## THE MILL MYSTERY

BY ANNA KATHRINE GREEN.

"I cannot return you your father's will, I declared, firmly.

He held my glance with his. "Have you it still?" he asked. "I cannot return is to you," I repeat-

He arese and approached me courteously. "You are doing what you consider to be your duty," said he. "In other words than my mother used, I simply add, on our heads must be the consequences." And his grave look, at once half sad, and half-determined impressed me for the first time with a certain sort of sympathy for this unhappy family. "And this leads me to the purpose of my call," he proceeded, deforentially. "I am here at my mother's wish, and I bring you her apologies. Though you have done and are doing wrong by your persistence in carrying out my poor father's wishes to the detriment of his memory, my mother regrets that she spoke to you in the manner she did, and hopes you will not allow it to stand in the way of your conducting the funeral services."

I delegate the privilege of uttering prayers live and wished very much for a clergyover his remains. But I would not be frank to you nor true to myself if I did not add that it will take more than an apolomy from your mother to convince me that she wishes me well, or is, indeed, any. the mystery that was not altogether disthing but the enemy her looks proclaimed her to be last night."

"I am sorry " he began, but meeting my eye, stopped. "You possess a moral courage which I envy you," he dewhich had been made.

I listened calmly. In the presence of this man I felt strong. Though he knew the secret of my weakness, and possibly ly known, while his partiality for roaming, despised me for it, he also knew what indeed he had just acknowledged, that in some respects I was on a par with him.

The arrangements were soon made, and he took his leave without any further allusion to personal matters. But I noticed that at the door he stopped and cast a look of inquiry around the room. It disconcerted me somewhat; and while I found it difficult to express to myself the nature of the apprehensions which is caused, I inwardly resolve ed to rid myself as soon as possible of the responsibility of holding Mr. Pollard's will If Mr. Nicholls did not return by the day of the funeral, I would go myself to Boston

No occurrence worth mentioning followed this interview with Dwight Pollard. I conducted the services as I had promised, but found nothing to relate concerning them, save the fact that Mrs. Pollard was not present. She had been very much prostrated by her husband s death, and was not self, but so out of tune with the occasion. I could ignore (luy, subtle and secret as he was, but this woman could not be ignored. Where she was, there brooded something dark, mysterious, and threatening; and whether she smiled or frowned, the influence of her spirit was felt by a vague oppression at once impossible to analyze or escape

From the cemetery I went immediately to my house. The day was a dreary one, and I felt chilled. The gray of the sky was in my spirit, and every thing seemed unreal and dark and strange. I was in a mood, I suppose, and, unlike myself on other similar occasions, did not feel that drawing towards the one dear heart which hithertohad afford. ad me solace and support. I had not got used to my new self yet, and till I did, the smile of her I loved was more of a reproach

to me than consolation. I was stopped at the gate by Mrs. Banks. She is my next-door weighbor, and in the absence of my landlady, who had gone to visit some friends, took charge of any message which might be left for me while I was out She looked flurried and mysterious.

"You have had a visitor," she announc-

As she paused and locked as if she expect ed to be questioned, I naturally asked who

"She said she was your sistor," she declared, "A tall woman with a thick veil over her face. She went right up to your study, but I think she must have got tired of waiting, for she went away again a few moments ago."

My sister! I had no sister. I looked at Mrs. Banks in amazement.

"Describe her more particularly," said "That I cannot do," she returned.

"Her veil hid her features too completely for me to see them. I could not even tell her age, but I should say, from the way she walked, that she was older than you." A chill, which did not come entirely from

the east wind then blowing, ran sharply through my veins.

"I thank you," said I, somewhat incoherently, and ran hastily up-stairs. I had a presentiment as to the identity of this

At the door of my study I paused and looked hurriedly around. No signs of any disturbance met my eye. Crossing over to my desk, I surveyed the papers which I had left scattered somewhat loosely over it. They had been moved. I knew it by the position of the blotter, which I had left under a certain sheet of paper, and which now lay on top. Hot and cold at once, I went immediately to the spot where I had concealed Mr. Pollard's w ll. It was in my desk, but underneath a drawer instead of in it, and by this simple precaution, perhaps, I had saved it from destruction; for I found it lying in its place undisturbed, though the hand which haddrept so near its hiding-place was, as I felt certain, no other than that of Mrs. Pollard, searching for

this very document. It gave as a shuddering sense of disquiet to think that the veiled figure of this portentous woman had glided over my floors, reflected itself in my mirrors, and hung, dark and mysterious in its veiling drapery, ever my dosk and the papers which I had handled myself so lately.

