

Literature.

ADVENTURES OF BASIL LEE

Night came on, and still she gave herself no concern at all about me. She made no signs to me either to lie down and rest in the only couch the hotel contained, or to remain, or to go away. The fire sent forth a good deal of smoke, but no light nor heat; at length, with some delay and grumbling, she put some white shreds of moss into a crucible of oil, and kindled it. This threw a feeble ray of light through the smoke, not much stronger than the light of a glow-worm, making darkness scarcely visible, if I may use the expression.

The woman, who was seated on a dry sod at the side of the fire, not more than a foot from the ground, crossed her arms upon her knees, and, laying her head upon them, fell fast asleep. I wrapt myself in my military cloak, and threw myself down on the moss couch, laying myself in such a position that I could watch all her motions as well as looks. About eleven o'clock she awoke, and sat for some time moaning like one about to expire; she then kneeled on the sod seat, and muttered some words, waving her withered arms, and stretching them upward, apparently performing some rite either of necromancy or devotion, which she concluded by uttering three or four feeble howls.

When she was again seated, I watched her features and looks, and certainly never before saw anything more unearthly. The haggard wildness of the features, the anxious, fearful way in which she looked about and about, as if looking for one that she missed away, made such an impression on me, that my hairs stood all on end, a feeling that I never experienced before, for I had always been proof against superstitious terrors. But here I could not get the better of them, and wished myself anywhere else. The dim lamp, shining amidst smoke and darkness, made her features appear as if they had been a dull yellow, and she was altogether rather like a ghostly shade of something that had once been mortal than anything connected with humanity.

It was apparent from her looks that she expected some one to visit her, and I became firmly persuaded that I should see a ghost and hear one speak. I was not afraid of any individual of my own species; for, though I had taken good care to conceal them from her, I had two loaded pistols and a short sword under my cloak; and as no one could enter without passing my couch, by a very narrow entrance, I was sure to distinguish who or what it was.

I had quitted keeping my eyes upon the woman, and was watching the door, from which I thought I could distinguish voices. I watched still more intently; but hearing that the sounds came from the other side, I moved my head slowly round, and saw apparently, the corpse of her son sitting directly opposite to her. The figure was dressed in dead clothes; that is, it was wrapped in a coarse white sheet, and had a napkin of the same color round its head. This was raised up on the brow, as if thrust up recently by the hand, discovering the pale, steadfast features, that neither moved eyelid nor lip, though it spoke in an audible voice again and again. The face was not only pale, but there was a clear, glazed whiteness upon it, on which the rays of the lamp falling showed a sight that could not be looked upon without horror. The winding sheet fell likewise aside at the knee, and I saw the bare feet and legs of the same bleached hue. The old woman's arms were stretched out towards the figure, and her face thrown upwards, her features meanwhile distorted with ecstatic agony. My senses now became so bewildered that I fell into a stupor, like a trance, without being able to move either hand or foot. I know not how long the apparition lasted; for the next thing that I remember was being reluctantly awakened from my trance by a feeble cry, which I heard through my slumber repeated several times. I looked, and saw that the old, miserable creature had fallen on her face, and was grasping, with feeble convulsions, the seat where the figure of her late son had so lately reclined. My compassion overcame my terror; for she seemed on the last verge of life, or, rather, sliding helplessly from time's slippery precipice, after the thread of existence by which she hung had given way. I lifted her up, and found that all her sufferings were over—the joints had grown supple, and the cold damp of death had settled on her hands and brow. I carried her to the bed from which I had risen, and could scarcely believe that I carried a human body, it being not much heavier than a suit of clothes. After I had laid her down, I brought the lamp near, to see if there was any hope of renovation—she was living, but that was all, and with a resigned though ghastly smile, and a shaking of the head, she expired.

I did not know what to do; for the night was dark as pitch; and I was not where to fly, knowing the spot to be surrounded by precipitous shores,

torrents, and winding bays of the sea. Therefore, all chance of escape, until daylight, was utterly impossible; so I resolved to trim the lamp, and keep my place, hoping it would not be long still day.

