

HELEN MOIR

—OR—
LOVE AND HONOUR.

A TALE OF THE CLYDE.
CHAPTER XXXIV.

THE CONTENTS OF THE PACKET—WATCHING
BY HERMAN'S COUCH—THE CRISIS

This was the substance of the paper Bridgenorth read in the hearing of the others.

"Poor old Jordan," said Bridgenorth, as he folded up the paper and refolded the packet. "Little did he know how his confidence in Jaquin was to be abused, and his act of reparation rendered tardy and nearly abortive."

"If we had him beneath the mools," added Ritchie, reducing the statement to literal accuracy. "Will I gang and tell them to send the hospital van for him?"

"Why, no," returned Bridgenorth. "His burial must be our own private charge."

"Voisey, the wine merchant, will see to the arrangements," said Edwin. "The sooner and the quieter it can be done the better. It will be an immense relief when a few feet of earth gives us assurance of silence."

Now are we free to approach the couch of Hermann Rheinbach, and remain there through the trying, anxious days endured by those who loved him as their own souls.

He was still unconscious, and Helen had never left him, though all she could do in the meantime was to bathe with vinegar that brow which was now becoming hot with advancing fever, and lift up her heart in fervent prayer to heaven for his safety and recovery. Ah, but what a little way did these things go in satisfying the yearning of her heart for he doing something for him which should tend directly and palpably to his comfort and relief! It was a terrible trial to her intense love to see him there motionless and unresponsive, unconscious of her presence, deaf to that voice, the lowest accents of which used to catch his ear and fill him with delight. Ah, that must be a thick, thick cloud upon his soul, which rendered him so utterly insensible to outward things, and imprisoned his lofty spirit, as it were, under bars of triple iron.

But a time was coming when violence should succeed that stillness—when struggle should begin against a strong army which was coming against him to battle with him for his life. Even now the enemy had approached the gates of the citadel, and was striving for admission, and his efforts to see within were slowly raising the garrison from lethargy to resistance.

When these signs of organic activity began to show themselves Helen's heart thrilled with a wild hope, for she deemed that now he would return to consciousness, and would know her. And when at length he did open his eyes, she bent breathlessly over him with a look of deepest love, ready to meet his upward gaze with a smile of joy.

Intelligence had been sent to the Herr, and he had come from the Rhine to Gorse, and was also anxiously watching in the sick room. If ever there was a man wretched and regretful that man was Herr Rheinbach now, as he witnessed the womanly devotion of Helen Moir—her sweat, gentle, unwearied patience, and the strength and purity of her love for Hermann—and called to mind the harsh and cruel behavior in banishing her from his house, and setting his prideful and sinful prohibition upon their genuine and holy affection.

What would he have given now to have recalled his tyrannical conduct, by which he had been planting thorns in his own heart, and doing homage to the false judgement of the world which our cruel human hearts beneath its wheels every day. But the past could bring the Herr no comfortable reflections—nothing but remorse and misery—and he wandered to and fro about the sick room, tortured by an agony which bordered on despair.

If any comfort could have come to them in these dark and anxious days it would have been from the nature of Hermann's ravings. It is in the midst of a fever, when there is no control on the thoughts, that the heart and the soul are revealed. Then there is no disguise, no reserve—the nature appears in its true complexion, the character is manifested in its fullest and minutest features—the whole inner being, over which consciousness keeps a veil, is made open and visible. Then it is that the evil past is indicated, and words spoken which in rational moments would be carefully suppressed, or if forced from the lips would be accompanied with shame and pain.

Hermann Rheinbach had no utterance to emit which gave pain to the listeners and lowered his character in their eyes. On the contrary, all his incoherent sayings might have been precious in the market-places without bringing the shadow of detraction on his name. They were but the involuntary testimonies to the integrity and nobility of his character, the purity, generosity, and elevation of his nature. And, oh, how pathetic it was when he spoke of Helen and the past history of their love. Sometimes his mind ran on the first happy days of their revealed affection, ere any separating barrier had come between them but a father's pride and injustice, which they had resolved to disregard. Then were recalled the exquisite joys of their evening rambles by the shores of the Holy Loch, in the sylvan recesses of the glens, and on the breezy slopes of the Dimoon hills. But when the time of darkness and sorrow was revived, nay, lived over again and experienced anew; for once again, in Hermann's disturbed brain, the scene upon the solitary knoll was enacted when Helen told him that she must part, since Honour demanded the terrible sacrifice of love. The bitter pain and woe he felt were fully revealed in those pathetic wallings of his grief-stricken heart, as in thought he wandered away into the solitude and the desolation of extinguished hopes.

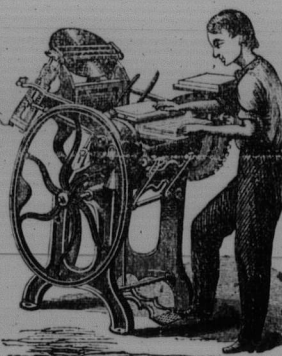
To Helen these wallings of his noble heart were at once bitter and precious, for they gave a revelation of his love for her, deeper than she could have received in any other way; but, oh, they rendered her present fears for his life all the more unbearable, for should death claim him now, when all barriers between them had been removed, she felt that she too must die, and not live in the woe of such bereavement.

And so the anxious days passed on—the German army being the while engaged in investing Metz, and shutting up Bazaine and his forces within it, where they must either break through, surrender, or starve.

At length the hour of crisis came. The fever had run its course, and spent the sufferer's strength. He now—calm and still, and utterly prostrated—sank into a blissful, peaceful slumber, from which the doctor told them he would awake either to consciousness and life, or return again to animation only to die—which it could be, no one could tell. The result

Continued on Fourth page.

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This Jelly is highly recommended to ladies as a most agreeable Preparation for the Toilet. It beautifies the complexion, and renders the Skin Soft, White, Clear, and free from Freckles. It is unrivalled. It will quickly remove all Redness, Roughness, Tan, Freckles, Pimples, and other imperfections. For Chapped Hands, Chubbins, Frost Bites, and Sore Lips, it cannot be surpassed. Price 25 cents.

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BARGAINS WILL BE GIVEN

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The best Dollar Green Tea for 80 cents per lb.

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Guelph, April 20th, 1872 dw

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1872 SPRING AND SUMMER 1872

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A large and well selected stock

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A large and varied assortment of

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—AND—

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Sells every description of Feed cheap and good; also

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Cheap as other People. dw1m

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Lath, Shingles, Waterlime,

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Flour and Feed as usual

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REFERENCES.

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DAVID STIRTON, Esq., M. P., Guelph.

JAMES MASSIE, Esq., Reeve, Guelph.

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