Night and Morning.

Book III.

(Continued.)

CHAPTER XIV.

So, as she tripped gaily and lightly along the thoroughfares, the children would draw aside from her path and whisper, with superstitious fear mingled with contempt,—"It's the idiot girl!"—"Idiot!"—how much more of heaven's light was there in that cloud than in the rush-lights that, flickering in sordid chambers, shed on dull things the delusive estimating themselves as stars!

Months—years passed—Fanny was thirteen, when there dawned a new era to her existence. Mrs. Boxer had never got over her first grudge to Fanny. Her treatment of the poor girl was always harsh, and sometimes cruel. But Fanny did not complain; and as Mrs. Boxer's manner to her before Simon was invariably cringing and caressing, the old man never guessed the hardship his supposed grandchild underwent. There had been scandal some years back in the suburb about the relative connection of the master and the housekeeper; and the haunting dress of the latter, something bold in her regard, and certain whispers that her youth had not been vowed to Vesta, confirmed the suspicion. The only reason why we feel sure that the rumour was false is this,—Simon Gawtrey had been so hard on the early follies of his son! Certainly, at all events, the woman had exercised great influence over the miser before the arrival of Fanny, and she had done much to steel his selfishness against the ill-fated William. And, as certainly, she had fully calculated on succeeding to the savings, whatever they might be, of the miser, whenever Providence should be pleased to terminate his days. She knew (as Simon had, many years back, made his will in her favour; she knew that he had not altered that will; she believed, therefore, that in spite of all his love for Fanny, he loved his gold so much more, that he could not accustom himself to the thought of bequeathing it to hands out of reach of her piers to guard the treasure. This had in some measure reconciled the housekeeper to the intruder; whom, nevertheless, she hated as a dog hates another dog, not only for taking his bone, but for looking at it.

But suddenly Simon fell ill. His age made it probable he would die. He took to his bed—his bre thing grew fainter and fainter—he seemed dead. Fanny, all unconscious, sat by his bedside as usual, scarcely breathing lest she waken him. Mrs. Boxer flew to the bureau—she unlocked it—she could not find the will; but she found three other, and very good guineas; the sight charmed her. She tumbled them from on the distained green cloth of the bureau—she began to count them; and at that moment the old man, as if there were a secret magnetism between himself and the guineas, woke from his trance. His dim eyes saw him the pain that might have been fatal, of seeing the unusual profanation; but he heard the chink of the metal. The very sound restored his strength. But the miser are always cunning—he breathed not a suspicion. "Mrs. Boxer," said he, faintly, "I think I could take some broth." Mrs. Boxer rose in great dismay, gently reclosed the bureau, and ran down stairs for the broth. Simon took the occasion to question Fanny; and no sooner had he learnt the operation of the heir-expectant, than he bade the girl first lock the bureau and bring him the key, and next run to a lawyer (whose address he gave her), and fetch him instantly.

With a malignant smile the old man took the broth from his hand-maid,—poor Boxer, you are a disinterested creature," said he, feebly; "I think you will grieve when I go."

Mrs. Boxer sobbed; and before she had recovered, the lawyer entered. That day a new will was made; and the lawyer politely informed Mrs. Boxer that her services would be dispensed with the next morning, when he should bring a nurse to the house. Mrs. Boxer heard, and took her resolution. As soon as Simon again fell asleep, she crept into the room—led away Fanny—locked her up in her own chamber—returned—searched for the key of the bureau, which she found at last under Simon's pillow—possessed herself of all she could lay her hands on—and the next morning she had disappeared forever! Simon's loss was greater than might have been supposed; for, except a trifling sum in the Savings' Bank, he, like many other misers, kept all he had, in notes or specie, under his own lock and key. His whole fortune, indeed, was far less than was supposed; for money does not make money unless it is put out at interest,—and the miser cheated himself. Such portion as was in bank notes Mrs. Boxer probably had the prudence to destroy; for those numbers which Simon could remember were never traced; the gold, who could swear to? Except the pittance in the savings' bank, and whatever might be the paltry worth of the house he rented, the father who had enriched the menial to exile the son, was a beggar in his dotage. The news, however, was carefully concealed from him by the advice of the doctor, whom, on his own responsibility, the lawyer introduced, till he had recovered sufficiently to bear the shock without danger; and the delay naturally favoured Mrs. Boxer's escape.

Simon remained for some moments perfectly stunned and speechless; when the news was broken to him. Fanny, in alarm at his increasing paleness, sprang to his breast. He pushed her away—"Go—go—go, child," he said; "I can't feed you now. Leave me to starve."