I was struck, too, by the immovable determination to compass her own ends at any and every risk, which was manifested by this incident; and, wondering more and more as to what had been the nature of the offence for which Mr. Pollard sought to make reparation in his will, I only waited for a moment of leisure in order to make another effort at enlightenment by a second study of the prayer-book which my dying friend had placed so carnestly in my

It came, as I supposed, about eight o'clock that evening. The special duties of the day were done, and I knew of nothing else that demanded my attention. I therefore took the book from my pocket, where I had fortunately kept it, and was on the point of opening its pages, when there came a ring at the door bell below.

As I have said before, my landlady was away. I consequently went to the door myself, where I was met by an unexpected visitor in the shape of the idiot boy, Colwell. Somewhat disconcerted at the sight of a face so repugnant to me, I was still more thrown off my balance when I heard his errand. He had been sent, he said, by a man who had, been thrown from his wagon on the north road, and was now lying in a dying condition inside the old mill, before "Mr. Pollard," I replied, "your father which he was picked up. Would I come was my friend, and to no other man could and see him? He had but an hour or so to man's consolation.

It was a call anything but agreeable to me. I was tired : I was interested in the attempt which I was about to make to solve connected with my own personal welfare, and-let me acknowledge, since events have proved I had reason to fear his spot-I did not like the old mill. But I was far from conceiving what a wretched experience lay clared. And waiving the subject of his before me, nor did the fact that the unwelmother, he proceeded to inform me con- come request came through the medium of cerning the funeral and the arrangements an imbecile arouse any suspicion in my mind as to the truth of the message he brought. For, foolish as he in some regards his reliability as an errand boy is universalas well as for excitements of all kinds, fully accounted for the fact of his being upon the

scene of accident. I had, then, nothing but my own disinclinations to contend with, and these, strong as they were, could not, at that time, and in the mood which my late experience had induced, long stand in the way of a duty so

I consequently testified my willingness to go to the mill, and in a few minutes later set out for that spot with a mind comparatively free from disagreeable forebodings. But as we approached the mill, and I caught a glimpse of its frowning walls glooming so darkly from out the cluster of trees that environed them, I own that a sensation akin to that which had been awakened in me by Mrs. Pollard's threats, and the portentous darkness of her sombre mansion, once again swept with its chilling effect over my nerves.

Shocked, disgusted with myself at the recurrence of a weakness for which I had so able to leave her room, or soit was said. I little sympathy, I crushed down the feelings mistrusted the truth of this, however, but I exper enced, and advanced at once to the must acknowledge I was glad to be relieved | door. A tall and slim figure met me, clothed in some dark enveloping garment, and car

"The injured man is within," said he. Something in the voice made me look up. His face was entirely in shadow. "Who are you?" I asked.

He did not reply. "Let us go in," he said.

A week before I would have refused to do this without knowing more of my man. But the shame from which I had suffered for the last few days had made me so distrustful of myself that I was ready to impute to cowardice even the most ordinary instinct of self-preservation.

I accordingly followed the man, though with each step that I took I felt my apprehensions increase. To pierce in this manner a depth of sombre darkness, with only the dim outline of an anknown man moving silently before me, was anything but enouraging in itself. Then the way was too ong, and the spot we sought too far from

the door. A really injured man would not be carried beyond the first room, I thought, and we had already taken steps enough to be half-way through the building. At last I felt that even cowardice was excusable under these circumstances, and, putting out my hand, I touched the man before me on the

"Where are we going?" I demanded, He continued to move on without reply.

"I shall follow you no longer if you do not speak," I cried again. "This midnight journey through an old building ready to fall into ruins seems to me not only unpleasant but hazardous," Still no answer.

"I warned you," I said, and stopped, but the next moment I gave an almost frantic bound forward. A form had come up against me from behind, and I found that a man was following as closely upon my steps as I had been following those of the person who

The thrill of this discovery will never be forgotten by me. For a moment I could not speak, and when I did the sound of my voice only added to my terrors.

