THE KING OF NO-LAND.

BY B. L. FARJEON.

XIV.

(Continued.)

The first distinct peal of thunder broke over the woods. Sassafras laughed aloud. He had removed his cap from his fevered head. The first few heavy drops of rain fell. He raised his hand to his forehead, and felt the rain-drops, wonderingly. A flash of lightning darted into the earth, and in the sudden blaze of light he saw strange faces appear and disappear, and then a white form which his fancy imagined into Bluebell. He started to his feet, and strove to trace the sequence of events which had led him into these dark woods, into this mental chaos. Memory returned to him gradually, and then he knew, by the burning of his flesh, by the trembling of his limbs, by the dreadful sickness in his heart, that he was ill and weak, and that it behooved him to find a shelter. Whither should he direct his steps?

His mind wandered again. Dark shapes and forms melted into one another, melted suddenly into the picture of a church-yard, with three small fiddlers playing over a grave. This picture came to him in another vivid flash of lightning; and, impelled partly by delirium, partly by reason, which was struggling vainly to regain its sway, he walked mechanically toward the house in which his young friends lived. The rain beat down upon him; he did not know that he had dropped his cap, and he raised his hand and placed it, as he thought, upon his still uncovered head; the lightning played about him; the thunder whirled in his mind. Still he struggled on, directing his steps aright. But his progress was slow; he had to feel his way, and it is doubtful whether he would not have been compelled to give up the attempt in despair had he been quite sensible and responsibly conscious.

Iris, having completed her work, put away her needle and thread, and carefully folding up the clothes, placed them on a chair. Then she undressed, and knelt to her prayers, and crept into bed next to Daisy, who in her sleep nestled close to her sister-mother. The cottage was in darkness. "How cold it must be outside," thought Iris, "and how nice and warm here! I hope it will be fine to-morrow." The last thought that dwelt in her mind, before she fell asleep, was the comfortable one that the water-butts would be quite filled in the morning.

The wind shrieked and moaned without, now lashed into agony, now exhausted by pain. It bore presently upon its wings sighs and moans of human suffering. A lull in the storm took place. Iris was not, like her sisters, a sound and deep sleeper; she had too many cares. Generally in the middle of night she awoke and thought of things, reckoning up mentally how much money they had, and scheming and planning. She awoke on this night, and as she lay thinking, a groan fell upon her ears—fell heedlessly and without meaning at first, for she was not fully conscious; but when it was repeated, she sat up in bed quickly, and listened, not sure even then that it was not a trick of her fancy. Again she heard the sound of suffering. What should she do? The question was asked and answered in a breath. Our little maid did not know what fear was; she knew what suffering was, for she had nursed her mother through a long sickness; she had been acquainted with it from her earliest years. Up she rose bravely, and went to the door. She heard the groans plainly now, and unconnected words in which her own name, and the names of Daisy and Lucerne, occurred. She lit the candle, and after assuring herself that Daisy and Lucerne were still sleeping, she opened the street-door softly.

"Who is there?" she asked.

A moan answered her. The wind rushed in and extinguished the light. Iris shivered with cold. Her warm bare feet were chilled when she advanced upon the door step. She stretched out her hand and felt about in the darkness. It came to a human face, and a hot hand strove to grasp her feebly.

"Who is it?" asked the little maid, with a palpitating heart. "Who are you?"

In the unintelligible words that followed she recognized the voice of the friend they all loved so well, and with a man's strength she helped the sufferer into the house, he crawling after her, animated only by the instinct that to lie where he had fallen was certain death. She closed the street door when he was safely inside, and re-lit the candle. Then she saw that it was indeed her friend, and with compassionate cries she knelt by his side, and raised his head upon her lap. He was wet to the skin, and the water was oozing away all around him. She questioned him, and wild words answered her; but he opened his eyes, and for a moment they rested tenderly upon her face; then he relapsed into delirium. How she gained the wisdom that guided her Heaven only knows; but she saw that he was terribly ill, and that not a moment was to be lost. At this moment Lucerne awoke, and called out to know what was the matter. Iris bade her get up immediately, and Lucerne obeyed her. When she came to the side of Sassafras, and recognized him, she began to cry.

"You mustn't cry, you mustn't cry!" exclaimed Iris, in an agitated tone. "Light the fire, quick. Put the kettle on. He is very ill, and we must nurse him."

All this time her hands were busy removing his wet clothes: happily for her and for himself a lucid interval came to him.

"Do you know me? Do you know me?" inquired Iris, almost despairing, for she was not strong enough to perform the duties required of her.

"Yes, you are Iris, and that is Lucerne there, lighting the fire. Dear children! dear children?"

"Then quick! Undress yourself and get into bed."

