

The Foster Brother;

The Orphan of the Wreck.

CHAPTER XXX.

"Well, it was just needlessly and my ain pleasure that brought me. Eh, but ye man be a silly callant that didna ken that. But what for sud I wunner at it, for a' body here awa' is daft but myself. Gin ye had as muckle sense as I could wish, we wad a' three lie doon here in the bed and get a sleep, and let the snow batter on as it likes."

"What brought you on the moor in such a storm?" asked Harry. "What brought you?" retorted Jamie. "Strong necessity, I assure you."

"Well, it was just needlessly and my ain pleasure that brought me. Eh, but ye man be a silly callant that didna ken that. But what for sud I wunner at it, for a' body here awa' is daft but myself. Gin ye had as muckle sense as I could wish, we wad a' three lie doon here in the bed and get a sleep, and let the snow batter on as it likes."

"No, no, Jamie, that will never do," answered George. "But know you of no house near us?"

"Oh, 'deed aye, Wallie Gordon's is up at the tap o' the wood there."

"Hal then we must try and reach Wallie Gordon's," cried Harry. "How far is it?"

"Hear tae him," said Jamie, in a tone of great pity. "There's a daft-like question tae ask. Hoo sud I ken hoo far it is frae here tae Wallie Gordon's when I hae ne'er measured it?"

"Well, but it is near the top of the wood, you say. Now, if we keep on the west side we may manage to reach it. Don't you think so?"

"Me think I' faith, I'm the only one o' the three that can think. It wad ha' been lang or either the tane or the tither o' ye wad ha' thocht on Wallie's. We wad ha' been frozen intae snaw's afore that I jalousin'."

"We shall if we remain here much longer," said George. "So if you can lead us to the house in question I propose that we start at once."

"Well," remarked Jamie, "that's wunnerfu' guid sense—for you. Ye hae some gumption in ye, I see. It's a braw thing tae ken wae tae follow. Sae come awa', my birkies, and I'ae get ye shelter."

Delivering himself thus, Jamie set off at fair speed, and the youths kept close behind. So long as the road led them by the base of the deep embankment, walking was easy, for the snow, which had swept over its brow had fallen on the opposite side of the road, leaving the side on which they were nearly bare. But no sooner had the embankment given place to the wood than Jamie, who straited as proud as a peacock under the idea of his leadership, suddenly disappeared in the midst of a wreath.

"I say, nane o' that," he roared from the depths of his new lair. "Which o' you twa was it that knocked me doon?"

"The youths of course hastened to disclaim such foul play."

"Dinna deny it noo, for I fand the shore, and I tell ye what it is, if ye play any mair o' thae pranks, I'ae leave ye tae find yer way tae Wallie Gordon's yer-sels."

They were now vigorously engaged in trying to pull Jamie out of the wreath, but their efforts only caused them to sink in beside him.

"That's no the way tae dae it," roared Jamie. "Yin o' ye pu', and the ither some ahiat me and gie me a dockiss up."

After much sprawling and laborious exertion, Jamie was at length extricated, and to avoid such another mishap, as well as to give an d receive mutual strength, they locked their arms within each other, and in this way made better progress.

The storm seemed to rage as furiously as ever, but the low trees of the densely-planted wood broke its severity, and when they clambered over the gate which led them into the field, up one side of which they meant to go, they found that at a distance of a few yards from the wood the snow had accumulated in immense wreaths of many feet deep. Close by the side of the wood, however, it lay in much less abundance, and they were able to advance at a steady, though still laborious, pace, listening to the roaring and howling of the wind in the depths of the plantation.

The wood proved of considerable length, and as there seemed no appearance of its termination, the youths began to have doubts as to the safety of their leadership. Perhaps the habitation of Wallie Gordon had no existence except in Jamie's disordered imagination; he might therefore be leading them a fruitless journey.

While seriously revolving this possibility, they reached a gap in the wood which formed an open space, across which the snow-drift came with ruthless power.

"How can we ever face that?" said Harry, standing stock still.

"We might face it if we were sure of shelter at the other side," returned George; "but I confess to you I have not much faith in our guide, who may be leading us quite a wild goose chase."

"Where do we go now, Jamie," cried Harry.

"Just follow yer nose, and let it follow me," was Jamie's answer as he turned the corner and disappeared in the drift.

The wading and struggling to get to the other side of the open space were dreadful. They seized hold of each other again, and staggered hither and thither, stumbling now up, now down, till, utterly breathless and exhausted, they turned the opposite corner, and to their joy saw a light gleaming at no great distance. It was with intense thankfulness of heart that their eyes beheld the friendly gleam, and the sight animated them anew to continue the struggle towards it.

