

PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE.

As on the rugged mountain's topmost height The warrior terrors turn awhile to gaze, Viewing below the landscape's gliding night...

THE OLD BARON; THE CHAMPION OF VIRTUE.

(CONTINUED.) The same autumn that Edmund completed his eighteenth year, the Baron declared his intention of sending the young men of his house to France the following spring...

Various arts were used by Edmund's enemies to expose him to danger; but all their contrivances recoiled upon themselves, and brought increase of honor upon Edmund's head.

Intrigues, however, were prevalent, and many schemes were laid against Edmund, but without effect. At a ball in Sir Robert's tent, Mr. Wenlock thus began—

"You see, my friends, that every attempt we make to humble this upstart turns into applause, and serves only to raise his pride still higher. Something must be done, of his praise will go home before us, at our own expense, and we shall seem only fools to set off his glories. Anything would I give the man who should execute our vengeance upon him."

"Stop, there, cousin Wenlock," said Sir Robert, "though I think Edmund proud and vain-glorious, and would join in any scheme to humble him, and make him know himself, I will not suffer any man to use such base methods to effect it, if any such are used, I will be the first man to bring the guilty to justice, and if I hear another allude to the subject, I will inform my brother William, who will acquaint Edmund with your mean intentions."

Upon this the cabal drew back, and Mr. Wenlock retired, that he meant no more than to mortify his pride, and make him know his proper station. Soon after Sir Robert withdrew, and they resumed their deliberations.

"This speaks Thomas Hewson. There is a party to be sent out to-morrow night, to intercept a convoy of provisions for the relief of Rouen; I will provoke Mr. Edmund to make one of this party, and when he is engaged in the action, I and my companions will desert, and leave him to the enemy. I'll treat with hands him, that you shall not be more to be troubled with him."

William, who treated him in public as his principal domestic, but in private as his chosen friend and brother.

The whole extent of his enemies conspired together in what manner they should vent their resentment against him; and it was agreed that they should treat him with indifference and neglect, till they should arrive in France; and when there, they should contrive to render his courage suspected, and by putting him upon some desperate enterprise, rid themselves of him for ever.

About this time died the great Duke of Bedford. He was succeeded by Richard Plantagenet, Duke of York, as Regent of France, of which great part had revolved to Charles the Dauphin. Frequent actions ensued. Cities were lost and won; and continual occasions offered to exercise the courage and abilities of the youths of both nations.

The young men of Baron Fitz-Owen's house were recommended particularly to the Regent's notice. Master Robert was knighted, with several other young men of family, who distinguished themselves by their spirit and activity upon every occasion. The youth were daily employed in various exercises and frequent actions, and made the great army in such a manner as to bring into notice all that deserved it.

In several actions in which the young men were engaged, Edmund displayed unusual courage; and during the intervals, evinced such gentleness, humanity and modesty that he attracted the notice of every person of observation, and received personal commendations from the Regent himself.

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Edmund was presented to the Regent, as the man to whom the victory was chiefly owing. Not a tongue presumed to move itself against him; even malice and envy were silenced.

"Approach, young man," said the Regent, "that I may confer upon you the honor of knighthood, which you have well deserved." Mr. Wenlock could no longer forbear speaking.

"Knighthood," said he, "is an order belonging to gentlemen; it cannot be conferred on a peasant."

"What say you, sir?" returned the Regent; "is this youth a peasant?"

"He is," said Wenlock; "let him deny it if he can." Edmund, with a modest bow, replied, "It is true, indeed, for me, a peasant, and this honor is too great for me. I have only done my duty."

The Duke of York, whose pride of birth equalled that of any man, living or dead, despised his sword immediately. "Though," said he, "I cannot reward you as I intended, I will take care that you shall have a large share in the spoils of this night; and I declare publicly that you stand first in the list of gallant men in this engagement."

Thomas Hewson and his associates made a poor figure on their return. They were publicly reproved for their backwardness. Hewson was wounded in body, and more in mind, for the bad success of his ill-laid design. He could not hold up his head before Edmund; who, unconscious of their malice, administered every kind of comfort to them. He spoke in their behalf to the commanding officer, imploring their pardon for unavoidable accidents. He visited them privately, he gave them a part of the spoils allotted to himself, by every act of valor and courtesy he strove to engage those hearts that had hated, envied, and maligned him; but where hatred arises from envy of superior qualities, every display of those qualities increases the cause from whence it arises.

