

The Rival Glansmen

A Scottish Vendetta.
CHAPTER XXII.
THE END OF TWO VILLAINS—THE WITCH OF BEN-LAIR REVEALS HER TRUE NAME AND CHARACTER—A STRANGE STORY.

"I inquired what he meant, and with vehement language, Cameron told me that his sister had been betrayed and ruined; that she was now dead, and that she had died with her babe unborn. This, you may well understand, M'Leod, increased my amazement. There was vile perjury, wicked lying, somewhere, and I set myself to consider who was the liar. I believed my son to be honorable and true, to be incapable of deceiving me; and yet, what motive could this man have in speaking to me as he had done if he knew that what he said was false? I turned away mournful and sad at heart. Where, then, was my son? Where was I to seek for him? I think I must have turned crazed, for I have no recollection of going thither; but the next place I found myself was at the clachan of Kinloch-Ewe. Here the talk was all about a dark and bloody murder which had just been committed on the north shore of Loch Maree, and everyone was bewailing the sad fate of the poor young Lowlander who had met such an untimely end. Their talk interested me; and a vague fear crept through me that the murdered man would prove to be my son, Henry Douglass. Do what I could, I could not shake off the fear. Then I spoke to the people, and asked about the murdered—what he was like, where the murder took place, and when the body was laid. The body was buried, they replied, but if I was curious they could show me his clothing. With a palpitating heart I followed the man who had promised to do this, and then, Hector M'Leod, spread out before me were the garment my son had worn when last I saw him. My son, Henry Douglass, was the murdered man, but who—who had done the deed? O that the earth had at that moment opened up to receive me, how much agony would I have been spared, for each time as I put the queries Who? and Why? my heart began to bleed afresh. No one had seen the deed done, and the murderer could not be traced. But let me pass over that terrible time of trial and sorrow. Nought came of it but a wounded heart—or more, perhaps, a diseased mind. If I was crazed before, I think I was mad now; but it was not the madness of frenzy, it rather arose from stifled grief, for I never said to one that I knew ought of who the murdered man might be. I went to Inverness and put my affairs into the hands of a man whom I could trust, and then I turned away—away; I was alone in the world, and cared not whither I wandered. One night found me in this old hut in which we are, and, none disturbing me, here I took up my habitation. I wandered hither and thither, with the great grief ever preying upon my mind. I dreamt by night of visions and revelations, and by day I muttered spells and read the future in the burning fire, in the ripple of the brook, and in the sigh of the wind. Sometimes at night I would wander forth to the glade where the murdered body was found, and there I would draw lines on the grass, invoking Heaven to change these lines into the name of the murderer of my son, written in letters of fire. But still silence kept its secret, and I sorrowed on. These strange proceedings were sometimes witnessed by the people around, who spoke of me under their breath, and named me the Witch of Ben-Lair, a name which I adopted willingly, eagerly hoping that I might one day unravel a skein in which the name of the villain I sought could be found.

"And a day did come when I was able to say who was red-handed; and the intelligence came by natural, not supernatural means. Nor was it long ago M'Leod, I heard of the fame as a beauty of the niece of Cameron of Droghdaich, his only sister's daughter. Then did I say, 'Donald Cameron told me the child was unborn. It was he who had lied to me, and he had had a purpose in view.' A glimmering of his object darted across my mind, and then I knew that Donald Cameron was my son's murderer. In my breast there burned a terrible desire to bring the villain to justice; but how could it be done? Alas! I knew not, and alas! I know not. I grow sardonic and reasonable then, and, as if directed by Providence, the first time I met him was on the night you were his prisoner on the way to Malrubha's Ruia, in the very glade, on the very spot where he committed his crime. You heard what I said then, and you saw how he received my words. It confirmed me in my suspicion that he was the murderer, and I resolved that if he could not be legally made to suffer for his crime I would expose some of the villainous work in which I suspected him to be engaged. This attack to-night, M'Leod, confirms me still more in my belief; and now you have what I have to tell you, and now you know why I am so much interested in the safety of Flora Macgregor. And now you know also that, instead of her being a poor, penniless bastard, she is a rich heiress, begotten in lawful wedlock." When the old woman had concluded speaking, Hector turned towards her with an expression of deep pity on his face; but blending with it there was an expression of bright hope, which sent a strange thrill of eager anticipation through her breast, for his air was that of a man who had something of importance to communicate. Whether she divined truly or whether she was mistaken we shall now proceed to show.

To Business Men.

The circulation of the Mercury and Advertiser being nearly five times that of any other paper published in the County of Wellington, business men and others would study their own interests by advertising in the Mercury and Advertiser.

FACTS FOR ADVERTISERS.

In this, as in everything else, the best papers will command the best prices. It is cheaper to pay 5s. for inserting your advertisement in a journal having a circulation of 5,000, than to pay 2s. for one that has only a circulation of 1,000. Of this you may be sure, that any journal that inserts advertisements too cheap, is, in fact, an almost worthless medium. If it were really a good one, it would have no need to lower its prices, for its sheet would be better filled without the sacrifice. You may lay it down as a rule that every journal knows its value, and that if it adopts low prices it is because it is conscious that it has a low circulation in number or respectability.—Wilson's Handbook for Advertisers.



