BATTLE WON. THE

CHAPTER V.

THE FIRST STEPS.

Nessa awoke suddenly. In the confusion of ideas and impressions at that moment, she was conscious of a shapeless dream, of a brusque movement, of a light dazzling her eyes, and of a voice murmaring unintelligibly in her ear. Then, as her intelligence awakened, she perceived that she was crouching on the floor beside a bed, that the dazzling light was nothing more than a chamber candle, and that somebody was supporting her, whom she presently recognised as Mrs. Redmond.

"What is it ? Where am I?" she gasped

"It's all right, dear. You are in your own room. See, this is your bed. Don't be frightened! You're awake now, aren't you ? You know who I am!"

Nessa rose to her feet, and, still dazed, looked about her. She recognised the deep dormer windows-the leaded panes of the casement she had put open, on which the ight of the moon was now reflected. It was Mrs. Redmond by her side, with the long plait of shining yellow hair falling over her shoulders on the crimson dressing gown.

"When did I come here-I don't under-stand ?" she said.

"Why, you came here last evening. Oh, dear, what a fright you have given me !" Mrs. Redmond sank down on the side of the bed, putting her hand on her heart. The candle on the floor, where Mrs. Redmond had set it, flared in the current of night air from the open window.

"What have I been doing ?" asked Nessa, now wide awake.

"You have been walking in your sleep that's all ; but you scared me out my wits,' "Walking in my sleep !" Nessa repeated incredulously.

"Yes, dear-you were halfway down the great stairs. When I heard the stairs creak, I thought it must be my husband come home. Oh, you can't tell what a turn it gave me when I caught sight of you there in your white nightdress ! I knew you must be asleep by the way in which you felt the wall as you went along. But I managed to keepmyself-possession, knowing how danger-ous it is to wake people suddenly when they are like that. Your eyes were quite closed when I came to your side, and you suffered men I came to your side, and you suffered me to lead you gently back to your room tike a little child. But in attempting to lift you into bed I woke you; and the moment your eyes opened your strength seemed to go, and you fell down. Don't you remember?"

"I don't remember anything ! exclaimed Nessa-"not anything. Oh, I am so sorry frightened you.

"Don't say a word about that. I am only too happy to have heard you. Heaven only knows what might have happened in a horrid old den like this if I had not discovered you. There's a door somewhere that opens into the tower, where the floor has rotted away. If you had gone through there nothing could have saved you, you must have been killed. Get into bed, dear."

Nessa obeyed, quite overcome with aston ishment at what she had heard.

"Is it late ? " she asked.

Mrs. Redmond, looking at the watch on the table as she picked up the light, told her it was half-past twelve, and then offered to stay with her ; but Nessa would not listen to this. Such a thing had never happened to her before, and she was sure it never would again. So, after a little half-hearted persisagain. 50, after a fittle narrow receiver the seeming tence on Mrs. Redmond's part—she seeming much more terrified than Nessa—they said "good-night" with an exchange of kisses, and Mrs. Redmond went down to her bedroom on the floor below.

Redmond was waiting there in the dark his hands in his pockets thumbing a piece of paper into pellets, in anxious suspense. He raised his eyebrows interrogatively as his wife entered with her finger raised; she replied with a nod signifying that the prepared scene had been acted satisfactorily.

"She was lying on the edge of the bed," whispered Mrs. Redmond after closing the door carefully. "I pushed her down to the loor and when she woke up staring about her like a fool, I made her believe I had found her half way down stairs walking in her sleep. Remember that it won't do to tell two stories. "I won't forget" muttered Redmond approvingly.'

sion for Mr. and Mrs. Redmond without hurting that poor lady's feelings. With these charitable intentionsshe occu-

pied her thoughts while she dressed, and that took no time. Then she began to explore the house, admiring the wonderful old furniture, and the pictures on the noble staircase, which looked all the finer for the dim light percolating through the ivy-screened windows. Going no further than the threshold of the very dark rooms, from a fear of rats and rotten floors, and shrink-ing back with a shiver from the black soil on the other side of the heavy iron-bound door on the landing, which undoubtedly must be the floorless tower that Mrs. Red-

mond had spoken about in the night, she went down through the old hall, with its trophies of antlers and armour, pausing be-fore the modern sword and plumed hat hung etween tiger's skins with the proud conception that her, father had worn that hat and earried that sword into battle and then she passed out through the open door into the open air.

