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 unmistakeable mark of Cain upon his writhen 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 didwith 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 catastrophe? Where was Thurston? dying relative, yet Marian must not be and rigidity, clutched his breast, as if After having parted with his confederate, permitted to wait upon the beach, exto tear some mortal anguish thence, and he hurried home, for a very busy day posed to the fierceness of the storm, or his glassy eyes were fixed in unutterable lay before him. To account for his sud- worse, the rudeness of his confederates. reproach upn her face! Thrice he es- den departure, and long absence, and to He took a sudden resolution, and sayed to speak, but a gurgling noise in cover his retreat, it was necessary to wondered that he had not done so before. his throat was the only result. With a have some excuse, such as a peremptory He resolved to summon Marian as his last great effort to articulate, the blood summons to Baltimore upon the most wife to his home. suddenly filled his throat and gushed important business. Once in that city, Full of this thought, he hastened down from his mouth! For a moment he he would have leisure to find some fur- stairs and ordered Melchizedek to put sought to stay the hemorrhage by press- ther apology for proceeding directly to the horse to the gig and get ready to go ing a hankerchief to his lips; but soon France without first returning home. an errand. And while the boy was obeyhis hand dropped powerless to his side; Now, strange as it may appear, though ing his directions, Thurston penned the he reeled and fell upon the floor!

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 ex-

claiming at the top of his voice: broke loose now What are you raising that morning received from the city, in- never to leave me more! Our marriage all this row for, you infernal little hurri- formed him that he was obliged to de- shall be acknowledged to-morrow, tocane?"

"Oh, uncle! aunty! mother! looklook!" exclaimed Jacquelina, wringing to escape the sharp stings of self-scorn, nothing hinder you. I will send a mesher pale fingers, and pointing to the he busied himself with arranging his sage to Edith to set her anxiety at rest,

fallen man.

The sight arrested all eyes. every breath pumping out the life-blood, about one o'clock, he entered it, and was He had scarcely sealed this note, when that had made a little pool beside his driven rapidly to the village.

fied, as he always was in a crisis.

with a look of dull amazement.

the swiftest horse in the stable, and ride the captain in the cabin. ing! Hurry!"

pened. "Speak to me, Henrietta! What off Pine Bluff just at dusk, captain?" .. | will, he was brought face to face with is the matter? What ails Grim?'

Mrs. Waugh, gravely, as she laid the hand?" 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! ed to report the coast clear. How do you feel? Oh, Heaven! he Henrietta! he is very ill-he is very ill! the old man, waking up to anxiety.

"Stay! The doctor has been sent for; saw him ran to the house. but he must not be moved; it would be fatal to him. Indeed, I fear that he is inquired, detaining one of the hindmost. beyond human help," said Henrietta, as

lips of the dying man.

"Beyond human help! Eh! what? Nace! 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, down inter a fit, an' had to be toted off she would soon be there; he arose and and then hastening from the room. She to bed." soon returned, bringing with her such remedies as her limited knowledge sug- been summoned?" exclaimed Thurston, vented his hearing the approach of any gested. And she and Mary L'Oiseau springing from his seat. applied them; but in vain! Every effort for his relief seemed but to hasten his de doctor." death. The hemorrhage was subsiding; so also was his breath. "It is too late; but ran into the house and up into his housekeeper to take his place, and then he is dying!" said Henrietta, solemnly. grandfather's chamber.

to me! Nace! you're not dying! I've The old man, with his limbs distorted. coming of the gig, in vain. He was just lost more blood than that in my time! and his face swollen and discolored, about to re-enter the hall and close the Nace! Nace! speak to your old-speak, lay in a state of insensibility upon the door when the sound of wheels, dash-Nace!" cried the commodore, stooping bed. Two or three negro women were ing violently, helter-skelter, and with down and raising the sufferer in his gathered around him, variously occu- break-neck speed into the yard, arrested arms, and gazing, half wildly, half pied with rubbing his hands, chafing his his attention. stupidly, at the congealing face.

until Mrs. Waugh, putting her hand upon stood poor daft Fanny, with dishelved to save her from the storm by driving at his shoulder, said gravely and kindly:

he is gne."

aloud. affectionately on his shoulder. He look- grandfather's bedside. In reply to his empty.

and cried out:

Oh, Henrietta! is he dead? Are you sure? the patient carried to bed; but that he latter remained speechless, trem-Is he quite gone?"

Jacquelina, white with horror, was tion. kneeling with clasped hands and dilated | And withal Thurston was growing hurriedly, in great alarm. eyes, gazing at the ruin. The old man's very anxious upon Marion's account.

