## [illegible]RD IN CHANCERY.

BY F. L. NORTON.

[illegible] just fresh from Rugby, where, [illegible] four years of sedulous hard study, [illegible]ate fagging and a good deal of en- [illegible] from Dr. Arnold, I had [illegible] a tolerable education, a [illegible] disposition, and an idea [illegible] and the people there [illegible] and virtuous in [illegible] twelve, [illegible] Chancery at [illegible] had left me a for- [illegible] some three thousand [illegible] a year and his executors being [illegible] and married, with in- [illegible] forgot the orphan's claim to fair consideration.

How far friendships last a lifetime! how far love is held sacred beyond the tomb! I had neither father nor mother, brother nor sister. My nearest friend was the family lawyer, and next to him was Lord Lyndhurst, the then Chancellor of Great Britain.

How well I remember the morning I left old Rugby, after a few words of gentle advice from the old Doctor, in my ill-fitting clothes and antiquated hat!

I have a dim recollection, as I entered a first class carriage, on my way to London, the compartment being occupied by myself alone, of going down on my knees, and begging for Divine aid to assist me in the wide dreary world that was looming up with terrible uncertainty in the futon, the terror and complication of which were as a dark glass to my inexperience, and a puzzle to my most sober meditation. Since then I have sometimes thought that that uttered prayer, uttered in the innocence of my heart, was not breathed wholly in vain, and that through the rought vicissitudes of my life, it may have preserved me from total shipwreck.

The following morning I left the hotel, and walked along Charing Cross to Fenchurch st., where the family lawyer had his office. I was in a fearful state of trepidation, and noticed that people stared at me and smiled, and the street boys were constantly shouting, 'Oh, look at that codger's hat!'

Indeed, when I reached the lawyer's at last, and inquired for Mr. Latham, and was shown into the junior partner's room, I was so pale and trembled so violently that he told a clerk to bring a glass of water.

He seemed very cordial, and encouraged me until the senior arrived. I was shown up stairs into his room, and made a respectful bow. He came forward to meet me with shambling gait, for he was an old gentleman of sixty-five, dressed in silk stockings and shoes, a tail coat with a high collar, and white neckcloth bundled round his throat as though he had a sore under poultice, or the mumps. He took my hand, and said:

'And so this is William Herbert's son!'

I acknowledged my paternity, and asked him if he remembered my father.

'Your father Mr. Herbert and I were bosom friends until he died, leaving that unfortunate will made without any consultation with me. I can never forgive him that. It was a breach of confidence.'

'Did he leave you nothing, sir?' I innocently inquired.

'Yes, he left me something, Mr. Herbert—the recollection that the happiest days of my old bachelor life had been spent with him.—But poor Bill Herbert was a reckless, improvident fellow, God bless him! and always intended what was right.'

And the old gentleman's eyes glistened with a fishy moisture; and as I looked down on the floor, knowing not what to say, I thought whether the old family lawyer had ever joined in my father's recklessness, and what kind of fun they may have had together.

'Mr. Herbert,' suddenly remarked Mr. Latham, in a business tone, 'my Lord Chancellor will be in private chambers at two;' and, consulting an enmorous plethoric gold watch, with heavy seal attached, 'It is now half-past twelve. You will go to the nearest chophouse; there is one at the corner of Grace Church street. Get your mutton chop and glass of porter, and be here punctually at a quarter past one.'

'Yes, sir,' I took up my wonderful hat, the fur of which was all on end, looking as though it was scared to death, and made a bow; but Mr. Latham was immersed in some papers. As I went down through the office to the chop house, I noticed the clerks all looked at me with a smile of commiseration. I believe I was as green, that if a metropolitan cow had encountered me the result might have inconvenienced me. Nevertheless, I was in perfect ignorance, with a wild, excited mind, as to what the Lord Chancellor would do. Why was I to see him? Mr. Latham's partner had told me I was an infant in Chancery, and he hoped that the unfortunate restriction in the will would be liberally interpreted by the court; that the master had reported favorably. And so, when I dashed into the chop-house, my wild looks and reckless-looking beaver caused the waiters to regard me suspiciously.

I felt better nerved after the chop and glass of porter, and getting into Mr. Latham's brougham, with a bundle of papers in charge of a clerk, and the [illegible] at the private door of the chancellor, in Chancery Lane,

Mr. Latham got out first, and said something to a solemn-looking man, who disappeared; when he returned, whispered to Mr. Latham. He took the papers, and said to me,

'Come along, young Herbert.'

