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OUR STRANGE GUEST.

BY WILLIAM McDONELL. [Author of 'Exter Hall, &c., &c.']. CHAPTER I. Sunday, December 24th, 1875—Christmas Eve. This has been a stormy week, snowing and blowing almost every day.

The church bells are ringing a cheering peal to many—yet the sound in the distance comes to me like a deep, melancholy wail. The faint tinkle of sleigh bells is singularly cheerless, yet many persons are no doubt happy while driving to church beneath the dismal sky, which now makes the steeples of Portville look far away, though that village is little more than a mile distant.

my mother's idol and Anna Strong's betrothed, came in just after tea, dressed in his uniform as sergeant of a company of Canadian volunteers, to tell my father that he had just received a letter from my brother, Thomas, in Rochester, which stated that he had been drafted for service in the Federal army, and that unless he could very soon procure a substitute, or pay about a thousand dollars—this was I think the amount—he would be sent away and have to serve in the army during the war with the South. Nearly three years previous to this my brother Thomas had settled down in Rochester and got married there. He was clerk or assistant in a drug store, and had but lately lost his wife and his only child. We had, of course, greatly sympathized with him in his affliction, but when this fresh and unexpected news came it caused the most painful anxiety to us all. What was to be done? There was but little time to lose. It was entirely out of my father's power to send the required amount. Our little farm, if hurriedly sold, would scarcely bring more than fifteen or sixteen hundred dollars, and to sell it, or mortgage it—which might be worse—would in all probability soon leave us homeless. My father was greatly troubled; tears streamed down my mother's cheeks, and we all felt in the most unhappy condition. John alone appeared to think the matter of little consequence; in fact he tried to make us believe that he was pleased with the news. He took delight in military exercises and had joined the village volunteer company, and as this was to be a drill night, he was preparing to go out with his rifle when the unwelcome letter was handed to him. He read it again, and then I noticed that for a few moments his lips were compressed. Then he read it aloud to us, affecting indifference as to its purport, and when he saw our startled faces and the sudden grief it brought my mother, he seized her hands and in a laughing manner told her it was just the kind of message he wanted. "Goodness gracious!" he cried, stepping out before us in a comical attitude, "what does it all amount to?—nothing. This kind of thing happens every day now, and is in fact only what we might have expected. We are no worse off than many others. Either Tom or I must go or the money must be paid, that's all there's of it; and to be plain, I said he, striking his open palm with his fist, "I wouldn't pay half or even quarter of the money to get clear of the matter. You know that Tom is not as rugged as I am, he is six or seven years older than I, and he has had lots of trouble already, while I have had none. They will, I think, prefer me. I was to see something of the world instead of being kept here forever in this backward place. Besides, you all must believe that this war is nearly over. The Southern, they say, are making their last spurge: to be sure they have kept up the contest a little longer than was expected; but you'll find it will be over soon, and perhaps if I don't hurry up, I'll be altogether too late: so Christmas and all as it is, I shall be off in the morning."

How particularly animated my good-natured, generous and loving brother looked as he thus addressed us! There he stood, a noble fellow in full health and vigor, manly and handsome in appearance. His military red coat with blue facings, his belts and straps and bright brass buckles, his well cared for rifle close by, and his sword bayonet by his side—everything so trim—all gave him the smart soldierly bearing of a "regular." I was proud of him at the moment; any good woman might have looked at him with pleasure, and to another pair of eyes, which just now made their appearance, he was particularly attractive. Anna Strong entered the room just as he had finished speaking. Her smile was first directed to him, and then her cheerful look seemed to bring brightness into the apartment. She had just come to remain and spend Christmas with us. She hesitated a little when she noticed our serious faces: even John's face became grave for an instant when he saw her enter; but I ran forward to bid her welcome. My mother left us for a few moments to allow her emotion, and then John, following me, tried to anticipate any unpleasant explanation of ours by telling Anna about the letter he had received, and apparently with the greatest unconcern, making the circumstance of little or no importance.

Anna Strong was considered one of the most clear-headed and intelligent girls in the neighborhood. She and John and I had been schoolfellows. He and she had been, as it is called, "keeping company," for some time, and this resulted in the most tender attachment for each other. Anna as well as my brother seemed to be everybody's favorite; but no other person could value her as he did. Even when the matter was explained by him as being one of

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so little consequence, she suddenly grew faint and almost dropped into a chair. In a moment he was at her side. Her handsome face became almost blanchy so quickly. I never before heard such a faint, pitiful sigh. I never saw lips quiver so with mental emotion, and then she muttered scarcely louder than a whisper, "My dream, my last night's dreadful dream."

