MOONLIGHT ESCAPADE.

CHAPTER I.

The August sun gliated through the golden hair of a young girl, who had uncovered and swinging her large shady hat in her hand, tripped gaily down the rocky but the room was a large one and the teapath leading from the heights to the valley

She sang as she went along, for she was a light-hearted lassie without a care. Young, rich, fancy-free, the darling of her parents, beloved by all who knew her, to say nothing of being the prettiest girl in the county, Effie Dering was a girl to be envied.

She danced down the narrow pathway till she came to the bottom of the wood, where a stream ran along over huge boulders. A narrow bridge crossed this, and then the path sloped upward again from it through a field close to the road. As Effic stepped on to the bridge, a girl at the other end drew back to let her pass, did so.

far from home this scorching day?" asked Effie. She had always a word and a smile for the villagers.

The girl addressed grew crimson and stammered out something about "a message for her grandmother," while Effie stared in astonishment at the effect of her careless question."

A greater contrast than that between the two girls could not be imagined, even taking into consideration the difference in their short. position and dress, for Patience was a peasant-girl. She was small, slight, and as dark as Effie was fair; but, as she stood novel to read and had talked enough. facing pretty Effie Dering, one would have described her as plain.

"Well, if you are going up on the heights, you will have a delightful walk," said Effie; won't you, Hector? Never mind about your regard to love and matrimony did not imand she ran on into the sunshine, leaving Patience to mount the hill in the shadow. There was another encounter for Effie as

she sprang over the stile into the road. Her father was walking slowly up the hill, engrossed in conversation with a strang-

"There you are, Effie! cried the former, I could send for my things?" as Effie, in indisputable proof of that fact, sprang into the road in front of him and stood rather shame-facedly, blushing at the thought of this feat having been witnessed by a stranger, but looking even prettier than usual, with her heightened colour, as she awaited the inevitable introduction.

"You don't remember me Effie?" said a voice that awoke lingering memories; and said. the girl looked up into a pair of brown eyes, bent admiringly upon her own blue ones,

and smiled. "You must be Hector Lyndhurst," she said holding out her hand; "but, you see it is five years since we met, so we have both grown out of recollection."

"You have, at any rate;" and he laughed. "You were quite a little girl when I went

away." "And now I am grown up," said Effie, jealously?" who was young enough still to wish to forget that she had ever been a little girl. "But I should have known you anywhere, Hector, when I heard your voice."

young man's tones that gave his voice a dreadfully jealous of each other." complete individuality. Indeed, his face tropical sun and contrasted strangely with down." curly fair locks and very white teeth.

pliment you intend it to be," said Hector; "you have changed completely in appearance. I should never have known you, had not Mr. Dering called you by your name." "Am I to take that as flattery?" asked

Effie saucily. "Now, no fishing, Miss Effie !" cried her her." father. "And run along, that's a good girl; Hector and I are talking business." | that she will promise to obey me?"

"Oh, our business will keep, surely, Mr. Dering !" said Hector, who would have in- days !" finitely preferred a tete-a-tete with the old comparative merits of two proteges of Mr. | to that.' Dering's who were candidates for the post of under-gamekeeper at Lyndhurst Park.

"I am sure it won't, Hector," said Effie mischievously. "I will relieve you of my know say quite the reverse." presence, daddy; and some day you will bring Hector to have tea with me in the the rule?" schoolroom, won't you? I am allowed jam ! on half-holidays, Hector; you had better mother."

pass, much to Hector's disappointment. It in love.' Smith as keeper was due more to the good fin de siecle as not to believe in love?" luck of the latter than to any merits Hector | "Not out of story books," she replied | ments. Do you know if the men have been | you that you hardly noticed me." discovered in him over his rival as far as frankly. "Of course, there it is a necessity; caught? Mr. Dering's opinion was concerned; for, but in real life-while the old gentleman was holding forth, his youthful hearer's thoughts were running upon a certain pair of blue eyes and a rosebud mouth that could not have belonged to before the world in general? No man will the keepers came up, the other three having