How fresh and sweet and bracing the morning breeze seemed after the musty smell of those dark old rooms! She got her feet wet in the rank grass crossing to have a full view of the house. It was a grandold building—that it was. No wonder she exulted in the knowledge that it belong-ed to her ; that she would be sole mistress there in a few years, with the possession of all the grounds about, with their magnificent She spent a good ten minutes trying acres. to settle how she would have the buildings and grounds arranged so that their character might be retained, at the same time that they would be a cheerful residence for her-self, where she might invite all her school friends to come, and Tinkleton, and old Mrs. Vic as well. Her bosom swelled with the most delicious plans of entertaining every

one she knew in the most magnificent style -always, of course, without pretentious ostentation on her own part. And then she ran in to write to all those friends and tell them all about it, feeling, as she ran, that it was good to live. Heaven knows how many letters she had

written when Mrs. Redmond came down-and then there was a still a forgotten postscript to put in one of them. It was nearly eleven o'clock, and she had been writing all the time; but she was not a bit fatigued, and could have found twice as much to say. Mrs. Redmond was astonished to find her so fresh and bright after what had happened in the night. She was disposed to regard it as a very serious matter. Nessa laughed at it

"You must lock me up, and then I shan't frighten you any more," she said.

But Mrs. Redmond would not treat the affair lightly. She knew so many instances —mostly drawn from works of fiction—in which sleep walking had led to fatal consequences; and gave them in such lengthy detail that it seemed she could think of nothing else. Nessa would have given any-thing for a slice of bread and butter. "Is Mr. Redmond coming down to break-

fast?" she asked, on the first opportunity, by way of changing the subject. "My dear, I haven't seen him since we met in the park yesterday," Mrs. Redmond "When replied, with the utmost coolness.

And knowing what he has to expect from us, it's very likely that he won't show his to Nesa's hearty satisfaction, but turning, osten she asked, ' Did you ever see the opera of Somnambula, dear ?"

about Lady Macbeth, and nobody knows who else

But Mrs. Redmond's solicitude took a new channel when the girl brought in the tea

ting fit to bust," and attributed her disorder to "the boil."

that he had to lay down the letter he wa trying to enclose.

Mrs. Redmond turned from him in silence with a contemptuous jerk of her head. When she looked in the glass to see if her hair was all right, she caught a glimpse of him wiping the perspiration from his livid face with a handkerchief.

"Remember," she said, going back to him, "there's no shufiling out of this. It's your only escape from the gaol and the workhouse. If you're not here when the time comes, I'll take the girl away and set the lawyers to work

CHAPTFR VI. AT HER MERCY.

Nessa enjoyed the drive to Lullingford in tensely. The rapid movement, the fresh air, the beauty of the sky, and trees with their undergrowth of golden brake and red dening bramble, together with a sense of freedom and nascent power, intoxicated her. Her exuberant gaiety and young en-thusiasm made her the most delightful companion in the world, even to Mrs. Redmond who detested the country, and saw nothing but horrid toadstools and scraggy wild flowers in the coloured fungus and stray hairbells that drew exclamations of delight from the girl.

Mrs. Redmond allowed her to take the reins and whip while she changed her gloves as they neared the little town. That was supreme joy-a foretaste of that delightful future when she would have such an equipage, but with two ponies, and all to her self

They left the chaise at the hotel, where Mrs. Redmond ordered lunch to be prepared, and went through the High Street, and here Nessa had a glorious quarter of an hour before some drapery and millinery stores. Long ago she had successfully rebelled against walking out in procession with the young ladies of Eagle House, and obtained the privilege of going out with Miss Tinkle-ton alone, but that was a tame affair indeed in comparison with shop-gazing in the com-pany of a woman of the world with expensive tastes, like Mrs. Redmond. Poor old Tinkleton's taste was all for for prints that would wash and stuffs that would turn, and she could look at nothing that was not marked, a bargain at some thing three farthings, whereas Mrs. Red-mond had an eye for colour and effect, and fixed her critical choice upon the most de-lightfully delicate and ephemeral fabrics with a reckless regard to cost.