John's lips were compressed again—this was his peculiar symptom when in trouble or great agitation of mind—and now he was evidently suffering from an emotion which he tried to conceal. Poor fellow! I knew his distress was great at the moment, though it was a struggle for him not only to appear calm, but to seem surprised at the deep concern which we all manifested. "What's all this for?" cried he, endeavoring to infuse a symptom of annoyance into his words. "Anna, I expected more sense from you, but really, you act like a child."

In spite of his attempt to reproach, there was a tenderness in his accent which touched her—it touched us all—she opened her eyes and tried to smile. The effort, faint as it was, only caused a tear to fall on her cheek; it dropped on his hand which lay on her shoulder, and, as quickly as he saw this fresh evidence of her affectionate heart, he turned from her and looked appealingly at me, and then I saw that his own eyes, like mine, were filled with tears. He hurriedly left the room, but soon returned, followed by my mother. He had resumed his apparent unconcern and came in smilingly. "Now," said he, turning towards where Anna was sitting, "this is Christmas time, when, according to the good old custom, all should be joyful. Let us have a merry night of it. What's the use in borrowing trouble. Let us tell stories, sing songs, and have a dance if you like—yes, we must have a dance. You can play, pointing to me, "Anna can play, and when you get tired of the piano, I can follow up and scrape a tune or two on the violin. That's it," said he snapping his fingers gleefully, "let us have a dance and don't bother yourself about dreams or predictions, everything will be all right."

"But my dear," said my mother, "if you are determined to leave us early tomorrow you should go to bed and have a good night's rest."

Of Getting the Embargo on Cattle Removed. SO NOW CANADA'S GOVERNMENT Will Deal with the United States—Our Appeal Held Well in Bristol, Eng.—Mor Choleza in Essex—Political Charges Against a Postmaster—News From Ottawa.

Ottawa, Dec. 14.—(Special)—The Government has given up all hopes of securing the removal of the embargo on Canadian cattle entering Britain, and now proposes an entirely different move. Hon. Sydney A. Fisher, Minister of Agriculture, will open negotiations at Washington this week with the Secretary of Agriculture in Cleveland's Government for the removal of all quarantine restrictions on cattle passing between the two countries. Hitherto cattle passing through Canada from the United States for shipment to the Old Country have had to undergo quarantine, but a change is on the tapis. Americans have on their side shown their good-will by allowing Canadian cattle leaving Boston and Portland to go through without examination. As regards American cattle coming into Canada and Canadian cattle crossing the boundary to the American States, it is thought that the ninety days quarantine is much more than is needed. Another subject which may be discussed is the recognition of Canadian stock in the recognition of the United States.

Mr. White, Gladstonian M.P. for Forfarshire, Scotland, has resigned his seat in the House of Commons. Capt. Sinclear, secretary to the Government, and who formerly represented the Imperial House, has been tendered the Liberal nomination for Forfarshire, and accepts will undoubtedly be elected, as he is a well-known name in the district. Several messages from England went to Winnipeg to-day asking Capt. Sinclear to accept the nomination. The Imperial House in official circles here is that Capt. Sinclear will not accept it. It does he will be greatly disappointed, and has rendered himself almost indispensable at state functions. The Canadian Bank of Montreal closed the 10th inst., a total of 512 vessels having passed through the lock from May to December. The total tonnage of the vessels was 4,395,156, and the tonnage of the freight carried through the lock 4,571,397.

Mr. Ernest Kemp, oyster expert for the Fisheries Department, returned to Ottawa to-day after completing his season's work in the western part of the province. Kemp has been engaged in the past seasons. Mr. Kemp has arranged for new beds to be planted next season in the western part of the province. Down, commercial agent for Canada in Bristol, states that Canadian supplies have been made, which have arrived in good condition. The requirements of the market, and in this way receive good returns. All cattle shipped to Canada to-day are in good condition. The timber trade between Canadian ports and Bristol is looking up, and Mr. Down states that large quantities of timber might be made to market. Speaking of the poultry trade, he says that Bristol is a "hot market," but that the requirements according to instructions issued by the Government some time ago.