Effic's invitation, though given in jest, was accepted in earnest, though young would like any man to fall in love with me? the band, the other two made off also. Lyndharst did not dare hope for tete-a-tete I should think him a nuisance, and would When their pursuer saw that it was useless I ask you father if he would give you to any other part of India except Burmah. tea in the schoolroom. That was lucky, for | be sorry to have to refuse him. he was not disappointed at being shown | "Effie, you have not changed so much in | help his friend, and found the poor fellow into the morning-room, where Effie sat with character as in appearance; you are just as on the ground dead." her mother. The day was oppressively hot; original as ever. but the darkened room seemed deliciously "Please don't say that," she cried. cool, with its palms in every corner and "When people say that, they really mean water-lilies floating in great glass bowls on that one is disagreeable. We will change various tables. Effie, too, looked charming- the conversation. Look at my little Zoe ly fresh in a white cambric frock, with a coming out of her stable? Is she not a darl-

thusiasm. He had been a great favourite of head at the sound of her mistress's voice. hers when quite a boy, and she was glad to \"I hope she won't throw George off; she is welcome back a near neighbour. She was | very fresh." a most charming woman, and one could see | "She will unless he rides remarkably | Patience Yates when she is at home?" that Effie had inherited her good looks, well," said Hector drily, as the little mare though they might not last so long as her began to buck as she left the stable-yard. mother's. An uneventful well-cared for life | "Let us come and see her go down the her grandmother." and a placid temperament had kept Mrs. | avenue," said Effie. and though she was verging on fifty, she Effie became assured that the latter was cap- fence. looked many years younger. 'She had so able of sticking to the saddle; after which ate young man began to think that he would the tennis court.

monopolised Lyndhurst. ten created a diversion, and, as Effie took | Hector was very much out of practice. So.

ed thoroughly to enjoy the meal.

"I'm so sorry; do ring the bell-unless

these strawberries will do instead?" "You promised me something else," said Scotch firs in a large plantation on to the Hector; "you said we should have tea in

the schoolroom." He did not intentionally lower his voice; table in a bay window, so he and Effie were for the moment as much alone as if his dream of a tete-a-tete had been realised.

The girl blushed vividly, then laughed. "You see I was very good to-day, so I am let in here as a treat. There—that cup is for mother, with no sugar; I think you used to take three lumps-or was it four?"

"I forgot what I used to take when last you poured out tea for me; but now I take the same amount as Mrs. Dering."

"I am glad of that," said Effic quietly. "I hate a man who takes sugar in his tea." "Why what is it the sign of?"

intellect, I think !"

blushing and smiling a recognition as she fellows about, then," said Hector, laughing, ing his wife. That conversation in the and taking Mrs. Dering's tea to her, with a stable-yard did not deter him in the least "Why, Patience, what are you doing so large plate of cake, which he set down be- -rather the contrary. It showed that his side her, trusting she would make a good | beloved was at present heart-whole.

meal and leave him in peace with Effie. divined his intention, for she sent him off of themselves a letter of recommendation, again with a plateful of strawberries and and his fortune and position made him a pleased, though it seemed hard to lose their thought the barley would average two cream; then went away herself to get her prize in the matrimonial market as he well only child at such an early age. mother a second cup of tea; then had to knew. He did not fear a refusal from Effie's attend to the pug's wants; and, as Hector parents, but the young lady herself might with us long, James," said Mrs. Dering, could not, in common decency demand more | be hard to win. Hector however had the than three cups of tea, the meal was all too greatest faith in the power of determination; her one day; "and, if we are to los her, I

came to his aid. She had an interesting able to do almost as he wished, as can most

to go out now. You will stay and dine, him for better or worse. Her sentiments with hastily; this may be only a youthful flirta- and that farmers are paying less attention clothes"-as the young man looked doubt- press him in the least. He had often, even ful; "we are quite alone and will excuse in his short experience of life, found that plied Mrs. Dering; "he makes rather a all shortcomings."

ing," said Hector, with the greatest truth. | the right sort of girl to succumb at once "I am very dull at the Park in solitary | when the right man came to the fore. grandeur; but is there no small boy whom

exercising, and I don't care to ride to-day. I will send the groom over."

spend a pleasant hour in inspecting the various animals, Hector rising greatly in Effie's estimation by his praise of her little mare.

no greater happiness imaginable than feel- her mother's drawing-room; but at last he pretty girl, who has been accustomed al- much. The bulk of the crop will grade Ne ing your horse going well under you at the seized an opportunity and managed to draw most from childhood to see men an her feet. end of a long run, and seeing other people her away from the others. dropping gradually out of the hunt.

