

# Highly Priced Post.

WILLIAM C. MILLNER, Proprietor.

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VOL. 9.—NO. 34.

SACKVILLE, N. B., THURSDAY, DECEMBER 26, 1878.

WHOLE NO. 450.

## LITERATURE.

### A SHOCKING STORY.

BY WILKIE COLLINS.

Continued.

#### CHAPTER V.

"You don't mean to engage that man?" said Lady Catherine, as the door closed.

"Why not?" asked my uncle, looking very much surprised.

"I have taken a dislike to him," said my uncle, "and I don't think you should be so silly as to marry a man who has passed his life in a prison."

"I don't feel well. It doesn't matter," said my uncle, "but I do for you."

"Write to the man—what can I do for you?" she asked.

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gotten. Like the shawl, the paper was of foreign manufacture. The handwriting presented a strongly marked character; and the composition plainly revealed the mistakes of a person imperfectly acquainted with the English language.

The contents of the letter were related to the means applied for the support of the child. Instead of paying the money by instalments, the writer had committed the folly of inclosing a sum of a hundred pounds in one remittance.

At the close of the letter, an appointment was made for a meeting in six months' time, on the eastward side of London Bridge.

The stable-boy's description of the woman who had passed him showed that she belonged to the lower class. To such a person a hundred pounds would be a fortune.

She had no doubt abandoned the child and made off with the money. No trace of her was ever found.

On the day of the appointment the police watched the eastward side of London Bridge without making any discovery.

Through the kindness of the gentleman in whose stables he had been found, the first ten years of the boy's life were passed under the protection of a charitable asylum.

They gave him the name of one of the little inmates who had died; and they sent him out to service before he was eleven years old.

He was harshly treated, and ran away; wandered to some training-table near Newmarket; attracted the favorable notice of the head groom, who was employed among the other boys and liked the occupation.

Growing up to manhood he had taken service in private families as a groom. Such was the record of twenty-six years of his life!

Taking him, apart from his story, there was something in the man himself which attracted attention, and made one think of him in his absence.

For example, there was a spirit of resistance to his destiny in him, which is very rarely found in serving-men of his order.

I might never have known this if the General had not asked me to accompany him in one of his periodical visits of inspection to the stables.

He was so well satisfied that he proposed extending his investigations to the groom's own room.

"If you don't object, Michael," said his object, "I will accompany you in your customary consideration for the self-respect of all persons in my employment."

Michael's color rose a little; he looked at me. "I am afraid the young lady will not find my room quite as it ought to be," he said, as he opened the door for us.

CHAPTER VII.

That night, lying awake thinking, I made my first discovery of a great change that had come over me. I can only describe my sensations in a trite phrase—I felt like a new woman.

Never yet had my life been so enjoyable to me as it was now. I was conscious of a delicious gladness of heart. The simplest things pleased me; I was ready to be kind to everybody and to admire everything.

Even the familiar scenery of my ride in the Park developed beauties which I had never noticed before. The enchantments of music moved me to tears. I was absolutely in love with my horse and my dog—and as for my maid I bewitched the girl with presents and gave her holidays almost before she could ask for them.

In a bodily sense, I felt an extraordinary accession of strength and activity. I romped with the dear old General, and actually kissed Lady Catherine one morning, instead of letting her kiss me as usual.

My friends noticed my new outbreak of gaiety and spirit and wondered what had produced it. Is there any limit to the deception of which a human being is capable?

I can honestly say that I wondered too. Only on that wretched night which followed our visit to Michael's room, did I feel myself on the way to a clear understanding of the truth.

The next morning completed the process of enlightenment. I went out riding as usual. The instant when Michael put his hand under my foot as I sprang into the saddle, his touch flew all over me like a flame.

I knew who had made a new woman of me from that moment.

As to describing the first sense of confusion that overwhelmed me, even if I were a practised writer, I should be incapable of doing it. I pulled down my veil, and rode on in a sort of trance.

Fortunately for me, our house looked on the park, and I had not to cross the road. Observing that the General was not with me, I rode to the stable and the groom followed me.

The groom! There, in a supposition, no civilized human creature, I had to do with the subject of my scandal. I said I particularly wished to see Lady Catherine. My uncle's penitential good breeding still resisted me.

"Your aunt may wish to speak to me in private," he said. "Wait a moment, please, while I send for her."

My uncle was evidently relieved. I seized the opportunity of making my confession, and taking the whole blame on myself. Lady Catherine stopped me with the perfect grace of which she was mistress.

"My good child, don't distress yourself! Don't make any more of it than I do. I am sure you have done very well. I have begun like you looking beyond yourselves."

For a moment our eyes met. I admired the poor lonely fellow, trying so modestly and so bravely to teach himself—and I did not care to conceal it. He was the first to look away; some unexpressed emotion turned him deadly pale.

Do you know your business as a lady's groom?"

"I have had seven years' experience, your ladyship."

"Your business is to ride at a certain distance behind your mistress. Has not your experience taught you that?"

"Yes, your ladyship."

