the love in all its purity among the German speakers, and often found that he and they had a similar tongue. A proud and self-satisfied man was Ritchie now—his darling's future being fully assured, and her trials of love terminated—and her life about to be crowned with blessing. In her well-being he had the fruition of his highest wishes—in her prosperity did he count that his existed.

At length the smoke of the steamer was seen as she rounded the point, and the sight reminded Helen of the time when on Hunter's Quay she used to watch the coming of the Dandie. As it drew near many people were seen on deck, and foremost among them they discerned the tall, athletic form of Edwin Allerton, and a lady by his side, whom they easily recognised as his mother. Instantly their white handkerchiefs were put in motion, and the joyous signals were exchanged till the vessel glided in by the side of the wooden jetty.

But what surprised them on shore was to find that two other gentlemen standing beside Edwin and his mother joined in the signalling, and that with no less eagerness than themselves a circumstance which caused every one to gaze at them with looks of wondering inquiry.

At last Ritchie solved the mystery. "Keep us a minute," he cried, "if that isna Squire Oakley and Maister Weggate, the London lawyer."

And so in truth it was, and they had come by Edwin's invitation, and greatly to their own delight, to be present at the wedding.

ling eyes, the warm words of welcome, and the warmer words of affection. In that southern land, of demonstrative habits such a scene produced no surprise; but had a meeting taken place in the same way at Kilm or Dunoon, it would instantly have formed an object of universal attention.

"That's right," cried Edwin, as he greeted both of Hermann's hands at once, and gazed with joy into his friend's face—"you have obeyed instructions; you have become strong and well."

How could love and hope fail to make me so?" replied Hermann, as he returned the grasp with an energy and sincerity which added further testimony to the gratifying fact.

And so they went their way arm-in-arm as affection and friendship dictated, up the vine-girt path, to fill the villa with their over-flowing happiness.

Very few outward signs of rejoicing did the Rheinbach Villa present on the day when the double marriage was celebrated. This was an appropriate tribute to the sadness of that Christmas season in the war-torn land. They all felt how much it would be out of place to obtrude mirth and festivity on the tears and sorrows of a mourning people. Therefore, in quietness and with comparative privacy they conducted the ceremony and its attendant circumstances. Edwin, as an Englishman, had English notions concerning such an occasion, and had an idea that a marriage must be wanting in some of its essential elements if it did not take place amid the ringing of bells and festivity and gaiety. But he readily forewent all that out of consideration for German feelings at that time—resolved, however, that the omission would be fully supplied when he and his bride arrived at Allerton Hall, where great preparations were making for their reception, bidding the home-coming of a rich English landlord and his young wife.

To Hermann and Helen the quietness observed on the occasion was more congenial, and more in accordance with their ideas of the serious and solemn character of the marriage relation. To them its deep and earnest meaning showed itself more than it did to most, while the peculiar history of their love and betrothal rendered it in their case more than usually significant and suggestive. It was a very happy day for them, and to their true and tried hearts most real in its blessedness—far too much so to allow them to miss the customary display of festivity. Their hearts and souls were in a region transcending these outward things, and in this their native altitude they went to the altar, with a solemn and a trembling joy, which noisy sounds of mirth would rather have disturbed than enhanced.

The ceremony was performed in a little Lutheran Church perched on a wooded height overlooking the Rhine. It took place at an early hour, for Edwin and Mignon, with Mrs. Allerton, Squire Oakley, and Mr. Weggate, were to leave by steamer in the afternoon on their journey to England. A very striking and impressive scene it was which the interior of the little little edifice presented, as the group surrounded the altar and listened to or took part in the holy service. The wintry sunlight streamed through the stained window, and cast lines and tints of richest coloring on the carpeted floor and on the white marriage robes, while without, the tall and leafless lindens waved silently to and fro in the gentle Christmas air. Then the deep tones of the organ burst forth on the stillness as the service was ended, and in the union thus proclaimed LOVE AND HONOUR were emphatically united.

