

Our Story.

THE HOUSEHOLD OF McNEIL

BY AMELIA E. DAVIS. Author of "Jan Voller's Wife," "The Daughter of Five," etc., etc.

CHAPTER III.—A SECRET LIE AND ITS ISSUES.

Oh what a tangled web we weave When first we practise to deceive!

A man with all the bad qualities his language has names for.

Look round the habitable world, how few know their own good, or knowing it, pursue? So blind we are, our wishes are so vain.

GRIZELDA obeyed her father because the powers present were too much for her to resist. But she was intensely angry, and her anger did not evaporate in a few indignant tears and words.

Hitherto Maxwell's admiration for Grizelda McNeil had been shown within legitimate and honorable bounds. In the houses of the neighbouring gentry when he met her, he chose to linger by her side, to walk with her in the gardens, to make her conspicuously his partner in the dance.

Maxwell disliking him on sight. At first he tried to reason himself out of such an unreasonable prejudice, but the toleration granted to the absent Maxwell was instantly withdrawn when he met him face to face.

This was the state of feeling between McNeil and Maxwell on that night when Grizelda took her first wrong step. When her father sent her from his presence she opened her heart to every evil power.

Lord Maxwell was alone when he received it. He had been sipping wine, and turning the leaves of one of Sue's novels for a couple of hours; and was precisely in the mood to find in Grizelda's note the very stimulus his nature wanted.

For Grizelda's interference said plainly that he had won the girl's heart; and though he felt a slight scorn for his own conceit, he perceived that it put the girl's feet under his feet.

He had a shrewd idea as to where he would be likely to meet Grizelda next day, and he lingered near the spot for hours. But though Grizelda had precisely the same thought, though she was certain he was slowly riding up and down that part of the moor which touched the wall of the fir wood,

to prevent quarrelling, perhaps bloodshed. So, as a kind of peace-offering to her wounded self-respect, she did not go to walk in the fir wood.

But Maxwell gave her no credit for this self-denial. He understood women so well that he had been over the whole ground of Grizelda's feelings and reasonings before he left his own house.

He smiled as he turned homeward. "She will meet me to-morrow—perhaps, but if it be a week—a month hence, in the long run it will be the same."

"Lord Maxwell," he said, "I have been to your place to seek a word with you. I may as well say it here. There is a very ill will to you in the countryside about those vicious curs that are worrying the flocks around Edderloch.

"Doctor Brodick, I am sorry you have interfered in this matter. I do not recognise your right to do so." "Edderloch is my parish, Maxwell. It is my duty to reprove wrong in it, whether the wrong-doer be lord or shepherd.

"For a moment the minister was in a blaze of anger, and his first impulse was to lift the stout thorn stick in his right hand. But instead he struck it firmly into the yielding turf.

The Review may easily have a missionary application; therefore these two, as selected by the committee, are here united.

GOLDEN TEXT.—The desert shall rejoice and blossom as the rose.—ISA. XXXV. 1.

Jesus Christ has come to transform this world into the kingdom of God.

There was nothing wrong in that, Malcolm McNeil wanted to sell. "I am not saying it was wrong; but, Grizelda, there is a great prejudice against Lord Maxwell, and there are causes for it.

"I think Lord Maxwell loves me." "A man that loves not God loves not either man or woman rightly. He is not to be depended upon. He goes out with the tide and comes in with the tide, and never puts out an anchor, or grips tight to any single principle of justice or human kindness.

"You are correcting me in advance of my fault, doctor," answered Grizelda, freely. "Lord Maxwell has not asked me to trust my life to him, and if he did there are many things to consider.

"My lassie, take care of your words! You have no right to criticize your father, even in your thoughts; and the fleck at your Cousin Colin is not a kindly nor womanlike."

"What have I done? You are re-proving me without cause." "Without cause! Did you not betray the purpose of your father's house to his enemy?"

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GOLDEN TEXT.—The desert shall rejoice and blossom as the rose.—ISA. XXXV. 1.

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TEXT.—Four years. From the mission of John the Baptist in the summer of A.D. 26 to near the close of the ministry of Christ, March, A.D. 30.

PERSONS.—Jesus Christ, 33½ years old at the close of the period.

QUESTIONS.

I. THE BOOK WE STUDY.—Which book of the Bible have we been studying this last quarter? Who wrote it? How many chapters has it? What else can you tell about it?

II. THE LAND.—What country was the scene of Christ's labours? Into what three great divisions was it divided? In which of these three did most of our lessons take place. Name the chief river; the chief lake; the

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