ANNABEL

THE TEMPTATION.

CHAPTER XVII.

OSEPH LANGTON IS UNEXPECTEDLY DELI-VERED FROM HIS DIFFICULTIES. Further conversation was cut short by Mr. Langton tunning again to his wife and asking full particulare of Annabel's illness and death. We need not repeat the list of lies which she had necessarily to tell in order to support the daring fraud which had now reached such an important point on its way to success.—She had no difficulty in performing glibly and effectively this portion of her part. All had been anticipated by her, and all prepared for. An imaginary istory was related, imaginary scenes depicted, and imaginary words and messages repeated, which the merchant listened to without the slightest suspicion of their falsebood. In this manner the time passed till the train reached London, where they remained for the night, and proceeded next day on the journey to Yorkshire—the coffin being still conveyed in the van which had been procured at Dover. Mr. Langton had wished them to leave London by an earlier train, but this his companions, for a private object, managed to prevent, their desire being not to reach Reckstone before the evening. There was an ordeal to be undergone when they arrived which they wished to render as little dangerous as possible, and the artificial light of evening was more favorable for this than the stronger and clearer light of day. Succeeding in their object they reached the railway station carest Rockstone at for dark, and here, according to the instructions which they had telegraphed, a hearse was waiting to receive the body and carry it to the mansion. Mr. Langton's carriage had also come for themselves, so that ere the sound of the departing train was lost, they were moving slowly away on the silent road, the sad centre of the procession being the dead body of Elle Mattocks, which was about to be borne within the portals of Rockstone as the mortal remains of its young mistress and rightful owner, Annabel Leightton.

The grief of the servants was great and sincere, for Annabel had endeared herself to all whe had come near her. It was therefore amid sobs and weeping that the coffin

t to-night," he answered. "I will

bis wi-b.

"Not to-night," he answered. "I will wait till to-morrow."

"Oh, you do wish it opened then," she said in unfeigned surprise.

"Yes, dear, I certainly do. I want to take a last look at the dear girl, and ulso to secure a lock of her hair for Philip."

This roply, especially the last part of it, caused his wife to start involuntarily, and she and Hayes exchanged one of their telegraphic glances. A thought so simple, so natural, had not occurred to them, and this was one thing not provided against. Most important it was too, for this was one of the points in which edigenes, but Philip certainly would; and what explanation could be given to him of the matter? There was no evading it now, however, and they trusted to some after chance to remedy the oversight.

"Then, my dear Joseph," remarked Mrs. Langton, "since you do wish to pened, it will be better—may, it will be essential—to have it done at once. The date of the let it be done now. The carpenter is still in the house, and after he has unfastened the lid he will stay to screw it down again immediately."

"Yes, yea, but I must see her, if only for a few moments."

"As you will, dear—as you will, "sighed the merchant, rising to accompany the others.

The hall and staircase were well lighted, but on entering the death of humber 'they found it shrouded in gloom. The lamp burning there was turned low, and placed so that the bed with the coffin lying on it was cast in the deep shadow.

At this moment the carpenter, who had been ordered to attend, entered with the tools necessary to remove the lid, and besides this man and their three selves, no one was present.

As the operation could not be performed in the semi-darkness, the lawyer broaded of the following first-class Iron broaded of the following first-cl

been ordered to attend, entered with the tools necessary to remove the lid, and besides this man and their three solves, no one was present.

As the operation could not be performed in the semi-darkness, the lawyer brought the lamp from its distant stance and held it near the coffin, though he carefully refrained from turning it up to make it burn stronger. It sufficed, however for the carpenter's use, who speedily extracted the screws, the others looking on in silence while he proceeded, and Mrs. Langton's guilty heart quaking with apprehension lest any suspicion should be raised by a sight of the body. The moment, however was one of extreme importance, and she called up every power to act calmly, 'firmly and promptly.

The lid was lifted, and the white shrouled face met their view.

"Simons," she said to the man, "wait in the ante-room till you are wanted."

Thus directed, he moved from the room, and until he had gonethe covering was not removed from the lamp farther away as she did so, hence the light which fell ou the unveiled features was dim and uncertain. Under it, however, the whe's sharp face could be seen—fair and beautiful still, for the defacing work of corruption had not visibly begun.

Mr. Langton bent forward and gazed with tearful eyes upon those still, upturned features, whose resemblance to Annabel was so great that he never doubted it was she. His two companions regarded him with breathless suspense, cagerly watching for any sign of surprise he might show. But to their incepressible rehef he gave none such.—He laid his hand on the cold brow and started at the loy touch; he took a pair of scisgors and cut one of the flowing treases; then, with a long sad look, and a murmur of "Poor Annabel, poor Philip," he slewly went away, and for his wife and Barnard Hayes the dreaded ordeal was over.

The sale of ale and lager is now for bidden in Mass., and topers are expected to content themselves with cider.

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The sale of ale and lager is now for-bidden in Mass., and topers are expected to content themselves with cider.



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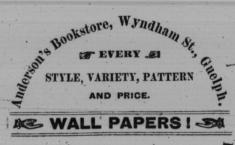
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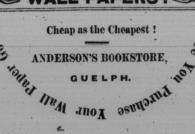
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Guelph, April 29,81873

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The whole stock of

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Bill Lumber sawed to order, and delivered with promptness.

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Always on hand, besides Fresh Ment, Sugar-curved Hams, Bacon, Lard, Pork, Sausages, &c. gar-cured Hams, Bacon, Lard, Pork, Sausages, &c.
A call from all his old friends respectfully solicited.

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Guelph, April 7th, 1873 dtf

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