(Continued from Page 4.) CHAPTER V.

PON the third day after the events of the preceding chapter Mrs. Main announced a visitor, handing me at same time a card on which was printed with an abundance of flourishes and ornament "Mr. Morris Barnett." He made a ceremonious entry and politely discharged a few courtesies ere he got to business.

"I have come over, Mr. Greatorex," said he suavely, "to see if you are at all disposed to do a client of mine a great favor."

I did not see any very strong reason why I should favor a client of Mr. Morris Barnett, but I murmured that I was always glad to be of service to my fellow creatures.

"The fact is, sir," he resumed, laying his hat and stick upon a chair and drawing a packet of papers from his pocket, "my firm has a client who is related to the ancient Vyvian family, the original owners of this castle, as you are no doubt aware, and he has been informed that you have come into possession of this very beautiful estate in accordance with the will, if I mistake not, of the late Mr. Kesteven."

He looked at me inquiringly, and told him that his information was quite

"I gather, Mr. Greatorex," he continued affably, "that you have been until comparatively recently a stranger to these parts and that, in short, you have no particular ties in the county?"

"That is true," said I. "My client, sir, has naturally-you will understand the motive-a desire to purchase the property, if you are disposed to meet him and we can arrange terms. And that, shortly, is the object of my visit,"

Now, you will easily conceive that, falling in the present circumstances, this set my blood humming. Here was yet another, and within a few days of the demise of the old proprietor, who must needs come clamoring for a sale of the castle. The fact stirred my curiosity-nay, to speak truly, inflamed me with something very like excitement.

"And what, then, is your proposal Mr. Barnett?" I asked calmly enough. I was sharp enough to notice a gleam of satisfaction pass over his face, but he displayed none of his triumph in his very businesslike tone. "Ah, well, Mr. Greatorex," said he,

lolling back in his chair, "you see these old places are more matters of sentimental than profitable investment.' "True," said I shortly, "and men are

usually willing to pay a high price for sentiment.'

"Ah, no, Mr. Greatorex," said he promptly, shaking his head, and here there was a real touch of gutturals. "you mistake. My client is not a rich man, but he hankers after the place of his fathers. It would mean much to

"It means a good deal to me," said I. "How much?" said Barnett suddenly. "Supposing I said £20,000?"

He held up his hands. "My dear sir, my dear sir!" he repeated and stared at me as if my audacity had plucked away his wits. "Why not?" I asked.

Mr. Barnett was thoroughly enjoying himself.

"Do you know what landed property is selling at, Mr. Greatorex?" he asked confidentially. "It is practically a drug in the market, sir, just now."

"Then," said I, "will you kindly explain, Mr. Barnett, how it comes that I have had two offers within a week of my inheritance?"

"Ah." he said meditatively, rubbing his chin.

"It looks as if this particular property was not a drug in the market. doesn't it?" I asked. "To be sure," he remarked vaguely,

and then, recovering himself, resumed his gentle smile. "But let us come back to business, Mr. Greatorex. Shall we gay £5,000?" He cooed at me enticingly. His as-

sumption that we had wandered into



kied me, and I broke forth laughing "Ah, weit," said he, grinning symba: thetically, "We might make it £7,500 With immediate passession.

"Mr. Barnett," said I gravely, "your effent seems to have been born too late by a hundred years."

there's a big fellow here, if your noise hasn't frightened him." "I dare say, Mr. Greatorex, that my client would go to the length of £10,000 bending over his line, was wholly ab: upon my advice." sorbed by his occupation. But nothing

"Then I should certainly keep my advice to myself, Mr. Barnett," was my retort.