I suppose that I sat about an hour in this dismal place, without moving or changing my attitude, with my brow leaning on my hands, with my eyes shut; when I was aroused by hearing a rustling in the bed where the body lay. On looking round, I perceived that the corpse was sitting upright in the bed, shaking its head as it did in the agonies of death, and stretching out its hand towards the hearth. I thought the woman had been revived, and looked steadily at the face; but I saw that it was the face of a corpse still; for the eye was white, being turned up and fixed in the socket, the mouth was open, and all the other features immovably fixed forever. Seeing that it continued the same motion, I lifted the lamp and looked fearfully around, and there behold the figure I had so recently seen, sitting on the same seat, in the same attitude, only having its face turned toward the bed.

I could stand this no longer, but fled stumbling out at the door, and ran straight forward. I soon found myself in the sea, and it being ebbside, I fled along the shore like a deer pursued by the hounds. It was not long till the beach terminated, and I came to an abrupt precipice, washed by the sea. I climbed over a ridge on my hands and knees, and found that I was on a rocky point, between two narrow firths, and further progress impracticable.

I had no choice left me; so, wrapping myself in my cloak, I threw myself in a bush of heath, below an overhanging cliff, and gave up my whole mind to amazement at what I had witnessed. Astonished as I was, nature yielded to fatigue, and I fell into a sound sleep, from which I did not awake till about the rising of the sun. The scene around me was frightfully wild and rugged, and I scarce could persuade myself that I was awake, thinking that I was still struggling with a frightful dream. One would think this was a matter easily settled, but I remember well, it was not so with me that morning. I pulled heath, cut some parts of them off, and chewed them in my mouth;—rose, walked about, and threw some stones in the sea, and still had strong suspicions that I was in a dream. The adventures of the preceding night dawned on my recollection one by one, but, those I regarded all as a dream for certain; and it may well be deemed a little extraordinary, that to this day, if my oath were taken, I declare I could not tell whether I saw these things in a dream or in a reality. My own belief leaned to the former, but every circumstance tended rather to confirm the latter, else, how came I to be in the place where I was.

I scrambled up among the rocks to the westward, and at length came to a small footpath which led from the head of the one bay to the other; and following that, it brought me to a straggling hamlet, called, I think, Battaline. Here I found a man that had been a soldier, and had a little broken English, and by his help I raised the inhabitants of the village; and ere soon at the cottage. There we found the body lying stretched, cold and stiff, exactly in the very place and in the very position in which I had laid it at first on the bed. The house was searched, and, grievous to relate, there was no article of either meat, drink or clothing, save the old mantle which I found her mending the evening before. It appeared to me, on reflection, that it was a settled matter between her and the spirit, that she was to yield up her frail life that night, and join his company; and that I had found her preparing for her change. The cloak she had meant for her winding sheet, having neither else; and by her little hymns and orgies she had been endeavoring to prepare herself for the coming among whom she knew she was so soon to be. There was a tint of spiritual sublimity in the whole matter.

The next adventure that happened me on my way through the Highlands was one of a very opposite nature; but as it bore some affinity with sleep-walking, I shall relate it here, for I put no commonplace occurrences in these memoirs.

On my way from the upper part of the country of Loch-Carron, to Strath-Glass in Inverness-shire, I was overtaken by a deluge of rain, which flooded the rivers to such a degree, that the smallest burn was almost impassable. I had seen no human habitation for several miles, and knew not what I was to do; but perceiving a small footpath that led into the wood, I followed it, and in an instant came to a neat Highland cottage. I went in, and found an elderly, decent-looking woman at work, together with a plump, blowsy, red-haired maiden, whom I supposed to be her daughter. These were the only inhabitants; they could not speak a word of English; but they rose up, set a seat for me, pulled off my wet stockings, and received me with great kindness, heap- ing, from time to time, fir-wood on the

fire to dry my clothes. They likewise gave me plenty of goat whey, with coarse bread and cheese to eat, and I never in my life saw two creatures so kind and attentive.

