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TANGLED THREADS

CHAPTER V.

There must be a little retrospect to make intelligible to the reader; and it may as well be given at once.

Mr. North, now of Dalfory Hall, had got on entirely by his own industry. Of obscure though in a certain way respectable, parentage, he had been placed as apprentice to a firm in Whitborough. It was a firm in extensive work, not confining itself to public buildings, small and large; did mechanical engineering; had planned one of the early railways. John North—plain Jack North, as he was known at, then—remained with the firm, when he was out of his time, and got on in it. Steady and plodding, he rose from one step to another; and at length, in conjunction with one who had been in the same firm, he set up for himself. This other was Thomas Gass. Gass had not risen from the ranks as North had; his connections were good, and he had received a superior education; but his friends were poor. North and Gass, as the new firm called itself, began business near to Dalfory; quietly at first—as all people, who really expect to get on, generally do begin. They rose rapidly. The narrow premises expanded; the small contracts grew into large ones. People said luck was with them; and in truth it seemed so. The Dalfory works became noted in the county, employing quite a colony of people; the masters were respected and sought after. Both lived at Whitborough; Mr. North with his wife and family; Mr. Gass a bachelor.

Thomas Gass had one brother; a clergyman. Their only sister, Fanny, a very pretty girl, had her home with him in his rectory, but she came often to Whitborough on a visit to Thomas. Suddenly it was announced to the world that she had become engaged to marry a Captain Rane, entirely against the wish of her two brothers. She was under 20. Captain Rane, a poor naval man on half pay, was almost old enough to be her grandfather. Their objection lay not so much in this, as in himself. For some reason or other, neither of them liked him. The Reverend William Gass forbade his sister to think of him. Mr. Thomas Gass, a fiery man, swore he would never afterwards look upon her as a sister, if she persisted in thus throwing herself away.

Miss Gass did persist. She possessed the obstinate spirit of her brother. She chose to take her own way, and married Captain Rane. They sailed at once for Madras; Captain Rane having some post there, connected with the Government ships.

Whether Miss Gass repented her marriage, her brothers had no means of learning; for she, returning her anger, never wrote to them during her husband's lifetime. It was a very short one. Barely a twelvemonth had elapsed after the knot was tied, when there came a pitiful letter from her. Captain Rane had died, just as her little son (named after a friend, she said) was born. Thomas Gass, to whom the letter had been specially written, gathered that she was left badly off; though she did not absolutely say so. He went into one of his angry moods, and tossed the epistle across the desk to his partner. "You must do something for her Gass," said John North, when he had read it. "Never will," hotly affirmed Mr. Gass. "Fanny knows what I promised if she married Rane—that I would never help her during my lifetime or after it. She knows another thing—that I am not one to go from my word. William may help her if he likes; he has not much to give away, but he can have her to live with him. 'Help the child, then,' suggested Mr. North, knowing further remonstrance to be useless. 'No,' returned obstinate Thomas Gass; 'I'll stick to the spirit of my promise as well as the letter.' And Mr. North bent his head again—he was going over some estimates—feeling the affair was none of his. "I don't mind putting the boy in the tontine, North," presently spoke the junior partner. "The tontine!" echoed John North in surprise, "what tontine?" "What tontine?" returned the hard man—though in truth he was not hard in general. "Why, the one that you and others are getting up; the one you have just put your baby, Bessy, into; I know of no other tontine. But that will not benefit the boy," urged Mr. North, certainly not now, and the chances are ten to one against its ever benefiting him in the future. "Never mind; I'll put him into it," said Mr. Gass, whose obstinacy always came out well under opposition. "You want a tenth child to close the list, and I'll put him into it." So into the tontine Oliver Rane, unconscious infant, was put.

But Mrs. Rane did not further trouble either of her brothers; or, as things turned out, require assistance from them. She remained in India; and after a year married a Government chaplain there, the Reverend George Cumberland, who possessed some private property. Little, if any, communication took place afterwards between her and her brothers; she cherished resentment for old grievances, and would not write to them. And so the sister and the brothers seemed to fade away from each other from henceforth. We all know how relatives, parted by time and distance, become estranged, disappearing almost from memory.

Whilst the firm, North and Gass, was rising higher and higher in wealth and importance, the wife of its senior partner died. She left three children, Edmund, Richard, and Bessy. Subsequently, during a visit to London, chance drew Mr. North into a meeting with a handsome young woman, the widow of Major Bohun. She had not long returned from India, where she had buried her husband. A designing, attractive siren, who began forthwith to exercise her dangerous fascinations on plain, unsuspecting Mr. North. She had only a poor pittance; what money there was belonged to her only child, Arthur, a little lad; sent out of sight to a preparatory school. Report had magnified Mr. North's wealth into something fabulous; and Mrs. Bohun did not

cease her scheming until she had caught him in her toils and he had made her Mrs. North.

Men do things sometimes in a hurry, only to repent of them at leisure. That Mr. North had been in a hurry in this case was indisputable—it was just as though Mrs. Bohun had thrown a spell over him; whether he repented when he woke up and found himself with a wife, a stepmother for his children at home, was not so certain. He was sufficiently wise man in those days to conceal what he did not want known.