My heart thumped audibly, and my tongue was parched with nervous excitement.

We entered a long ordinary room, surrounded with book cases filled with books bound in legal sheepskin; a faded carpet, four or five hair-seated mahogany chairs, a sofa and dingy red curtains. In the centre of the room, at a convenient desk, sat an old gentleman in a narrow colored leather chair, writing. He was thin, shaved quite clean, with a heavy mouth and protruding chin; but the brow was high, and the thin white hair was combed across it. The eyes were calm and penetrating, giving nevertheless a certain kind expression to the face, which blended well with a dignified and stately repose of manner that dwelt over the whole surrounding.

'My Lord,' said Mr. Latham, approaching, 'this is the ward for whom I solicited your kind consideration.' [illegible]

'Certainly, Lathaus. Take a infant. How have you been? Ar' [illegible] Lord,' is—'

'William Herbert,' said his lordship, in the soft Rugby; and how is the [illegible] you be, doctor?'

'Quite well, sir, I thank you, when I [illegible]'

'I forgot all about calling him my lord, I was so nervous.

'Come and sit here, William.'

I took a chair beside him, and seeing how flustered I was, he continued—

'You must feel no embarassment in coming to me; remember I am your guardian, and I want you to think of me precisely as you have been accustomed to think of the good doctor at Rugby. Now, Herbert, your father wrote his own will, and unfortunately so worded it, that though he provided for your education, he left nothing to your maintenance between that and your majority—Consequently, through the representations in court by your good friend Mr. Latham, I have consented to overrule the will to a certain extent, as I feel assured it was an oversight of your father's. I could have sent you, it is true, to graduate, though even then it would have been trespassing on provision. I consulted Dr. Arnold, and have come to the conclusion to initiate you thus early into mercantile life. You will then find a suitable abode, and for the present attend in the banking house of ——— & Co.; and though no salary is attached to your occupation, you will gain experience. I have directed the Master to record a ruling which grants you two hundred pounds a year for your maintenance. Lathaus, where is he to reside?'

'I have arranged with an old medical friend of mine to receive him into his family, my lord.'

'Very well,' said the kind-hearted Chancellor—he was an American by birth—as he took my hand, 'be judicious Herbert, avoid late hours and endeavor to find your amusement at home. You have everything to learn remember, and everything in life depends in making the first step. I shall send for you again and will watch and care for you.'

'Latham, of course we are old men, and it does not matter, but I think if you were to introduce the infant—I mean Herbert—to a good tailor, it would not be amiss.'

We laughed quite heartily at this, and Mr. Latham said he knew of a ready-made clothing house. The Lord Chancellor shook my hand and patted me on the shoulder, and whispering some words to Mr. Latham, we bowed and left his presence.

We drove to a tailor's, who soon fitted me up in a more fashionable suit, and my scare-crow hat was exchanged for a dashing silk. Mr. Latham said I looked like a gentleman in anything, but he approved of young men being careful in their dress, and advised me to select a good tailor, and stick by him, which I did ultimately to my cost.

That evening I was duly installed in a comfortable bedroom at Doctor Mason's in Bedford Square.

I was formally initiated, and was enthroned on a high stool the next morning, in an aristocratic banking house in the Strand.—The gentleman tellers all wore white neck-ties, and their manner and platitudes of politeness to the lords and ladies who sallied in and out, could only have been excelled by the liveried flunkeys of Belgravia. It was perfectly overpowering to run down the indexes of our ledgers, for the names were from the throne down to a city aldermanic knight, and I really began to conceive the idea at last that I was closely connected with the peerage of the realm, from constantly posting their checks against their illustrious names.

Three o'clock set me free, and careful of the Lord Chancellor's advice, wended my way to Dr. Mason's, opposite the Zoological Gardens. It was really pleasant to sit on the back verandah, of a summer eve, and listen to the band playing, and watch the crowd making holiday.

In the parlor, to which, after customary ablutions and so forth, I repaired, I found a gentleman of portly frame, grand presence, and who, rising from his seat, greeted me with courtly salutation. He wore powdered hair, a frill shirt, black small clothes and Hessian boots. Altogether he was most imposing, I might say impressive.

He put me through a perfect cross examination, all of which I honestly replied to. He seemed very much pleased, and going to the sideboard, invited me to join him in a glass of sherry. I just knew enough to distinguish it as very poor Marsala.

'You have not met my daughters as yet, Mr. Herbert?'

I said no, I had not had that felicity.

