

THE WONDERFUL FLOWER OF WOXINDON.

An Historical Romance of the Times of Queen Elizabeth.

BY REV. JOSEPH SPILLMAN, S. J.

PUBLISHED BY PERMISSION OF B. HERDER, ST. LOUIS, MO.

(Reproduced from the Montreal True Witness.)

CHAPTER XXXII.—(Continued)

But the pursuivant would not let them go. "Stop," he cried, "if you stir a step I will set the dogs on you. You are both my prisoners. Babington's wife and cousin will tell us many a tale, when they are on the rack in the Tower. Hand out the keys for Miss Bellamy, or rather Mistress Babington's little wrists, and watch both prisoners well. Now let us go to the old tower yonder; it will go hard with me if I do not unearth the whole plot, for what else would these two want wandering here at nightfall, if the dear husband and friends were not close by? So keep a sharp lookout, lest all our keepers ready, and our dogs will soon scent out the foxes."

Scotries were accordingly posted all around the old castle; torches were kindled, and a great fire made of brush wood, so that the place was almost as light as day. The red flames lit up the ivy-covered walls and threw into relief the thick stems of the old trees surrounding it.

"Now," said Topcliffe, addressing his party, "not so much as a rat can leave these walls without being seen. Have your pistols ready; shoot every one down who tries to escape, but not otherwise, for it would be a pity to deprive the hangman of a job in disposing of these Popish traitors." He then led the bloodhounds in the leash around the principal ruin. They had not gone more than half way, sniffing the ground, when they began to bay, and dragged violently at the cord, which held them in, leading us to the foot of the tower, where thick undergrowth and broken masonry filled up the moat. They stopped at a slab of stone in the wall, barking loudly and tearing the earth with their paws.

Topcliffe bade two of his men to hold the dogs off; the stone was then removed, and an aperture disclosed, through which it was possible to crawl on one's hands and feet. Into this Topcliffe shouted, calling upon Babington and any others who might be within, to come out at once to answer before the Privy Council on a charge of high treason, otherwise the bloodhounds should be let loose, who would rend them to pieces.

For a few moments not a sound was heard in the vault to which the opening gave admittance. Then voices were heard in hasty consultation, and someone said: "Let your dogs loose, Master Topcliffe; I will shoot them down one after another, and if I must fall, I shall go to send you and some of your satelites, to speak with me before the tribunal of God, to answer for all the bloodshed and cruelty which you have shown to us harmless Catholics!"

Topcliffe gasped at the teeth with rage. "All you cursed Papists together are not worth the life of one of my dogs," he exclaimed. "I will show you how we smoke such vermin out of their burrows. Pile up the brushwood before the hole and set fire to it!"

Quickly a heap of dry sticks was raised before the opening; in another moment it would have been ablaze, had I not begged for a brief respite, while I addressed the fugitives in the vault, exhorting them in God's name to submit to their fate, which after all might not be hopeless. At any rate, if they must die, they could prepare themselves to appear before God in a more Christian manner than was possible now.

My words were not without effect. We heard them consulting together, then a voice responded: "We surrender, but I hope we shall receive the treatment due to us as gentlemen, and that our friends will not be molested."

I would have agreed to this, but Topcliffe interposed, saying he would hear of no conditions; Babington and all his confederates must bear the consequences of their misdeeds. There was nothing to be done, but for the unfortunate conspirators to emerge from their place of concealment. Babington came first; he seemed greatly cast down and distressed on account of having brought this trouble on his friends, yet maintained a dignified demeanor. It was impossible not to feel sorry for the handsome young man, as he stood holding out his hands for the handkerchiefs to be put on his wrists. His hands were pinioned behind him, and fetters, fastened together with a short chain, were also put on his feet. The same was done in turn to each of the others; Barnwell, Doone, Gage and Charcock. One could not help commiserating these misguided young men, all of whom, with the exception of Charcock, a weather-beaten, gray-bearded veteran, who had served with Savage under Parma, were in the first bloom of early manhood. They all met

their fate with unflinching courage; not a word of complaint escaped their lips.

Before quitting the spot, a close inspection was made of the vault, to ascertain that no confederates were remaining therein. Nothing was found save a basket, which bore the Bellamy's name and armorial bearings, afforded fatal evidence that the inhabitants of Woxindon had supplied the outlaws with food, thus rendering themselves amenable to the law as accessories to the crime of high treason. Topcliffe, highly elated at the success of his researches, was in the best of humor; he indulged in a series of loud jests at the expense of his unhappy victims, which his men received with roars of laughter.