When night came, I saw them making up the only bed in the house with clean blankets, and conceived that they were going to favor me with it for that night, and sit up themselves; accordingly, after getting a sign from the good woman, I threw off my clothes and lay down. I perceived them next hanging my clothes around the fire to dry, and the bed being clean and comfortable, I stretched myself in the middle of it, and fell sound asleep. I had not long enjoyed the sweet repose, before I was awakened by the maid, who said something to me in Gaelic, bidding me, I suppose, lie farther back, and with the greatest unconcern stretched herself down beside me.

"Upon my word," thinks I to myself, "this is carrying kindness to a degree of which I had no conception, in the world! This is a degree of easy familiarity that I never experienced from strangers before!" I was greatly pleased with the simplicity and kind-heartedness of these people, but not so with what immediately followed. There was a torch burning on a shelf at our bed feet, and I wondered that the women viewed the matter with so little concern, for they appeared both uncommonly decent, industrious people; yet I thought I detected a designing roughish look in the face of the old woman, who now likewise came into bed, and lay down at the stock. I was not mistaken; for before she extinguished the torch, she stretched her arm over me, and taking hold of a broad plank that stood up against the back of the bed, and ran on hinges, (a thing that I had never noticed before) she brought it down across our bodies, and there being a spring lock on the end of it, she snapped it into the stock, and locked us all three close down to our places all the morning. I tried to compromise matters otherwise; but they only laughed at the predicament of the Sassenach; and the thing was so novel and acute, and I was obliged to join in the laugh with all my heart. I was effectually prevented from walking in my sleep for that night, and really felt a great deal of inconvenience in this mode of lying, nevertheless I slept very sound, having been much fatigued the day before. On taking leave of my kind entertainers, after much pressing, I prevailed on the old woman to accept a crown-piece, but the maid positively refused a present of any kind. When we parted, she gave me her hand, and with the slyest smile I ever beheld, said something to me about the invidious tale; I did not know what it was, but it made her mother laugh immoderately.

On my arrival at Inverness, I made inquiries concerning Mackay the cooper, and, learning that he was still alive, I made the boy at the inn point him out to me. He was a fine looking old Highlander, but in wretched circumstances with regard to apparel; I did not choose to bring him into the house where I lodged, but, watching an opportunity, I followed him into a lowly change-house and found him sitting in a corner, without having called for anything to drink, and the manner in which his hostess addressed him, bespoke plainly enough he was welcome. I called for a pot of whiskey, and began to enquire at all about me of the roads that led to the Lowlands and, among other places the country of the Grants. Here old Mackay spoke up; "If we'll pe after te troving, she'll find te petterest bhaists in Sutherland, and te petterest shentlemen in te tole worts to pe selling tem from."

Notes on Afghanistan.

The greatest length of Afghanistan is 750 miles, the least 540, while its greatest breadth is 550 miles, and its least 370; so that it is rather larger than the whole of the United Kingdom put together. It is mountainous all through, with a series of elevated flat-bottom valleys. It has no large rivers, and those it contains are generally fordable at all seasons. The climate varies; at Ghazni it is extremely severe in winter, the thermometer sinking to ten or fourteen degrees below zero, while it always begins to freeze in October. At Cabul in the middle of October the thermometer is always below zero at night, while from June to September the climate is very hot. At Candahar it is also hot in summer, but in winter the climate is perfect, as is also that at Quetta. All the so-called roads are shockingly bad, and there are no bridges. The population is about five millions, entirely Mahomedans, almost exclusively of the Sunni creed. The regular army consists, for Cabul, of 31,000; Candahar, 18,000; Herat, 22,000. Total, 71,000, of whom 45,000 are irregular horsemen.

The Secretary of the Interior has telegraphed to the Governor of Washington Territory regarding the reported outrage by citizens upon the Indians, instructing the Governor to use his utmost endeavours to prevent any assaults upon the Indians, and informing him that the law officers of the Government have been directed to prosecute offenders in such instances.

Two persons in one of the Border towns were heard disputing about a new centenary, beside the elegant railing of which they were standing. One of them, evidently disliking the Centennial fashion in which it was being laid out, and said, in disgust, "I'd rather see than be buried in sic a place!"—"Weel, it's the verri reverse wi me," said the other, "for I'll be buried nacwhere else, if I'm spared."