She laughed at Nessa's old-fashioned notions, and the girl, only too anxious to learn what was "correct" in this new world to which she was born, took the rebuke gratefully, and liked her friend all the better for it. Nessa, impulsive, affectionate, and utterly ignorant of evil, saw nothing in her new friend to dislike, and a great deal that struck her inexperienced mind with admira-She clung to Mrs. Redmond's plump tion. arm, and in the fulness of her heart could ill conceal the warmth of her feelings. Mrs. Redmond was not dull to this silent homage; it was a long time since she had encountered any one so fresh and naive and bright. She really liked the girl-as much generally finds business to keep him away. quite regretted her approaching loss. Neverquite regretted her approaching loss. Never-theless she did not for one instant hesitate to ring the bell when they came to Dr face here for a week. We certainly will not Shaw's house at the bottom of the hill. By wait breakfast for him." She rang the bell, that time Nessa had entirely forgotten the Shaw's house at the bottom of the hill. By ostensible object of their drive to Lulling

They were shown into the consulting om. Presently the inner door opened, Nessa shook her head. "Oh dear, oh dear !" she said to herself. and Dr. Shaw came in—a meagre, elderly "Now she's got on to plays, I shall hear all man, with dark, penetrating eyes, deep-sunk about Lady Macbeth, and nobody knows under a broad white forehead. He bowed stiffly to Mrs. Redmond, and smiled on Nessa as he took his seat. People smiled on her as one does instinctively upon a

shows your head this morning, Emma?" she asked. The heavy, sallow-skinned young woman passed the back of her hand over her dull eyes, and replied that it was still "a-split-ting fit to bust," and attributed her disorder Emma's. He listened, his eyes resting on

Redmond. "Then you had better have some one to sleep in the same room for a few nights."

"I couldn't. I should never be able to most horrible wickedness !"

close my eyes for fear of something happening. And you cannot expect me to put a servant in the room who is probably sicken-ing for some horrid infectious complaint. Surely you can give something to produce sleep

The doctor reflected a moment. What was he to do with this obstinate fool of a woman? It was impossible to convince her that Nessa would be better without the use of drugs. If he refused to administer anyhe was perfectly sure that she would thing, go to the chemist and procure some poison-ous stuff, such as she herself was in the habit of taking-a concoction strong enough comply with the request, and practise a you to take." harmless deception. With this conclusion he rose, saying that possibly a mild sedative might have a good effect, and left the ladies Redmond pour ion a set of the request. few minutes.

"It will do you no harm to take this be-fore going to bed," he said, putting a bottle vrapped in white paper into Nessa's hand.

That was true enough; the bottle contained nothing but pure water tinctured with cochineal and disguised with poppermint.

Mrs. Redmond went away triumphant. But she was not simple enough to believe that she had overcome the doctor's scruples. When they returned to the Towers, and she was alone in her room, she took the bottle from her sealskin bag, in which she had put it "for safety," removed the paper carefully, and poured away the pink liquid. She re-filled the bottle from one of her own. The efficacy of that mixture in producing sleep she knew.

"Dr. Shaw is responsible for whatever happens now," she said to herself, as she wrapped the bottle in the paper she had taken it from.

They dined alone. Nessa tasted cham-pagne for the first time and liked it. It looked so pretty in the delicate glass held up to the light, with the string of bubbles rising from the bottom, and it was quite as nice to the taste aslemonade-nicer, in fact. She agreed with Mrs. Redmond that it was the only thing a lady ought to drink at dinner, and resolved that when the time came she would fill her cellars with Cliquot and the Boy and Moet, and all the wines her friend talked about so glibly, and learn the difference between them. They ingered over dessert, Nessa listening with avidity to Mrs. Redmond's airy gossip about London, and that wonderful society in which lords and dukes seemed to be as plentiful as heart could desire. Oh what a contrast between this life of delicious trifling and the ponderous routine of her late existence, when one scuttled away from the table the moment a meal was finished, with nothing better than instructive recreation to look forward The girl thought that a butterfly must to ! feel some such rich delight as hers in flitting aimlessly among bright flowers after its pain ful experiences as a caterpillar. It was getting dusk when Mrs. Redmond

rose from her chair and changed the subject. It was clear that Dr. Shaw would not come now. Emma had better go to bed ; she was certainly sickening for something, and there was nothing else for her to do. She went nothing loath, to her room. Upstairs, Mrs. Redmond found her husband, with a face

"Are you ready ?" she asked in a low tone, as she took up the sealskin bag.