I began to see a respect for me dawn in his eyes. He gathered his papers in the other.

his hand and reached for his hat with "I fear that my intrusion has been

useless," he observed. I said nothing, but waited for him to

reseat himself. He did not, however but, walking to the window, looked out upon the park. "Beautiful!" he cried. "Charming

and I've earned my dinner." prospect! Really, now that I have seen We left the stream in company and it, Mr. Greatorex, I feel justified in mounted to the highroad. advising my client to go a little highreached the Woodman, and the invi-"I think the view is worth an extra tation was so natural, issued as so

£5,000," I suggested. "I think he might rise possibly to £15,000, Mr. Greatorex, if you will allow me to communicate with my cli-

ent," he said softly. "But my client is a poor man, and it is a ruinous price." "Then why ruin your client, my dear sir?" said L

Mr. Barnett laughed pleasantly, as if at my little joke, but, becoming serious again, shook his head.

"A stiff price, but I think I can man-"I have little doubt that you can manage anything," I said, bowing.

"You agree?" he asked. "It is not necessary," said I, "since you seem to have agreed for me." "It is monstrous!" he said gloomily. But my client has set his heart on it. You shall have your £20,000, Mr. Great-

He sighed resignedly and, having selected a document in his pocketbook. proceeded to unfold it and smooth it upon the table. All the spirit was out of him. He had been worsted and owed me a grudge, I could perceive. "If you have a pen, Mr. Greatorex." he said sullenly, "I will fill in the figures. I have the agreement here."

"Pardon me," said I. He looked up and, meeting my gaze. offered an explanation against my pro-"There's no time like the pres-

"You misunderstand me, sir," I said cheerfully. "I have no intention of selling the castle."

He leaped to.his feet. "What!" he yelled, and his sallow face spread with color. "You said £20,000!"

"Excuse me; no," I said. "Your client, Mr. Barnett, did me the honor to suppose I should be willing to sell, and I was polite enough to suppose so with

There was never a man in so atrocious a temper as my little attorney. His color went, and he grew a livid yellow with passion, and, being now no longer at the necessity of civility, he broke into covert invective, presenting to me a surly demeanor. I ignored his unmannerliness, but kept my placid smile all the time that he was arranging his departure. On the thresh old of the door he paused and, turning, demanded:

"Is your decision final?" I assured him that it was absolute. He gave me an extremely vicious look as he disappeared.

"You will regret this, Mr. Great-

orex," he observed. I understood that the phrase was not uncommonly used in similar circumstances, but in truth I need hardly say that I should not have turned a sarcasm at the expense of Mr. Barnett's inoffensive client, despite Mr. Barnett's offensive manner, if I had not been absolutely certain that Mr. Barnett's client did not exist. At least I would have gone bail that he was no relation to the departed Vyvians, and I would even have ventured to doubt if he knew much more of them than did Mr. Barnett himself, for it was plain enough to me by this time that some person or some persons had particular reasons for desiring to obtain possession of my inheritance. So much being clear it only remained to determine those particular reasons, reasons which I could now perceive were involved in the secret of my dead friend and probably also in the culminating tragedy of

When I was rid of my visitor I set

forth upon a stroll in the woods. It

was 4 in the afternoon, and the sun

shone very fiercely upon the white

roads, throwing black shadows from

the trees. I dropped from the roadway

into a rude moss grown track that ran

into the heart of the valley, and pres-

ently, leaving the more open parts of

the forest, struck into the deeper

prospect of a companion with whom

"Hello!" and dived through the under-

captain stood my attention was caught

by a rustling among the branches, and

I had a glimpse of some one just dis-

for something familiar in the incident

struck me all of a sudden. That lean,

slim figure, that swift, precipitate rush

-these were as impressions recovered

from some past experience. Captain

Sercombe was lazily whipping a deep

pool, a pipe between his teeth, and,

"You have frightened my fish, sir,

stracted! and, raising himself, he

looked at me, following the direction

"Oh, that's my worthy and very ob-

wish he would let me alone, but he's

the likeliest spots, and would insist on

showing me. As if I hadn't fished he-

He apened his basket. "A couple of

He threw a east very neatly and

would tempt the trout to rise, and the

captain soon gave me his attention

"There's nothing equal to an obsti

nate fish," he remarked thoughtfully.

"I envy you, Mr. Greatorex. If I lived

in this spot I could ask no better than

to spend my life on the banks of this

"Ah, you have the proper spirit!"

