

ANNABEL

THE TEMPTATION.

CHAPTER XVII.

JOSEPH LANGTON IS UNEXPECTEDLY DELIVERED FROM HIS DIFFICULTIES.

Further conversation was cut short by Mr. Langton turning again to his wife and asking full particulars of Annabel's illness and death. We need not repeat the list of lies which she had necessarily told in order to support the daring fraud which she had been carrying on, 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 history was related, imaginary scenes depicted, and imaginary words and messages repeated, which the merchant listened to without the slightest suspicion of their falsehood. 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 Rockstone after 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 Ellen Matlocks, which was about to be borne within the portals of Rockstone as the mortal remains of its young mistress and rightful owner, Annabel Leighton.

The grief of the servants was great and sincere, for Annabel had endeared herself to all who had come near her. It was therefore amid sobs and weeping that the coffin was lifted from the hearse and taken up the great staircase to the room which had been Annabel's bed room. This manifestation of unfeigned feeling entirely overcame Mr. Langton, and he sought shelter in one of the lower rooms, where he was alone and his emotion free from observation.

A considerable time elapsed without his privacy being invaded, but at length Mrs. Langton came in, accompanied by Barnard Hayes.

"I do not suppose you wish to have the coffin opened, Joseph?" she observed, in a tone which indicated her certainty that he did not, though secretly she feared that such would indeed be his wish.

"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 also to secure a lock of her hair for Philip."

This reply, especially the last part of it, caused the 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 Ellen and Annabel least resembled each other—the shade of their hair. It was not likely that Mr. Langton would observe the difference, 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 it opened, it will be better—nay, it will be essential—to have it done at once. The doctor in France warned me against it after such a long journey as the body has had. You understand?"

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

"Then let it be done now. The carpenter is still in the house, and after he has unfurnished the lid he will stay to serve it down again immediately."

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

The hall and staircase were well lighted, but on entering the death chamber 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 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 shrouded face met their view.

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



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GUELPH, APRIL 9, 1873.

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Sailing from New York every Thursday
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Rates of passage as low as any first-class
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Prepaid Tickets to bring friends out issued
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Guelph, April 13, 1873.

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Nyanza..... Saturday, 17th May
Scotland..... Wednesday, 28th May
And every alternate Wednesday, and Saturday thereafter.

And from Quebec for London (with privilege of calling at Sydney, C.B., for coal) as follows:

Thames..... Thursday, 8th May
Severn..... Tuesday, 13th May
Delta..... Thursday, 22nd May
Medway..... Tuesday, 2nd June
Nyanza..... Thursday, 13th June
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Through tickets from all points West at reduced rates. Certificates issued to persons desirous of bringing out their friends.

Through Bills of Lading issued on the Continent and in London for all parts of Canada, and in the United States to Detroit, Milwaukee, Chicago, and other points in the West.

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Always ahead with good Cheap Teas.

JUST IMPORTED

A GOOD YOUNG HYSON TEA..... for 50 cents per lb
A FIRST-RATE GUNPOWDER TEA..... for 50 cents per lb
A CHOICE BLACK TEA..... for 50 cents per lb
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THE BEST DOLLAR GREEN TEA..... for 80 cents per lb

A reduction on the above prices will be made to parties buying by the Cask.

500 boxes of New Raisins at \$1 per box.

SUGARS!

12 pounds of GOOD SUGAR..... for \$1.
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All Goods will be delivered at the stations, or to your houses in town, free of charge.

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STYLE, VARIETY, PATTERN
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Before You Purchase Your Wall Paper Go to

Cheap as the Cheapest!
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White Dress Shirts,
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Particular attention paid to this Department, and any style of Shirt made to measure, and a

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Guelph, April 29, 1873

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The whole stock of

BOOTS AND SHOES

Belonging to the Insolvent Estate of John A. McMillan is being sold at a tremendous sacrifice. Large additions have been made from the Insolvent's store in Collingwood, and the whole must be sold off without reserve to wind up the Estate.

Special inducements to retail merchants and jobbers, who desire to secure job lots.

The Entire Stock of Machinery
Consisting of Sewing, Pegging, Eyelining and Splitting Machines. Also, a large number of Sole Dies, which will be sold very cheap. Also, a SMALL SAFE will be sold at a sacrifice.

WM. McLaren, Assignee.
Guelph, April 17, 1873.

BEAUTIFUL NEW WALL PAPER

GOLD PAPERS,
BORDERS,
DECORATIONS,

DAY'S BOOKSTORE.

BUYERS SHOULD REMEMBER THAT

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AT DAY'S BOOKSTORE.

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IN GUELPH.

The subscriber has opened, under the superintendence of Mr. Richard Maddock, a Lumber Yard on Paisley and Oxford streets.

Near the G. W. Railway Station, and is prepared to supply the various descriptions of building and other lumber.

Shingles, Lath and Pickets. Lumber, etc., delivered in either large or small quantities, in any part of the town, or delivered by the car load on the track here, at any station on the G. W. R., or in cars at the Mill Siding north of Walkerton.

Bill Lumber saved to order, and delivered with promptness.

Yokasippi Mills Lumber Yard.

April 21st, 1873. CHARLES MICKLE, 104dw

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Office—No. 3, Day's Block, Guelph. Guelph, April 29, 1873. d&wlm.

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Toys and other Fancy Goods

Suitable for the Season.

MRS. WRIGHT,

UPPER WYNDHAM STREET.

Next to the Wellington Hotel.

Guelph, Jan. 23, 1873. dw

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FOR ONE MONTH LONGER.

As the balance of the stock must be cleared out in that time, the goods will be sold at

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All orders delivered in any part of the Town.

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