

# Marian Mayfield

## Or, The Strange Disappearance

CHAPTER XXV.—(Continued.)

Yes; her frolic was brought to an eternal end. She saw at a glance that something fatal, irreparable, had happened. There was blood upon his hands and wristbands! Oh, more—far more! There was the unmistakable mark of Cain upon his written brow! Before now she had seen him look pale and wild and haggard, and had known neither fear nor pity for him. But now! An exhumed corpse galvanized into a horrid semblance of life might look as he did—with just such sunken cheeks and ashen lips and frozen eyes; with just such a collapsed and shuddering form; yet, withal, could not have shown that terrific look of utter, incurable despair! His fingers, talon-like in the horny paleness and rigidity, clutched his breast, as if to tear some mortal anguish thence, and his glassy eyes were fixed in unutterable reproach upon her face! Thrice he essayed to speak, but a gurgling noise in his throat was the only result. With a last great effort to articulate, the blood suddenly filled his throat and gushed from his mouth! For a moment he sought to stay the hemorrhage by pressing a handkerchief to his lips; but soon his hand dropped powerless to his side; he reeled and fell upon the floor!

Jacqueline gazed in horror on her work.

And then her screams of terror filled the house! The family came rushing in. Foremost entered the commodore, shaking his stick in a towering passion, and exclaiming at the top of his voice:

"What the devil is all this? What's broke loose now? What are you raising all this row for, you infernal little hurricane?"

"Oh, uncle! aunt! mother! look—look!" exclaimed Jacqueline, wringing her pale fingers, and pointing to the fallen man.

The sight arrested all eyes. The miserable man lay over on his side, ghastly pale, and breathing laboriously, every breath pumping out the life-blood, that had made a little pool beside his face.

Mrs. Waugh and Mary L'Oiseau hastened to stoop and raise the sufferer. The commodore drew near, half stupefied, as he always was in a crisis.

"What—what—what's all this? Who did it? How did it happen?" he asked, with a look of dull amazement.

"Give me a sofa cushion, Maria, to place under his head. Mary L'Oiseau, hurry as fast as you can, and send a boy for Dr. Brightwell; tell him to take the swiftest horse in the stable, and ride for life and death, and bring the physician instantly, for Dr. Grimshaw is dying! Hurry!"

"Dying? Eh! what did you say, Henrietta?" inquired the commodore, in a sort of stupid, blind anxiety; for he was unable to comprehend what had happened. "Speak to me, Henrietta! What is the matter? What ails Grim?"

"He has ruptured an artery," said Mrs. Waugh, gravely, as she laid the sufferer gently back upon the carpet and placed the sofa pillow under his head.

"Ruptured an artery? How did it happen? Grim! Nace! Speak to me! How do you feel? Oh, Heaven! he doesn't speak—he doesn't hear me! Oh, Henrietta! he is very ill—he is very ill! He must be put to bed at once, and the doctor sent for! Come here, Marial! Help me to lift your young master," said the old man, waking up to anxiety.

"Stay! The doctor has been sent for; but he must not be moved; it would be fatal to him. Indeed, I fear that he is beyond human help," said Henrietta, as she wiped the gushing stream from the lips of the dying man.

"Beyond human help! Eh! what? Nace! No! no! no! no! It can't be!" said the old man, kneeling down, and bending over him in helpless trouble.

"Attend Dr. Grimshaw, while I hurry out and see what can be done, Mary," said Mrs. Waugh, resigning her charge, and then hastening from the room. She soon returned, bringing with her such remedies as her limited knowledge suggested. And she and Mary L'Oiseau applied them; but in vain! Every effort for his relief seemed but to hasten his death. The hemorrhage was subsiding; so also was his breath. "It is too late; he is dying!" said Henrietta, solemnly.

"Dying! No, no, Nace! Nace! speak to me! Nace! you're not dying! I've lost more blood than that in my time! Nace! Nace! speak to your old—speak, Nace!" cried the commodore, stooping down and raising the sufferer in his arms, and gazing, half wildly, half stupidly, at the congealing face.

He continued thus for some moments, until Mrs. Waugh, putting her hand upon his shoulder, said gravely and kindly:

"Lay him down, Commodore Waugh; he is gone."