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Windsor, Dec. 12.—Hog cholera does not appear to be alating in Essex county, and three more townships, Sandwich, East, West and South, have been quarantined. In these townships no hogs may be slaughtered, and no hogs may be taken to market. A person making this declaration is liable to a fine of \$100. Rheumatism Cured in a Day. South American Rheumatism Cure, for Rheumatism and Neuralgia, radically cures in 1 to 3 days. Its action upon the system is remarkable. The system is removed at once the cause and the disease immediately disappears. The first dose greatly benefits. 75 cents. Sold by A. Higinbotham.

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DR. BURROWS, graduate of McGill College, 1896. Office hours 10 to 10 a.m., noon, 4 to 6 p.m. Telephone connection, Lindsay, July 16, 1892.—15-17.

DR. SIMPSON, PHYSICIAN, Graduate of Trinity University, Toronto, Member of College of Physicians and Surgeons, Ontario, OFFICE: Corner of Russell and Lindsay-sts., June 18th, 1895.

DR. WHITE, Graduate of Trinity University, Medical Faculty also Graduate of Trinity University, Toronto, and member of College of Physicians and Surgeons, Ontario, OFFICE: Corner of Russell and Lindsay-sts., June 18th, 1895.

DR. JEFFERS, Office hours: 10 to 12 a.m., 2 to 4 p.m., 7 to 8 Evening. 23 Wellington-st. Telephone 43

DR. C. N. LAURIE, Graduate of Trinity University, Fellow of Trinity Medical College; Member of College of Physicians and Surgeons, Ontario, Office—Medical Hall, Cobourg, Ont.

DR. G. S. RYEBSON, OCUKIST and AURIST, COLLEGE-ST., TORONTO. Lindsay, Aug. 4, 1895.—62-15.

DR. SIMPSON, PHYSICIAN, Graduate of Trinity University, Toronto, Member of College of Physicians and Surgeons, Ontario; Late Physician to Rockwood Asylum, Lindsay, Ontario, and to the Lindsay District, York and residence, Russell at, second door west of York-st., Office hours, 9 to 12 a.m., 2 to 5 p.m., and 7 to 8 p.m. Lindsay, April 8, 1891.—84-15.

W. R. McPHER, Clerk of the Municipality of Lindsay, Ontario, Office: 100-102-104-106-108-110-112-114-116-118-120-122-124-126-128-130-132-134-136-138-140-142-144-146-148-150-152-154-156-158-160-162-164-166-168-170-172-174-176-178-180-182-184-186-188-190-192-194-196-198-200-202-204-206-208-210-212-214-216-218-220-222-224-226-228-230-232-234-236-238-240-242-244-246-248-250-252-254-256-258-260-262-264-266-268-270-272-274-276-278-280-282-284-286-288-290-292-294-296-298-300-302-304-306-308-310-312-314-316-318-320-322-324-326-328-330-332-334-336-338-340-342-344-346-348-350-352-354-356-358-360-362-364-366-368-370-372-374-376-378-380-382-384-386-388-390-392-394-396-398-400-402-404-406-408-410-412-414-416-418-420-422-424-426-428-430-432-434-436-438-440-442-444-446-448-450-452-454-456-458-460-462-464-466-468-470-472-474-476-478-480-482-484-486-488-490-492-494-496-498-500-502-504-506-508-510-512-514-516-518-520-522-524-526-528-530-532-534-536-538-540-542-544-546-548-550-552-554-556-558-560-562-564-566-568-570-572-574-576-578-580-582-584-586-588-590-592-594-596-598-600-602-604-606-608-610-612-614-616-618-620-622-624-626-628-630-632-634-636-638-640-642-644-646-648-650-652-654-656-658-660-662-664-666-668-670-672-674-676-678-680-682-684-686-688-690-692-694-696-698-700-702-704-706-708-710-712-714-716-718-720-722-724-726-728-730-732-734-736-738-740-742-744-746-748-750-752-754-756-758-760-762-764-766-768-770-772-774-776-778-780-782-784-786-788-790-792-794-796-798-800-802-804-806-808-810-812-814-816-818-820-822-824-826-828-830-832-834-836-838-840-842-844-846-848-850-852-854-856-858-860-862-864-866-868-870-872-874-876-878-880-882-884-886-888-890-892-894-896-898-900-902-904-906-908-910-912-914-916-918-920-922-924-926-928-930-932-934-936-938-940-942-944-946-948-950-952-954-956-958-960-962-964-966-968-970-972-974-976-978-980-982-984-986-988-990-992-994-996-998-1000.