"You have me in a trap," said I; " who are you, and what are your 's nions with

"We have you where we can reason with you," exclaimed the voice of him who pressed against my back; and at the sound of those gentlemanly tones with their underlying note of sarcasm, I understood that my hour had come. It was the voice and intonation of Guy Pollard.

> CHAPTER XXI. THE VAT. Des.-Talk you of killing? Oth .- Ay, Ido. Des.-Then, heaven

Have mercy on me!-OTHELLO. I quivered with shame, for I felt my heart sink. But there was no pause in the smooth, sarcastic tones behind me, "When a man persists in judging of his duty contrary to the dictates of reason, he must expect re-straint from those who understand his post-

tion better than he does himself." "Then," quoth I, with suddenly sequired strength, "I am to understand that the respectable family of Pollard finds itself willing to resort to the means and methods of highwaymen in order to compass its ends and teach me my duty."

"You are," a determined voice returned.

At that word, uttered as it was in a tone inexorable as fate, my last ray of hope went out. The voice was that of a woman.

I however, made a strong effort for the preservation of my dignity and person.

And will Samuel Pollard's oldest and bestbeloved son, the kind-hearted and honest Dwight, lend himself to a scheme of common fraud and violence ?"

The reply came in his brother's most sarcastic tones. "Dwight has left us," he declared. "We have no need of honesty or kind-heartedness here. What we want for this business is an immovable determina-

Startled, I looked up. The lantern which had hitherto swung from the hand of my guide stood on the floor. By its light three things were visible. First, that we stood at the head of a staircase descending into a depth of darkness which the eye could not pierce; secondly, that in all the area about me but two persons stood; and third, that of these two persons one of them was masked and clad in a long black garment, such as is worn at masquerade balls under the name of a domino. Struck with an icy chill, I looked down again. Why had I allowed myself to be caught in such a trap? Why had I not followed Mr. Nicholls im mediately to Boston when I heard he was no longer in town? Or, better still, why had I not manufactured for myself a safeguard in the form of a letter to that gentleman, informing him of the important docu-ment which I held, and the danger in which it possibly stood from the family into whose toils I had now fallen? I could have cursed

myself for my dereliction. "David Barrows," came in imperative tones from the masked figure, "will you tell us where this will is?"

"No," I returned. "Is it not on your person?" the inquisitorial voice pursued.

"It is not," I answered, firmly, thankful that I spoke the truth in this. "It is in your rooms, then; in your desk.

perhaps?" I remained silent. "Is it in your rooms?" the indomitable

woman proceeded. "You who have been there should know," I replied, feeling my courage rise, as I considered that they could not assail my honor, while my life without my secret would benefit them so little that it might be said te

stand in no danger. "I do not understand you," the icy voice declared : while Guy, stepping forward, planted his hand firmly on my shoulder and

"Wherever it is, it shall be delivered to our keeping to-night. We are in no mood for dallying. Either you will give us your solemn promise to obtain this will, and hand it over to us without delay and without scandal, or the free light of heaven is shut out from you forever. You shall never leave this mill.

"But," I faltered, striving in vain to throw off the incubus of horror which his words invoked, "what good would my death do you? Could it put Mr. Pollard's will in your hands ?"

"Yes," was the brief and decided reply, "if it is anywhere in your rooms." "It was a word that struck home. The will was in my rooms, and I already saw it, in my imagination, torn from its hiding-

place by the unscrupulous hand that held Mastering my emotion with what spirit I could, I looked quickly about me. Was there no means of escape? I saw none. In the remote and solitary place which they had chosen for this desperate attempt, a cry would be but waste of breath, even if it were in that part of the mill which looked toward the road. But we were net; on the contrary, I could see by the aid of the faint glimmer which the lantern sent forth, that the room in which we had halted was as far

as possible from the front of the building, for its windows were obscured by the brushwood which only grew at the back of the mill. To call out then would be folly, while to seek by any force or strategy to break away from the two reientless beings that controlled me could only end in failure, unless darkness would come to my aid and hide my road of escape. But darkness could only come by the extinguishing of the lantern, and that it was impossible for me to effect; for I was not strong enough to struggle in its direction with Guy Pollard, nor could I reach it by any stretch of foot or hand. The light must burn and I stay there, unless-the thought came suddenly-I could take advantage of the flight of steps at the head of which I stood, and by a sudden leap, gain the cellar, where I would stand a good chance of loosing myself amid intricacies as little known to them as to myself. But to do this I must be free to move, and there was no shaking myself loose from the iron clutch that held me.

