The Rival Clansmen

A Scottish Vendetta.

CHAPTER XXV.

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CROUBLED DERAMS—AN OLD PRIEND CAUSES
CONSTERNATION—A STRUGGLE—THE
MARRIAGE CEREMONY.
He was an old, tottering man, evidenty of nearly fourscore years, and was
tressed in clerical garments.
It was evident that M Kenzie had reognised him at the first mention of his
same, for he sprang to his feet apparenty in a paroxysm of rage and fury, his
pus covered with froth, and his hands
lenched. Turning to Cameron, who
tood with a secowling visage looking on
tood with as secowling visage looking on
the scene as if unable to understand it, he
exclaimed—

"Cameron, it is a foul trick. It is an

exclaimed—
"Cameron, it is a foul trick. It is an attempt to balk us. We must, must—"
But he appeared as if his utterance were choked. Recovering himself, however, he turned to Fender, and asked im-

"What did you mean, sir, by bringing these men here?"
Fender promptly answered—"Feould not help them coming. They demanded that I should allow them to accompany me."
""An, then," exclaimed Cameron, "you have no part in their errand?"
""No," was the reply. "They met me in Inverness, and accompanied me here to-day. When they heard my servant tell me you were calling early in the morning, and that two women accompanied you, they at once said that they had to be at Droghdairch when I went, and the sooner the better."
""Ay, but ye've forgotten tae mention that lan M'Kenzie's wife and child accompanied us, an' are in Dingwall at this—"
""Ha, ha!" laughed M'Kenzie hysterically, with an intelligent look towards Cameron. "You needn't prate more about it, Ned Gordon. Donald Cameron is prepared for your story, and we are determined not to be balked in the execution of what we intended by anything that you may say."

An indignant flush rose to Gordon's cheek, and he was about to make an angry retort, when Cameron exclaimed—"Vile Lowland dog! you have dared to intrude yourself here with your idle talk. Let me tell you, you would never have entered Droghdairch, had not I thought you were some friend come at Fender's bidding. But as it is, it may be better. You speak of having a score to wipe out against you. You it was who dared to lay your hand upon me at Castle M'Leod, and for that you shall receive chastisement. You may not desire again to enter Droghdairch, when once you are out of it."

"My talk, Donald Cameron, is not idle," replied Gordon, firmly; "and I am as determined in the carrying out of my purpose as you are to prevent me. I know what you intend. It is that Ian M'Kenzie and yourself be married to Flora Macgregor and Anne M'Leod. I am here to assert and prove, if need be, that Ian M'Kenzie has a wife, and that any union be may form with Miss Macgregor is illegal, and will be nullified. Between yourself and Anne M'Leod I am sorry that I cannot interfere, though I know such a union brought about by the force you m

lays himself open to the action of the law and the wrath of Heaven. Young man, I would say——"

"Bah? An end of this there must be," exclaimed Cameron suddenly, interrupting the man. Then he cried to Fender—"Keep the door secure there. And now, Ned Gordon, you shall see whether this visit to Droghdaireh will profit you any. Come on, M'Kenzie."

As he spoke he drew the claymore which hung at his side, and sprang atthe Lowlander, while M'Kenzie, also drawing his weapon, prepared to follow.

Ned was taken quite unawares, and was notally unarmed. He had not expected such a sudden burst—indeed he had gone in a frame of mind, more prone to reason than to fight—his object being to, if possible, get M'Kenzie and Cameron to give up the idea of the forced marriages. But he was ready of resource, and at once made up his mind to defend himself. The handiest weapon was the stout snick which Mr. Blaikie carried, and quickly seizing this from the old man, he raised it, and assumed an attitude of defence.

He was at least acouple of inches taller than Cameron, and much taller and heavier than Ian, and as he stood before them presented the appearance of nomean antagonist. But both men hated him

them presented the appearance of nomean antagonist. But both men hated him bitterly, and at once attacked with all the fury which they could command.

bitterly, and at once—attacked with all the fury which they could command.

There is no end to the effectiveness of a good knocker on the outside of a house. We remember one cold, bitter, miserable winter night, when we came home late, and yet not so very late either; but it was so cold that everybody had gone to bed in the big house in which they lived, and to which we had no latch-key. At the bell we pulled; and the more we pulled the more nobody came. At last we were about giving up in despair, and going to a station house or a hotel, when a policeman came along. "You can't make 'em hear, ch," said he. "Now just wait a minute." And he stepped into the street and picked up a brick from a pile near by. With this he knocked, apparently, very gently on the wall of the house. The effect was magical. As the dull, drum-like booming resound-ed through the house, every window was thrown open, and heads popped out in every story. A dozen people were ready to let us in if we would but knock no more. We might even have entered at the back of the house had we been there. In such a case as this, a bell was of uo use at all, and as it is easy to see that it would be inconvenient to carry cobblestones or bricks along with us, for they are not always to be found in streets, what is there that we can really depend upon in the emergencies but a knocker? —Scribner's Magazine.

Ranway Depuration.—A deputstion of the Great Western Railway officials ar-

RAILWAY DEPUTATION.—A deputation of the Great Western Railway officials arrived in Ottawa on Tuesday night, in the official car of that road. Gon Wednesday they had a hearing before a Committee comprised of the Hon. Messrs. Mackenzie, Scott and Dorion. The subject of discussion is a claim put forward by the Canada Southern to the use of the Niagara Suspension Britige. The claim is resisted by the G. W. R. Messrs. Blake and Bayler argued the cause on behalf of the W. R., and Messrs. Moss and Crooks for the C. S. The case adjourned for a rehearsing.



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