LORNA DOONE

B. R. D. BLACKMORE.
CHAPTER XLV

A CHANGE LONG NEEDED

Jeremy Stickles was gone south, cre
the frost set in, for the purpose of mustering forces to attack the Doone Glen.
But of course this weather had put a
stop to every kind of movement; for
even if men could have borne the cold,
they could scarcely be brought to face
the perils of the snow-drifts. And to
tell the truth, I cared not how long this
weather lasted, so long as we had
enough to eat, and could keep ourselves
from freezing. Not only that I did not
want Master Stickles back again, to
make more disturbances, but also that
the Doones could not come prowling
after Lorna, while the snow lay piled
between us, with the surface soft and
dry. Of course they would very soon
discover where their lawful queen was,
although the track of sled and snowshoes had been quite obliterated by another shower before the revelers could
have grown half as drunk as they intended. But Marwood de Whichehalse,
who had here, aroon. a us, with the surface soft and of course they would very soon of where their lawful queen was, he the track of sled and snowad been quite obliterated by anhower before the revelers could rown half as drunk as they in-But Marwood de Whichehalse, deben a speed to me; and if I speak lightly of them, trust me, 'tis with lip alone,' while from heart represent near the respect to me; and if I speak lightly of them, trust me, 'tis with lip alone,' while from heart represent near the representation of the second of the se tended. But Marwood de Whichehalse, who had been snowed up among them (as Gwenny saio) after helping to strip the beacon, that young Squire was almost certain to have recognized me, and to have told vile Carver. And it gave me no little pleasure to think how mad that Carver must be with me for robbing him of the lovely bride whom he was starving into matrimony. However, I was not pleased at all with the prospect of the consequences, but set all hands on to thresh the corn ere the Doones would come and burn the ricks. For I knew that they could not come yet, inasmuch as even a forest pony could not traverse the country, much less the heavy horses needed to carry such men as they were. And hundreds of the forest ponies died needed to carry such men as they were.

And hundreds of the forest ponies died in this hard weather, some being buried in the snow, and more of them starved for want of grass.

Going through this state of things, and laying down the law about it (sub-

and a thing remarked by every one (however unobservant) had been the (however unobservant) had been the hollow moaning sound ever present in the air, morning, noon, and night-time, and especially at night, whether any wind were stirring, or whether it were a perfect calm. Our people said that it was a witch cursing all the country from the caverns by the sea, and that frost and snow would last until we could eatch and drown her. But the land being thoroughly blocked with snow, and the inshore parts of the sea with ice (floating in great fields along), Mother Meldrum (if she it were) had the cavern sult to herself, for there was no getterns all to herself, for there was no gettern and on good authority; though people inght be found hereafter who would not believe it, unless I told them that from

and no hardwest. If this the food had well additioned in the coulding in the law of the county of the had any right to, and this as growed to make the said colors of the had any right to, and this as growed to make the said colors of the had the said the said the said colors of the had the said the

\* we watched it across black door"ways, and could see no sign of witte"ways, and out see the work of the

Leaves understand) had been the first some of the started of the part of the same of the started of the part of the started of the part of

my knowledge. And the only things that I had kept back, solely for mother's comfort, were the death of poor Lord Alan Brandir (if indeed he were dead), and the connection of Marwood de Whichhalse with the dealings of the Doones, and the threats of Carver Doone against my own prosperity; and maybe one or two little things, harrowing more than edifying. "Come, come," said Master of the complex o

"Tush the ring!" Tom Faggus cried, with a contempt that moved me. "I would never have stopped a man for that. But the necklace, you great oat, the necklace is worth all your farm put together, and your Uncle Ben's fortune to the back of it; ay, and all the town of Dulverton".

of Dulverton."
"What!" said I; "that common glass thing, which she has had from her

"Glass, indeed! They are the finest brilliants ever I set eyes on; and I have handled a good many."
"Surely," cried mother, now flushing

"Surely," cried mother, now flushing as red as Tom's own cheeks, with excitement, "you must be wrong, or the young mistress would herself have known it."

known it."

I was greatly pleased with my mother for calling Lorna "the young mistress;" it was not done for the sake of her diamonds, whether they were glass or not a but became a be felt as I had done, that Tom Faggus, a man of no birth whatever, was speaking beyond his mark in calling a lady like Lorna a ins mark in calling a lady like Lorna a "helpless child," as well as in his general tone, which displayed no deference. He might have been used to the quality in the way of stopping their coaches, or roystering at hotels with taem; but he never had met a high lady before, in conditional to the condition of the condition of the conditional transfer and the left. never had met a high lady before, in equality, and upon virtue; and we both felt that he ought to have known it, and to have thanked us for the opportunity; in a word, to have behaved a great deal more humbly than he had even tried to do.

"Trust me," answered Tom, in his officest manner, which Annie said was

"so noble," but which seemed to me rather flashy, "trust me, good mother, and simple John, for knowing brilliants when I see them. I would have stopped an eight-horse coach, with four car-bined outriders, for such a booty as that. But, alas! those days are over; those were days worth living in. Ah, I

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this letter.

on the liver, kidneys and bowels enables them to bring about cure in the most complicated cases. One pill a dose, 25 cents a box, at all dealers or Edmanson, Bates & Co., Toronto.

ver shall know t never shall know to fine it was by moon "Master Faggus with a manner of s she could sometime integrity and the every one, "this which you have hi about your former fear that the spi fear that the spi stopped, because own, and Tom was mean, Master Fag won my daughter's you won my con through your hone undertaking to lea undertaking to lea touch no property is my eldest daugh a most upright ma all on earth, nex here "—here moth squeeze, to be sur-me at least—" at Annie's life with a the highway." the highway."
Having made t
(for her), mother

MAY 14, 1910

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child dashed to spirited pony at pretty face all a ment of a race wi "Believe me, n lady to her niece mont, "you real with that child, wild. You spoi wild. You spoi will never be goo sisters, but a w will bring your a to the grave."
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countryside. T their six child blood of France happy one, ver, works of charit, On one side much farther b be seen by any the house, wa chapel, on whice eration had del offerings. Hol every morning these events Sacrament was whole family a devotion to the ing Him long altar with the little Jeannet and though too long in the cha per haps though ing the day as did her appare "I can't this one day," why in the chapel. our Lord, 'Oh much, so much s

will try to be please help me bless me and a feel that He b say long praye Jeannette, merry blue ey hair, was inde to her two e Yvonne, both serious girls was already non. Sweet nothing nunli more inclined ride her pony she was to pa

pations. She affectionate, a very painstal great favor

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