"I left the myrmidons of the law to their unseemly mirth, and approached the little group of prisoners, amongst whom Bellamy and his niece were included. The former, a stout, elderly man, called by them Uncle Remy, was endeavoring, together with Babington, to soothe the young gentleman, who seemed in a paroxysm of despair. "It is all my fault, all my fault!" she repeated. "My folly, my disobedience, has brought this misery on our house! I persuaded Babington to plan the release of the Queen of Scots, though Father Weston dissuaded him so strongly from the enterprise! Here, at the top of yonder tower, I promised him my hand, if he would carry it out. Here, at this very spot, I met him clandestinely, again and again, though poor grandmother strictly forbade it, as she had every right to do! And now a just Providence has decreed that on this same spot he and I should be arrested. Would that we too were the only ones! Alas! a whole number share our lot, and my dear uncle amongst them—alas, alas, it is all my fault!"

To hear her lament thus pitifully was enough to move a heart of stone. She would not listen to her husband when he assured her that before he saw her, he had pledged himself to deliver Mary Stuart from prison. "If I had entreated you, you would have desisted from this wretched project," she bewailed. "Nothing was irrevocably decided then. Instead of that, I urged you on; it is my fault, my fault!"

Her uncle's attempts to console her were equally inefficacious. "Nonsense, darling," he said, "do not fret in this way. They will do nothing dreadful to me. What have I done? Only fed the hungry and given drink to the thirsty; and surely our friends, the Puritans, who make such a fuss about the Gospel, will not hang me for that. No, depend upon it, instead of punishing a halter round my neck for my charity, they will put a ribbon round my knee, and I shall be a Knight of the Garter in my old age!"

Thus the kindly old man sought to divert his niece with a joke; but it was of no avail; she continued to sob convulsively, exclaiming again

PROVERBS

"When the butter won't come 'put a penny in the churn," is an old time dairy proverb. It often seems to work though no one has ever told why.

When mothers are worried because the children do not gain strength and flesh we say give them Scott's Emulsion.

It is like the penny in the milk because it works and because there is something astonishing about it.

Scott's Emulsion is simply a milk of pure cod liver oil with some hypophosphites especially prepared for delicate stomachs.

Children take to it naturally because they like the taste and the remedy takes just as naturally to the children because it is so perfectly adapted to their wants.

For all weak and pale and thin children Scott's Emulsion is the most satisfactory treatment.

We will send you the penny, i. e., a sample free. Be sure that this picture is the form of a label on the wrapper of every bottle of Emulsion you buy. SCOTT & BOWNE, Chemists, Toronto, Ontario.



and again: "It was my fault, my fault!"

Soon Topcliffe and his men, who had been feasting upon the provisions found in the hiding place, called upon us to proceed to the house. Our miserable work there was soon done. Mr. Bellamy's brother, a good-natured, harmless, but weak-minded individual, met us at the gate, to learn the cause of the disturbance. He was immediately arrested. Topcliffe furthermore gave orders to rouse the old lady, who had retired to rest, being somewhat indisposed, since he meant to take her to London in custody at once. Thereupon I protested against such unwarrantable and needless cruelty, but in vain; the man told me he was master, and Walsingham had warned him not to heed my scruples and sensibilities. He intended to carry off the whole Woxindon brood to the Tower forthwith; he could not journey down again from London for the sake of an old hag, who was just as bad as the rest. I offered to stay behind and escort the aged lady to London on the morrow; but Topcliffe only grew more irate, and declared if she were not downstairs and ready to start in a quarter of an hour, he would drag her out of bed with his own hands. So the old serving woman was sent up to dress her mistress and bring her down into the hall.

Meantime Topcliffe called for wine for his men, and the hall soon resounded with uproarious songs and shouting. Topcliffe himself lighted a torch, and ordered Babington's wife, who seemed quite spent with grief and terror, to conduct him, manacled as she was, over the house. I followed, in the hope of acting as her protector. First of all he demanded to be shown to a chamber at the top of the house, in which her father had died, she would know which he meant. On reaching it he commenced a close examination of the walls, striking them with a small hammer that he took from his pocket. The young lady meanwhile went and stood beneath a singular plant, which hung down from the principal beam of the ceiling. Wiping away her tears and ceasing her lamentations, she began to smile, and to count the branches of the little plant. On each of these hung a single ripe, red berry.

