The Orphan of the Wreck.

CHAPTER XVI. GE'S INTRODUCTION TO ARDGOWAN— ERHBARS AN IMPORTANT CONVERSA TION, AND FORMS A DELIGHTFUL ACQUAINTANCE,

TION, AND FORMS A DELICHTFUL.

ACQUAINTANCE.

There was much to puzzle and bewilder im, but one thing he had clearly made ut—which was, that Captain Gibson and fathan Garrett dreaded the return of eason to Walley. Their words left no oubt as to this. Now, here at the very utset, he and they were antagonistic, for he return of reason to the maniac was to him a matter of the very utmost imortance—his dearest hopes in life deended on it. Why, then, should they read what he so vehemently desired?

The only inference he could draw was, hat, if Walley returned to reason, they ared he would make a revelation to heir injury, and that the injury thus ancipated was of a very serious nature, as proved by their intense anxiety and tarm.

was proved by their intense anxiety and atarm.

What could it possibly be? What connection could Stephen Gibson and Nathan Garrett have with Walley? And how could a rational utterance of his injure them!

Here, of course, George's power of conjecture was at fault. He could form no idea of the nature of their alarm, but, inasmuch as he had such a paramount interest in the occurrence which they apprehended, he naturally concluded that he himself was concerned in the matter.

Here, then, was food for concentrated thought, wonder, and inquiry, and he began to seek for light through the little knowledge he possessed.

That knowledge he mentally enumerated in something like the following items:—Stephen Gibson had succeeded to the property of George Morrar.

George Morrar was drowned by the wreck of the Eglantine.

George Morrar had been a planter in Jamaica.

Nathan Garrett had been George Mor-

Jamaica.

Nathan Garrett had been George Morrar's overseer in the Jamaica plantation.

Nathan Garrett had come to Scotland
with George Morrar's widow and child,
These facts George had learned from
Harry Markham. Then the story told
him by the sailor in the coach added the
fact that a year or two subsequently, Nathan Garrett had secretely and nefariously despatched a negro girl to the plantations.

than Garrett hid secretely and nefariously despatched a negro girl to the plantations.

And what light came to George's mind through these facts? Very little certainly, and that little was confused and bewildering, but it was also stimulating. He saw enough to cause him to resolve to seek for more, and he said to himself that he should remain at Ardgowan if for no other object than to watch the Captain and Nathan Garrett, and lie in wait for any information which their words and actions might convey.

The conversation which he had already listened to, and which he was now pondering in the light of the facts he knew, gave him abundant justification for thus acting in some degree the part of spy. The vital interests he had at stake warranted the use of all lawful means to pierce the mystery which shrouded these men, and their concern in the state of Walley. It was pretty evident to him that Garrett knew who Walley was, and if he knew that, in all probability he knew likewise whose child Walley had in his care when he was found on the rock. There was another allusion in the conversation which George overheard, which had a significant meaning. Garrett had spoken of "another quarter" which "seemed safe." What did this mean? George could not help thinking that it had reference to Kenneth Bruce, and his nnaccountable disappearance from sight. Then, last of all, George had not failed to note the terror into which Garrett was thrown when his eye fell on the youth seated at the window. Why should the sight have moved him so much? It was not mere startled surprise at seeing some one there; it was more than that, thought what the cause of such consternation might be, George could not a present understand.

At the end of an hour or so he thought he would pass downstairs to the library.

might be, George could not at present understand.

At the end of an hour or so he thought he would pass downstairs to the library, which Mrs. Gibson had told him was the apartment where the boys were to be taught. The servant had already shown him the door of this room, and he had a desire to see its interior, and note what arrangements might be necessary to render it suitable for the schoolroom.

He easily made his way to the place he sought, and entering, found himself in a large oblong chamber, one side of which was occupied with a row of deeply-sunk windows, the wall opposite being lined with well-filled book shelves, and the centre occupied by a large table.

He was proceeding up the room, scanning the titles of the books as he passed

He was proceeding up the room, scanning the titles of the books as he passed when he was nearly startled into the ntterance of an exclamation at the sight of a young girl who emerged towards him A vision of fairer loveliness George, had never beheld, and he gazed in a kind of rapture, his heart beating with strange thrill, and his eyes rivetled on that sweet and charming face.

She was a girl of nineteen or twenty, of middle height, somewhat slender, but exquisitely formed, her move ments full of charming grace, and her face expressive of frankest kindness and sparkling animation.

of frances kindness and sparking animation.

"Mr George Eglantine, I prosume," she said, and her voice had a 'silvery richness of tone which sounded musical in George's ears.

"Yes, ma'am at your service," faltered George, in not a little confusion.

With winning grace and charming frankness she gave him her hand, which when he had taken pressed his with warm cordiality, her lovely countenance being the while lighted up with evident pleasure "I knew you were coming to-day," she added.

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SCHOOL BOOKS

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