Miss Dering?"

"No; you appal me."

There is a girl here, Maude Despard- affray that had ended in the death of a there at the age of three-and-twenty. you don't know her; she came into the gamekeeper. She was right; there was a ring in the county only last winter-she and I are

tossing her head.

"No; because you seem to take it for granted that she will do just what you tell | Hector sofuly.

"Of course she will! Don't you know from her blue eyes.

"Wait till you are married," laughed English love of sport?" man's charming daughter to discussing the Hector, "and see what your husband says

"I shall never marry," said Effie calmly. "So say most girls of eighteen."

She laughed good-humouredly.

girl who stood at the open door of a cottage second, when my darling father and mother | cestors." at the roadside-"I have come to see your die, I shall have enough to live on and need not be dependent on any one; in the third, swered Effie slowly; "but I'm afraid I The girl smiled and made way for Effie to I don't think I should ever be likely to fall have always had a little sympathy with

"Well?" "I can't imagine it—that's all."

either of the above-mentioned individuals. | venture to propose, if you do."

bunch of Gloire de Dijon roses at her throat. ing? See-she knows me from here! Yes, Mrs. Dering received Hector with en- my pet, you do "-as the animal turned her bad."

never be allowed speech with Miss Effie, who It was a secluded spot, hidden from the said how kind hearted he is. I should be sat demurely silent, or conversed in a un- house by the shrubbery; but it was not on so sorry, for her sake, if this were brought me." dertone with a pet pug, while her mother this account that Effie sought it. She was home to him." a very keen tennis-player and was delighted At last the entrance of the servant with to get a man to play a single with her. tempered with mercy, and it makes you Effie," her seat at the tea-table, Hector determin- to Effie's intense delight, she succeeded in this crime—the kindest-hearted as well as beating him in the first set; but in the next | the most cruel; yet, because this man is in | Hector boldly. "Oh, I promised you jam, and there is he improved rapidly and ended by giving love with a protegee of yours, nothing will none !" said the girl, as Hector approached. her fifteen and a beating.

"This has been quite delightful!" said Effie, as they sat down to rest on a bench, taking off her hat and fanning her flushed face with it. "I do love playing with a better player than myself, and the girls here are not very skilful. I hope you will often come over and give me a beating."

"I will come over every day, if you like, said Hector eagerly. "As to the beating

"Oh, nonsense-don't be polite about tennis! There can never be two opinions as to excellence in that game. You will soon be able to give me thirty. Now, if we don't go and get ready for dinner, there will be black looks from father."

Hector would have risked encountering Mr. Dering's gloomiest expression for the sake of her companionship; but Effic rose and led the way to the house, and he was alone with her no more that day.

CHAPTER II.

"Oh, I don't know-general weakness of with the conviction that he was really in everywhere. love for the first time in his life, and with "There are a number of soft-witted | the firm determination to make Effie Der-

Without being inordinately vain, Hector But that young lady seemed to have was fully conscious of his own good looks, place—and the old people soon discovered will grade equal to last year. A prominent the word "failure" to him was almost des- | would rather she went to Lyndhurst Park | use by English brewers, and that its value However, at this juncture, Mrs. Dering titute of meaning. He had hitherto been than farther away." "I shall be only too delighted, Mrs. Der- victims to the former; and Effie was just so sure."

ings' place next day, had any decent excuse | was shown too frankly to please the young | smile. The Northwest crops are splendid. "Yes," said Effie promptly. "Zoe wants offered itself; but he could not frame any, fellow, who would have preferred blushes The yield is very large in Manitoba, secso he contented himself with riding on horseback round the adjacent park and lanes, to the depths of despair by asking him to toba and the Northwest have 20,000,000 Then the two young people proceeded to but without catching a glimpse of the be come for a ride with her, just as she might bushels of fancy wheat for export this loved one.

ing bewitching in a white flannel costume "I hear you ride as hard as ever," he and trim little sailor-hat. She was so sur- afternoon by some other man. And all this and now but 5 per cent. of the crop remains rounded by admirers that he found it near- was not done with any intention. Effic amenable to that arch-enemy "Jack Frost," "Yes," she replied-"I think there is ly as difficult to get speech with her as in was no greater flirt than is any excessively which the Northwest farmers dread &

"Not a very unselfish sentiment, that, great friends in her schoolroom days, and | She thought him perfectly delightful as he she had no particular favourite amongst the was, and was pleased that he seemed as "Oh, I'm horrid when it is a ques- other men; and they spent a pleasant half- well satisfied with the monotony of the

"Poor man, I knew him so well!" she said. "He was quite a young man; and

She flashed an indignant glance at him his passion.