"One, two, three, four, five," she said. "This one for grandmother, these two for my two uncles; these two for Babington and me," then turning to me, she went on: "Good sir, you have been kind to us tonight; do me the favor to break off this wonderful flower! See, I cannot reach it with my fettered hands. Grandmother took so much pleasure in this plant; she thought it a portent of some great good; and listen—when the first flower opened, father died; when it was in full bloom, Mary was betrothed to Windsor, and I to Anthony; when the first berry was ripe, my brother and sister had to fly from home; and now that all the fruits are matured, and the plant is withering, we shall all be taken as prisoners to the Tower, and from thence to the gallows. A marvellous, fateful flower! Reach it down, sir, and may it bring you good luck and a blessing!"

I confess that a shiver ran over me at the strangeness of the thing, as I complied with her request, and placed the plant in her hands. She began again: "One for me, one for Remy and one for Barthly, and the large one for Granny. O the beautiful red berries! Let us take these to them, sir—they will bring you luck and a blessing!"

It was now only too evident that the trouble had turned the poor girl's head. I was horrified: it was a relief when Topcliffe, having discovered the secret cell that he was in search of, brought out from thence a gold chalice, and other things appertaining to the Mass. He swore a round oath, designating them as implements of devilry and idolatry, while he consigning this valuable booty to a capacious pocket. He then declared himself ready to leave Woxindon with his prisoners.

A heartrending scene was yet to be enacted, before our departure. The old lady had come down, and was sitting in the hall, feeble in body and broken in health, but courageous of heart, and resigned to the will of God. Patiently she waited, in a large armchair by the hearth, for the moment when she must bid her last farewell, to her beloved home, when her unhappy granddaughter came in, and her restless eye and unnatural gaiety showed that her mind was deranged, a deep sigh escaped from the aged lady's breast. "More troubles, O Lord!" she murmured, raising her eyes to heaven; "yet not as I will, but as Thou wilt; give me strength to bear this cross." But when Babington's wife coming up, exhibited the wonderful plant, assigning to each of the prisoners one of the five sprigs with its blood-red berries, wishing them joy for the lucky plant, and finally asking her grandmother to fasten the plant to her bosom, since the fetters on her wrists prevented her from doing so, then tears filled the old lady's eyes, and fell fast on the red berries in her trembling fingers. Thereupon the mood of the wretched girl suddenly changed; with a child's unreason, from silly laughter she fell to uncontrollable weeping; a pitiful sight, the more so as all the retainers of the family took part in her woe. I was glad to hear Topcliffe give

BRITISH TROOP OIL LINIMENT FOR Sprains, Strains, Cuts, Wounds, Ulcers, Open Sores, Bruises, Stiff Joints, Bites and Stings of Insects, Coughs, Colds, Contracted Cords, Rheumatism, Neuralgia, Bronchitis, Croup, Sore Throat, Quinsy, Whooping Cough and all Painful Swellings. A LARGE BOTTLE, 25c.

MILBURN'S HEART AND NERVE PILLS FOR WEAK PEOPLE. Are a True Heart Tonic, Nerve Food and Blood Purifier. They build up and renew all the worn out and wasted tissues of the body, and restore perfect health and vigor to the entire system.

MISCELLANEOUS. If a child eats ravenously, grinds the teeth at night and picks its nose, you may almost be certain it has worms and should administer without delay Dr. Low's Pleasant Worm Syrup. This remedy contains its own cathartic.

Regey Backby.—Miss de Mudd, are you at all interested in psychology? Miss de Mudd.—Oh, yes, very much indeed! But I know I should break my neck if I tried to ride one.

British Troop Oil Liniment is unsurpassed by any liniment on the market to-day. It is composed of healing, soothing and cleansing vegetable oils and extracts. It is put up in large bottles for the small price of 25 cents.

Water.—How would you like to have your steak, sir? Meek Customer (who has been waiting twenty minutes)—Very much indeed, thank you, if it isn't too much trouble.

Minard's Liniment Cures LaGrippe. The Bore.—Haven't I met you somewhere before? The Other Man.—If you have it was altogether unintentional on my part, I assure you.

Milburn's Sterling Headache Powders give women prompt relief from monthly pains and leave no bad after effects whatever. Be sure you get Milburn's. Price 10 and 25 cents. All dealers.

"What kind of a Christmas did you pass?" asked the friend. "The same as usual," answered Mr. Bliggins, sourly. "Twenty minutes of turkey and mince pie and now six weeks of peasin are before me."

The essential lung-healing principle of the pine tree has finally been successfully separated and refined into a perfect cough medicine, Dr. Wood's Norway Pine Syrup. Sold by all dealers on a guarantee of satisfaction. Price 25 cents.