MR. A. H. KAY, Teacher of vocal and instrumental music, (Graduate of the Allegany Academy of Music, New York,) is prepared to receive pupils in Piano, Organ, Singing, thorough Bass and Harmony. Hands and single schools in any of the neighboring towns requiring the services of an experienced Teacher, will be promptly responded to. Parties wishing to see Mr. Kay, may leave their orders at the BANNER OFFICE. Listowel, Nov. 21, 1878.

MONEY.

MONEY TO LOAN.

Private and Company funds to lend, at moderate interest.

J. E. TERHUNE.

MONEY TO LOAN.

Private money to loan at 7 per cent, with the privilege given to the borrower in his mortgage to pay back a part or the whole principal at any time. The borrower is not required to pay interest until his mortgage has matured. Expenses moderate. Apply to

R. MARTIN,

Main Street, Listowel. 32-6m.

BANK OF HAMILTON.

CAPITAL SUBSCRIBED, \$1,000,000.

DIRECTORS: DONALD MCINNES, Esq., President. JOHN STUART, Esq., Vice-President. James Turner, Esq., John Proctor, Esq., Edward Gurney, Esq., George Roach, Esq.

LISTOWEL AGENCY.

Interest allowed on Deposit Receipts at the rate of

Four percent per Annum

Drafts on New York, payable in Gold or Currency, are received and sold, payable at Office Hours, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. On Saturdays, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

W. CORBOULD, Agent.

SCOTT'S BANK,

LISTOWEL, ONTARIO.

ESTABLISHED 1873.

Does a general Banking business. Special attention given to collections at a moderate charge. Interest allowed on deposits at the rate of SIX PER CENT PER ANNUM. Can be drawn at any time. Money advanced in small or large amounts at all times, on good endorsed notes or collateral security.

J. W. SCOTT,

Manager and Proprietor.

MONEY! MONEY!

McDonald's Bank.

FARMERS, MECHANICS and others desiring money on short date, endorsed notes or with good collateral security, can obtain it any time by applying to the undersigned. Also.

Six Per Cent. Interest on all Deposits.

Will be allowed; can be drawn at any time with interest till date of withdrawal. Drafts issued to any bank in Canada, payable at Merchants, Bank of Canada, and its branches. American currency bought and sold. Office Hours—10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

A. McDONALD & Co.,

Bankers.

Osborne's Block, Main St., Listowel.

THE FARMERS' LOAN AND SAVINGS COMPANY.

OFFICE—17 Toronto Street, Toronto.

Subscribed Capital - - - \$150,000
Paid up Capital - - - 40,000
Invested on Real Estate - 470,000

BOARD OF DIRECTORS: Peter Horne, President. James Crowther, Vice-President. James Holden, Prof. James Loudon, John McLean, William Thomas.

SOLICITORS—Mulock & Campbell, 19 Toronto St. BAYKINS: The Canadian Mortgage and Investment Co., Ltd., 100 Queen St. W., Toronto.

SAVINGS DEPARTMENT.—Money received on deposit, in large or small sums, and interest allowed thereon at five and six per cent per annum, compounded quarterly. The Capital and Assets of the Company being invested in mortgages on approved Real Estate. Depositors have perfect security. Remittances may be sent by Post Office Order, Draft or Registered Letter, and are acknowledged by return mail.

LOANS.—This Company makes advances at favorable rates on Mortgage Security of City, Town or Farm property, in sums of \$200 and upwards, repayable by monthly, quarterly, half-yearly or yearly instalments, at the option of the borrower. The least possible delay in passing Titles and paying over Loans. The full amount of the loan paid over if desired, and the fees which are moderate and fixed by tariff included in the mortgage. Applications can be made to any of the Company's local agents, or to

GEO. S. C. BETHUNE,

Secretary and Treasurer.

W. H. HARKING, Agent, Listowel.

THE GREAT CAUSE OF HUMAN MISERY.

Just published, in a sealed envelope. Price six cents.

Lecture on the Nature, Treatment, and Radical Cure of Seminal Weakness, or Spermatorrhea, Induced by Self-Abuse, Involuntary Emissions, Impotency, Nervous Debility, and all the Impediments to marriage generally; Constitutional Debility, and Physical Incapacity. By ROBERT J. CULVERWELL, M.D., author of the "Green Book," &c.

