

(Continued from last week.)

dashing, and the tide was rapidly advancing to where they stood. Pet short week since her return home. and her back to the boulder while Oh, that I could win her to love me! he stood facing it, thus wedging her Oh, to possess that love-angel! O into a narrow prison, with the high, Erminie! Erminie!" And breathsteep rocks on one side, and the dashing sea on the other, and prewenting all hope of escaping by runming along the beach.

His eye followed hers, and he said, with a triumphant chuckle: "Caged, my bird of paradise!

ped, my forest fairy! Won, my dauntless lady-love! Ha! ha! ha! our ever-triumphant star has set, Standing between her and all hope

of escape, he ventured to relax his grasp for a moment, to aid in the for something to bind her one wild, flying leap, impossible to anything but desperation, she sprang wanished !

Vanished for but an instant. Pet sould swim like a fish, or a cork, or please, while Mr. Rozzel Garnet had a sufferer from hydrophobia. As quickly as she disappeared, did her black curls glitter above the white toam again, as she dauntlessly struck out for the shore.

She had not far to swim, and she buffeted the waves like a sea-goddess; so, while Mr. Rozzel Garnet a grave, calm-pulsed gentleman, who stood stunned, speechless, paralyzed, she had gained the shore, fled as fast as her dripping clothes would permit her along the beach, rushed ap the path, then back again on the rocks up above, until she stood dir- ed, ectly over the spot where the foiled tions. Therefore, he heard Pet boisfillain still remained, as if rooted to terously relating the arrival of Mr. use a strong figure of speech.

"Hallo, Mr. Garnet! how do you find yourself?" shouted Pet, from caution to Pet not to associate too you did it! My stars! you ought to but when, the next morning, riding have a leather medal presented to past Old Barren's Cottage on

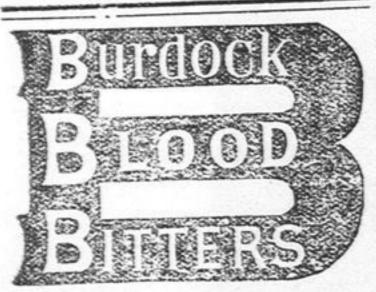
cleverly." ing the stars themselves.

between his teeth. Hke chickens, come home to roost, fair, as the beautiful form they drapyou know. Ah, you did it-didn't ed. The morning sunshine flashed in you?" said Pet, provokingly. "Don't her shining, waving, thick, soft hair, you wish you had me, though? It's gilded the roses on her cheeks, kindslippery work holding eels, and dan- led a brighter light in the large soft, or and more dangerous job than any to use his own phrase. In all his of them. Good-night, Mr. Rozzel life he had never seen so dazzling a

yet; my time will come!"

"Well, it's consoling to hear. hope you'll have a good time when She recognized him, of course; it does come." And with a taunting thinking he was merely trying laugh, Pet, darted off.

how closely that time was at hand.



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writes: "I have used Burdock blood see your grandmother. I hope she my visits here. I have revolved the Bitters as a spring medicine for the post is quite well." purifies the blood and builds up the con- doing so, actually got off his horse, world may wonder-no doubt it will; stitution better than any other remedy."

CHAPTER XXVIII.

Judge Lawless was pacing up and down the floor of his study with raexcited strides, his brow knit, face flushed, his hands clenched, teeth set, his whole look, attitude, and bearing, speaking of deepest, intensest excitement. When in profound or troubled thought, he had a habit (many have) of talking to himself, unconsciously; and now he muttered, between his teeth:

"I am going mad-I am mad-bewitched-bewildered. To think that I, at my years, should fall in love like a boy of eighteen. I, who fancied I had outlived all such rubbish. But, O that girl! that glorious girl! that angel of beauty! that transcendently radiant creature! that lovely, bewildering, enchanting, intoxicating Erminie! Good heavens! how the very thought of her sets my head whirling! that electric Erminie! with her angel smile and irradiated face ! waves were now seetning raza Who could help loving her? Not I, certainly, and yet it is only one ing out his very soul in the syllables of her name, he sank into a chair, and leaned his throbbing head on

his hand. Judge Lawless had all his life computed himself as a grave, self-possessed, dignified gentleman; excessive-Beared, my mountain eaglet! Trap- ly proud, excessively unbending, and so calm and unimpassioned that it seemed a matter of doubt whether he was made of common flesh last, my beautiful, black-eyed blood or cast-iron. But now, at tied him to a stake and followed the the mature age of five-and-forty, all surprised Erminie into the house. his pride and dignity blew away, like And then forgeting Ketura, and his a whiff of down on a blast, at the business in Judestown, and all othfirst glimpse of Erminie Germaine's sublunary things, in the presence of fair, sunshiny, blooming young face; this enchanting maiden, there he reand here he was, now, making a mained for three mortal hours, until a bird, she darted forward, and with downright fool of himself-as many the unlooked for entrance of Ray, another old gentleman has done, is who had been over the moor gundoing, and will continue to do, while ning, and now returned with a wellthe world goes round. Forgetting filled game-bag, looking happy, handthat he was nearly treble her age, some, and with a powerful appetite. forgetting his high position in the As his eye fell upon their strange world and her lowly one, forgetting guest, he started, colored slightly, mermaid, or anything else you he was far more likely to be some and then bowed with cold hauteur, day her father-in-law than her hus- Judge Lawless returned it with one intense an aversion to cold water band, forgetting everything, in a no less stiff; for though in love with word, but that her beauty had turn- the sister, it by no means followed ed his brain, Judge Lawless down to reflect on the best course to

pursue in the present somewhat unsatisfactory state of affairs. Judge Lawless was, as I told you, considered himself as good, not to say considerably better, than any other man in the world, and held in the profoundest contempt, the little corner of the world in which he livand its quiet, humble, habita-

the ground, unable to comprehend and Miss Germaine with the greatest which end he was standing on, to indifference, and without the remotest idea of ever giving either them another thought beyond a cool "Oh, my! how beautifully freely with people of "that set"; you for catching girls-you do it so way to Judestown, a vision met his eyes of such dazzling beauty that He turned and looked up; and there involuntarily he stood stock-still to in the dusk, bright starlight, he gaze, Judge Lawless found that the saw Pet all dripping like a Naiad, only one in the world worth thinkand her black eyes almost outflash- ing of was one of "that set." There stood Erminie at the gate, in her "Curses light on her!" he hissed trim, spotless, muslin morning-dress, with her snowy linen collar and "Thank you, Mr. Garnet! Curses, cuffs, looking as fresh, and pure, and gerous to play with exploding violet eyes, and lay like a friend's bombshells, and stinging occupation kiss on the full and rounded lips. pulling nettles; but the coat-sleeves Judge Lawless was spellbound, enthat try to hold me, will find a hard- chanted, bewildered, bedeviled, to Garnet, and pleasant dreams; and beauty-in all his life he had never

remember, when you next try to cap- expected to see anyone half so lovely tivate me, that earth, air, fire, and again; and there he stood, gazing water, were never made to hold me." upon her like a man in a dream, "Ah, you may triumph now-it is quite unconscious that the young your turn," he said looking up, liv- lady, who ever she was, might think id with rage; "but mine will come this prolonged stare very strange, to say the least of it. But she did not think it very strange at all. identify her, she pushed open Little did either of them dream gate, and came out to him with blush and a smile, and, being ways a little awed and afraid of his stately grandeur, held out her hand o him with a girlish timidity quite

charming "I suppose you have forgotten me, sir," she said, lifting the irresistible violet eyes to his face, am Erminie Germaine.'

"Little Erminie? Why, how pret--a-I mean, how well you are looking!" he said, taking the hand she offered, and holding it much longer than was strictly necessary. "Who would ever think! Why don't you come over to Heath Hill some time, Miss Germaine?"