Whom he had married, beyond the fact that she was the widow of Major Bohun, he did not know from Adam. Fanny, who closed about her own family, in regard to whom she maintained an absolute reticence, she might have dropped from the moon, or "grown" like Topsy; but from the airs and graces she assumed, Mr. North might have concluded they were dukes and duchesses at least. Her late husband's family were irreproachable, both in character and position. The head of it was Sir Nash Bohun, representative of an ancient baronetcy, and elder brother of the late major. Before the wedding tour was over, poor Mr. North found that his wife was a cold, imperious, extravagant woman, not to be questioned by any means if she so chose. When her fascinations were full play (which she was doing), she was a different creature. Fanny, who asked Mr. North had been ready to think her an angel. Where had all the amiability flown to? People do change after marriage somehow. At least, there have been instances known of it.

A little circumstance occurred one day that—to put it mildly—had surprised Mr. North. He had been given to understand by his wife that Major Bohun died suddenly of sunstroke; she had certainly told him so. In talking at a dinner party at Sir Nash Bohun's with some gentlemen not long from India, he and Mr. North being side by side at the table after the ladies had retired, the subject of sunstrokes came up. "My wife's former husband, Major Bohun, died of one," innocently observed Mr. North. "Died of what?" cried the other, putting down his claret glass, which he was conveying to his mouth. "Of sun stroke," repeated Mr. North. "Bohun did not die of sun stroke," came the impulsive answer; "who told you he died of that?" "She did—my wife," was Mr. North's answer. "Oh!" said his friend; and took up his claret again. "Why, what did he die of, if it was not sun stroke?" asked Mr. North, with curiosity. "Well, I—I don't know; I'd rather say no more about it," was the conclusive reply; "of course Mrs. North must know better than I." And nothing more would he say on the subject.

(To be Continued.)

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The rapid action of the "great pain cure," Polson's Nervine, in relieving the most intense pain, is a matter of wonder to all who have used it. There is nothing surprising in its results, for it is made of the strongest, purest and most efficient remedies known in medicine. Nervine cures toothache instantly; cramps in five minutes; neuralgia after two applications; rheumatism is at once relieved by its use; and the same may be said of all kinds of pain. Sample bottles, costing only 10 cents, at any drug store. The large bottles only 25 cents. Polson's Nervine sold by druggists and country dealers.

When one finds the truth in his way he may know that he is in the wrong road.

Give Holloway's Corn Cure a trial. It removed ten corns from one pair of feet without any pain. What it has done once it will do again.

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Simply apply SWAYNE'S OINTMENT. No internal medicine required. Cures tetter, eczema, itch, all eruptions on the face, hands, nose, etc., leaving the skin clear, white and healthy. Its great healing and curative powers are possessed by no other remedy. Ask your druggist for SWAYNE'S OINTMENT. Lyman, Sons & Co., Montreal, wholesale agents. ywt

Sometimes it costs a man more just to express his opinions than it would to express a quarter of ton of gold across the sea and back.

"Remarkable Cure of Dropsy and Dyspepsia."—Mr. Samuel T. Casey, Belleville, writes: "In the spring of 1884 I began to be troubled with dyspepsia, which gradually became more and more distressing. I used various domestic remedies and applied to my family physician, but received no benefit. By this time my trouble assumed the form of dropsy. I was unable to use food whatever except boiled milk and bread; my limbs were swollen to twice their natural size; all hopes of my recovery were given up, and I quite expected death within a few weeks. Northrop & Lyman's VEGETABLE DISCOVERY having been recommended to me, I tried a bottle with but little hope of relief; and now, after using eight bottles, my Dyspepsia and Dropsy are cured. Although now 70 years of age, and I can enjoy my meals as well as ever, and my general health is good. I am well known in this section of Canada, having lived here 57 years; and you have liberty to use my name in recommendation of your VEGETABLE DISCOVERY, which has done such wonders in my case."

"They talk of harnessing Niagara, do they?" said the absent-minded tanner; "who will furnish the leather, I wonder."

Among the pains and aches cured with marvelous rapidity with Dr. Thomas' Electric Oil is earache. The young are especially subject to it, and the desirability of this Oil as a family remedy is enhanced by the fact that it is admirably adapted not only to the above ailment, but also to the hurts, disorders of the bowels, and affections of the throat, to which the young are especially subject.

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Why will you allow a cough to lacerate your throat or lungs and run the risk of filling a consumptive's grave, when by the timely use of Eick's Anti-Consumptive syrup the pain can be allayed and the danger avoided? This Syrup is pleasant to the taste, and unsurpassed for relieving, healing and curing all affections of the throat and lungs, coughs, colds, bronchitis, etc.

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Infallible

Many people say Dr. Fowler's Wild Strawberry is infallible. We do not make that claim but we do say that it will cure more cases than any other medicine, and it leaves the bowels in a natural state, and not constipated as is the case with the ordinary Diarrhoea medicines.

