CHAPTER X.

THE READING OF THE WILL — THE SING CERTIFICATE OF MARRIAGE— A DAGGER THRUST.

The funeral was over; the party had returned from the churchyard; and the relatives had assembled in the large dining room at Rockstone to listen to the reading of Mr. Seymour's will.

This latter was on the whole-a-formal proceeding, and done because Mr. Seymour had directed it. The persons present were Mr. and Mrs. Langton, Philip and Annabel, and Jim Potts, constituting five of them. As these have already figured to some extent in the story, and are therefore well-known to the reader, we do not require to describe them individually, and we need only mention that Jim Potts could not by any effort of which he was capable bring his round, blithe face to comport with his glossy suit of mourning. Despite the near connection the meeting had with death, there was an insuppressible glow of satisfaction on his honest features, for he, too, knew what were the provisions of the will, and his joy of soul on account of Annabel's great fortune was unbounded. He was indeed the first to be informed of Mr. Seymour's intentions, that gentleman having unhesitatingly taken him into his confidence almost on the first day of his arrival at Rockstone. He had also been called in as one of the witnesses to the execution of the will, and now it was by the testator's direction that he was prosent at its reading. There were two others present whom we have not yet alluded to. One was a slim, long-faced man, with dark, glossy hair, a beardless face, and small, restive eyes, whose glances seemed cunning and furtive. He had a smooth, quiet, sleek appearance, which betokened either great amiability or a deep-concealed nature. An unsuspicious person would credit him with the former, while a sharper mind would suspect him of the latter.

This was Mr. Barnard Hayes, the half-brother of Mrs. Langton, and consequently the half-cousin of the deceased owner of Rockstone. He was an attorney; he had been Mr. Seymour's law agent, and in this capacity he had drawn out the will which his clerk, Peter Wortley, was now about to read.

The latter sat at t

right or interest to be in the room, we shall proceed to the reading of Mr. Seymour's last will and testament. Peter, proceed."

The clerk bowed low, and, with much deliberation, broke the large red seal which secured the parchment. The deed, which he forthwith read, was not long, therefore his duty was soon discharged. The provisions and conditions were precisely those mentioned by the dying man to Mr. Langton on the night of his death while he waited so foverishly for the coming of Annabel. The deedment began by formally revoking a previous will which Mr. Seymour had made, then proceeded to dispose of his whote property, heritable and moveable, the said of Rockstone, and the money in the fands, "to Annabel, the only child hawfully begotten, of my sister Annabel Seymour and her husband, Everard Leighton," with the provision that should the said Annabel Leighton die unmarried, the whole property so disposed should revert to "my cousin, Agasusta Seymour, the wife of my dear friend Joseph Langton." Then followed a clause appointing the said Joseph Langton sole guardian of Annabel until her marriage. No sooner did Peter Wortley's reading cease with the utterance of the words, "In witness whereof, &c." than Mrs. Langton, who had been sitting by Annabel's side, threw her arms round her and embraced her with every demonstration of affection, accompanying the act with warm congratulations on her proud position as the mistress of Rockstone. Mr. Langton also immediately crossed over, took her haad in both his own, and said how ready he was to accept the office of her guardian, the duties of which he declared his determination to discharge with a spirit and fidelity prompted by entire devotion to her interests.

Every one who knew Joseph Langton knew how honourably he would redgen his pledge.

"And," he added, as he kept her hot and trembling hand within his own, "if I expect and desire that my guardianship."

knew how honourably he would redeem his pledge.
"And," he added, as he kept her hot and trembling hand within his own, "if And, he added, as a keps her hot and trembling hand within his own, "if I expect and desire that my guardianship will soon terminate, it is because I know you will then pass into the care of one who will cherish you more tenderly and make you happier than I can. It will give you muce; joy to know that your uncle was aware of your betrothal to Mr. Weston, and fully approved of it. Here is a letter written by himself, which he charged me to deliver to you, in which he expresses his wishes on this and other matters. In that letter you will find that he desires that at least one year shall clapse before you go to the altar. I doubt not you will scrupulously give effect to his wish."

"I shall," answered Annabel in a lew voice, directing at the same time a blashing glance at Philip, who impulsively stood forward and said, in a clear, firm tone.

"And I freely and cardially announce."

expiry of a year she will be yours for ever."

"There, that will do, my dear," whis-pered Mrs. Langton, as she smilingly led Annabel back to her seat. "You have both behaved very well, and everything is quite understood on both sides; and now, gentlemen," she added, "if busi-ness is done, and our presence can_be dispensed with, Annabel and I will retire."

TWO DURHAM BULLS FOR SALE.



THE FIRST ARRIVAL OF NEW GOODS

AT GEORGE JEFFREY'S.

THE SUBSCRIBER BEGS TO INFORM THE PUBLIC THAT HE HAS JUST RECEIVED

OVER TWO HUNDRED AND FIFTY PIECES OF M. NAUGHTAN & THOM'S BEST PRINTS

Which he will sell at 12½c. per yard, being usually sold at 16c. per yard, in beautiful New Designs and Colors.

Ladies ought to come early and get a good choice of those

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Also, another Lot of Lace Collars at Half Price.

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Having bought the Bankrupt Stock of John R. Porte will commence to sell the same

ON WEDNESDAY MORNING

AT THE OLD STAND,

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Guelph, March 4, 1873. dw2w

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Every Eye can be Suited.

Chignons, Braids, Coronets, &c.

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E. O'DONNELL & Co.

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10 pounds of the BEST BRIGHT SUGAR,	for \$1.
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First-class TEAS!

OUR VERY BEST GREEN TEA. for 80 cents per lb A VERY FINE BLACK TEA. for 75 cents per lb A NICE YOUNG HYSON TEA. for 50 cents per lb

E. O'DONNELL & CO. Guelph. Jan. 23, 1373

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Its simplicity of construction, strongth and durability, recommend it to all classes.

A complete set of attachments; is very strong; runs, light and easy, and does all kinds of work. Instructions in all attachments given free of charge.

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The Greatest Bargains Ever Given
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Fancy Goods generally, the largest stock in the Dominion.

ROBT. WILKES. Sept. 24, 1872.

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