"THE FUCITIVES !"

CHAPTER XXXVIII.

"Allow me to pour oil on these troubled waters," said the Clergyman, who having recovered somewhat from the centernation into which he had been thrown,now advanced upon the scene.

'You seem,' he added, in his mild, sing-song voice—' you seem, my friends to be acting under the supposition that the lady is an unwilling party to this marriage. I have no reasont to suppose that this is the case, or I should not have conseted to perform the ceremony.'

marriage. Thave no reasont to suppose that this is the case, or I should not have conseted to perform the ceremony.

'It is impossible that the lady can voluntary consent to marry Captain Campbell while she loves and is betrothed to another,' exclaimed Angus.

'Of that I know nothing, 'rejoined the minister. 'But I have seen no signs of unwillingness on her part. The question, however, can easily be decided by a direct question put to the lady, and if she replies that she is here by her own consent, and is, not by constraint, but woluntarily becoming the wife of Captain Campbell, I presume yea will intefere for further, bit retire, so that the ceremony may proceed.'

'Yes we are quite willing to abide that test,' said Angus, unhesitatingly.

'And so am I,' exclaimed Compbell in a loud tone, as he turned to Flora and fixed on her a significant look.

'Flora, he added 'you hear the proposal and you have but one word to utteryes or no. 'Answer the question. Is it of your own will and consent that you are here to be made my bride? Now don't hurry your answer. Pause and consider it well above all, sonsider the consequences.'

Pale and trembling, poor Flora had

don't hurry your answer. Pause and consider it velt—above all, consider the consequences.

Pale and trembling, poor Flora had stood all the while hallelpless agitation. The first impulse of her anguished and lacerated heart was to fly to Angus for protection and supplicate him to save her from her impending fate. But the warning look of Campbell and his intentionally-pointed words brought her suddenly back to a remembrance of the object to be gained by her dreadful sacrifice—the life and liberty of Allan. Should she falter now his doom would be sealed. She had sacredly given her word, and honer bound her abide by it, awful as the issue must be for her. Escape was within her power, for she had but to pluck the parchment which constituted Allan's pardon from her bosom and put it into the hand of Angus. It would then take effect though she refused te marrye Campbell. But this would be to put the stamp of dishonor upon her life, and she could not dishonor herself even to scape such a fate. No, truth and integrity demanded the dreadful sacrifice to be made, and she would be loyal to these at whatever cost.

These thoughts rushed like lightning

These thoughts rushed like lightning through her mind, and fortified her to atter the reply which every one was rectallessly waiting to hear. She durst not look up. She durst not neet the eyes of Angus and Donald, so eagerly bent on her, but, like a cold, white marble statue she steed gazing on the floor, and at length she faltered,in a low, the floor, and at length she faltered, in a low if the floor, and at length she faltered, in a low if the best of Canadian Manufactures, is rare, and made up at satisfactory prices to all.

yet, in the intense silence, a perfectly audible tone—

'I am ready to become the wife of Crptain Campbell.

'You hear her?' cried Campbell, triumphantly. 'Now you have got your answer, and I command you to begone.' But Angus headed him not, and did not seem even to hear him. Amazemout, pain, and deepest sorrow and repreach came upon his face, and steadfastly and sadly he gazed on her downcast countenance.

"The great God forgive you, Flora Macdonald,' he said with great solemnity. "I could not have believed it was in woman to do as you are doing. When the news is told to Allan, it will break the bravest, truest heart that beats in human bosom."

She started convulsively, and raised her to speak, but Campbell hastily have footh.

told to Allan, it will break the bravest, truest heart that beats in human bosom."

She started convalisitely, and raised her to speak, but Campbell hastily burst forth, in bullying tone—
"I wont have this," he roared. "Leave us at once. The answer you sought has been given, and your presence shall not be suffered another moment."

"Farawell, Flora, and if God can lighten your fearful punishment, I pray he may."
"Oh Flora, Flora," groaned Donaid. "Did ever I dream ye-could be guilty esic a black-burnin' shameful crime as this,"

"Forbear, forbear," wailed Flora, the words bursting from her torn heart in a tone that can neaer be described." Wailbut in the cremony is over and you shall—"
"I will not have," thundered Campbell

"Rarer than the phenix,' says be Quincey, 'is the virtums man who will consent to loss a prosperous areclade because it is a fle.'

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"I will not have,' thundered Campbell.

They must be gone instantly."

"No, no," cried Flora excitedly. "Do not the benefit of the Canadian Folicy Holden."

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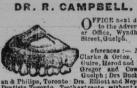
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