Shortly he re-appeared with two young ladies, one painfully homely and ancient, and the other, who, though comparatively young, was of proportions that one might term crushing. Before we had got through that novel topic of conversation, the condition of the atmosphere, he had again retired, and reappeared with two more, one of whom was really a pretty girl of sixteen, rather too much developed, but she had a sweet face, and above all, the loveliest of flaxen hair which fell in a cascade of rich curls over her white and beautiful shoulders. I was visibly struck by this apparition, and I [illegible] the old gentleman winking to the oldest daughter. [illegible] he departed, and produced three additional treasures, whose ages varied from eighteen to twelve.

'You see, Mr. Herbert, you will not lack in this house the refining influences of female society.'

I hardly know what I replied, for in my inexperience I was completely at a loss who to talk to, fearing if I spoke to one all the rest would consider themselves slighted.

'And now girls, I am going to make some visits. You must amuse Mr. Herbert until dinner time.'

I smiled a bitter smile as the Hessian boots vanished behind the door.

Instinctively, after a while, I drew nearer to the flaxen curls. Her name was Hesba, and she proposed we should go on to the garden verandah, where, after a while, every embarrassment wore away, and by dinner time I was perfectly astonished at how I had progressed, [illegible] the conversation occasionally, and [illegible] merrily at the Doctor's old-fashioned jokes. The flaxen locks of Hesba had not shaken in vain, for I felt myself [illegible] drawn aside, and the other always drew aside [illegible] recess or verandah, leaving the [illegible]

What could have induced Mr. Latham to have selected this house, full of young girls, and for a home [illegible] sophisticated heart to the [illegible] marriageable virgins; all bent on matrimony, I never could to this day think. Perhaps it was to test me; or it may have been that, in his own imperturbability to female charms, he was quite oblivious of the fascination to a boyish imagination in clusters of flaxen ringlets, and alabaster skin, and a pair of very pretty blue eyes.

I obeyed the Chancellor's instructions and found my pleasure at home, for in less than three months, under the roof of the Hessian-booted doctor, I was madly in love with Rosina. And one bright afternoon, after an hour's confidential inquiry into my affairs, that excellent father sanctioned our happiness, with a parental effusion I am not apt to forget. Among other items, he assured as we could live in his house until Rosina was old enough to manage a house of her own. Oh, what happy, happy days those were! We went down to Sydenham, taking her very youngest sister, who played chaperone for Rosina, and whom we crammed with tarts and ginger-beer till the child slept from exhaustion. The cottages we looked at and resolved to buy—honeysuckles and roses and tiny flower-beds, and nice little strolls in the dewy twilight, and prospective plans of life-long happiness!

There was one cloud—quite a faint spot though, in our opinion—and that was, I must acquaint Mr. Latham of our intention, and request him to inform the Chancellor of my fixed determination. The excellent doctor with the powder and Hessians, when consulted, thought it better for us to get married first and tell the Chancellor afterwards. But this was not what appeared to me correct or right. And though Rosina sided strongly with her father, which was natural, I explained what a kind-hearted sympathetic old gentleman it was who sat on the wool-sack—we went one afternoon to the House of Lords to look at him—and that undoubtedly Mr. Latham had selected her for my future partner, or why had he sent me there; and it was resolved that I should go and call in Bedford Square some evening, and divulge confidentially to Mr. Latham the grand scheme of our happiness.

I did so. The family lawyer received me in his dressing-room, for he was going to a whist party. I was most diffuse in dilating on the personal and mental qualifications of the lady, gave her genealogy for three generations, and then referred, in my ardor to the respectability of hair-powder and Hessians. He listened to me most attentively, and as he rang his bell for his valet said—

'My dear William, I am going out to-night, but you may rely upon it I will take your case in hand the first thing in the morning, and we will go and see my Lord Chancellor on the matter.'

I wished him good-night, and rushing into the dining-room, where the family were assembled at supper, embraced my bride elect with ecstacy, shook hands with my future father, kissed the girls all round, and told them that Mr. Latham was going to see the Lord Chancellor in the morning, obtain his consent, and that we should be married that day two weeks. Everybody was very much affected, and the Doctor sent the boy in buttons for oysters and porter. We had a glorious evening. The doctor sang, and I made a speech, and we all retired unspeakably happy.

About one o'clock the following day I was posting as usual the checks of a 'bloated' aristocracy, when Mr. Latham's coachman came to my desk and handed me one of his cards, on the back of which was written, 'His lordship wishes to see you in private chambers.'