"Oh, but that is simply idiotic in these she said. "Is it nothing to you that a met he made Effic listen to him. human life has just been sacrificed to our

from my thoughts than to joke about the poor fellow! But don't run down sport be- You will let me try, won't you, Effie?" cause a keeper has been killed; your father's that. The man was killed defending his "Well, for several reasons. In the first him. A pheasant is as much one's property come to-morrow. Susan"-turning to a place, I am very happy as I am; in the as a silver spoon inherited from one's an-

"I know you are right in theory," anme as father does when I air these senti-

"No; it appears that there were two keepers and four poachers. One of the former pursued two of the men-one of the "Do you air these extraordinary ideas quartette had taken to his heels when first else?" shown fight. Then, when a hand-to-hand "So much the better! Do you think I scuffle ensued between a keeper and one of to continue the chase, he turned back to me?"

> "So the murderer has gotaway?" "He has not been found as yet, at any

forward and declare his innocence."

"Oh, I am sure he can't be the one! He been too precipitate. is going to be married to Patience Yates.' "I don't see the argument. Who is

"Our model village girl. She is so pretty, hearted-only careless. and clean, and tidy, and works so hard for

"All that might not prevent her fiance, mending matters. Dering's face free from lines and wrinkles; And they followed Zoe and her river till giving another man a fatal blow in self-de-

tience has often talked to me about him and father?"

illogical. Any one might have committed convince you of his guilt. You must re- sensible and have a game?"

member that it is a question of manslaughter, not murder-a sudden blow, a push in

innocence is against him." "Oh, don't argue," laughed Effie, looking up at him with a deprecatory expression in her eyes; "it is too warm for that! But, for | ning to play at once. all that, I know that Davis is innocent."

you could say would be 'because I do!'" "Well, after all, that is a woman's an-

swer," laughed Effie.

bowing low.

At this juncture Mr. Dering came up and rosy lips. told his daughter, in rather an aggrieved Hector Lyndhurst went home that night | tone, that he had been looking for her

"Come over and dine to-morrow, Hector," he said, as they went to take leave of their

Young Lyndhurst was only too happy to

accept the invitation.

From that day forth he became a constant visitor at the Manor-the Derings' the attraction. They were in no wise dis-

when her husband broached the subject to

men of ample means and moderate desires; Hector Lyndhurst than to any other man I "You had better show Hector the horses but he might now find it difficult to persuade know," added her husband. "But per- absolutely unprejudiced, but there is no Effie," she said; "it is cool enough for you | this evidently wilful young lady to take | haps we are jumping at conclusions too | doubt that the barley acreage has declined,

"Hector's feeling is only too evident," re- cereals and root crops, which can be fed, or, the greatest sceptics became the greatest goose of himself; but as to Effie, I am not pendent of the American market. The

his attentions as a matter of course and of wheat to meet the demands of home con-He would have ridden over to the Der. showed pleasure in his society; but this sumption gives dealers an opportunity to and averted glances. She would drive him tions running 35 bushels to the acre. Manihave asked a cousin or a brother, and the year. Some has already been marketed, He met her next at a tennis-party, look. next day plunge him into deeper grief by and threshing is in active progress everyallowing herself to be monopolised all the It never occurred to her that Hector's feel-She was nothing loath. They had been | ing to her was warmer than that of a friend.

such a short time.

"That is no answer." want one," said Effie demurely. "You say that you don't care for any one | years-entirely lacked.

"When did I say that, pray?"