"You see you are in our power," hissed the voice of the woman from between the motionless lips of her black mask.

"I see I am," I acknowledged, "but I also see that you are in that of Go i." And I looked severely towards her, only to drop my eyes again with an irrepressible shud-

For, I y it to my weakness or to the baleful influence which emanated from the whole ghostly place, there was something absolutely appalling in this draped and masked figure with its gleaming eyes and cold, this

"Shall we have what we want before your death or after?" proceeded Guy Pollard, with a calm but cold ignoring of my words that was more threatening than any rude-

I did not answer at first, and his grip apon me tightened; but next moment, from what motive I cannot say, it somewhat re-laxed; and startled with the hope of freedom, I exclaimed with a vehemence for which my former speech must have little prepared

"You shall not have it at all. I cannot break my word with your father, and I will not stay here to be threatened and killed;" and making a sudden movement, I slipped from his grasp, and plunged down the steps into the darkness below.

But, scarcely had my feet touched the celfar floor, before I heard the warning cry shrill out from above :

"Take care! There is an open vat be-fore you. If you fall into that, we shall be free of your interference without lifting a

An open vat! I had heard of the vats is the old mill's cellar. Instinctively receiling

JANETVILLE.

nal to The Warder. LOL No. 64.-The fellowing were elected ficers of LOL. No. 64, Janet ville, for the ensuing year at the last regular meeting :- R J. Charrie, W.M; arms rong, D. M; John Ing am, Chap; J Hobbs, R.S; Robinson Magell, F S; Wm. Ar hurs, Treas; Joseph Magell, Def O; Francis Fannon, Leet; James Howe, Semuet Meil, Christy Armstrong, D Charrie and Robert McDowell, committee. Lodge meets on first Thursday of the mount, lucrease for the year eight.

VALENTIA.

usal to The Warder. PERSONAL -Mr. James M. Swain and Frank Emerson, two of our most respected cit zen-, have returned after nearly a year's absence in the Northwest. They look as if they had visited the coast or ne great mineral springs of Bauff, they hack a hale and hearty. We understand bey have purchased farms and int-not to make life pleasant. Now girls you must be cereful how you wear your cap. They report crops a fair average and prices nearly as go d as in Lindsay.

TEMPERANCE -Mr. Editor, if I was permitted to express my opinion I would say that kin alcohol has not the shadow a show to Varertia, and the surroundng peight rhood, big and little, great nt small, have failen into line on the emperance question. We are informthat the soc ets es ablished here number early sixty. May the efforts pu forth e d cast upon the waters gathered in

LOYAL O .ng. Lodg No. 510, hell pecial meeting last Saturday evening. Wors ipiul Master, Mr. David J. Sharp, occupied the chair, there was a good attendance of the members, the obe et this meeting was to finish up the es of the year and to confer d grees

Sale .- Mr Wm Mayer's sale of farm tock and implemen a held here on Trurs day, 12 ninet, was a great success. Stock in fact everything bringing high prices. I think a great many there forgot that bar-I-y was thirty couts per bushel; but n. ver mind it m.y be a better pice next year.

Bran Hunt. — Mr. Buin has been prowling around for the past two weeks, everal of our nimrods have been often him but have been unsuccessful in his capture. Mr. Henry Saculdice is expectnome in a day or two then we think

Mr. Bear will have to nurt his bole. And still our vil age improves. Mr. Wm. Suggett has added to his already mmodious out tuildings, a driving one and store room.

MUNICIPAL mat'ers very quiet. I have or yet learned who is out for councillors. We hope our o'd councillor, Mr. W. E. Swain will allow himself to be a candi-

Swain will allow himself to be a candidate for next year, as we think he help to transact the busices of our township of a fair and impartial manner.

PRESENTATION — The members of loyal orange lodge No. 510, with a tew friends evening, and presented brother William Mater with a handsome bible and an adverse, previous to his departure to the northwest. R freshments were served, after which a pleasant social evening was spent, a debate being part of the programme. The sinking of the National Anthem, as should be on all such occasion. Township of Mariposa, in the County of Victoria.