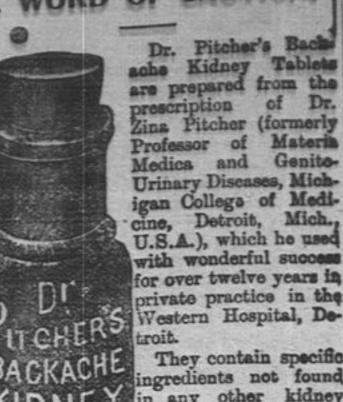
"I have promised Miss Lawless to go and spend the day with her soon," said Erminie, embarrased by his too-ardent gaze, and striving to withdraw her hand. "I hope she is

"Who? Eh? Oh, yes! she's well. This spring you will need Come over to-morrow, Miss Ger-I shall be very glad to see

"I thank you, sir; I shall be most happy to do so," replied Erminie, growing more and more embarrassed with impurities which have by his open, admiring gazes, and again trying to withdraw her hand. But the judge, quite unconsciously, Burdock Blood Bitters is the held the little snow-flake fast, and seemed inclined to commit petty larceny by keeping it altogether, while It has no equal as a spring he gazed and gazed in the sweet, blushing face, with its waving hair and drooping eyes, and fell desperate-

"Won't you come in, Judge Lawless?" said Erminie, at last, confused by her situation, fearing to offend him, yet wishing to get away. "Come in-? Oh, yes-to be sure!" exclaimed the judge, with alacrity. Germaine, you are not in utter ig-

four years and don't think there is its equal. And the judge, who had never en- have come to the conclusion that -When I bel drowsy, tired and have no tered the cottage before, nor dream- ahem!--that I am at perfect liberty desire to eat I get a bottle of B.R.B. It ed in the most remote way of ever to please myself in the matter. The



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he was very passionately enamored of the brother. And then discovering, to his horror, that the whole morning was gone, he rode off, followed by the haunting vision of a sweet young face, with waving floating hair, and dark, lustrous, violet

And from that hour may be dated the "decline and fall" of Judge Law-

And so Judge Lawless was in love and unsuspected. And as he there in the library, with his head in his hand, thinking, and pondering, revolving, and wondering, the best method of bringing matters to a crisis and astonishing his friends. His intention was, to raise Miss Germaine to the dignity of his Judge Lawless was severely moral; but how to propose-that was trying horn of the dilemma. Judge Lawless was not accustomed

"Have her I must, come what will!" he said, getting up again, and resuming his 2.40 pace up and down the floor. "I am mad about girl, I believe. The world may laugh and sneer at the idea of marrying a - well, a pauper, in point of fact, when I could win, if I chose, the highest in the land. Well, let them. If Judge Lawless cannot do as pleases, I should like to know who can. I have wealth enough to do us both; the old admiral will leave his estate and bank-stock to Ranty and Pet, and hm-m-m, ah!-Yes, have her I must-that's settled. And this very afternoon shall ride over and let her know the hon-

or in store for her!" And that very afternoon, true to his promise, Judge Lawless arrayed in a somber, dignified suit of black, with his hair and whiskers oiled and scented to that extent that his fast mare, Wildfire lifted up her head, and looked at him in grave astonishment and inwardly resolved to keep a wary eye on her master for the future, lest he should take to dandyism

in his old age. Arriving at the cottage, he fastened his mare, and rapped at the cottage door with his riding whip, in a grand and important sort of way befitting the occasion. Erminie herself opened it; and, at sight of her beautiful, rounded form, the taper waist, the swelling bust, the white, rounded throat, on which the graceful little head was poised with the queenly air of a royal princess; the waving, sunshiny hair, the smiling the soft, tender, violet eyes, Judge Lawless was twice, and thrice, as deeply, and irretrievably, and des-

perately in love as ever. He came in. Erminie was alone How he thanked the gods for that took a seat, stood his cane in the corner, laid his hat on the table, drew out a snowy cambric handkerchief, redolent of musk, eau de cologne, ottar of roses, and bergamot, from one of those intensely mysterious pockets gentlemen, for some inscrutable reason, wear in their coat-tails, blew his nose, replaced his handkerchief, laid a hand on each knee, looked at Erminie, and prepared her for what was coming by a

Erminie, whose rosy fingers were flying, as if by stress, on some article of dress, did not look up; so all these significant preparations, proper to be done, and which are always done, I believe, whenever elderly gentlemen go to propose, were

quite thrown away upon her. "Ahem!" repeated the judge, with some severity, and yet looking with longing eyes at the graceful form and sweet drooping face before him," Miss