The renowned author, in this admirable Lecture, clearly proves from his own experience that the awful consequences of Self-Abuse may be effectually remedied by simple and safe means, and without dangerous surgical operations, blisters, instruments, rings, or cordials; pointing out a mode of cure at once certain and effectual, by which every sufferer, no matter what his condition, may be cured himself cheaply, privately and radically. This Lecture will prove a boon to thousands and thousands.

Sent, under seal, in a plain envelope, to any address, on receipt of six cents, or two postage stamps. Address—

THE CULVERWELL MEDICAL CO., 41 Ann St., New York; Post Office Box 1586

JAMES ARMSTRONG.

For the special attention of cash buyers, to the following goods: TEAS—In Teas my stock is large, and of the best selection that can be produced for cash, and I am bound to sell them at prices that def competition. FANCY GOODS AND CUTLERY.—My fruit stock is new, cheap and complete. A full assortment of CROCKERY and GLASSWARE, cheaper than ever. Reduced to prices that will secure a ready sale. In fact, the whole of my stock will be sold at prices to suit the hard times. HAMS and Bacon always on hand, and will be sold as cheap as the cheapest. Pure Golden Syrup always in stock. JAMES ARMSTRONG.

JOS. CONGDON,

Builder & Contractor.

Is prepared to contract for the erection of every description of building.

Stone Work, Brick Work or

Plastering.

Done with all possible despatch and satisfaction guaranteed.

All kinds of Building Materials constantly on hand.

MONCKTON MILLS.

TO LUMBER DEALERS, FARMERS AND OTHERS.

THE UNDERSIGNED, IN TENDER-

ing his thanks to his customers for their liberal support in the past, would take this opportunity of informing them and the public generally that he has a very large stock of Dry Lumber for sale, consisting of inch, 1 1/2 inch and 2 inch clear.

Flooring, Sized Boards, Barn Lumber

&c. And in order to make room for a new stock, and determined not to be undersold, he now offers at the following low rates: common Pine from \$6 to \$8 per M; Hemlock and Tamarac from \$1 to \$4 per M in boards, scantling or joisting on board cars or in his yard in Mitchell or in Monckton from \$1 to \$1.50 per M, less. Pine Lath from \$3 to \$4 per M. Hemlock Lath from \$2 to \$3 per M. He has also for sale a large supply of

DRESSED FLOORING, SHINGLES

AND CEDAR POSTS,

at the lowest rates for cash, or would take in exchange for lumber some good cattle or sheep. He has a quantity of all kinds of long logs which he will cut into bill stuff on receipt of order, and as he is prepared to cut any length up to 40 feet he is in a position to furnish building lumber of all sizes and lengths, which cannot be obtained at any other mill in this section. A quantity of Georgian Bay lumber for sale. B. All outstanding accounts must be settled by cash or note immediately, otherwise they will be placed in Court for collection. W. M. MACHAN, Monckton, February 1st, 1878.

NEW FOUNDRY.

THOMAS NELMES

Wishes to announce to the public that he has started a foundry in the town of Listowel, on Main Street West, near Mitchell's Grave Road, for the purpose of turning out

Castings for Plows, &c.

on very reasonable terms.

Sash Weights, Bolstead Fasteners and Pump Castings a specialty.

All kinds of PLOWS &c. kept constantly on hand.

Listowel, March 8, 1877.

Millinery & Fancy Goods

MRS. T. GOODFELLOW

Wishes to thank the ladies of Listowel and vicinity for their liberal support in the past, and asks them to call and see her

FALL AND WINTER MILLINERY,

Before purchasing elsewhere. In stock will be found all styles new and stylish. Woods styled all kinds of stamped work constantly on hand.

Agent for the Bazaar-Glove-Fitting Patterns, of which a full stock will be kept constantly on hand. Also, Stamping done on the shortest notice.

Butter and Eggs taken in exchange.

MRS. T. GOODFELLOW.

Listowel, Sept. 23, 1878.

WONDERFUL DISCOVERY.

EMPRESS RELIEF.

THE FRIEND OF MANKIND.

