HELEN MOIR

LOVE AND HONOUR.

A TALE OF THE CLYDE. CHAPTER XIX.

CHAPTER XIX.

A HAPPY AFTERNOOR AT THE VILLA—JASPER JAQUIN UNEXPECTEDLY PRESENTS HUSSELF.

"Part from you, Ritchiel" cried Helen, flinging her arms lovingly round his neck, "Oh, i shall never, never part from you. Do not think it. My father will love you as I do, and we shall all be together, always. always."

"God forbid that I should come between you," said Bridgenorth, struggling for utterance. "I can only plead to be allowed to share with you her society, I am not worthy of it. I am a poor miserable degraded outeast." I have forfeited all right to her affection, and—
"No, no, father no," murmured Helen, as she flew from Ritchie's side, and flung herself with passionate vehemence on her father's bosom. "You are my poor, dear, suffering father, whom I love with all the strength of my soul. It will be the deepest joy of my soul. It will be the deepest joy of my life to banish the sorrow from your heart and heal all its wounds. Oh, we shall all tend you and care for you, and never, never again shall you know the grief and pain you have endured."

"Oh, God, this merey is too great for me," sobbed Bridgenorth, as with a strong burst of emotion his face fell upon her shoulder, and he, the strong limbed man, wept like a child. All present were affected to tears. Mrs. Allerton threw herself on the sofa, and gave free and unrestrained expression to her emotion; Edwin coughed his down with a great effort, and traversed the room with rapid strides, while Ritchie, making no attempt to hide his weakness, gave way to fervent but broken ejaculations, loudly proclaiming that this was the happies hour he had ever known, thus unconsciously declaring the truth which philosophy teaches, that the finest essence of joy reaches the human spirit through the pathway of grief and pain.

"Oh, if the spirit of thy sainted mother her hear us now," murmured Bridgenorth, in Helen's ear.

"She is near us, father," was the low, the whispered response. "She sees us thus, and smiles on both."

"Would, oh would that were so; then would I receive it as an assurance that she forgave the past—the terrible past, which quenched her young and innocent life on earth in the darkness of the grave."

"Dear, dear father, doubt not all is forgiven; our meeting, our union is a certain token of it. Let the past be forgotten in the future, which shall yet be brigh

where he stood, took that hand in both of her's, and, to Ritchie's amazement, thus addressed him:—

"You must accept my thanks likewise, for your matchless kindness to Helen—an aunt's thanks for your protection and devotion to her nicee."

"And mine, for the care you have taken of my cousin," said Edwin, seizing Mitchie's other hand and shaking it with mazing vigour. "Ha, this language makes you stare. Its a fact, though, Ritchie, a delightful and delicious fact. My mother is truly Helen's aunt, and I'm her own first cousin."

"Lord bless us, what does this mean? ejaculated Ritchie, in helpless perplexity. "It means, Ritchie, that my name is neither Bridgenorth nor Winthrop," said the father of Helen, coming forward and joining them, Helen still fondly clinging to him. "My true name is one that I have not borrie for twenty years, the same name as that gentleman by your side—Edwin Allerton. Mrs. Allerton's husband was my brother. Now you have my story explained."

"Just so," said a harsh discordant voice outside, as a shadow fell across the floor. Every one turned suddenly round, and ther's at the open window stood Jasper Jaquin, the hunchback, with a hideous grin on his misshapen and malevolent features.

His presence produced utter stillness in the group, every one gazing at him in

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per Jaquin, the hunchback, with a hideons grin on his misshapen and malevolent features.

His presence produced utter stillness in the group every one gazing at him in monomers of the produced by his presence produced by his appearance. "The mystery is explained and the explanation cost you iwenty thousand pounds,"
Bridgenorth strode with firm, stately step to the open window, and confronted the hunchback.

"Suppose it had cost me twenty millions, I rejoice that the revelation has been made, for it has given me wealth which no amount of silver or gold can re-resent. I am truly rich now, Jaquim-rich in the possession of a child, rich in her love and affection. With joy unspeakable I renounce the fortune which came to me, and which I was to hold at long as I concorned to the condition is broken, and that I have no longer a title to the old man's funds."

"Of course, I mean to do that," rejoined Jaquin. "You thought to outwit me, I suppose. You didn't expect I was to ferret you out here, or that I was istening at this window for the last quarter of an hour. You meant to reveal yourself, and keep the money too."

"Jaquin, voy indee but according to your own nature. I think it beneath me to deny your despicable allegation."

"Because it's true," rejoined the other. "Think it here would reveal yourself, with a calm dignity, and I meant what I said. But I knew not then what I have learned since, and even the revelation that has been made was the result of recognition by another rather than of voluntary action on my part."

"Oh, I suppose you mean to say that you are not to blame, that Mrs. Allerton recognised you, and that sort of thing. Well, you should not have gone near have learned since, and even the revelation that has been made was the result of recognition by another rather than of voluntary action on my part."

"Oh, I suppose you mean to capable of understanding? All you have to do is to make your report to your remployers. They will pay you weld fort. Our completes the mean of the product of the product of t

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