The North Half of Lot Number Eighteen, in the Fifteenth Concession of the Township of Mariposa, in the County of Victoria.

This property is situated in a good agricultural district, and is distant from Grass Hill stath non the Midiand Railway, about one mile; from the Village of Hartley shout two miles; from the Village of Hartle Anthem, as should be on all such occasions, brought the p occedings to a ciose,

## Assignee's Notice

In the matter of SOOTHERAN & CO.,

This is to give notice that all parties indebted to the above, either by note or book account, are to pay some forthwith to my agent, Mr. PETER MITCHELL, who con he found at the premises lately occupied by southeran & Co., Lindery. All notes and accounts not paid at once will be placed in court for collection. J. B LAING, Assignee. Sootheran & Co.

28 Scott street, Toronto. December 18th, 1889.-93 Trent Valley Canal.

The Commissioners appointed by the Dominion Gov-ernment will meet in the

Council Chamber at Lindsay, Thursday, Friday and Saturday,

the 2nd, 3rd and 4th January next.

to take evidence and hear matters in connection with the sunject thereof. All parties interested are re-spectfully invited to be present and give their opinion L. OLIVER.

Presents For Everybody

Jewelry. Watch Chains Watches, Charms, Rings, Accordeons. Co certinas, Violins, Boxes Cigars,

Meerschaum and Briar Pipes, Cigar Cases, Cigar and Cigarette Holders, or a nice Singing Bird. FOR THE CHILDREN.

Toys, Dolls, Sleighs in great variety J. RIGGS',

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ANOTHER BIG DROP Now is the time to secure Bargains in Glassware

and Crockery - WELDON'S

As the hard times and low prices of grain are pressing upon us, we have decided to give our customers a treat by disposing of our entire stock of Glassware and

Crockery at cost for cash. We are also determined to give the TAILORING A BOOM FOR NEXT 4 WEEKS. and are prepared to make Tweed Suits to order from \$8 upwards.

Royal Canadian Insurance Co.

HEAD OFFICE-MONTREAL ANDREW ROBERTSON, Esq., PRESIDENT MANAGER-GEO, H. MCHENRY.

Total Cash Assets..... \$744,991. The following figures, taken from the latest Blue Book, page lxv ii, show how much each of the six companies icensed by the Domin-ion Government had at the close of 1888 for each \$100 insured:—

British America.....\$1.39 Citize s'. 1.14 London Mutual 0.91 

Estate of the Late George Laidlaw. **Auction Sale of Valuable** 

S. CORNEIL.

FARM PROPERTY In the Township of Eldon, in the County of Victoria here will be offered or sale by Public Auction the ROYAL HCTEL, ARGYLE, UNT., on Tuesday, 31st day of Decem-

ber, A.D. 1889, at the hour of 12 o'clock, noon, by Elias Bowes, Aucand premises stuate lying and being in the Township or Ellion, in he Courty of Victoria, and being complete of the East Half of Lot No. 16, in the first concession of the said Town-hip of Eldon, containing

rest.

For further particulars and Conditions of Sale, ap-MORRIS & McNAR,

r to ELIAS BOWES. Auctioneer,
Manilla P.O., Ont.
Dated this 9th day of December, A.D. 1889.—8-4.

Valuable - Farm Township of Mariposa

In the County of Victoria, by tender. We have received instructions from the adminis

Sixth day of January A D. 1890. TERMS OF SALE.—A marked check for ten per regions of the around tendered payable to the order of Hudspeth & Jackson, is to accompany each tender. If the tender is not accepted the cheque will be re-puted. The balance of the purchase money to be puid in one month thereafter without interest. The highest or any tender not necessarily accepted. For further particulars and conditions of sale, ap-

HUDSPETH & JACKSON, Vendor's Solicitors, Lindsay, Dated this 18th day of December, 1889, -8-4.