AN INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL REMEDY.

A BALM FOR EVERY WOUND.

It cures Rheumatism and Neuralgia, and kills all pain instantly. "Deny it who can." It is the only known remedy for Rheumatism on the "American Continent" proved by thousands. As soon as applied it gives instant ease to the unfortunate sufferer.

It is rapidly absorbed, penetrates to the very bone, opens the circulation, neutralizing all "Rheumatic Poison" circulating in the blood, and expels it from the system through the natural outlets.

IT CURES

Toothache, Earache, Headache, Neuralgia, Rheumatism, Sprains, Swellings, Inflammation, Burns, Cuts, Bruises, Pain in Side, Pain in Back, Pain in Chest, Pain in Shoulder, Coughs, Colds, Frost-bites, Chills, Diarrhoea, Dysentery, Summer complaints, &c. &c.

It will cure the most agonizing Pain, internal or external, in one instant of time. Pocket your purloined, and give it a trial; the investment is small and relief certain. The great secret of its success with all classes is owing to the fact that it is safe and harmless, pleasant to take, gives instant ease, and can be applied to a wider range of disease in every day life, with greater success, than any preparation which research, skill, and "Medical Science" has yet produced.

As a proof of its great power over disease, any person, no matter who it may be, Rich or Poor, Old or Young, who is suffering from any of the above painful complaints, will call at the Office in Toronto, any day of the week, will get practical proof, "Free of Charge," of its magical power over pain at one application.

Testimonials from all parts of the Dominion are constantly coming to hand, giving expression to the most grateful gratitude for astonishing cures which it has performed, and we would be pleased to receive testimonials from all others who use it successfully.

Physicians of the highest respectability recommend it as a most effective "domestic remedy" for the relief of Pain in cases of sudden emergency.

Carry it to your homes, and it will prove a blessing to your families and afflicted friends.

Druggists are selling enormous quantities of it wherever introduced.

I challenge the World to produce its equal.

Price, 25 cents Per Bottle.

The Trade supplied through the Wholesale Drug and Patent Medicine Houses of Montreal, Toronto, Hamilton and London.

SOLD BY ALL REPUTABLE DRUGGISTS.

1865 Established. 1865

The subscriber, in returning thanks to the numerous customers for the liberal patronage he has received during the thirteen years, he has been in Listowel, would take this opportunity to call their attention to his choice stock of Ready-made

BOOTS AND SHOES

For Spring and Summer, which he will sell at the lowest remunerating prices.

Also on hand a well-assorted stock of his own manufacture, in which he challenges competition.

Every description of Boots and Shoes made to order by competent workmen, and as no persons are employed except those who understand their business thoroughly, he has every confidence in his ability to give entire satisfaction.

Butter Eggs and Dried Meat taken in exchange.

Remember the old stand, MAIN ST. BRIDGE, LISTOWEL.

J. P. NEWMAN

WM. M. CLIMIE

Has constantly on hand a large stock of

FURNITURE,

at his

FURNITURE STORE,

WALLACE STREET.

UNDERTAKING

promptly attended to.

Ready Made Coffins and Shrouds

always on hand.

A first-class Hearse for Hire.

A CALL RESPECTFULLY SOLICITED.

WM. M. CLIMIE.

IMPLEMENTS

MANUFACTURED

and for sale at the

Listowel Foundry:

New Wrought Iron Frame Mower and Reaper

I. X. L.

N.B.—References to the substantiality and other excellent qualities of this machine may now be given, from a number of the best farmers in the surrounding townships. Warranted to give entire satisfaction.

Flows—Most approved models, with wrought beam and steel mould.

CONSIST'S TRACTA SLEEVY ROLLERS. Shed Teeth, Oil Tempered, Dumping with patent lever, by action of the horse. Best make in the market. First stock secured for sales.

STEVENSON'S PLW—First class iron

McILWRAITH & AUSTIN.

HAY & DEVLIN,

CONVEYANCERS

AND ACCOUNTANTS.

Insurance & Real Estate Agents

MONEY TO LOAN.

OFFICE OF DIVISION COURT

Special Attention given to the Collection of Overdue Notes and Accounts.