"Gone! gone!" echoed the old man, in his imbecile distraction, and dropped his gray head upon the corpse, and groaned aloud.

Mrs. Waugh came and laid her hand affectionately on his shoulder. He looked up in such hopeless, helpless trouble, and cried out:

"Oh, Henrietta! he was my son—my only, only son! My poor, unowned boy! Oh, Henrietta! is he dead? Are you sure? Is he quite gone?"

"He is gone, Commodore Waugh; lay him down; come away to your room," said Henrietta, gently taking his hand. Jacqueline, white with horror, was kneeling with clasped hands and dilated eyes, gazing at the ruin. The old man's

glance fell upon her there, and his passion changed from grief to fury. Fiercely he broke forth:

"It was you! You are the murderer—you! Heaven's vengeance light-upon you!"

"Oh, I never meant it! I never meant it! I am very wretched! I wish I'd never been born!" cried Jacqueline, wringing her pale fingers.

"Out of my sight, you curse! Out of my sight—and may Heaven's wrath pursue you!" thundered the commodore, shaking with grief and rage.

CHAPTER XXVI.

In the meanwhile, where was he whose headlong passions had precipitated this catastrophe? Where was Thurston? After having parted with his confederate, he hurried home, for a very busy day lay before him. To account for his sudden departure, and long absence, and to cover his retreat, it was necessary to have some excuse, such as a peremptory summons to Baltimore upon the most important business. Once in that city, he would have leisure to find some further apology for proceeding directly to France without first returning home.

Now, strange as it may appear, though his purposed treachery to Marion wrung his bosom with remorse whenever he paused to think of it, yet it was the remorse without humiliation; for he persuaded himself that stratagem was fair in love as in war, especially in his case with Marian, who had already given him her hand; but now the unforeseen necessity of these subterfuges made his cheek burn. He hastened to Dell-Deight, and showing the old man a letter he had that morning received from the city, informed him that he was obliged to depart immediately, upon affairs of the most urgent moment to him, and then, to escape the sharp stings of self-scorn, he busied himself with arranging his papers, packing his trunks and ordering his servants. His baggage was packed into and behind the old family carriage, and having completed his preparations about one o'clock, he entered it, and was driven rapidly to the village.

The schooner was already at the wharf and waiting for him. Thurston met many of his friends in the village, and in an off-hand manner explained to them the ostensible cause of his journey. And thus, in open daylight, gayly chatting with his friends, Thurston superintended the embarkation of his baggage. And it was not until one by one they had shaken hands with him, wishing him a good voyage and departed, that Thurston found himself alone with the captain in the cabin.

"Now you know, Miles, that I have not come on board to remain. When the coast is clear I shall go on shore, get in the carriage, and return to Dell-Deight. I must meet my wife on the beach. I must remain with her through all. I must take her on board. You will be off Pine Bluff just at dusk, captain?"

"Ay, ay, sir."

"You will not be a moment behind hand?"

"Trust me for that, Cap'n."

"See if the people have left."

The skipper went on deck and returned to report the coast clear.

Thurston then went on shore, entered the carriage, and was driven homeward.

It was nearly four o'clock when he reached Dell-Deight, and there he found the whole premises in a state of confusion. Several negroes were on the lookout for him; and as soon as they saw him ran to the house.

"What is the meaning of all this?" he inquired, detaining one of the hindmost.

"Oh, Marse Thuster, sirl oh, sirl!" exclaimed the boy, rolling his eyes quite wildly.

"What is the matter with the fool?"

"Oh, sir; my poor ole marse! my poor ole marse!"

"What has happened to your master? Can't you be plain, sir?"

"Oh, Marse Thuster, sirl he done fell down inter a fit, an' had to be toted off to bed."

"A fit! good heavens! has a doctor been summoned?" exclaimed Thurston, springing from his seat.

"Oh, yes, sir! Jase be done gone arter de doctor."

Thurston stopped to inquire no farther, but ran into the house and up into his grandfather's chamber.

