

The Rival Clansmen

A Scottish Vendetta.

CHAPTER XXVI.

"THE DARKEST HOUR PRECEDES THE DAWN"—ARRIVAL OF FRIENDS—CAMERON AND IAN RAFFLED—A

CHARGE, AN ARREST, AND A DEATH.

"The darkest hour is just before the dawn" is a phrase which we are not un-

accustomed to hear, and to its truthfulness we are generally willing to give a tacit assent, whether taken in its literal

meaning or applied as a figure of speech to things mortal. But when we are over-

shadowed by the dark night of adversity, and when as time wears on the shadow

gets deeper and deeper, when the darkness becomes more irksome and painful,

and seems to merge into the gloomy yawning gulf of overwhelming despair,

we are apt to lose our faith in the moral aspect of the truism, and shudder as we

contemplate the disastrous end to which we seem to be hurrying. When we look

around us and see wickedness rising and flourishing, while beside it virtue fades

and dies, we are apt to lose confidence in the ultimate triumph of right, and

dread that the God who "governeth all things well" has for the once ceased His

watchfulness. And when we ourselves are made the victims of evildoers, when

all looks full of despair for us and all full of hope for them, we are the more apt

to forget that we are but being led through the dark night to the brighter

morning, that we are but experiencing one of the trials necessary to purify and

strengthen us, and forsaking our trust in Him, cry in the anguish of our

hearts—"Oh, my God, why has thou forsaken me?"

It was thus with Annie M'Leod and Flora Macgregor as they saw themselves

about to become the helpless victims of the villainous plotters, Ian M'Kenzie

and Donald Cameron. Flora, as we have already seen, had had a ray of hope

shot into her heart by observing that the party had been followed by some one

on their journey from Kinloch-Ewe, and she had done her best to cheer the drooping

spirits of Annie M'Leod with the thought that friends might intervene before it

was too late, and rescue them from the peril in which they found themselves.

But as time wore on and no friends appeared, her own confidence began to

waver, and now she was overwhelmed by despair. For when she saw Ned Gordon

lying in the room bound and helpless, it occurred to her that it must have been

Gordon who had followed, and that he had now been foiled in his attempt to

rescue herself and companion.

"Oh, kill me!" she moaned, as Fender approached to commence the ceremony

of marrying her to Ian; "but do not ask me to do this. This man is already

wedded, and his wife lives. Oh—"

Cameron turned towards her, with a dark, ominous scowl upon his face, and

with his eyes glaring fiercely, and was on the point of saying some harsh, brutal

words to the poor, half-distracted girl, when suddenly the sound of voices out-

side fell upon the ears of all in the room. Then a loud knocking was heard at the

outer door of the Castle, followed by the words, uttered in a loud authoritative

tone—

"Open, in the King's name!"

Cameron and Ian stood as if petrified, while Fender's legs shook under him

so that he was unable to stand, and he sank back into a seat, speechless with

terror. Flora and Annie M'Leod scarcely yet understood that deliverance had come.

Long Credit.

Of all the forms in which this mischievous system shows itself the most delusive

and objectionable is that of dating goods forward. We had thought we were

making progress towards a better state of things. Long credit has been the bane

of trade in Canada. It has eaten away profits as fast as they are made and

condemned many a man to an old age of misery. After a lifetime of hard work

he has found his supposed surplus melted away in a mass of old debts which no

human power could collect, and instead of being able to enjoy the evening of his

days in a well earned ease the drudgery of dependence and poverty is his lot

for life.

This is no fanciful sketch or overdrawn picture. It is an "own true tale," as

many a man knows by bitter experience. Long credit has an irresistible tendency

to generate bad debts. The one is the legitimate and inevitable effect of the

other. "And bad debts again bring about insolvency and demoralization. We

doubt if any commercial country in the world was so tormented with these evils

as Canada. We do not except even the United States, certainly not as a whole,

though the evil may be as great in some of the newer regions of the West as it

has proved itself here.

But things may go on till they become perfectly intolerable. Such evils are so

mischievous as to produce a strong desire for reformation, and we had thought



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.

Wanted, in addition to our lately increased staff, 6 first-class Salesmen. None need apply but pushing, thorough-going men, who can get through an immense amount of work.

TREMENDOUS SALE

-OF-

CLAYTON'S (CASH STORE) BANKRUPT STOCK

AT THE LION



AT THE LION

Having bought from the Creditors the whole stock at little over half price, it will be rushed off at the same as room must be had for our heavy weekly arrivals from Britain.