The young nobles and gentlemen, who distinguished Edmund, were prevented from raising him to preferment by the insinuations of Wenlock and his associates, who never failed to set before them his low descent, and his pride and arrogance in presuming to rank with gentlemen.

Shortly after this occurrence Lady Fitz-Owen died, and the Baron unable longer to endure the absence of his children, after the loss of their mother, sent for them to return home. Wenlock rejoiced to find that his schemes took effect, and that they should be recalled at the approach of winter.

From the time the young men returned from France, the enemies of Edmund employed their utmost abilities to ruin him in the Baron's opinion, and get him dismissed from the family. They insinuated thousand things against him, that happened, as they said, during his residence in France, and therefore could not be known to his masters; but when the Baron privately inquired of his two elder sons, he found there was no truth in their reports. Sir Robert, though he did not love him, seemed to join in untruths against him. Mr. William spoke of him with the warmth of fraternal affection.

The Baron perceived that his kinsmen disliked Edmund, and his own good heart hindered him from seeing the baseness of their conduct. It is said, that continual droppings of tears away a stone; so did their incessant reports, by insensible degrees, produce a coldness in his patron's behavior towards him. If he behaved with many spirits, it was misconstrued into pride and arrogance; his gentleness was impudently, his humanity was hypocrisy, the better to cover his ambition. Edmund bore patiently all the indignities that were thrown upon him; and though he felt them severely in his bosom, scorned to justify his conduct as the expense even of his honor. He bore with patience and fortitude, from the consciousness of his innocence, and the assurance of a future and eternal reward.

One day, as they were walking in a wood near the castle, Edmund asked the Father, what meant those preparations for building, the cutting down trees, and burning of bricks?

"What!" said Father Oswald, "have you not heard that my lord is going to build a new apartment on the west side of the castle?"

"And why," said Edmund, "should my lord be at that expense, when there is one on the east side that is never occupied?"

"That apartment," said the father, "you must have observed, is always empty; I have observed it often," said Edmund; "but I never presumed to ask any questions about it."

"You had then," said Father Oswald, "less curiosity, and more discretion, than is common at your age."

"You have raised my curiosity," said Edmund; "and, if it be not improper, I beg of you to gratify it."

"We are alone," said Father Oswald, "and I am so well assured of your prudence, that I will explain this mystery in some degree to you."

WE ARE OFFERING

LONDON HOUSE,

The following Goods, at Reduced Prices:

- A Lot of White Blankets, at \$1.50 and \$2.75. A Lot of Men's Reefing Jackets, \$2.75 and \$3.50. A Lot of Men's Overcoats, \$4.00 and \$4.50. A Lot of Men's Ulsters, \$5.50. A Lot of Men's Pants, \$2.00 and \$3.00. A Lot of Ladies' Cloth Sacques, \$1.00, \$1.75 and \$2.25. A Lot of Ladies' Skirts, 50 cents. A Lot of Cheap Tweeds, 40, 50 and 60 cents up, for Men's and Boys' Wear. A Lot of Wineys, Wool Goods and Dress Goods. A Lot Men's Wool Underclothing, very low. A Lot of Men's Shirts, job lots. A Lot of Horse Rugs and Carriage Wraps at very low prices.

GEO. DAVIES & CO. Charlottetown, Dec. 13, 1882.

Flour and Tea Store.

OUR MOTTO—BEST QUALITY, LOW PRICES.

TEA FROM 25 TO 36 CENTS, Choice Raisins and Currants, 1,000 BARRELS CHOICE FLOUR, Confectionery, Apples, Oranges and Lemons,

WHOLESALE AND RETAIL AT BEER & GOFF'S.

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The Charlottetown

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Every Wednesday,

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Nearly Opposite Stampers' Corner,

West Side Queen Street.

CHARLOTTETOWN, P. E. ISLAND.

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PLAIN, Ornamental and Fancy

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January 3, 1883.

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CALENDAR FOR 1883

MOON'S CH.

Last Quarter 1st day, 22. New Moon 8th day, 12. 1st Quarter 15th day, 20. Full Moon 22nd day, 28. 2d Quarter 29th day, 11.

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