NEW SPRING DRESS GOODS

GEORGE JEFFREY, WYNDHAM STREET, GUELPH,

Has just received the first of his Spring Importations per steamship Corinthian, consisting of

- 3 Cases plain Dress Goods ;
- 1 case Plain Silks, all new colors ;
- 2 " Striped Dress Goods, something new ;
- 1 case Striped Silks, cheapest goods in town.

ALSO, A BEAUTIFUL ASSORTMENT OF

Real Thread Laces and French Kid Gloves from the best makers in the World

To be sold at reasonable prices.

GEORGE JEFFREY, GUELPH
Direct Importer, Guelph.

THE LION



THE LION

LARGE ARRIVALS OF SPRING GOODS FROM BRITAIN!

1000 pieces of Prints at 12½ cents,

Worth 16c,

AT THE GOLDEN LION.

Golden Lion, Wyndham Street, Guelph.

J. D. WILLIAMSON.

12lbs. of Good Bright Sugar for \$1.

CHOICE IMPERIAL

New Crop Teas 50c. per lb

J. E. McELDERRY.

2 DAY'S BLOCK,

THE NOTED TEA HOUSE

Change of Business.

We beg leave to intimate that with the intention of devoting our time exclusively to the Wholesale Manufacturing, we have disposed of our Retail and Custom Business to Messrs. R. MACGREGOR & CO., who will carry on the business, and for whom we bespeak the patronage of all old customers, and the public generally. From an acquaintance of some years we can confidently recommend them as worthy of a liberal support.

W. D. HEPBURN & Co.

WITH reference to the above we have the pleasure to state that we have purchased the stock of Messrs. W. D. HEPBURN & Co., on favorable terms, and are making large additions to the same, which will be complete in a few days.

In respectfully asking for the patronage of all the old customers and the public generally, we hope to secure the same by keeping first-class goods, selling at the most reasonable prices, and offering the largest and best assortment in town to choose from, keeping it, as it has been in the past, the leading Boot and Shoe business in Guelph.

Custom Work will receive special attention, and satisfaction guaranteed.

Repairing promptly attended to as usual.
R. MACGREGOR & CO.
Successors to W. D. Hepburn & Co.

JUST COME IN!

GUELPH TEA DEPOT

E. O'DONNELL & Co.

Are putting up to-day

- 320 caddies best dollar Young Hyson Tea for 80c. per lb.
- 600 caddies of the best 75 cent Tea for 50c per lb.
- 95 caddies of nice Sweet Tea at 40c per lb.
- 120 caddies of Japan Tea worth 75c, for 50c.
- A few packages of Black Tea for 35c per lb.
- 10 hogsheads of Good Bright Sugar, 12lb. for \$1.
- 50 Ingersoll Cheese, very choice.

A very large stock of Groceries of all kinds always on hand Cheap.

Terms—Strictly Cash.

E. O'DONNELL & CO

Wyndham Street, Guelph.

G. B. FRASHER,

G. B. FRASHER,

PRINT DEPARTMENT.

JOHN MACDONALD & CO.

Are showing an immense stock of

CHOICE PRINTS

From the Leading Printers.

JOHN MACDONALD & CO.

TORONTO.

Leaving Town—Bound for the West, the Great Northwest.
\$45,000 worth of Dry Goods and Groceries to be disposed of in six weeks. Sale to commence on Monday, the 6th inst.
MR. G. B. FRASHER
Being about to leave Guelph to seek a home in the Far West, would cordially thank his many kind friends for their continued patronage for the past fifteen years, and as he feels that he has a short time longer in their midst, his stock will consequently be sold off at such bargains as will ensure a speedy sale. Goods will be sold at 20 per cent. below retail. Cash for Toronto or Montreal. Wholesale prices. A special discount will be allowed on purchases over \$25. This sale is genuine, and proprietors having to give up possession of his store on the 1st of May next.

Elephant Clothing Store.

C. E. PEIRCE & CO.

Are now showing a new and splendid stock of

READY-MADE CLOTHING

Well Made and Fashionably Cut

Which they are selling at very low prices. Also, a new stock of

HATS AND CAPS!

and FURNISHING GOODS, which they are prepared to sell cheap.

C. E. PEIRCE & CO.,

Hepburn's Old Stand, Wyndham-st., Guelph.

Guelph, Mar. 20, 1874.

NOTICE.

All parties indebted to R. Clayton are requested to settle by the 31st of March. Any account unpaid after that date will be put into the hands of a Collector for collection.

R. CLAYTON.

Co-Operative Store.

ARRIVAL OF NEW GOODS

OUR NEW TWEEDS

Were selected from six different houses, therefore we have a choice not to choose from. We employ a Tailor.

NEW COTTONS

Horrocks Bleached Cottons, soft finish; also, Linen finished Cottons, all prices. Dandas and Lybster Cottons in stock.

NEW PRINTS

Hoyle & Ashton's Fancy Prints will be offered at 12½ cents per yard.

NEW BOOTS AND SHOES

For style, finish and durability will be found superior to former years. Ladies' Prunella Boots 75c per pair.

J. C. MACKLIN & CO.

GUELPH, March 2, 1874 dw