The light came from the kitchen window of a little farmhouse, the outhouses of which stood on either side of it and in the rear, and when after a final and desperate effort the wanderers gained the door, Jamie threw it open without ceremony, and the three panting, worn out, snow-sheeted travellers entered the kitchen amid the furious barking of dogs, and to the wonder, if not the consternation, of the inmates, who, to the number of three, were seated round the blazing fire, and with true Scottish hospitality extended a cordial welcome to the hapless travellers.

Jamie was, of course, well known to the people and it was with no small pride that, after he had recovered his breath somewhat, and cast the snow in cakes from his garments, he announced himself as the deliverer of the two youths from the dangers of the snow-drift. A few words quickly spoken by Harry gave them to understand the true state of the case, and soon they were seated by the bright fire, when a glass of whiskey was administered to each.

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New Fruits, New Fruits, Jams and Jellies.

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- Seedless " "
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- Candied Citron Peel,
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Alma Block and Lower Wyndham-st., Guelph. Guelph, Dec. 3, 1872 dw

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READY-MADE CLOTHING

Made up in the best style of the best material. The whole of the stock must be sold during the Christmas Holidays,

NOW IS THE TIME FOR BARGAINS

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Furniture of every description kept on hand, and at reasonable rates. COFFINS: Metallic, Black Walnut and Cloth covered Coffins. Shrouds, &c. &c. kept on hand. HEARSE TO HIRE. NEXT DOOR TO THE POST OFFICE. SIGN OF THE HEARSE. J. MITCHELL, (June 26, 1872.) N. TOVELL



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Will dispose of by Private Sale, Between Now and Christmas

The whole of his immense and varied stock of Bankrupt Goods, consisting of

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Stationery, Bibles, Prayers, Albums, Concertinas, Glass and Shell Boxes, Writing Desks, Work Boxes, Wax Dolls, Table Cutlery, Plated Cruet Stands, Breakfast Sets, Silver Spoons, Forks, Britania meta Tea & Coffee Sets, Pocket Knives, Butter Knives, Pipes, Purse, Gents' Scarfs, Ties, Hammers, Hatchets, &c., &c.

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In Quarter and Half Barrels. SLEEMAN'S CELEBRATED, IN PRIME CONDITION.

A SPECIAL BREWING

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Having been with Mr. McNeil for a number of years, and having an experience of over years at the business, he feels confident of giving the public entire satisfaction.

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And satisfaction guaranteed. A trial solicited. Guelph, May 17 1872. GEO. S. POWELL.

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LOZENGES, all flavors; DROPS, assorted flavors and shapes; GUM and LICORICE DROPS, CONVERSATION LOZENGES, MOULDED SWEETS, new patterns; SODA, SWEET and FRUIT BISCUITS, FRUIT BISCUITS, GINGER NU'S, CHEWING GUM, ROCK CANDY, LICORICE.

A Large Stock of Choice and Favorite Brand Cigars.

His Biscuits took the first prize over all others at the London Western Fair this year the only place where they were entered for competition. All Goods carefully packed and shipped with despatch.

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Full lines of the following goods of this season's importation or manufacture offered to the jobbing trade by the package, or to general merchants in any part of the Dominion.

TERMS—CLOSE, and discounts liberal to prompt men.

Table Cutlery, Pocket Cutlery, Nickelite Silver Spoons, Electro-plated Spoons, Electro-plated Ware, Sterling Silver Spoons and Forks, Dixon's Shot and Powder Flasks, Japanned Trays and Waiters, Walker's and Ely's Gun Caps, Celebrated Periscope Spectacles, Musical and Patent Albums, Violins and Accordions, Watches, Watchmen and Suits, Clocks, Connecticut and French Old Bull Violin Strings, Bohemian Glass Ware, German Morocco Pocket Books, Toys in wood, tin and iron, Baskets, Fancy and Market.

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Sept. 24, 1872. dw tj

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MANUFACTURERS OF Parlor Suites, Chamber Sets, Centre Tables, Extension Tables, Sofas, Teles, Lounges, Easy Chairs, Bedsteads, Bureaus, Sideboards, and All Kinds of Furniture, also Sewing Machine Cabinets, Cases and Tops.

Employing men of great skill and experience in Cabinet-making, as foremen, and the best of workmen in each department, having a new shop, the most approved machinery, with ample steam power, and using good kiln-dried lumber, we are in a position to turn out as good and cheap goods as any in the market. The attention of the trade and public is invited. BURR & SKINNER, Guelph, Nov. 6, 1872. dwjt

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