"All the same," he declared, "it's a

mighty hot tramp through those brakes

"Come in," said the captain as we

much a matter of course, that I en-

tered behind him almost unconsciously.

"You will excuse me if I have a little

refreshment, Mr. Greatorex," he said.

"I have been out since 10 o'clock and

am only held together by a few sand-

wiches. Besides, I have always an ap-

petite. Hood! Hood!" he called.

taking his pipe from his month.

i jained him an the bank

smallish ones," he returned.

Any luck ?! I asked

turning his head, he hailed me:

of my glance.

fore he was horn!

I might. You'd find no difficulty in doing that, I should think." "I dare say not," was my reply. "Why," continued the captain, as if smiling at his own thought, "I would take it off your hands for a month or so for the fishing alone—that is, if you

The inkeeper entered and received

"Now, sir, take a seat. I think you'll

find that apology for a sofa at least

comfortable," continued my host, and he flung himself, breathing hard, into

an armchair and fanned his face with

"How is the new inheritance?" he

There was no shadow of offense in

his voice, and I should have been surly

indeed to have taken for a liberty what

was clearly a friendly interest in my

affairs. I said I hoped that he would

"Thank you very much," said he.

with a delicate bow of acknowledg-

ment. "I shall be delighted. I had a

sight of the old place yesterday as I

Hood entered with a tray of refresh-

ments, and Sercombe drew himself up

to the table and began upon his untime-

"I don't know what digestion is, Mr.

Greatorex," he explained. "I believe

it is a term in use among doctors to

terrify nervous patients. I eat when I

like, not when society wants me

And, filling his mouth, he asked me if

"At present, yes," I answered,

"though certainly it would appear to

be in despite of fortune, for it is not

He stared at me in the act of drink

ing, and I felt Hood's eyes also upon

me. The next second the innkeeper

resumed his work, placing a fork soft

"How do you mean?" asked Ser

As I had started the tale, I went on

Captain Sercombe smiled and wen

"Oh, I thought some one had been

disputing your title," he said, "that is

I related my victory with some satis

"Well, you're going to keep your cas

tle?" he resumed. "Patriotic man!

Though I should judge £20,000 to be a

"It is not worth half as much," said !

ness, take your profit?" demanded the

captain, opening his eyes in astonish-

"I'm in no hurry," said I, smiling.

picking his teeth thoughtfully. "Well,

you may be right, though I don't see

your reasons. A landed estate is mere-

ly a nuisance, so far as my experience

goes. It's all payment and no returns.

It takes a wealthy man to keep an es-

tate. If I had your place, Mr. Great-

orex, I should be disposed to let it, at

any rate, and enjoy the proceeds while

"Humph!" ejaculated the captain.

"Then why not, in the name of good-

good market price for the property."

all. I hope you fooled him?"

faction, and Sercombe chuckled.

the fault of some people that I am no

sent packing off to London."

ly by the captain's plate.

on with his food.

I had resolved to live in the castle.

"You have frightened my fish, sir," said

knowledge that he had an organic dis-

ease it was wise to take punctual pre-

cautions. It was probable also that

the news he had evidently received

upon the morning of that fatal day

had conduced to his visit to the lawyer.

I was to be admitted to his confidence.

Twice he had been interrupted in the

very nick of his narrative—the second

time by the interposition of Death

himself. In these considerations my

thoughts were naturally drawn to the

events of that evening. Why had Kes-

teven retired to his room? Obviously

there was a connection between his er-

rand and the sheet of parchment which

yet to find. The parchment was clear-

ment which Mr. Kesteven had desired

at a new and more alarming discovery.