MORTGAGE SALE Of Valuable

In the VILLAGE OF CANNINGTON, in the County

Under and by virtue of the Power of Sale contained in a certain Indenture of Mortgage dated the 28th day of January, 1887 and registered in the Registry Office for the County of Ontario as No. 438, and which Mortgage will be produced at the time of sace, there will be offered for sac by public auction at the QUEEN'S HOTEL, in the VILLAGE OF CANNINGTON, in the County of Ontario, at the hour of 12 o'clock, noon, on

Saturday, 4th day of January, A.D. 1890.

by Elias Bowes, Auctioneer, the following valuable freehold property, viz.:

ALL AND SINGULAR those certain parcels or tracts of land and premises situate lying and being in the village of Cannington, in the County of Ontario, and being composed of lots numbers One and Two on the East side of Laidiaw Street, and lots numbers Iwo and Three on the South side of Cameron Street, all in the said Village of Cannington, having a frontage on Cameron Street of 132 feet as shewn on a plan of the said Village of Cannington, made by Hugh Lumsden, P.L.S., and registered in the Registry Office for the said county of Ontario (this property being known as the Laidiaw Block); Save and except thereout and therefrom the two stores on Cameron Street adjoining the hote on the East and having together a frontage of 55 feet and 6 inches, by a depth of about 65 feet 9 inches, and which are more particularly described in two conveyanes, one to Maicolm Gillespie, registered in the Registr. Office for the County of Ontario, as No. 595, and the other to Donald Gillespie, registered as No. 595, and the other to Donald Gillespie, registered as No. 595; And also save and except a right of way for the winers of the said two stores in common with others over a lane 12 feet in width throughout, and running from Laidiaw Street to Cameron Street, and the location of which is more particularly described in the said two conveyances.

On the said propert are erected a commodious brick hotel known as the Queen's Hotel, and sino two stores, one on Laidiaw Street lying immediately to the S outh of the said hotel, and the other on Cameron Street, being the third store to the East of the said hotel.

The said hotel was, prior to the passing of the Scott Act, leased at a rental of \$400.00 per annum, which latter lease will expire on the 27th day of September, A.D. 1890.

The property is very centrally located and is admir.

The property is very centrally located and is admir.

The property is very centrally located and is admirably adapted for business purposes.

The property will be offered for sale en bloc and will be sold subject to a Mortgage for \$2500'00, and interest at six per c-nt. per annum, since the 2nd day of October, A. D. 1889, and will also be sold subject to a reserved bid, and to the existing tenanules, but should the reserved bid en bloc not be reached, then the property will be offered for sale in the following parcels:—

Aidlaw St.

Farcel No. 3. The third store east of the actel of Parcel No. 3. The third store case of the Cameron Street.

Parcel No. 4. A vacant lot adjoining the said store on Cameron Street on the East side, said lot having a frontage of 25 feet by a depth of 41 feet 6 inches. Each of the said parcels will be offered for sale subject to a reserved bid, and to the existing tenancies.

TERM\* OF SALE:—The purchaser will require to pay ten per cent of the purchaser will require to pay ten per cent of the purchaser will require to make the calculation of sale, and the balance over and above the existing Mortgage, within twenty days thereafter without integral.

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TORONTO, ONT.

City Harness Shop, Lindsay.

PROPRIETOR JAMES LITTLE,

Having extended my business, the last move being to purchase from MR JAMES LOVELL his entire stock and the good will of his business, who row retires, I am prepared to give all my old customers, and as many new ones as favors me with their patronage, satisfaction in all orders with which I man be entrusted. My Stock of Harness, Collars, Whips, Trunks and Valises Remember that all my work is finished by experienced workman, none other employed. This is money well invested. All I ask is an inspection of my stock and you will be convinced that it is the largest to choose trom, best workmanship, and prices really cheaper than any place in town. My expenses being lower, therefore I give my customers the benefit. Gentleman, place in your orders at once and don't miss this opportunity. Repairing promptly done. Don't forget the place. Give me a call.

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Doors, Sash, Blinds, Mouldings, &c., guaranteed, with prices right. Parties intending to build should call and inspect our work before buying elsewhere, and we will convince them that they will save money by doing so.

Corner Cambridge and Wellington Streets.

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A Happy New Year

And desire to thank our many friends for the patronage and support received in the past and to assure them our best attention in the future. Our stock will always be found well assorted in all the various lines

Highest Prices Paid for Alsike and Red Clover, Barley, Wheat, Peas, Oats.

handled by us and prices reasonable as any.