He nodded in silence; and then, overcoming the difficulty of speaking, he falter-ed, "For God's sake, be quick! This is hell !"

She scanned the quaking coward from head to foot, and, seeing his irresolution, thought it advisable on quitting the room to turn the

key upon him. Downstairs she found Nessa sitting in the gloaming by the open window, and for the are based upon natural laws, which, when first time that day looking grave. Her mind seemed to have taken on the subdued tone their penalties. The eating of unripe fruit, of the trees and sky. Night was falling of putrid meat, and of poisonous matter are

where she's to fall from. We shall be back about four. You'd better keep out of our way till you're wanted." Redmond's hands trembled so violently Redmond's hands trembled so violently "But the excitement may not abate-the him to recover his losses I should like attack may be repeated," insisted Mrs. to, for I am sure that he would not wilfully insisted Mrs. | to, for I am sure that he would not wilfully do me any harm. I have wronged him. Oh, you don't know what dreadful things I thought he might be guilty of doing-the

"And pray what reason have you to change your opinion !"

"Why, surely a man who is afraid to face a schoolgirl cannot be capable of such desperate designs ?"

Mrs. Redmond made no response, but sat nursing her knee, and eyeing, sidelong, the girl who had fallen into a reveri

She hesitated about taking this final step. No ; that would not do.

With this reflection, Mrs. Redmond press-ed the fastening of her bag. It opened with a snap that aroused Nessa from her meditations.

"My dear, we were both going to sleep, I do believe," said Mrs. Redmond. to half kill a young girl unaccustomed to do believe," said Mrs. Redmond. "Get a the use of narcotics. The best way was to glass. Here's the mixture Dr. Shaw told

It had grown so dark that they had to light the lamp to find a clean glass. Mrs. Redmond poured out the drug, Nessa hold-ing the glass, laughing and protesting. When the b ttle was emptied, Nessa, with a wry face, lifted the glass to her lips, and drained off the syrup.

"But it's too early to go to bed yet," she said, setting down the empty glass. "Oh, yes. We will sit down and have a good long chat."

They sat down ; but soon Nessa found her friend's light gossip growing unaccountably inaudible, while an insurmountable drowsiness crept upon her senses. Mrs. Redmond watched her keenly, and chatted on until the girl's lids dropped.

"You had better go up to your room, dear.

Nessa roused herself with an effort, and in a state of stupor submitted to be guided upstairs. When they were in the httle bedoom she sat down on the bed, and, with a last effort of consciousness, threw her arms about her friend's neck and kissed her. Mrs. Redmond did not consider it necessary to return the kiss, for Nessa was already asleep and the next moment slipped sidelong heav-ily upon the bed. She stood over her in the dim light for some minutes. Then she raised the sleeping girl's arm and let it drop. It fell inert. She shook her. Nessa made no sign of consciousness. Mrs. Redmond went downstairs and un-

locked the door of her room. Her husband stoodagainst the window-his figure just visi ble in silhouette against the grey light.

Mrs. Redmond scratched a vesta and lit candle,

"Come on," she said, beckoning him from the door.

He followed her automatically up the stairs.

(TO BE CONTINUED)

A Plea for Cannibalism.

The word cannibal is associated in our minds with scenes of the most debased savagery that the imagination can picture; of men in habits and appearance a little lower than the brute; of orgies the result of the most degrading religious superstition. It is not until one has lived on terms of friendship with cannibals that one realizes that the practice is not incompatible with an intelli-gence and moral qualities which command respect. And after all, if one can for a moment lay aside the instinctive horror which the idea calls up, and dispassionately consider the nature of cannibalism, our repugnance to it seems less logically grounded.

It is true that it must generally entail murder, but that is certainly not the reason for our loathing of it. It is something deeper than this; and the distinction we draw between the flesh of men and of animals is at first sight a little curious. One can imagine the inhabitants of another planet, whose physical necessities did not force them to eat flesh—to take life in order to live-regarding us with much the same -kind of abhorrence with which we look on cannibals. Most of our natural instinct,

"Now as I've made a beginning we'll just settle clearly what's to be done next, and what part you are to play.⁴

Remond nodded, they sat down together and plotted the destruction of the young girl who slept over their heads.