Our story must end here, and almost without an additional word. It is useful with us at the conclusion of a tale to tell what becomes of the various personages who have moved through its scenes, and interested us by their sayings and doings throughout its course; but the present must prove an exception, and for very obvious reason; the events of our story are of the most recent occurrence; the marriages with which its terminations having taken place scarcely a year ago, and moving among us still, and to indicate their present whereabouts and present circumstances would be to draw them too far aside from the privacy of domestic life, as well as to abuse the privilege which has been accorded us of narrating the strange and interesting events which so lately befell them. One little circumstance only shall we venture to reveal, and with that the curtain must be allowed to fall.

One day during this summer, the Dandie Dimont conveyed from Helmsburgh to Hunter's Quay three passengers, whom our friend, the Inspector, and other officials on board, did not fail to recognize. Specially did the Inspector, with pleasure, and return in his own cheery manner, the smiling salutation of the two youngest, a lady and a gentleman, whose appearance brought to his mind certain signalings with handkerchiefs which took place the year before, and it gave him great delight to see, by the ring on the young lady's finger, that their love and constant love had been finally rewarded.

Even "Bobby," the Highland sailor, saw and recognized the pair, and whispered confidently to the Inspector as they went ashore—

"Her name's as glad to see them as if she had just new from her mother."

If any person had watched the further movements of the three travellers, they would have seen them walk along the road to Ardnaman, take a boat from thence across the Loch, and pass over the stile into Kilmarnock Churchyard.

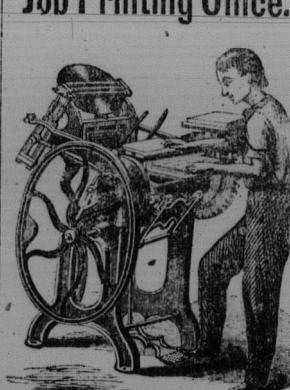
The reader will be at no loss to conjecture who these were, or for what purpose they paid this visit to the place of graves.

THE END.

DR. WHEELER'S COMPOUND
OF
ELIXIR OF PHOSPHATE AND
CALAVALA. This elegant and agreeable preparation has recently become a favorite on account of its great reliability in the cure of Disinfect, of the Stomach, of the Kidneys. It relieves at once, pain and a sense of fullness after eating, flatulency, acidity, or heartburn, headache, and constipation of the bowels, all of which arise from feeble digestion, and occasional purgative blood. It enables the stomach to digest food perfectly, and in sufficient quantity to nourish the system thoroughly, and prevent disease, and running down, and chronic wasting diseases. In constipation and scrofulous cases, in women it cures from faultily excretions, and in delicate children, it will like a charm in restoring vitality to all the organs and invigorating the general health. It will restore all those who for a long time have been in a feeble condition of the system, wanting energy and disposition to exertion. It cures by means of purifying the blood, and building up all the tissues of the body. Sold at 21 by all Druggists.

UNDERTAKERS.
MITCHELL & TOVELL,
(Sign of the Hearse).
Having on hand a Splendid Hearse, Horses etc., hope by strict attention to business to merit a share of public patronage. We will have a full assortment of
Coffins always on hand.
Funerals furnished if required. Carpenter work done on short notice. A few doors north of the Post Office, and next to Dr. Guthrie's Law Office, Douglas Street.
JOHN MITCHELL, NATE TOVELL
Guelph, Feb. 3 1872. dw

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Owing to the great increase in our Job Printing we have been obliged to purchase

Another Large Gordon Press,

Which is now at work in the Establishment.

We have now

FIVE PRESSES

In operation in the office, which, together with our very large and varied assortment of Plain and Fancy Types, makes it the largest, most complete, and best equipped Job Printing Office in the Province outside of Toronto.

Every Description of Printing

—EXECUTED—
ON SHORT NOTICE
In first-class style, and at low prices.
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REAL ESTATE, LOAN AND
General Insurance Agent

Office
Day's Block, - - Guelph, Ont.

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DAVID STEVENSON, Esq., M. P. Guelph.
JAMES MASON, Esq., Mayor, Guelph.

DISTRICT AGENT FOR
The Huron and Erie Building and
Savings Society,

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—Farmers, Mechanics and others who may desire to borrow money will find it to their advantage to apply to this Society before going elsewhere. Loans payable in yearly instalments. No lawyers fees charged to the borrower.

Fire and Life Policies issued in first-class Companies on favorable terms.

Several Valuable Farms for sale. Full particulars on application to

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NEW
Fancy Spring Goods,
UPPER WYNDHAM STREET.