There a distressing scene met his eyes. The old man, with his limbs distorted, and his face swollen and discolored, lay in a state of insensibility upon the bed. Two or three negro women were gathered around him, variously occupied with rubbing his hands, chafing his temples and wiping the oozing foam from his lips. At the foot of the bed stood poor daff Fanny, with disheveled hair and dilated eyes, chanting a grotesque monologue, and keeping time with a see-saw motion from side to side. The first thing Thurston did, was to take the hand of this poor crazed, but docile creature, and lead her from the sick-room up into her own. He bade her remain there, and then returned to his grandfather's bedside. In reply to his anxious questioning, he was informed that the old man had fallen into a fit about an hour before—that a boy had been instantly sent for the doctor, and the patient carried to bed; but that he had not spoken since they laid him there. It would yet be an hour before the doctor could possibly arrive, and the state of the patient demanded instant attention.

And withal Thurston was growing very anxious upon Marion's account.

# Bank of Hamilton

ANNUAL MEETING, HELD 15th JANUARY, 1906.

## Report of the Directors.

The Directors beg to submit their Annual Report to the Shareholders for the year ended 30th November, 1905.

The Balance at credit of Profit and Loss Account, 30th November, 1904, was \$ 40,176.25

The profits for the year ended 30th November, 1905, after deducting charges of management and making provisions for bad and doubtful debts, are 357,273.13

Premiums received on new Stock 205,421.00

\$602,870.40

From which have been declared:

Dividend 5 per cent., payable 1st June, 1905 \$ 111,779.29

Dividend 5 per cent., payable 1st Dec. 1905 \$ 119,940.28

\$231,719.57

Carried to Reserve Fund from Profits \$ 135,319.00

Carried to Reserve Fund from Premium on new stock as above \$ 205,421.00

340,740.00

Allowance to ex-President authorized by the Shareholders 5,000.00

577,459.57

Balance of Profit and Loss carried forward \$ 25,410.83

The Directors have pleasure in pointing out, that, after paying the customary 10 per cent. dividend, they have been able to place to Reserve Fund, out of profits, the substantial sum of \$135,000. The year's earnings are, in the opinion of the Directors, very satisfactory indeed, considering that out of the year's profits, the maximum estimated loss (\$90,000), which the Bank has sustained by the embezzlement and forgeries of T. Hillhouse Brown, has been provided for.

The Directors beg to report that the progress of the Bank still continues in a marked degree, and that, while they had thought it prudent to open during the year a few new branches in Ontario and Manitoba, in recognition of the rapid development of the country, they have mostly confined themselves to the strengthening and building up of the business at the various points at which offices had already been established. His proposed, however, to ask of the Shareholders, at the Annual Meeting, power to increase the Capital of the Bank by \$500,000, in order that the Directors, in case it become advisable, may be in a position thus to provide for the future growth of the Bank's business.

The Directors have noted the growing tendency, on the part of Banks and other Corporations, to pay dividends quarterly, and, believing that such a practice may become more or less general, have decided to adopt it, and propose hereafter to declare dividends every three months.

Hamilton, 18th December, 1905. W.M. GIBSON, President.

## GENERAL STATEMENT.

TO THE PUBLIC: LIABILITIES.

Notes of the Bank in circulation \$ 2,279,755.00

Deposits bearing interest \$ 18,033,608.74

Deposits not bearing interest 3,361,115.72

Amount reserved for interest due depositors 69,397.04

21,464,121.50

Balance due to other Banks in Canada 50,262.09

Dividend No. 66, payable 1st December, 1905 119,940.28

Former Dividends unpaid 79.00

120,019.28

TO THE SHAREHOLDERS: \$23,914,157.87

Capital Stock (average for the year, \$2,317,190) \$ 2,440,740.00

Reserve Fund 2,440,740.00

Amount reserved for Rebate of Interest on Current Bills Discounted 65,000.00

Balance of Profits carried forward 25,410.83

4,971,890.53

ASSETS. \$28,886,048.70

Gold and Silver coin \$ 470,022.42

Dominion Government Notes 2,150,114.00

Deposit with the Dominion Government as security for Note Circulation 125,000.00

Notes of and Cheques on other Banks 805,511.16

Balances due from other Banks in Canada and the United States 1,402,043.80

Balances due from Agents of the Bank in Great Britain 5,308.51

Canadian and British Government, Municipal, Railway and other Securities 3,672,042.67