Nessa awoke early the following morning, invigorated by her long sleep, and feeling not a pin the worse for what had happened in the night. It returned to her memory as she crossed the room to look out of the dormer window and then only aroused a pleasant self-interest. Most young persons feel flattered by the discovery that they are distinguished from the rest of young persons by some peculiarity. The sun shone brightly on the dark oaks; a grey veil of mist hung over the valley, making it look like a lake; an industrious spider was spinning his marvellous net in the casement; a drop of dew glittered like a jewel on a blade of grass springing out of the moss-covered parapet. These things were observed by the young girl as she stood by the open window, and gave her a new zest for life.

It was quite early-not even seven o'clock. She shrewdly guessed that Mrs. Redmond was not the kind of a woman who rises early, and would not be down to breakfast befor ten o'clock, or thereabouts; so she would have three hours for exploring the old house and looking about her. After all, she re flected, it was not so bad. She was free to do what she liked for the time. It was wonderfully romantic; and the prospect of a severe tussle with Mr. Redmond was rather cheerful than depressing. She did not bear much malice in her young heart. It was pretty clear he had misappropriated some money; but every one is liable to get into difficulties, and we have all faults to be forgiven. Very likely she and he would dislike each other at first; but if they both gave way, and showed forbearance, they might in the end settle down comfortably. In three years she would have more money than ever she could know what to do with, and she should not miss, and certainly would and she should not miss, and certainly would not begrudge, the sum necessary to put the old house in order, and make some provi- tain," she continued. "You can settle

Nessa accepted the invitation readily.

"I shall be ready in about half an hour," said Mrs. Redmond, when they rose from the table. "Have you any letters for the post?

"Yes ; all these."

"Give them to me, and I will put them in the bag, dear.'

Then there was some discussion about what they should wear, and Nessa ran up to her room to dress.

As soon as she was out of sight, Mrs. Redmond took the letters up to her room, where her husband was sitting in a dressing gown, with a bottle of whisky and a sporting paper for refreshment. She laid the letters side by side on the table with the flaps upward, soaked a handkerchief, and spread it carefully over them. Then she bagan to dress. Taking off the handkerchief ten minutes later, she found that the flaps yielded to the nsertion of a knife blade.

"Open them and read what she has been writing about," she said in a whisper to her husband.

Redmond, who had been watching the proceeding in silence, obeyed. "Does she talk about walking in hersleep?"

the woman asked. "Oh, yes; something about it in every one

of them.

by a nod. "No s deceived ?" "Not a word."

"That will all serve as evidence on our side there should be any question. Close the letters carefully, and send them to the post when we are gone. I'm going to take her over to Dr. Shaw. She must have something to take-a mixture of some kind."

She was standing beside Redmond, plaiting her hair, as he replaced the letters and cited as you were yesterday and the day be closed the envelopes. He nodded without fore," suggested Mrs. Redmond.

"It is nothing of the kind,' said Mrs. Redmond, decisively. "The doctor must see you. Tell Denis to get the chaise ready for me. I shall want it in an hour. I am sure that dreadful girl is sickening for some-king in the paper knife he toyed in his long fingers, but his thoughts were chiefly occupied with Nessa. Who was she? How had she fallen into the hands of Mrs. Redmond? What was the painted woman doing with this frack investigation of the second se sure that dreadful girl is succentric to the girl's friends about to let her associate searlet fever or smallpox. We will go over the girl's friends about to let her associate to Lullingford, and call upon Dr. Shaw, if won would like the drive. I have a perfect with an unwholesome woman ? He disliked Mrs. Redmond. He knew her and her vices, and wondered how any one else could her physical and moral unhealthifail to see her physical and moral unhealthi-ness through the palpable mask of paint

and dye and society manners.

"It's an ordinary bilious attack- noth-ing more," he said, looking up, his eyes resting first on Nessa, as Mrs. Redmond concluded her account of Emma's symptoms.

"I believe it is the beginning of fever. I must beg you to come and see her. If it s anything catching I must send her away to her friends at once.