Found At Last. A liver pill that is small and sure, that acts gently, quickly and thoroughly, that does not grip. Lixa-Liver Pills possess these qualities, and are a sure cure for Liver Complaint, Sick Headache, etc.

Grandpa.—I hate to see you cry, but you know I can't let you do just as you please. Miriam.—Oh, grandpa! I didn't think you could be so obstinate.

For Cuts, Wounds, Chilblains, Chapped Hands, Rheumatism, Stiff Joints, Burns, Scalds, Bites of Insects, Croup, Coughs, Colds, Hagyard's Yellow Oil will be found an excellent remedy. Price 25 cents. All dealers.

Minard's Liniment the best Hair Restorer.

During the year the space devoted to advertising MINARD'S LINIMENT will contain expressions of no uncertain sound from people who speak from personal experience as to the merits of this best of Household Remedies.

Minard's Liniment relieves neuralgia.

Burdock BLOOD BITTERS CURES Dyspepsia, Bolls, Pimples, Headaches, Constipation, Loss of Appetite, Salt Rheum, Erysipelas, Scrofula, and all troubles arising from the Stomach, Liver, Bowels or Blood.

A WARNING TO BACKACHE SUFFERERS. Backache may strike you at any time. Comes when you least expect it. Comes as a warning from the kidneys.

Doan's Kidney Pills. There is not a Kidney Trouble, from Backache to Bright's Disease, that Doan's Kidney Pills will not relieve promptly and cure more quickly than any other kidney remedy. 50c. per box or 3 for \$1.25. All dealers or The Doan Kidney Pill Co., Toronto, Ont.

MILBURN'S HEART AND NERVE PILLS FOR WEAK PEOPLE

Are a True Heart Tonic, Nerve Food and Blood Purifier. They build up and renew all the worn out and wasted tissues of the body, and restore perfect health and vigor to the entire system.

MISCELLANEOUS. If a child eats ravenously, grinds the teeth at night and picks its nose, you may almost be certain it has worms and should administer without delay Dr. Low's Pleasant Worm Syrup. This remedy contains its own cathartic.

Regey Backby.—Miss de Mudd, are you at all interested in psychology? Miss de Mudd.—Oh, yes, very much indeed! But I know I should break my neck if I tried to ride one.

British Troop Oil Liniment is unsurpassed by any liniment on the market to-day. It is composed of healing, soothing and cleansing vegetable oils and extracts. It is put up in large bottles for the small price of 25 cents.

Water.—How would you like to have your steak, sir? Meek Customer (who has been waiting twenty minutes)—Very much indeed, thank you, if it isn't too much trouble.

Minard's Liniment Cures LaGrippe. The Bore.—Haven't I met you somewhere before? The Other Man.—If you have it was altogether unintentional on my part, I assure you.

Milburn's Sterling Headache Powders give women prompt relief from monthly pains and leave no bad after effects whatever. Be sure you get Milburn's. Price 10 and 25 cents. All dealers.

"What kind of a Christmas did you pass?" asked the friend. "The same as usual," answered Mr. Bliggins, sourly. "Twenty minutes of turkey and mince pie and now six weeks of peasin are before me."

The essential lung-healing principle of the pine tree has finally been successfully separated and refined into a perfect cough medicine, Dr. Wood's Norway Pine Syrup. Sold by all dealers on a guarantee of satisfaction. Price 25 cents.

Found At Last. A liver pill that is small and sure, that acts gently, quickly and thoroughly, that does not grip. Lixa-Liver Pills possess these qualities, and are a sure cure for Liver Complaint, Sick Headache, etc.

Grandpa.—I hate to see you cry, but you know I can't let you do just as you please. Miriam.—Oh, grandpa! I didn't think you could be so obstinate.

For Cuts, Wounds, Chilblains, Chapped Hands, Rheumatism, Stiff Joints, Burns, Scalds, Bites of Insects, Croup, Coughs, Colds, Hagyard's Yellow Oil will be found an excellent remedy. Price 25 cents. All dealers.

Minard's Liniment the best Hair Restorer.

During the year the space devoted to advertising MINARD'S LINIMENT will contain expressions of no uncertain sound from people who speak from personal experience as to the merits of this best of Household Remedies.

Minard's Liniment relieves neuralgia.

Burdock BLOOD BITTERS CURES Dyspepsia, Bolls, Pimples, Headaches, Constipation, Loss of Appetite, Salt Rheum, Erysipelas, Scrofula, and all troubles arising from the Stomach, Liver, Bowels or Blood.