Swiftly she took Daisy in her arms, out of the warm bed in which they had all been lying, and with their clothes the made a nest for the little one before the fire, and placed her comfortably there. Daisy did not awake: nothing disturbed that little creature in the night. By that time Sassafras was in the warm bed, and presently Iris was by his side with a cup of hot tea, which he drank gratefully. He was still lucid. Indeed, he kept himself so by a strong effort of will; he had something to say before he would allow the fever to mastery him again; he beat the delirium away fiercely.

"Bend your head," he whispered to Iris. "Do you love me?"

"Oh, yes, yes!"

"I have been overtaken by misfortune; I am afraid I am going to be ill. Stop a moment—stop a moment!" (This with a wild motion of his hands: the words were addressed to himself, and were intended to check the wave of fever that he felt to be coming upon him.) "If you love me, you must promise me to nurse me yourself, and not go to Coutsfoot er Bluebell. I exact the promise. Give it to me—for God's sake give it to me!"

"I do—I do!" cried Iris, with the tears running down her face.

"God will reward you; I can not. Dear child, dear child! An angel dwells in your breast. But listen still. You are not to go to those dear ones I have named until the fever is over that I feel coming upon me. And what strangewords I utter you will not repeat. Swear to me—no, promise, that is enough—that you will not tell them what I say."

"Yes, yes, I promise."

"Ah me! ah me! Did I not tell you that I have been overtaken by a great misfortune? I shall say strange things—I have had strange fancies. But they will be over soon. The world is not all bad. There is goodness in it, there is sweetness in it. There are stars of peace and love in it. Come!"

To be Continued.

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35 Dock Street.

Just received:

1 CASE Flavoring Extracts;
10 gross Sauces,
2 kegs Malaga Grapes.

dec11 JOSHUA S. TURNER

T. YOUNGCLAUS,

MERCHANT TAILOR

3 Charlotte Street,

(Next door to A. McRoberts & Son, Grocers.)

ST. JOHN, N. B.

CLOTHING MADE TO ORDER.

Gents' Furnishing Goods

OF ALL DESCRIPTIONS.

The best of material used and satisfaction guaranteed.

☞ All orders promptly attended to.

Ready-Made Clothing,

SHIRTS,

Homespun Frocks, Horse Blankets,

Camp Spreads & Blanketings,

Of our own manufacture.

Unequalled in the Dominion for quality and lowness of price.

Lumberers, Millmen and others

Are requested to examine before purchasing elsewhere.

Terms Liberal.

Sep7 tf T. R. JONES & CO.

FOREIGN FIRE PROSPECTUS.

NORTHERN ASSURANCE COM'Y.

OF

London and Aberdeen.

ESTABLISHED A. D. 1836.

Fire Assurance of Every Description ON MOST REASONABLE TERMS.

DEPOSITED AT OTTAWA, $100,000

FINANCIAL POSITION 31st DEC. 1870:

Subscribed Capital £2,000,000
Accumulated Funds 1,154,257
Annual Revenue from Fire Premiums 213,000

Office No. 4 (Street Range) Ritchie's Building

WARWICK W. STREET, Sub-Agent. LEWIS J. ALMON, Agent.

may 8

Wedding and Visiting Cards

ENGRAVED AND PRINTED

In First-Class Style,

and on the

MOST REASONABLE TERMS

R. H. GREEN, Engraver, 79 Germain street.

N. B.—Stencil Cutting of every description done in first-rate style. d oct17

APPLES.

Just received:

50 BBLS No. 1 Bishop Pippin Apples;
20 bbls No. 1 Greening do;
100 bbls Cheap Cooking Apples.

For sale cheap by

ARMSTRONG & McPHERSON, No. 99 Union street.

dec3

Agents

For the sale of the DAILY TRIBUNE.

H. Chubb & Co., Prince William street.
J. & A. McMillan, do.
Barnes & Co., do.
H. R. Smith, King street.
W. K. Crawford, do.
T. M. Reed, Dock street.
Roger Hunter, do.
W. Hawker, Reed's Point.
John Steadman, Coburg street.
J. Morey, Union street.
McRoberts & Son, Charlotte street.
John Smith, Corner Coburg and Union street.
Emery & Son, Golden Ball.
H. C. Frost, Brussels street.
J. McArthur & Co., do.
—— White, City Road.
—— Usher, do.
James McKinney, Main street.
Mrs. Perkins, corner Carmarthen and Mecklenburg.
L. Currie, corner Carmarthen and St. Andrews.
R. Patchell, corner Carmarthen and Britain.
G. F. Burns, corner Wentworth and Main.
J. King, Princess street.
J. B. Lorrimer, corner Orange and Carmarthen.
J. D. McAvity, Bustin's Corner.
W. G. Brown, Indiantown.
W. J. Hazelwood, near Portland Church.
J. J. Forrest, corner Main street and Paradise Row.
— Smith, Paradise Row.
W. McCready, foot of Jeffry's Hill.