The subscriber here to inform the ladies of Guelph and surrounding country that she has just received a large and carefully selected stock of Spring Goods, comprising

All the Newest Styles and Patterns!

A SPLENDID STOCK OF
BERLIN WOOLS
ALL COLOURS.

Trimmings, Ribbons, Chignons, General Fancy Goods, and Toys.

STAMPING DONE.
Lock-stitch Sewing Machines for sale.

MRS. WRIGHT,
Next to the Wellington Hotel,
Guelph, April 13, 1872. dw

NEW! NEW!!
Spring Goods.

Splendid Lines of
Trimmings, Ribbons, Braids, Ladies' Under Garments, Children's Clothing, Infants' Robes, &c.

Everything NEW in
Hair Braids, Chignons,
Coronets, Switches.

And a splendid line of
REAL THREAD LACE GOODS

—Branch of Madame Demorest's Emporium of Fashion. All kinds of Patterns at great reduction in price.

The place for all kinds of
Wools and Fancy Goods, Toys, etc.

JOHN HUNTER,
Berlin Wool, Fancy Goods and Toy Store,
Wyndham Street, Guelph,
Guelph, April 21, 1872. dw

LUMBER FOR SALE.
For sale, Pine, Basswood, Hemlock, Birch, Soft and Hard Maple, Rock Elm and Soft Elm Lumber, cut to order, any size. Joists, Rafters and Scaffolding cut to any length required. Will be sold at the Mill or delivered on the cars at Goldstone station. Also for sale Flour Barrel Staves and Headings. Orders by mail promptly attended to.
ROBERT MEKIM,
April 13, 1872. wtdw Parker P.O.

GUELPH TEA DEPOT

E. O'DONNELL & Co.

ARE SELLING
New Prunes - - - - - 5 cents per lb.
New Raisins - - - - - 5 cents per lb.
New Currants - - - - - 5 cents per lb.
New Figs - - - - - 5 cents per lb.

The best Dollar Green Tea for 80 cents per lb.
The best Black Tea for : : 60c
The best 75c. Green Tea for : 60c
A beautiful Bright Sugar 11 lbs for \$1

And every other article in the Grocery Line is
GREATLY REDUCED IN PRICE AT
E. O'DONNELL & Co.
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HATS CO TO HATS
AND
CAPS BYRNE'S CAPS

In operation in the office, which, together with our very large and varied assortment of Plain and Fancy Types, makes it the largest, most complete, and best equipped Job Printing Office in the Province outside of Toronto.

Every Description of Printing

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ROBERT MEKIM,
April 13, 1872. wtdw Parker P.O.

Finest Gold Sets Brooch and (Ear-rings) Fine Gold Necklets
" Brooches " " Lockets
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" Guards " " Studs
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AND A FULL ASSORTMENT OF
GOLD PLATED JEWELLERY
Silver Thimbles, Tea Spoons, Chains,
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Casters, Breakfast and Dinner Butter Coolers, Cake Baskets, Children's Mugs, Salons, Butter Knives, Pickle Forks, Spoons and Forks of all kinds.

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Remember the name and
Guelph, Dec 10, 1871. dw

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The subscriber keeps on hand Fresh Lime, Stone, Sand, Posts, Lumber, &c., which he will sell at reasonable prices to all who may favor him with their patronage. He also keeps teams on hand, to be let by the day or otherwise, at his residence near the G. T. station, where he will see to this new business in person in the usual way, and hopes to be patronized hereafter as he has been in the past. Orders promptly attended to.
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(Member of the Ontario Veterinary College.)
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De 223 GUELPH dw1 Guelph, April 11th 1872. dw2w

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HAIR, NAIL, AND TOOTH
BRUSHES

FOR SALE BY
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A large and varied assortment of
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Also a fresh supply of Carbated Glycerine Jelly.

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Is now opening out a very
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DRY GOODS for early
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Notwithstanding the
great advance in Dry
Goods, I will be enabled
to offer these Goods at
last Season's prices. See
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A Large Lot of
BOYS' TWEED SUITS,

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Also, a fine lot of

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For Children's Wear at
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Having had long experience in the trade he feels sure that he can turn out work to the satisfaction of the public.

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Remember the factory, on the banks of the Speed, near the Cranston bridge, and directly opposite the new English church.

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