"You were not riding behind Miss Mina—your horse was almost side by side with hers. Do you deny what I say?"

"No, your ladyship."

"Leave the room. No more back. Have you any excuse to make?"

"None, your ladyship."

"Your insolence is intolerable. I shall speak to the General."

The sound of the closing door followed. I knew now what the smiles meant on the false faces of those women friends of mine who had met me in the Park on that ordinary day in Michael's place.

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pistol to her head, he could hardly have silenced her effectually. She did not appear to be frightened or ashamed of her outbreak of rage—she sat vacantly and speechless, with her eyes on her husband, and her hands crossed on her lap.

After waiting a moment (wondering as I did what it meant) the General rode away, and was meditating a consultation with the physician who helped us in cases of need.

For myself, I was either too stupid or too innocent to feel any forebodings of the truth so far. Before the day was over, the first vague suspicions began to find their way into my mind.

The events which I have been relating happened (it may be necessary to remind you) in the first part of the day. After luncheon, while I was alone in the conservatory, my maid came to me from Michael asking if I had any commands for him that afternoon.

I thought this rather odd; but it occurred to me that he might want some hours to himself. I made the inquiry. To my astonishment the maid announced that Lady Catherine had employed Michael to go on an errand for her.

The nature of the errand was to take a letter to her bookseller, and to bring back some books which she had ordered. With three idle footmen in the house, whose business it was to perform such work as this, why had she taken the groom away from his work?

The question obtained such complete possession of my mind—I was so worried me, in the ordinary phrase—that I actually summoned courage enough to go to my aunt, and ask (for the very first time) to send one of the three indoor servants for her books, in Michael's place.

She received me with a strange hard stare, and answered with very little of her self-possession. "I wish Michael to go," she said.

As she repeated these words, I felt my first suspicion of something being wrong. I begged her pardon for interfering, and replied that I had not planned to drive out that day.

She made no further remark. I left the room, and went to determine to do as she wished. I have no defense for my conduct; it was mean and unbecoming, no doubt. I was drawn by some force in me which I could not even attempt to resist.

I indeed, indeed, indeed! I am not a mean woman by nature! I left the room, and went to determine to do as she wished. I have no defense for my conduct; it was mean and unbecoming, no doubt.

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## Business Cards.

DR. W. W. JOHNSON, DENTIST, DROPPING to visit Sackville about the 30th of this month, and will remain a part of the winter if his services are required. Has notice and location of office will be given on arrival.

LANDRY & TRUENAN, Attorneys-at-Law, &c. DORCHESTER, N. B.

HANINGTON & WELLS, Attorneys-at-Law, Solicitors, Notaries Public, &c. DORCHESTER, N. B.

HICKMAN & EMERSON, Attorneys-at-Law, &c. DORCHESTER, N. B.

A. E. OULTON, BARRISTER-AT-LAW, SOLICITOR, Notary Public, Conveyancer, &c. Office: A. L. Palmer's Building, Dorchester, N. B.

CHARLES R. SMITH, Barrister and Attorney-at-Law, Solicitor, Conveyancer, Notary Public, &c. W. W. WELLS, DORCHESTER, N. B.

W. F. COLEMAN, M.D., M. B., C. S. ENG. Oculist and Otorhin to St. John General Public Hospital.

W. H. OLIVE, I. C. R. TICKET AGENT, Forwarding Agent and Custom House Broker, 67 Prince Wm. St. ST. JOHN, N. B.

STIMPSON, WALLACE & CO., MANUFACTURERS OF Improved New Dominion ORGANS. ST. JOHN, N. B.

MARBLE FREESTONE AND WORKS. H. J. McGRATH, Dorchester, N. B.

AMHERST FOUNDRY AND MACHINE SHOP, MANUFACTORY OF Mill & other Machinery. Ship's Castings, Stoves, HOLLOW WARE, TIN WARE, PLOUGHS, &c. AMHERST, N. B.

NO LONGER AGENCY—Our Agreement with W. H. OULTON, of St. John, N. B., has this day terminated by mutual consent. In the meantime, parties desiring Machinery can obtain information from AMOS FISHER, Esq., N. B., or JOHN WELLS, St. John, N. B.

Prices Reduced. Great Improvements in our Saw Mills, Posters, Grist Mills, Flour Mills, &c. WATERBURY & CO., Sackville, N. B.

## Business Cards.

UNION HOTEL, Hopewell Corner, A. C. S. B. OULTON, Proprietor.

Park Hotel, DORCHESTER, N. B. T. W. BELL, Proprietor.

T. W. BELL & CO., Soap Manufacturers, - - - - - Sackville, N. B. The best and cheapest Soap in the Market.

BLAKLEE & WHITEHEAD, DEALERS IN: Paints, Oils, Varnishes, &c. 22 German St., St. John, N. B.

WESTERGAARD & CO., Ship Agents & Ship Brokers, (Consulate of the Netherlands,) (Consulate of Austria and Hungary,) No. 127 WALNUT STREET, Philadelphia, Pa. July 24.