That open window now offered up its

secret. That desperate cry was no

ny, but an appeal for help. From the

dead fingers I had taken the second

sheet of the mysterious document, so

pregnant with interest, but from the

den and fearful dissolution, of that

through hundreds of years of silence.

was a great step, and in the heat of

strange emotions of adventure, avarice,

even of ferocity, I had no intention to

leave the matter where it stood. I was

resolved to confront fate and to enter

the lists against those undetermined

enemies. So far they had kept very

silent, working only in the dark, but I

swore then and there to meet them.

drag them forth into the broad daylight

and contest my rights in the hidden

treasure, if it existed, against a dozen

sorry knaves. I am a patient man

and not overquick to take a resolution.

but I do not easily lay down a task

which I have once undertaken. I

swore upon the spot to undertake this.

In the circuit of my fancy I came

uddenly upon this consideration, which

pulled me up quite sharply, even with

have known he was, to the treachers

There were several friends

drawing on and the holiday season was

at his height. The odds were that

Sheppard was far enough from Lon-

that my mind recurred to Montgomery

He was not very much to my taste,

And so indeed he proved. I rode over

should discover Pengelly or Rogers

Where was the first sheet?

I had detached from his clutch.

pay me a visit and see for himself.

his handkerchief.

asked presently.

passed the gates."

For some reason or other this semijocose offer irritated me, possibly because of previous experiences.

"Between you, you are bound to have me out," I said, rather dryly. "But I assure you I will not budge." I was not looking at him as I spoke, but out of the tail of my eye it seembrakes and tangles below. The little ed to me that I caught a quick exstream ran here in the bottom very change of glances between the cappleasantly, sometimes brawling over tain and the innkeeper, and to my shallows and at other parts more si- imagination - for such it may have lently in eddies and drifts over darker | been- the face of the man Hood wore and deeper pools. As I followed its an unmistakable frown. But as I course I came shortly upon a spot turned sharply he was merely refilling where the channel made an elbow al- the captain's glass and using a deft most at right angles with its former napkin upon the soda water bottle.

direction, and here I descried the form | Sercombe burst out laughing in his of Captain Sercombe. A sound of comfortable fashion. "My dear sir," said he, "it is long since I was in a position to pose as a country gentleman, and for my own

part I sincerely hope you will occupy the castle as long as I occupy the inn. growth toward him. When I emerged upon the open space upon which the After that I fear I shall have no further interest in the matter." I felt distinctly snubbed by the rejoinder, for all that it was delivered appearing into the wood. I stopped in so hearty a manner. But I got out with my eyes fastened upon the point, of the inn creditably enough and with

a neat stroke in return, all very good

humored. All the same, upon my home-

ward journey I was troubled by that mutual signal which I had seemed to nation. discover between these two incongruous people. As for Sercombe's offer, it was plainly intended for a jest, and I thought no more of it. Yet I was still exercised in my mind, vaguely un-I begged his pardon somewhat ab- easy and distrustful. And in this mood I settled down to consider my situation that evening and to review the events which I have here narrated. The puzzle was to determine a cause Some one wanted to acquire the castle and went about it very persistently upon the house to secure samething of

flash of illumination, the reason was lit up and stood have and bright be

fore me. It was hidden treasure CHAPTER VI. WOW that I had put my tongue the word I was confident of my discovery. All the facts dumfounded at my previous obtuseness. For what but a hidden store of treasure would explain these incessant don by this. I wanted aid forthwith attempts upon the house itself or the and forthwith must have it. So it fel insistent efforts to take it out of my hands? And what again but treasure could supply so natural a key to old certainly not congenial company, but Kesteven's death and his mysterious he was obviously honest, and I could secret? It seemed to me, too, that up- swear that he would be faithful. on this hypothesis several facts hitherto inexplicable might be referred to next morning to the farm which conreason. The eccentricity of my host in stituted now all that was left of the choosing me for his heir became not so old estate of the family. He was plaitmuch an eccentricity as a studious ing a whip in his dining room-a high piece of policy. He was, in the general wainscoted chamber, very dingy and verdict, devoid of living relatives, and untidy and hoaped with all the u had so long fallen out of the world as to be practically friendless. He had made up his mind to my honesty, possibly to my capability, and was resolved to trust me. If this were so, as I saw it now, the making of the will had been an inevitable act in the game he intended to play.