Loans at Call, or Short Call, on negotiable Securities 2,161,093.01

\$10,792,035.57

Notes Discounted and Advances current 17,151,131.51

Notes Discounted, etc., overdue (estimated loss provided for) 54,351.39

Bank Premises, Office Furniture, Safes, etc. 776,634.33

Real Estate other than Bank Premises, Mortgages, etc. 43,430.72

Other Assets not included under foregoing heads 68,465.18

Bank of Hamilton, Hamilton, November, 30th, 1905. J. TURNBULL, General Manager

In moving the adoption of the annual report Hon. Mr. Gibson said:

Gentlemen,—Your Board of Directors beg to express the pleasure they have in being able to present the report to the shareholders. During the whole history of the bank, covering a period of thirty-four years, this year would have been the best and the most successful that we have ever enjoyed but for the unfortunate incident in connection with our east end branch in this city. Had that not occurred our net earnings would have been 19.30 per cent. on the capital, and notwithstanding that we had to make provision for that loss the net earnings of the year are 15.42. After deducting the loss of \$90,000 already referred to, our earnings for the year are considerably greater than the average for the past ten years. In the period from 1875 to 1885 the rate of earnings was 10.1; 1885 to 1895, 11.03; 1895 to 1905, 13.98. I invite the attention of the shareholders to the fact that every dollar earned by the bank, except what has been carried to rest, has been paid to the shareholders, and that the misfortune of the past year in the east end branch is likely to fall on the employees more heavily than upon the shareholders, for, as you know, though the bank has had under consideration, and it is still its intention, to establish a pension system, such has not yet been begun.

During the year new agencies have been opened at College and Ossington streets, Toronto; Toronto Junction, Carberry, Kenton and Killarney, Man.; Battleford, Sask.; and at Fernie, B. C. While we have been somewhat conservative in opening new branches we have been endeavoring to strengthen those where we already have agencies. It may be said that some of the places where we have opened branches are small in the matter of population, but it must be remembered that they are in growing centres, surrounded by rich country, and that the prospect for increased business in the future is very bright. The directors have great faith in the country. I am very glad to notice that the bank is popular with the investigating public. Last year there were 645 shareholders on our books and this year the number is 713, showing that the stock is going into the hands of investors.

At the same time we have made 88 new friends for the bank. By the report I have just read you will see that it is proposed to increase the capital stock by \$500,000. During the last six months a quarter of a million dollars was taken up at a premium of 100 per cent. The same care will be

exercised in issuing the new stock only as the business of the bank requires it.

Now in regard to the incident in the east end. Much comment and criticism have been indulged in. I had been away from the country at the time, but I want to say for the members of the board that they acted like men in the best interests of the public and of the bank. The board determined to give the public the result as soon as the result could be ascertained. Our inspection is as rigid as that of other banks. You can do something with the staff of the bank when the agent is honest, but when the agent is not honest, and adds forgery to his stealing, the bank is largely at his mercy. You have to trust the people employed by you, and we have to depend on the fidelity of our agents, and while one man has proven false, the 399 other employees of the bank have not, and we have confidence in them. You may say that the inspection is not rigid enough. I believe that you may have too much inspection. If you let an agent think that he is being spied upon he will probably sit and do nothing and your business is bound to suffer. Now, in regard to quarterly dividends I need not say much—they cannot come too often.

Mr. John Proctor seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

On motion of Mr. Samuel Barker, M.P., seconded by John A. Bruce, the following motion was unanimously carried:

"That the thanks of this meeting be given to the President and Directors for their services during the past half year." Carried and replied to by Hon. Mr. Gibson.

Mr. W. A. Robinson moved, seconded by Dr. Russell:

"That the thanks of the meeting be given to the General Manager, Assistant General Manager, Inspectors, Agents and other officers of the bank for the efficient performance of their respective duties."

This was carried, and responded to by Mr. Turnbull.

Hon. Mr. Gibson moved the adoption of the by-law to increase the capital stock from \$2,500,000 to \$3,000,000. Mr. John Proctor seconded the resolution, and it was carried unanimously.

The scrutineers reported the following gentlemen unanimously elected Directors for 1906: Hon. William Gibson, John Proctor, Hon. J. S. Hendrie, George Rutherford, Cyrus A. Birge, C. C. Dalton and J. Turnbull.

At a subsequent meeting of the Directors Hon. Wm. Gibson was re-elected President and Mr. J. Turnbull Vice President.