The Rival Clansmen :

A Scottish Vendetta.

CHAPTER IX.

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**TLIGHT OF FLORA—A SORROWING MOTHER—
OVERTAREN BY IM.

"It is," she gasped—"how——?"

"Be in no way alarmed," interrupted our heroine, seeing the agitation of her companion. "I only put the question that I might assure myself that you are one for whom I have felt much sympathy before, and to whom it becomes me to give all assistance in my power, though, alas! that is but little at present."

"I do not understand you," exclaimed Jeanuie, in amazement.

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"I do not understand you," exclaimed Jeannie, in amazement.

Flora then told her of her flight with Hoctor, the attack upon them by I.un M'-Kenzie in the hut, and how, when all but overcome, Ned Gordon had arrived in time to resoue Hector from the hands of Ian and Angus. She also spoke of the pursuit by the Highlanders, and of Gordon again saving them by tearing up the bridge which spanned the chasm along the bottom of which ran the burn.

Jeannie at once recognised the description given of Ned Gordon as that of her brother, just as Flora had almost at the first recognised Jeannie from the description of her trials and difficulties given to her and Hector by Gordon.

"Oh," the poor girl moaned, "I have been mad—infatuated. I should never have left my parents' roof to follow him who deserted me. That was the first error, and the second was my not returning long ago. But I could not. Did my brother speak kindly of me?"

"He did," was the reply. "He spoke of you with an earnest affection, and expressed himself eager to again meet and clasp you to his bosom."

Flora could not find it in heart to overburden the poor girl's suffering spirit with the intelligence of her parents' death, caused by their daughter's flight.

"Ah," exclaimed Jeannie, "would that I had met him. I think that I would have returned with him had he requested me."

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"Which be would most assuredly have done," responded Flora. "But have courage," she continued; "he has not yet left this district. He is much before his time if he has returned to Kinloch. Ewe. We may hear of him as we pass along."

"Bless you, bless you, for the confidence and hope with which you have inspired me," said Jeannie, gazing at Flora. "Surely a kine Providence has thrown us together. My mission I might have regarded as hopless long ago—to find him whom I claim as my husband, and if possible secure from him an avowal of our union. Had I but that from him, I would forgive him for his neglect of me. Why he deserted me I know not. I cannot believe him so heartless as he appears. But I know not what to think. Oh, that I could only meet him."

Flora said nothing. A question several times rose to her lips, but she could utter it. But Jeannie, overcome as she was with fatigue, was scarcely able to talk further, and the two rising made their way to the spot where Flora had slept during the day, and laying down the child between them, they wrapt themselves up as best they could—two lonely outcasts, suffering because they struggled to be true and virtuous—and Jeannie's eyelids were agon closed in slumber, Flera hay and mused on the events which were crowding upon her.

For her it was a weary night; but she was enabled, by speaking kinds words to this wobegone qirl, to requite \$in some measure the debt of gratitude she owed to Gordos, whose kindness she could never forget.

Jeannie slept soundly, and Flora was inspired with the hope that when she awake in the morning she would be able to go forward with her so far, at least, as would put them at such a distance from Droghdairch that little danger might be apprehended of her own re-capture.

The child, doubtless sh.ring in the fatigue of its mother, also slept soundly; but sometimes during the short hours of the morning, just as Flora was saili

It awake with a loud sharp cry, recalling Flora, and arousing its mother from her alumber.

Upon being interrogated by our heroine, Jeannie Gordon stated that she was much better, and that although weak she would now be able to accompany her.

The last fragments of food were divided between them. And then, while yot it wanted several hours of the dawn, the two proceeded on their journey — Flora carrying the child to relieve the wearied and already travel worn mother of the burden. When they started the clear moon was shining steadily down from the cleudless sky. But as the hours wore on, and the morning set in, the moon brightness became dissipated—not shut out by the intervention of dark clouds and miste, but paling before the effulgence of the rising sun, reseasembling the close of a good man's life, which sets not amid the gathering around of a tempétuous night, but amid the brighter revelations of a glorious morning.

Shortly after daybreak, feeling much

or a tempestude light, out aimst the brighter revelations of a glorious morning.

Shortly after daybreak, feeling much fatigued, both rested. The spot where they did so was an casis amidst the wfiderness of bleak mountains by which they were surrounded—Loch Luichart, a sweet and charming lake.

It was refreshing to sit and pour their tales of sorrow into each other's ears, and of the encouragement and strength thus afforded|they availed themselve to the utmost extent. Already the girls both loved and trusted each other, short as their acquaintaines had been. They had not sat long at this spot, at which they espied a man upon the opposite side push off a boat and pull towards them.

A vague feeling of alarm stole over Flora, but she shook it off with the remark that she was now becoming frightened at the sight of every human beingbelieving all to be enemies.

Jeannie proposed to make off, but Flora suggested that if the man was a shep-

Jeannie proposed to make off, but Flora suggested that if the man was a shep-herd they might obtain from him some food to serve them during the remainder

of journey.

The boat continued to near them, and

bosh girls began to watch is with much eagerness.

Suddenly Flora paled a little, and a tremor shot through her frame.

Then she sprang to her feet, clasping her hands and exclaiming—
" My God, I am lost! • It is I am M'Kenzie."

Therefore, Therefore, The form occupied by the late James while thanking the publisgenerally for the form occupied by the late James while the following articles: One roll of tweed, one roll of black lustre, one roll of black



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