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Than any other Diarrhoea medicine, but the bottle holds more and it cures where others fail. Diarrhoea, Dysentery, and all Summer Complaints yield quickly to its curative powers. You can always rely on this old and well-tried specific for all bowel complaints of old or young. Price 35c.

LIVING PAY.

The Movement to Give Every Methodist Preacher a Decent Income.

Wherein the Sustentation Fund Has Failed and Might Be Improved.

To the Editor of the ADVERTISER:

In connection with the meeting of the General Conference of the Methodist Church in your city, allow me to call attention to a matter that needs urgent attention. The General Conference of 1890 gave to each annual conference the optional privilege of establishing a sustentation fund and of providing for the income and distribution of such fund in such way as might be deemed advisable. As a result of this permission seven of the eight western conferences have each established a sustentation fund, the Manitoba and Northwest Conference being the only exceptions. "The income of the fund in each conference has hitherto been secured by the taking up of an annual collection in each congregation, which has been in some instances, been augmented by subscriptions. The income secured from such sources has been inadequate to accomplish the object designed in the establishment of the fund, as the following facts gleaned from the minutes of the eight western conferences for the present year will show: The number of ordained ministers who received less than \$600 for salary, board and fuel in the above conference, including, in some instances, aid from the missionary or sustentation fund, or from both, is as follows:

Montreal Conference.....	55
Bay of Quinte Conference.....	49
Toronto Conference.....	48
Guelph Conference.....	48
Niagara Conference.....	17
London Conference.....	40
Manitoba and Northwest Conference.....	9
British Columbia Conference.....	0

Total.....296
The total amount required to bring up the salaries of all to a minimum of \$600, according to the reports of the past year is \$29,283.

In view of the lack of uniformity at present existing in the management of the sustentation fund, and with a desire to supplement the salaries of those brethren who are stationed on poor circuits, and to strengthen the bonds of connexional Methodism, a memorial signed by over 40 ministers of the Niagara Conference has been sent on to the General Conference, asking for the establishment of a general sustentation fund for the benefit of all the conferences, so that, the richer circuits helping the poorer, there may be no minister from Newfoundland in the east to British Columbia in the west who is left without adequate support. The memorial asks that the income of the fund be secured partly from collections as at present, and partly from graduated assessment on the salaries of all ministers receiving \$700 and upwards, according to the following or some similar scale:

On a salary of \$700 an assessment of 1 per cent.	
On a salary of \$800 an assessment of 1 per cent.	
On a salary of \$900 an assessment of 1½ per cent.	
On a salary of \$1,000 an assessment of 2 per cent, and so on, increasing the assessment by ½ per cent for each additional \$100 of salary.	
The income that would result from such an assessment, on the basis of the salaries received during the past year, would be as follows:	
Montreal Conference.....	\$1,725
Bay of Quinte Conference.....	575
Toronto Conference.....	2,325
Guelph Conference.....	617
Niagara Conference.....	1,160
London Conference.....	706
Manitoba and Northwest Conference.....	776
British Columbia Conference.....	541

Total.....\$8,324

The total income of the various sustentation funds for the past year was \$5,695. It will thus be seen that the proposed assessment would provide an additional income of nearly one and a half times the amount furnished by the collections. Although the total amount thus secured would be still inadequate to bring up all the salaries to the minimum of \$600, it would go far to relieve many of the brethren who are working heroically under great difficulties for the glory of God and the good of humanity.

We trust that the General Conference will take such action upon this question as will afford material relief to those who are in the highest sense worthy of it. Yours respectfully,
W. H. GARNHAM.
Abingdon, Ont., Sept. 8, 1894.

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Of Hood's Sarsaparilla is that while it purifies the blood and sends it coursing through the veins full of richness and health, it also imparts new life and vigor to every function of the body. Hence the expression so often heard: "Hood's Sarsaparilla made a new person of me." It overcomes that tired feeling so common now.

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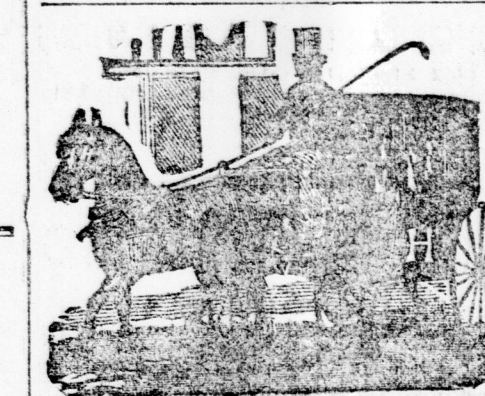
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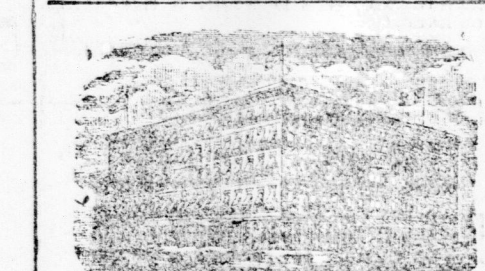


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