"As if father would object to anything I wished!"

must kiss you for that sweet admission ?" "They suspect one of our villagers," said | please," cried Effie, shrinking away from | of Italy there are 14 insane persons, in Aus-Effie; "but I do hope that he will come the arm thrown around her. "You are tria-Hungary 41, in England and Wales 64, in much too great a hurry. I did not say in the United States 67, and in Scotland 77. "Can't be be found, then? That looks | that I wished it; I said if I did"-flashing | It is remarkable that, wherever upon earth an angry look at Hector, who certainly had | there is most drunkenness and madness

> He was deeply hurt, and his face showed | gress. it. The change that came over his features touched Effie, who was anything but hard- about in the North-West Territories in con-

> idea into your head," she said by way of land, is being prosecuted for criminal libel

"But really, Hector, Joe Davis is not the | will remain there till I die, if you mean my | is unable to give evidence on his own behalf, much to say to Hector that that unfortun- she and Hector spent the rest of the day in sort of man to hurt a fellow creature. Pa- love for you. Tell me, may I speak to your and, unfortunately, he is the only person in

"What am I too say?"

"Well, if I say 'Perhaps,' will you be will be well understood that the Adminis-

"Try me !" "Ther-perhaps! No"-darting away as a scuffle. And, as I said before, the fact of | Hector made another attempt to draw her his not coming forward at once to prove his to him-"you said you would be sensible.

Rough or smooth ?" And she threw up her racket in the most matter-of-fact way, and insisted on begin-

But, though he kept his word and devot-"You will have the last word," said Hec- ed himself to tennis for an hour, he employtor, smiling at the girl, who looked ed his time so well afterwards that he got distractingly pretty as she leaned back | Mr. Dering's consent in an after-dinner chat, against the branch of a tree, her and rung a reluctant "Yes" from Effie's her face showing signs of her excitement, lips as they strolled on the terrace in the her eyes shining, her cheeks flushed, her | moonlight before he left. He also managed to pretty lips trembling. "If I were to ask get something else from her lips as he you how you know it," he continued, "all said "Good-night" to her out there, and he rode home intoxicated with happiness, while his lady-love sought her room with feelings of doubt, joy and bewilderment, "And therefore convincing," said Hector, | though joy seemed predominate, for she went to sleep with a happy smile on her

, (TO BE CONTINUED.)

The McKinley bill has had its effect on

Barley and Wheat.

the Canadian barley grower; first, in restricted production; second, in an unsuca cessful attempt to raise the two-rowed variety for the British market. These two main causes have led to a rather light crop of which only a small portion of six-rowed barley dealer said a few days ago that he pounds less to the measured bushel than "But we could not expect to keep her last year, and that quite a large proportion of the crop was stained. The same dealer declared that he thought this year's crop too light in weight and too dark in color for would be determined largely by what it "And I would rather see her married to would bring for feeding purposes. This, of course, being a dealer's view may not be to its growth and more to the production of if more profitable to do so, exported indestatement that the British market will re-Nor was Hector himself. She accepted quire to import nearly 20,000,000 quarters where. The harvest is about completed, I hard, Winnipeg standard, and is expect ed to bring good prices.

The French Republic.