Over \$2000 worth of the Wet Goods from the Thorold Mills sold in ten days. Those who have not yet secured any of them had better do so at once, as three or four days will clear the lot out.

Golden Lion, Wyndham Street, Guelph.

J. D. WILLIAMSON.

Dominion Boot and Shoe Store

NEW SPRING GOODS

Men's American Sporting Boots, Men's Rubber Boots, Men's Shoes and Gaiters for Spring Wear

Ladies American Fancy Shoes, Ladies Goat and Kid Button Boots, Ladies Prunella Button and Lace Boots A VERY LARGE ASSORTMENT.

Misses Wear—All styles in Goat, Kid and Prunella. Child's American Fancy Slippers and Shoes. We have also a large assortment of Boys' and Youths' Spring Wear.

In the Custom Department

We have just received the latest styles of American lasts. Repairing done as usual. Remember the House—The Dominion Shoe Store, Day's Block, opposite the Town Hall.

WM. TAWSE & SON.

Guelph, Feb. 9, 1874

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

DRESS MAKING, MANTLE MAKING

MISS MORRISON

Is now fully prepared with a large staff of experienced assistants to execute orders for Dress or Mantle Making

In the Latest English and American Styles.

OUR DRESS DEPARTMENT

Contains everything New and Fashionable for the season, in Plain and Fancy Dress Goods, Silks, &c. &c., and Ladies will find no difficulty in getting suited. Full stock of Dress Trimmings, Dress Buttons, etc., to match materials always on hand. We will exhibit in a few days in our Mantle Department everything new for the season.

COSTUMES, COSTUMES.

An immense stock of Ladies' and Misses' Costumes to select from.

A. O. BUCHAM,

Fashionable West End Dress Mantle, and Millinery Establishment.

BOOTS AND SHOES.

R. MACGREGOR & CO.

(Successors to W. D. Hepburn & Co.)

We are now showing a large variety of New Spring Goods, which includes some of

THE FINEST GOODS

MANUFACTURED IN CANADA

MADE FROM AMERICAN PATTERNS.,

CALL AND SEE THEM.

R. McGregor & Co.

GUELPH, Mar. 31, 1874.

1874 SPRING IMPORTATIONS. 1874

JAMES CORMACK,

Tailor and Clothier,

No. 1, WYNDHAM STREET.

Is now receiving a large and beautiful assortment of

Goods Suitable for the Season

CONSISTING OF

Plain and Fancy Woollens in the Best and Newest Patterns.

Hats, Caps, Shirts, Collars, Ties, etc. etc.

In great variety.

JAMES CORMACK.

Guelph, March 21, 1874.

JACKSON & HALLETT,

IMPORTERS,

Wholesale and Retail Grocers, etc.

New Fruits, Teas, Coffees

Etc., Crop 1873, comprising

- New Table Raisins,
New Valencia Raisins,
New Currants,
New Figs, Almonds, Nuts, etc.

TEAS, TEAS.

- Choice Gunpowder Tea at 50 cents per lb.
Choice Young Hyson Tea at 50 cents per lb.
Superior Young Hyson Tea at 75 cents per lb.
Finest Young Hyson Tea at \$1 per lb.
Choice Fresh Black Teas at 50 cents per lb.
Finest Fresh Black Teas at 75 cents per lb.
Selected Japan Teas at 75 cents per lb.

Reduction to parties taking a box.

Also, our own importations of genuine Brandies, Wines, Scotch and Irish Whiskies wholesale and retail.

JACKSON & HALLETT,

Lower Wyndham-street, Guelph.

Guelph, dwfm

Being about to leave Guelph, I 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 is likely to be but a short time in their midst, his stock will consequently be sold off at such barter as will ensure a speedy sale. Merchants will find it to their advantage to sort up, as many of the Goods will be sold 15 to 20 per cent. below Toronto or Montreal Wholesale prices. All goods will be marked in plain figures, and sold at cost. No second price will be made. A special discount will be allowed on purchases over \$25. This sale is genuine, also proprietor having to give up possession of his store on the 1st of May next. G. B. FRASER, 3-1-70

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. FRASER

Wyndham Street, Guelph.

G. B. FRASER,

3-1-70

JOHN MACDONALD & CO.

Are showing a splendid assortment of

FANCY

DRESS GOODS

JOHN MACDONALD & Co.

TORONTO.