A WARNING TO BACKACHE SUFFERERS. Backache may strike you at any time. Comes when you least expect it. Comes as a warning from the kidneys.

Doan's Kidney Pills. There is not a Kidney Trouble, from Backache to Bright's Disease, that Doan's Kidney Pills will not relieve promptly and cure more quickly than any other kidney remedy. 50c. per box or 3 for \$1.25. All dealers or The Doan Kidney Pill Co., Toronto, Ont.

Strayed. There has been on the sub-cribel premises since the 15th of November, a year and a half JJ Bull, color red. Unless claimed by January 15 h, 1903, he will be sold by auction on the premises to pay expenses. CHAS. W. LEARD. Riverton, Lot 52, Dec. 24, 1902-3.

Read This. 50 per cent. off. We have a few of Tuck's celebrated Calendars left over from our big sale, to be cleared out to day at exactly Half Price. Now here is a snap. Some of the most beautiful ones are left Office and pocket diaries for 1903—a nice stock, low prices, The Canadian Almanac for 1903, the only one published in Canada now on sale. Peloubet's Notes on the International S. S. Lessons for 1903.

Geo. Carter & Co. Quaker MARMALADE. This is a new brand of ORANGE MARMALADE put in One Pound Glass Jars. It is a Very Superior Article. And gives splendid satisfaction whatever used. Try a pot of it from BEER & GOFF, GROCERS.

!SAY! If you want to buy a SATISFACTORY pair of BOOTS or SHOES or anything else in the FOOTWEAR line, at the greatest saving price to yourself, try— A. E. McEACHEN, THE SHOE MAN, QUEEN STREET.

JOHN T. MELLISH, M. A. LL. B. Barrister & Attorney-at-Law, NOTARY PUBLIC, etc. CHARLOTTETOWN, P. E. ISLAND. Over—London House Building. Collecting, conveyancing, and all kinds of legal business promptly attended to. Investments made on best security. Money to loan.

JAMES H. REDDIN, BARRISTER-AT-LAW. NOTARY PUBLIC, &c. CAMERON BLOCK, CHARLOTTETOWN. Special attention given to Collections. MONEY TO LOAN.

INSURANCE. Fire, Marine, LIFE and ACCIDENT. HYNDMAN & CO. Agents.

It Will Pay You TO INVESTIGATE OUR PRICES ON OUR

Made-to-Order Suits, Overcoats, Trousers, Fancy Vests, etc., White Shirts, Colored Shirts, Silk front Shirts, Underclothing, Bathing Suits, Collars, Cuffs, Ties, Suspenders, Gloves, Socks, Linen and Silk Handkerchiefs, Tennis Shirts, Waterproof Coats, Umbrellas, Light Summer Coats and Vests, Caps, Collar Buttons, Cuff Links, Tie Clips, etc.

Everything New and Up-to-date. GORDON & MACLELLAN, Men's Outfitters.

Stoves! All kinds of Stoves at LOWEST PRICES. Ask to see the "HOTBLAST." Fennell & Chandler

Suits. WE KEEP Right to the Front IN THE Tailoring Trade; But we do not charge high prices for our Goods—just enough to make you feel satisfied that you are getting the best value in town.

Tweed & Worsted Suits FROM \$14 UP. JOHN McLEOD & CO., Merchant Tailor.

It Will Pay You TO INVESTIGATE OUR PRICES ON OUR

Made-to-Order Suits, Overcoats, Trousers, Fancy Vests, etc., White Shirts, Colored Shirts, Silk front Shirts, Underclothing, Bathing Suits, Collars, Cuffs, Ties, Suspenders, Gloves, Socks, Linen and Silk Handkerchiefs, Tennis Shirts, Waterproof Coats, Umbrellas, Light Summer Coats and Vests, Caps, Collar Buttons, Cuff Links, Tie Clips, etc.

Everything New and Up-to-date. GORDON & MACLELLAN, Men's Outfitters.

Made-to-Order Suits, Overcoats, Trousers, Fancy Vests, etc., White Shirts, Colored Shirts, Silk front Shirts, Underclothing, Bathing Suits, Collars, Cuffs, Ties, Suspenders, Gloves, Socks, Linen and Silk Handkerchiefs, Tennis Shirts, Waterproof Coats, Umbrellas, Light Summer Coats and Vests, Caps, Collar Buttons, Cuff Links, Tie Clips, etc.

Everything New and Up-to-date. GORDON & MACLELLAN, Men's Outfitters.