The third French Republic has just begun the twenty-third year of its existence. tion of hunting! Do you know"—in a hour in a cool shady nook in the shrubbery, country after his long experience of travel- It was established on the 4th of September, tragic whisper-"that I sometimes ride while Mr. Dering hunted in vain for his ling; for Hector had visited most parts of 1870, two days after the surrender of Sedain pretty daughter. Effie was much concerned the world, and had returned to Lyndhurst when the Imperial Government was over regarding a tragedy that had taken place Park only in compliance with a request in thrown and the Provisional Government, "I do really; you need not laugh. near them the night before—a poaching his father's will that he should settle down called the Government of the National De fence, was established in Paris. But soor He had been there on the occasion of his the one-hundredth anniversary of what is coming of age; but then it so happened that | the opinion of many Frenchmen is a more the Derings were away, and the year after, memorable event, the proclamation of the "Well, if I had a sister, I would not let his widow lives near us-such a pretty wo. when he was there for a fortnight, Effie was first French republic, will be celebrated. was one not to be forgotten; he was more her ride in those circumstances," said man, with a dear little child. I must go paying a visit in another county, so thus it The old monarchical regime in France, after than ordinarily good-looking. Naturally | Hector; "and, when I marry, my wife must and see her soon. I dread it; it is so hard | chanced that these two had not met for five | a futile attempt to modernize it and give it fair, his complexion had been bronzed by a ride for sport, not to cut another woman to know what to say in the circumstances. years. Effie was inclined to take up the a constitutional character, was practical-Mother always says the right thing; but I intimacy where it had been left off; but ly abolished in August, 1792. A National "Dear me, what a meek-spirited woman stand like a stick, and I'm sure I look as Hector could not recognise in the beautiful Convention, to act at the same time as a "I can't return the compliment, if com- you must intend to marry!" cried Effie, if I did not sympathise with people a bit. girl of eighteen the overgrown young how- constitutional convention and an assembly But in reality I love people when they are don he remembered in days gone by. Per- invested with all the powers of government, "Why? Because she will not insist on in trouble. I long to throw my arms haps it might never have occurred to him- was convened. It met on September 21, trying to break her own or her neighbour's round their necks and tell them how sorry to fall in love with her had they never met 1792, and four days later, on the motion at stated intervals; but the first sight of of Collot d'Herbois, the republic was "I wish I were in trouble," murmured the girl in her developed beauty had been enthusiastically proclaimed. The centenenough for him, and every day increased nial of this historic event will be celebrated in France and in other coun-The young fellow was no laggard in love. tries, including the United States, in "How can you jest on such a subject?" Before a fortnight had elapsed since they which large numbers of Frenchmen are living and at liberty to commemorate the "I know you don't care for me yet," he first establishment of republican governsaid, after he had told her all he felt for ment in France. To French patriots the "My dear Effie, nothing was farther her. "I don't wish you to answer me now history of the first republic is not only full -only to let me try to make you like me. of terror, but also replete with glory, as it recalls the genuine popular enthusiasm They were in the tennis-court at the evoked by the institution of a government "On the contrary, most of the girls I daughter should be the last person to do Manor. Hector had beguiled her there to which, in point of principle, was based on get her all to himself, and made her sit " liberty, equality, and fraternity," the "May I ask why you are an exception to employer's property; you would be aston- down on a bench while he pressed his suit. victories won by the revolutionary armies ished if your butler were to see a burglar | He was masterful. That was just what a over the allied European monarchies, and running off with the plate and not go for girl of Effie's spirit would like; but it was the large extension of French territory, quite true that as yet she did not care for power, and influence. Yet the first republic was short-lived. It lasted only 11 years, She hung her head a little and faltered including those years in which Bonaparte as out something about having known him First Consul weilded supreme power. The third republic already is twice as old as "Since I have grown up, I mean," she the republic established in 1792 was when poachers. It must be such an entrancing added, looking up with a smile that went its most successful general assumed the imis to be feared that the election of George "No one can escape that. Are you so pursuit. But you will get as angry with straight to Hector's heart. "Of course, be- perial title. The present republic has won tore that I was such a child compared to no glorious victories on European battlefields; it has been peaceable and orderly and it has a promise of permanency which "You said just now that you did not the first as well as the second republicthe latter of which existed barely four

> There has just been published the Census "Almost the first day I saw you. No; Report of Assam, the eastern province of you can't deny having said, and, as no one India. It shows that the number of insane is before me, I want to try my chance. May people in that province is greater than in The calm and placid life of the Hindoo peasant keeps off insanity. And even in Assam, where there are Il insane persons "That you wished! Oh, my darling, I to every 10,000 of the population, diseases of the mind are rare compared with Europe "You won't do anything of the kind, and America. For every 10,000 inhabitants there, also, is most enlightenment and pro-

A curious complication has been brought nection with the recent change of Govern-"I wish you had not got this nonsensical ment. The Deputy Speaker, Mr. Suthertor stating that he had been offered \$250 by "It is firmly implanted there," rejoined a member of the Cayley Administration to Hector, with an unmirthful laugh, "and support it. Being put upon his defence, he a position to establish the truth of the al-"No; I want you to play tennis with leged libel. Some persons go as far as to say that he was prosecuted for the purpose "You provoking girl! I will play as long of closing his mouth. The ex-Premier, Mr. "Effie, I'm afraid your justice is strongly as you like; but give me one word of hope, Haultaine, has come forward with a solution, of the difficulty. He has repeated the alleged libel and challenged the Government "I should like you to say 'Yes'" said to prosecute him. Should it do this it may be pessible to sift the matter, but if not it tration has no desire to do so.