S. R. FOSTER & SON, MANUFACTURERS OF CUT NAILS AND SPIKES. Shoe Nails, TACKS, and Brads. Home Shoes, Horse Nails, Clinch and Pressed Nails. Office, Warehouse and Manufactory: George's Street, ST. JOHN, N. B.

EXCELSIOR Roofing Felt Manufacturing Co. J. W. PATTERSON, - - - - - MANAGER. No. 17 Alexandra Building, North Ward, ST. JOHN, N. B.

A. P. McDONALD & CO., Sole Agents for Maritime Provinces, No. 17 Alexandra Building, North Ward, ST. JOHN, N. B.

THE CO-PARTNERSHIP BUSINESS which existed between the Subscriber and his late father, THOMAS BAIRD, Esq., is now continued by the Subscriber JOHN MILTON BAIRD alone under the old style of Firm or

THOMAS BAIRD & SONS, Pursuant to the provision of his father's Will. JOHN MILTON BAIRD, Sackville, Oct. 22nd, 1877.

NEW HARNESS SHOP. I HAVE OPENED, in connection with the old stand, a Retail and Repair Shop, in CHURCH HALL, Lower Sackville, where all my customers will be glad to promptly and at cheap rates.—Mr. O. H. Estabrook in charge.

STEPHEN AYER, HARNESSES at either establishment will be prepared to promptly and at cheap rates, to promptly and at cheap rates, to promptly and at cheap rates.

Andres' Marble Works, Amherst and Wallace, N. B.

Gravestones and Monuments of Either Quality, At greatly reduced prices. He has also a large amount of MARBLE and first quality FREESTONE at extremely low prices. Also, Italian Marble Tables and Counter Tops.

Persons are cautioned against buying Southern Falls American Marble for the Italian, as on account of their resemblance, it is frequently sold for the latter. Persons wishing to purchase will find it decidedly to their advantage to call and examine the themselves before buying elsewhere.

All orders promptly attended to, and finished in a workmanlike manner. Designs sent free when required.

S. B. ANDREWS, Amherst, N. B., Dec. 12, 1876.

D. LUND, Agent for taking orders in Sackville and vicinity.

## Business Cards.

NEW HARNESS SHOP. THE Subscriber has opened a Harness Shop opposite the Lawrence House, where he intends to

Manufacture Harnasses and do general repairing, at moderate rates. NATHAN G. BULMER, Sackville, Sept. 25th, 1877.

NOTICE. AN OFFICE, in connection with the Pictou Bank and the Union Bank of Charlottetown, has been opened in

Estabrook's Building, (opposite Brunswick House) Sackville, for the transaction of a

General Banking Business. Bills of Exchange bought and sold. Drafts issued on St. John, Halifax, Montreal, Charlottetown, Pictou, Boston, New York, and on London, U. S. Current Accounts opened, and sums of \$5 and upwards taken on deposit, for which interest will be allowed at a rate to be agreed upon. Collections made on favorable terms.

W. C. COGSWELL, Agent. July 26

SACKVILLE MADE FURNITURE VERSUS American Importations!

MY FACTORY, now in full operation, is fitted up with all kinds of Machinery calculated to do work in a quick and substantial way, thus enabling me to manufacture as CHEAP as the GREAT WEST, and for cash to sell 20 per cent LOWER than the same article can be sold for when imported.

A call at my Establishment will prove this. I am also fitted up for the manufacture of

BLINDS, SHAKES, DOORS, SHUTTERS, OUTSIDE WINDOWS, &c. Pictures Framed lower than ever. Bring along your orders. Satisfaction guaranteed.

J. W. DOULL, Sackville, Nov. 15, 1878.

Special Notice. IF you need the demands of our numerous customers, we beg to announce that, we have added to our extensive

Slipper and Larrigan Factory the necessary Machinery for the Manufacture of Men's, Women's, Misses', and Children's

Boots & Shoes, In all the Leading Styles. By continuing, as in the past, to use first quality material, we hope to merit a liberal share of public patronage in our new branch of business, as well as a continuance of public favor in our old business.

VINCENT & McFATE, 240 Union St., St. John, N. B.

CARDI. THE Subscriber hereby begs leave to return thanks to the inhabitants of Dorchester and vicinity for their liberal patronage in the past, and hopes to merit a continuance of the same.

He has imported direct from England an assortment of

Gent's Boot Tops of the best quality; and has secured the services of first-class mechanics, and is prepared to attend to all orders in his line with neatness, durability and dispatch.

He has also had an assortment of Ladies' and Children's Wear suitable for the summer trade, which will be sold at prices to suit the times.

S. McDOWELL, Boot and Shoemaker, Dorchester, May 15, 1878.

SACKVILLE Boot and Shoe Store. JUST RECEIVED: 300 PAIRS Ladies', Misses' and Children's Boots, Shoes and Slippers.

PRICES AS FOLLOWS: Ladies' Blac. at \$6.00, \$5.00, \$4.00, \$3.00, \$2.00, \$1.00, \$0.50, \$0.25, \$0.10, \$0.05, \$0.02, \$0.01.

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