I went to the chief clerk, exhibited the card, and obtained leave to go. My heart beat with a strange anxiety.

'Zomerset be a foine county, zir, and Latham Hall bees a foine ple'erse.'

What he meant to convey I had no idea.

I was immediately ushered into the Chancellor's presence, where were seated Mr. Latham and Dr. Mason.

His lordship shook hands and smiled not unkindly,

'Mr. Herbert,' he said, 'you distinctly understand me when I say that you are a Ward in Chancery, and in the eyes of the law an infant, and not responsible for your own acts—Your father's friend informs me that through some mistake you were placed to live with a party who appears to have been ignorant of the facts of your position, and that with the impetuosity not by any means discreditable to your heart and taste, you have been precipitated into many obligations which, in your infancy and as your legal guardian, it will be my imperative duty to relieve you of.'

He touched a bell, and a very respectable, muscular-looking man appeared.

'Simons, you will take this infant down to Mr. Latham's place in Somerset as soon as possible. You will have every liberty over the estate, Mr. Herbert. Doctor Mason, said he, turning a rather severe look upon the hair-powder, if any communication transpire between these two young persons it will be contempt of court. You know the penalty.'

The doctor withdrew. The Chancellor shook me by the hand, and so did Mr. Latham.

'Oh, the treachery of that double-dyed old villain!' I thought.

What I endured in that place in Somersetshire! I thought my heart was broken forever.

It so happened, ten years afterward, I went down to Essex for some fox hunting.—One bright morning the hounds met at a farm house, and I was invited, among others to partake of some refreshments.

A little woman, broad as she was long, recognized me immediately. It was Rosina, the happy mother of five fine children. But when I looked at the freckled skin, the untidy flaxen locks and inelegant dress, I did not regret that old Latham had proved a traitor, or that I had been a Ward in Chancery.

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The Detroit *Post* says, that during the past ten days a greatly improved demand for vessel property has taken place, and prices are consequently on the increase. This brisk demand for vessels has been caused by the large quantities of grain to be moved from Michigan ports during the approaching spring.


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THE SUBSCRIBER IS PREPARED TO FILL ALL orders for,

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and give satisfaction. Parties sending orders by mail will please give depth of well from platform, naming Township, No. of Concession and Lot. He has also on hand.

**REVERSIBLE MOLEBOARD**

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CHURNS AND STRAW CUTTERS.

☞ All sold on liberal terms, and order promptly attended to.

Stand previously occupied by Mr. H. Dodd.

J. D. ARMSTRONG.

Goderich March 4th 1871. w swtf

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**CHARLES VIDEON,**

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**The Harness & Saddlery Business**

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Having had long experience in the best workshops C V is prepared to satisfy all who entrust him with their orders.

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Goderich. 22 Aug 187 . sw103

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**Spencer's XXX Ales & Porter.**

**Spencer's Bottled Ale n Fine condition,**

**Spencer's Ales in Puncheon, barrels and Half barrels, at the**

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Goderich Jan. 10th 1871. swtf-ly

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Gents' Shirts, collars, ties &c., of all kinds, cheap for cash.

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Goderich 25 Oct 1871.

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HAVE GREAT PLEASURE IN ANNOUNCING to the public of the town and country, that they have bought out the interests of Mr A. H. Green in the above Grocery, and now intend to run in on their own account. They have on hand

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COFFEES
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Flour, Feed, Oatmeal, Cornmeal, Buckwheat Flour, and Provisions generally, always on hand.

**GOOD AS THE BEST**

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FOR CASH OR PRODUCE.

☞ Opposite the Market, and next door to Jordan's Drug Store.

Goderich, 4th May, 1871. w73


**Insolvent Act Of 1869 and Amendments Thereto.**

Henry W. Bailey and Christopher W. Bunting, Plaintiffs,

vs.

Joshua Ransell, Defendant.

A writ of Attachment has issued in this cause.

JOHN MACDONALD,
Sheriff of Huron

Sheriff's Office, Goderich, Dec. 15th, 1871.

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ABRAHAM SMITH.

Goderich, 17th Oct. 1871.


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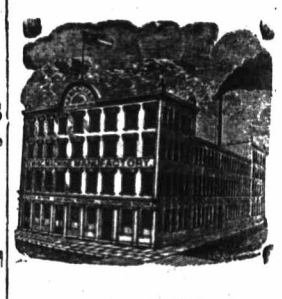
Goderich, Dec. 7th, 1871.



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Goderich, Aug. 7th, 1871.

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