Brandy. Brandy.

Landing ex British Queen, from Charente,

17 QR casks Brandy;
10 octaves do;
60 cases quarts, Brandy.
70 " pints do.
10 " half pints do.

For sale very low, in bond or duty paid.

ANDREW J. ARMSTRONG, 40 Charlotte street

dec15

Just Received:

Barrels and half barrels

NO. 1 MACKEREL.

100 Hf-bbls Split Herring,
100 Bbls Split Herring.

For sale low at No. 5 South Wharf.

F. A. DeWOLF.

oct6

Scotch Refined Sugars.

Now landing ex SS Assyria:

25 Hogsheads BRIGHT Scotch Refined Sugars.

For sale by

JAMES DOMVILLE & CO.,

sept7 Nos. 9 and 10 North Wharf.

Bay View Hotel,

PRINCE WM STREET.

WILLIAM WILSON, - - Proprietor.

THE Subscriber, having leased the above well known House on Prince William Street, and furnished it throughout, is now prepared to accommodate Transient and Permanent Boarders, on the most favorable terms.

This House is finely situated—being near the International Steamboat Landing, and convenient to the leading public and business offices, churches and places of amusement—with a full view of the Bay and Harbor, and is eminently adapted for a first-class Hotel. A few Permanent Boarders can now obtain board with choice rooms.

feb21 1y WILLIAM WILSON.

Common & Refined Iron, Metal, Cordage, Duck, Spikes, &c.

Per steamer Minnesa, from Liverpool, and vessels from United States:

1500 BARS BEST REFINED IRON, well assorted.

1576 bars Common Iron, well assorted:
81 coils Isle of Man Hemp Rope, 2 to 7½ in.
106 " English & American Manilla, 2 to 6 in.
13 " B B Charcoal Wire Rope, 2 to 4 in.
219 " YELLOW METAL, ¾ to 1¼;
8 Chain Cables and Anchors;
2000 yards Cotton Duck.

To arrive per ships Ruby and Eviva, and steamers from Liverpool

Outfits for vessels complete, COMMON and REFINED IRON, Yellow Metal, SPIKES, Oakum, Lead, &c., &c.

For sale at lowest market rates.

ap 13 JAMES L. DUNN & CO.

CIGARS!

IN STORE:

The Largest and Best Selected Stock

In the market, including favorite brands of

Havana, German and Canadian Goods,

WHOLESALE ONLY

☞ An inspection solicited.

R. R. DUNCAN, 21 Water street.

june1

ALCOHOL.

50 PER cent Overproof, in bond at No. 2 Warehouse. Will be sold at Lowest Market Rates, in Bond or Duty Paid, by

SWEENY & STAFFORD, 4 South Wharf.

nov13 frm

NEW STORE.

ARMSTRONG & McPHERSON, 99 UNION STREET.

ARE now receiving a choice assortment of Teas, Sugars, Coffees, Spices, Fruits, etc., etc., suitable for the season.

All warranted fresh and good.

Also—5 bbls Cranberries, choice.

oct6 99 UNION STREET.

Apples. Apples.

Ex stmr New Brunswick:

100 BBLS No. 1, American Baldwins. For sale low to close consignment.

W. A. SPENCE, North Slip.

nov9

GIN. GIN.

Landing ex Lulu, from Liverpool:

10 HHDS Henker Gin;
50 cases 10 qr-casks do;
For sale low do.

ANDREW J. ARMSTRONG, 40 Charlotte street.

dec10 nws

Perfumerie des Trois Freres

Paris, West End, White Rose, Frangipane, Eos, Bouquet, Jockey Club, Hille Fleurs,

THE finest perfumes made. If not sold by your druggist, may be obtained at retail of the Wholesale Agency.

H. L. SPENCER, 20 Nelson street.

june 8

PRESSED HOPS—One ton—crop of 1873—fresh and good. For sale by

H. L. SPENCER, 20 Nelson street.

june 8

FINE TOILET SOAPS—Five cases Brown Windsor, Glycerine, Honey, Rose and Almond.

H. L. SPENCER, 20 Nelson street.

une 8

CLARKE'S BLOOD MIXTURE, and other preparations—A Stock received ex Caspian, by the Wholesale Agent.

H. L. SPENCER, 20 Nelson street.

june 8

TAYLOR'S CREAM YEAST.—If not sold by your grocer, may be obtained at Retail, the Wholesale Agent.

H. L. SPENCER, 20 Nelson street

june 8

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GEO. W. DAY,

Book, Card and Job Printer

CHARLOTTE STREET.