"I am very much occupied. However, if you insist, I will do my best to call in the

course of the day." "Oh, thanks, awfully-thanks ! And now, doctor, I wish you to prescribe for this young lady," Mrs. Redmond said, laying her hand on Nessa's arm.

Dr. Shaw looked sharply at the girl, who seemed no less astonished than himself by this demand. He smiled, as Nessa's surprise

gave away to uncontrollable mirth. "There's nothing whatever to laugh at," said Mrs. Redmond. "It is not natural, and it is certainly dangerous for a young girl to walk in her sleep."

The doctor assented to this, and listened with serious attention to Mrs. Redmond's account of the afiair, while Nessa sat with

bent head, amused and vexed by turns. It Mrs. Redmond expressed her satisfaction was so ridiculous to make a fuss about such "No suspicion that she has been a triffe. She raised her head, and met the doctor's eyes, blushing as if she had com-

mitted a fault when he spoke to her. "You do not look a likely subject for nervous disorders of this kind," he said, kindly.

upon her

Mrs. Redmond sat down in the chair opposite, the bag in her lap. "Why, how awfully solemn you look !"

she exclaimed.

"I have been thinking," said Nessa ; and then, in a tone of interrogation, she added, Mr. Redmond has not come home ?

"No; surely that has nothing to do with

your gravity." "Yes, it has. I want to see him. I have something to say." Mrs. Redmond laughed.

"Of course you have, my dear ; so have I. He's perfectly aware of that, and keeps out of our way in consequence.

"But I want to apologise to him," said Nessa, quietly. "Apologise !" exclaimed Mrs. Redmond

with superb disdain. "I never apologised to any one in all my life !" "Not when you had to acknowledge your-

self in the wrong ?" "I never did have to acknowledge myself

in the wrong, my dear." "How nice !" said Nessa, naively, with a

sigh. "I'm always doing wrong, and find-ing it out just when it's too late to be undone.

"I should like to know what wrong you've done my precious husband." "I—I I have been thinking that I was

"Rude ! Well, when you find a man rob-bing you—" "But I'm not sure that he has robbed me.

It's just like me to jump at a conclusion. have no right to demand an account until I am twenty-one, and then he may be prepared to render

"If I tell you that he has spent every penny of the money entrusted to him for your maintenance; that he is hopelessly in debt; and is cutting down the timber to pay his current expenses; what then?"

"Then I am very sorry for him. He must have been very unfortunate to lose the money -he must have made some great mistake. I have made so many that I should be the

some of these. But no penalty in the shap of disease seems to be attached to canniba-

lism. What, then, are the motives that lead men apart from the pressure of famine, to practice cannibalism? Among certain African tribes and lately in Hayti, it has been the outcome of a debased religious superstition or that extraordinary instinct common to all races which leads men to connect the highest religious enthusiasm with the most horrible orgies that their diseased imagination can conceive. The feeling that leads members of sects to bind themselves together by the celebration of some unspeakable rite perhaps led to the accusations laid against the Christians of the second century and the Hun-garian Jews of the nineteenth. But in the South Seas, although the motive has been falsely attributed to a craving for animal food, it was generally the last act of triumph over a fallen enemy. Thus Homer makes Achilles, triumphing over the dying Hector, wish he could make mincemeat of his body and devour it. Triumph could go no further than to slay and then to assimilate the body of your foe and the belief that by thus making him a part of you you acquired his courage in battle is said to have led a chief of old Fiji to actually consume himself the entire body of the man he had killed by daily roasting what remained of it to pre-vent decomposition.—Blackwood Magaziwe.

The Marquis of Lorne has paid a graceful compliment to a deserving Canadian liter-ateur in having forwarded copies of Henry J. Morgan's recent interesting monograph on the Elgin period in Canadian history to the Queen and the Prince of Wales. It will the Queen and the rince of wales. It will be remembered that the article in question, which first appeared in the Ottawa *Citizen*, in addition to sketching the life of a pro-minent and estimable lady of the Queen's household, the late Hon. Mrs. Robert Bruce, gave some interesting details of her brotherin-law, Lord Elgin's, eventful political career in Canada and India. Lord Lorne was well in the rest of the second se