I could not imagine that he had foreseen his sudden death, yet with his

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I opened my dispatch box and spread MONEY TO LOAN on Mortgages out the paper on the table once more, at lowest current rates. I HAVE ac poring over it with my pulse throbbing cess to the cheapest money marke' to my finger tips. The meaning was in Canada and will give my patronnow plain, though the main secret was the benefit thereof

EXPENSES OF LOAN kept down ly the second sheet only of the docu- to the lowest possible point consis tent with accuracy and necessary re to bring down for my perusal. I sat up | quirements. ALL BUSINESS of this nature

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longer now the scream of mortal ago- 91 Kent-st., Lindsay, Ont,

hands of the living I could not doubt fancy. On my entrance he rose, his that the first had been violently torn in silly face beaming red, and grasped my the course of a struggle in that silent hand with an awkward sentence of chamber. Terror had surprised the rascal at his work-the terror of that sud-

humped and pitiful body fallen on the floor. And here now with two ends of He stared at me. "Oh, all right!" he the secret, whatever it might be, rent said, as if this mission of mine had asunder and secluded in separate been a matter of course. "Come and have a drink.'

hands, the hoard of treasure still lay buried in its ancient hiding place as in-It was but 11 in the morning, though tact and private as it had lain maybe the breakfast things still cumbered his table, and so I refused his hospitality, My riddle was read. That certainly a refusal which did not prevent his. pouring himself out a glass of beer. my discovery, as I sat palpitating with

"Montgomery," said I, "leave that alone and keep your head clear. The boy bounded to his feet sheep-

eagerness which pleased me. "Got your horse?" I asked.

"Then fling your legs up and be off and ask your servant to send on your bags. I'm going to keep you for a

"Bully!" he said and clamored out of the room in a cheery fashion.

"Shall we have the police over?" he document. What would be the next step which these insolent tricksters asked anxiously. tle beyond the estimable Mrs. Main thought had occurred to me more than

and a neat housemaid, neither of whom once, it was almost in old Kesteven's was to be counted in a warfare such words that I replied: as the situation promised to my imagi. "There are none nearer than Raymond." To that I added, "Besides,

The one man that was daily visible think we two are in no need of assistabout the place slept at Lianellan, as ance against a ruffian or two.

puzzled me at this point was the Isola- ably. As I am fond of laying my plans tion in which my host had enwrapped ahead, I wrote to Sheppard at his himself. He had taken no pains to chambers asking him if he were still protect himself. Exposed, as he must in town and if he felt disposed to par the crossroads, rod in hand, gazing waved his hand and moved off upon his journey. Montgomery was as doo lle as a spaniel, submitting readily, suppose, to the superior will, and had no complaint to make of him save that he wearled me a good deal. He himself, however, had a complaint, for he was grievously disappointed that there had been no bloodshed. We saw not a show of a burglar, and I fancy he thought me in his private mind something of an impostor, which possibly was the very reason which made him strike up an acquaintance with Sercombe, I certainly had no right to protest, for the captain was a pleasant fellow and so far as I knew harmless, and, moreover, life at the cas-(Continued on Page 3.)

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imaginable rubbish of a young man's

"It's good of you to come so soon,"

"I've come to take you back," said I.

ishly enough to what he doubtless considered my rebuke, but with a show of

He nodded, all attention now, and

continued:

I had already made up my mind not to be too explicit with Montgomery. He was too recent an acquaintance, dea little breathlessness. These unknown spite my conviction of his fidelity, to antagonists were still banded in arms intrust with a precious secret. Indeed, against me, and I was alone. I had the first occasion of our encounter had repeated evidence that I was pur- would not have commended him to sued by their ingenuity and in two many particular people. What I told ways. On the one hand I was to be him, therefore, as we rode back emevicted from my own house, and simul- braced but the general atmosphere of could not now doubt, for the purpose of word that stuck in his mind was "bursecuring my remnant of the precious glary," and it greatly excited him.

Mr. Kesteven had informed me. What . The next two days passed very peace-

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