

For the Boys and Girls

A MUSICAL EVENING WITH WOLVES

BY DAVID KER.

Sandy, you're not thinking of going home through the woods at this time of night? Here, Jack—Harry! Come here, some of you, that keep this madman from committing suicide?"

"You must think of it, Sandy; you'd just end by being smothered in a snowdrift, or gobblled up by a wolf. Besides, there's no sense in going out into a cold, dark night, when you may just as well stay here."

"Come, how old fellow, be advised by your friends for once. We have a shake-down all ready for you, and you can start home to-morrow as early as you like."

"Really, Mr. McLeod, you ought not to leave us like this," added a sweet, girlish voice. "My brother's 'Tearing through bushes, leaping over logs, crashing into half-frozen drifts, bringing huge ice-blocks rattling down from the frozen boughs overhead, he flew like a madman; but closer, and closer behind him came the pursuing hounds, and the sharp, white fangs, and the gaunt figures, and the hungry gleam of yellow, murderous eyes."

Sandy knew that he could not be far from home now, but how much longer would he be able to keep up this headlong race with death? On again; but all seemed vague and confused as a nightmare, till he found himself clinging with the grasp of desperation, to the boughs of a pine that stood alone upon the edge of the clearing which encircled his own village, with the wolves snarling around the foot of it.

"We'll never give the add'ly young lady, reprovingly.

"Weel, isn't that a man should however, the stout-hearted Scot, d—d? There's a word among us in man did not lose courage. He at Scotland. 'Id that winner of the five fids into the deep sea,' as one might be to say that, in their frao' a (one) danger, ye may go into another. I ken (knew) a manance."

Next Randolph they call him—as bold and clever a fisherman as ever spread a sail.

Wendy's wife dreamed that he was drowned, and she darkened at the window (window), and taunted him it was yet dark when it was fair day, that he might be going to him."

"Weel, the boatie he should have salled in was lost, and wad pleased

was the wife that she had kept her man frae gaeng wi' her, but when she got home, puril Neil had fa'en wi' his feie in the muckle tub, and rowned him that way!"

Fortified with this impressive example of the awful consequences of "skinking," Sandy tamely led ear to all remonstrances and finally cut them short by wringing his well-pow'd plaid around him and singing, "Ye loons! but if I had ken'd that ye likit the pipes sae weel, I wad ha' given ye your music before supper."

Finding him unanswerable, his entertainers compromised the matter by forcing upon him a large pocket of the good things from the upper table, reminding him that he had a long way to go, and might be hungry again before he got home.

Sandy accepted the provisions with a few brief words of thanks, and stuffed them in to his wallet, cracking his bonnet's clasp, and strode out into the darkness, whistling "McPherson's Rant" with an air of stern resolution that could not be mistaken.

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To march alone through a blustery forest, in the depth of winter, to do so dead of night in a hard frost, with one storm just over, and another just coming on, and over all above all this, a very good chance of falling in with an excursion-party of lively wolves, on the lookout for their supper, is a thing which few men would care to try.

Luckily for poor old Sandy, the furious wind which had just spent itself had swept the clearing tolerably bare of snow, otherwise his journey might have ended almost as soon as it began. But as he plunged deeper and deeper into the wood, the drifts grew larger and higher, and the old pines, hard as he was, had enough to do to get along at all. Every step buried him almost knee-deep in the noiseless white sea around, and more than once he was "in up to the very shoulders."

How gloomy and dreary it looked, that cold, dark forest, after the bright fire and merry company that he had just left! For a moment, he had yielded to the entreaties of his friends, and stayed where he was; but he choked down the thought as being unworthy of "the bluid o' the McLeods," and struggled manfully on.



caused by Fijians on their arrival at the Fiji Islands on their way to Australia.

They were greeted with great ceremony by the native chieftains. Natives of high rank are shown preparing the sacred Yaqona drink for the royal visitors.

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