"To starve!" said Fanny, wonderingly; and she stole away, and sat herself down as if in deep thought. She then crept up to the lawyer as he was about to leave the room, after exhausting his stock of commonplace consolation; and putting her hand in his, whispered, "I want to talk to you—this way!"—She led him through the passage into the open air. "Tell me," she said, "when poor people try not to starve, don't they work?"

"My dear, yes."

"For rich people buy poor people's work?"

"Very well. Mrs. Boxer used to sell my work. Fanny will feed grandpapa! Go and tell him never to say 'starve' again."

The good-natured lawyer was moved,—"Can you work, indeed, my poor girl? Well, put on your bonnet, and come and talk to my wife."

And *that* was the new era in Fanny's existence! Her schooling was stopped. But now life schooled her. Necessity ripened her intellect. And many an eye moistened,—as seeing her glide with her little basket of fancy work along the streets, still murmuring her happy and bird-like snatches of unconnected song—men and children alike said with respect, in which there was *now* no contempt, "It's the idiot girl who supports her blind grandfather!"

They called her idiot still!

To be Continued.

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Ottawa, July 29, 1875 3905-tf

DEPARTMENT OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE

Sealed Tenders will be received by the undersigned until noon of the 29th day of February next, for the manufacture of the following articles, viz:—

1,000 Tent poles,
100 Mallets, Marquee, large,
1,200 do Tent, small,
5,000 Tent pins, Marquee, large,
1,500 do do medium,
75,000 do Tent, small,
200 Handspikes, 6 feet,
100 do 7 do

The tent poles are to be of the best Red Pine. Mallets of Hickory or Oak. Tent pins of Hickory, Oak or Hard Maple. Handspikes of Hickory.

Samples of any of the above articles may be seen on application to the Militia Storekeepers at Toronto, Ottawa, Montreal or Quebec at either of which places delivery must be made after inspection on or before the 1st June next.

"Tenders for Camp Equipment" to be written on the upper left hand corner of the envelope containing the tender.

The lowest, or any tender not necessarily accepted.

THOS. WILY, Lt-Col.,
Director of Stores, &c.

Store Branch,
Ottawa, Jan. 28, 1876. 405816

INSOLVENT ACT OF 1875.

In the matter of the JOSEPH HALL MANUFACTURING COMPANY, Insolvent.

A Meeting of the Creditors of the above insolvent Estate, will be held at the office of the undersigned, at the Town of OSHAWA, on WEDNESDAY, the SIXTEENTH day of FEBRUARY instant, 1876 for the purpose of confirming a certain offer made for the purchase of the Insolvent Estate en bloc and also for the purpose of transacting any other business which may be legibly transacted at such meeting.

W. F. COWAN,
Assignee.

Dated at Oshawa, this
28th day of January, 1876. 4062kf

INSOLVENT ACT OF 1875.

In the matter of JOHN ERSKINE and EDWARD H. THURSTON, Boot and Shoe Manufacturers, Ottawa City County of Carleton, Insolvents.

A Writ of Attachment has issued in this cause, and the Creditors are notified to meet at my office, No. 30 Rideau street, Ottawa City, County of Carleton, on FRIDAY, the ELEVENTH day of FEBRUARY next, at the hour of Ten o'clock A.M., to receive statements of their affairs, and to appoint an Assignee if they see fit.

WILLIAM FINDLAND,
Official Assignee.

Ottawa, 13th January, 1876. 4061-kd

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FROM PORTLAND.

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Special Reduction in Rates of Passage during Winter Months from Montreal:—

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According to accomodation.

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Rates of Passage from Portland:—

Cabin	60
Intermediate	40
Steerage	28

☞ An experienced Surgeon carried on each vessel. Berths not secured until paid for.

Corkage will be charged at the rate of 2c per bottle to Cabin Passengers supplying their own Wines or Liquors.

GEO. THOMPSON,
Agents, 48 Sparks-st.

Ottawa, Jan. 20, 1876 4049

POST OFFICE OTTAWA.

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☞ All Mails are closed by Montreal time 3 minutes faster than Ottawa time.

WINTER ARRANGEMENT 1875.

Mails Arrive.	Mails Close.
10.00 a.m.	4.00 p.m.
10.00 a.m.	7.30 p.m.
10.00 a.m.	7.30 p.m.
10.00 a.m.	7.30 p.m.
10.00 a.m.	4.00 p.m.
10.00 a.m.	4.00 p.m.
10.00 a.m.	4.00