She looked up inquiringly with

"Ahem!" The stately judge was rather embarrassed. "Perhaps, Miss "I was just thinking-a-of going to norance of-ahem!-of the object of matter over in all its bearings, and but I trust I have wisdom enough

Colins

may stare, it cannot but admire the person I-ahem!-I have chosen! The judge made a dead halt, drew out his handkerchief again, until the would have reminded you of "Ceylon's spicy breezes," and shifted his left leg over his right, and then his right over his left. not understanding one word of his valedictory, had dropped her work, and sat looking at him, with wide-

"In short, therefore, Miss Germaine, we will, if you please, consider the matter settled, and you will greatly oblige me by naming the earliest possible day for the ceremony." "The ceremony! What ceremony, sir?" said the puzzled Erminie, looking prettier than ever in her perplex-

"Why, our marriage, to be sure!" "Our marriage?"

"Certainly, my love. The earlier the day, the sooner my happiness will be complete!" And the judge raised her hand to

his lips, with the stately formality of five-and-twenty years before, fearing to venture any further; for there was a look in the sweet, wondering eyes that made him rather uneasy. "Judge Lawless, excuse me. I do not know what you mean. I fear I

have misunderstood you," said Erminie, more perplexed than she ever was before in the whole course of "Misunderstood me? Impossible, Miss Germaine, I have used plainest possible language, I think,

in asking you to be my wife!" "Yes, my wife! Why this surprise, Heavens, Erminie! is it possible you really have not understood me all this time? Why, dearest, fairest girl, I love you-I wish you to be my wife! Do you understand me

He would have passed his arm around her waist; but crimson with burning blushes, she sprang to her a vivid light in her beautiful and raised her hand to wave

"You are mocking me, Judge Lawless! If you have had your amusement, we will drop the subject." "Mocking you, my beautiful Erminie! I swear to you I love you with all my heart and soul! Only make me happy, by saying you will be my

The conviction that he was really serious, now for the first time dawned on Erminie's mind. The rosy tide flooded neck and brow again, and she dropped her flushed face in her hands, as she remembered he was Ranty's father.

"I am not surprised that you should wonder at my choice," said the judge, complacently. "Of course, the world expects I should marry a woman of rank; but I like you, and I am determined to please myself, let them wonder as they will!"

Erminie's hands dropped from her face, crimson now, but not with embarrassment; her eyes flashed with the fiery spirit of the old De Courcys, as she drew herself up to her full height, and calmly said: "I will spare you the humiliation,

and your friends the trouble of wondering at your choice. For the honor you have done me, I thank you, even while I must decline it." "Decline it!" The

Erminie compressed her lips, and silently bowed. She stood there like a young queen, her proud little head erect, her fair cheeks scarlet, her eyes darkening and darkening, until they seemed almost black. "Decline it!" The judge, in his amazement, was a sight to see.

"Miss Germaine, I - I'm thunderstruck! I-I'm confounded! I-I'm utterly confounded! Miss Germaine,

you do not mean it; you cannot mean it! it's impossible you can mean it! Refuse me! Oh, it is utterly impossible you can mean it! "On the contrary, wonderful as it seems, I must distinctly and unequivocally decline the honor," And Erminie's look of calm determination showed her resolution was not to be shaken. Judge Lawless rose his feet and confronted her. Indignahumiliation, anger, wounded

pride, mortification, jealousy, and a

dozen other disagreeable feelings,

flushing his face until its reflection

fairly imparted a rosy hue to his snow-white shirt bosom. "Miss Germaine, am I to understand that you refuse to marry me?" "Decidedly, sir."

"May I ask your reason for this refusal, Miss Germaine?" "I recognize no right by which you are privileged to question me, Judge Lawless, but because of the respect I owe one so much my senior, I will say, first, I do not love you; second, if I did, I would not marry one, who looks upon me as so far beneath him: and third-" She paused (Continued on Page 3.)

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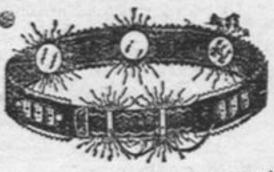
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