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

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

"Oh, I never meant it! I never meant I am very wretched! I wish I'd never been born!" cried Jacquelina, house. But no sign of the doctor was to 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.

headlong passions had precipitated this He could not leave the bedside of his his purposed treachery to Marion wrung following lines to Marian Jacquelina gazed in horror on her his bosom with remorse whenever ne "My dear Mearian-my dear, generpaused to think of it, yet it was the re- ous, long-suffering wife-come to my morse without humiliation; for he per- aid. My grandfather has been suddenly suaded himself that stratagem was fair stricken down with apoplexy, and is in love as in war, especially in his case dying. The physician has not yet arwith Marian, who had already given rived, and I cannot leave his bedside. him her hand; but now the unforeseen Return with my messenger, to assist me necessity of these subterfuges made his in taking care of the dying man. You, cheek burn. He hastened to Dell-Delight, who are the angel of the sick and suffer-"What the devil is all this? What's and showing the old man a letter he had ing, will not refuse me your aid. Come, part immediately, upon affairs of the night, any time, that you, in your nicer most urgent moment to him, and then, judgment, shall approve. Come! let papers, packing his trunks and ordering or I will send for her to be with you his servants. His baggage was packed here. Come to me, beloved Marian. The miserable man lay over on his side, into and behind the old family carriage, Dictate your own conditions if you will ghastly pale, and breathing laboriously, and having completed his preparations | -only come."

The schooner was already at the wharf | door. Mrs. Waugh and Mary L'Oiseau has- and waiting for him. Thurston met Take this note, sir, jump in the gig tened to stoop and raise the sufferer. many of his friends in the village, and and drive as fast as possible to the beach The commodore drew near, half stupe- in an off-hand manner explained to below Pine Bluffs. You will see Miss them the ostensible cause of his journey. Mayfield waiting there, give her this "What-what- what's all this? Who And thus, in open daylight, gayly chat- note, and then-await her orders. Be did it? How did it happen?" he asked, ting with his friends, Thurston super- quicker than you ever were before," said intended the embarkation of his bag- Thurston, hurrying his messenger off. "Give me a sofa cushion, Maria, to gage. And it was not until one by one Then, much relieved of anxiety upon place under his head. Mary L'Oiseau, they had shaken hands with him, wish- Marian's account, he returned to the sickhurry as fast as you can, and send a ing him a good voyage and departed, room and renewed his endeavors to reboy for Dr. Brightwell; tell him to take that Thurston found himself alone with lieve the patient.

for life and death, and bring the physi- "Now you know, Miles, that I have not stricken with death. And with Thurscian instantly, for Dr. Grimshaw is dy- come on board to remain. When the ton all thoughts, all feelings all intercoast is clear I shall go on shore, get in ests, even those connected with Marian, "Dying? Eh! what did you say, Hen- the carriage, and return to Dell-Delight. were soon lost in that awful presence. rietta?" inquired the commodore, in a I must meet my wife on the beach. I It was the first time he had ever looked sort of stupid, blind anxiety; for he was must remain with her through all. I upon death, and now, in the rushing unable to comprehend what had hap- must take her on board. You will be tide of his sinful passions and impetuous

"Ay, ay, sir."

"Trust me for that, Cap'n."

"See if the people have left."

doesn't speak-he doesn't hear me! Oh, the carriage, and was driven homeward. the one great event that "happeneth to It was nearly four o'clock when he all;" the doom certain, the hour uncer-He must be put to bed at once, and the reached Dell-Delight, and there he found tain; coming in infancy, youth, maturdoctor sent for! Come here, Marial the whole premises in a state of con- ity, as often or oftener than in age. Help me to lift your young master," said fusion. Several negroes were on the These were the thoughts that filled Thurslookout for him; and as soon as they ton's mind as he stood and wiped the

> "What is the meaning of all this?" he ing man. wildly.

"What is the matter with the fool?" ole marsel"

Can't you be plain, sir?"

"Dying! No, no, Nace! Nace! speak | There a distressing scene met his eyes. door, and gazed and listened for the temples and wiping the oozing foam "Marian! It is my dear Marian at He continued thus for some moments, from his lips. At the foot of the bed last; but the fellow need not risk her life hair and dilated eyes, chanting a gro that rate. My own Marian!" he ex-"Lay him down, Commodore Waugh; tesque monologue, and keeping time with claimed, as he hurried out, expecting to a see-saw motion from side to side. The meet her. gray head upon the corpse, and groaned creature, and lead her from the sick- his master's feet. that the old man had fallen into a fit you? Why don't you answer me?" ex- holders on our books and this year the and it was carried unanimously.

The sun was now sinking under a dark bank of clouds. The hour of his appointed meeting with her was approaching. He felt, of course, that his scheme must for the present, be deferred-even if its accomplishment should again seem necessary, which was scarcely possible But Marion would expect him. And how should he prevent her coming to the beach and waiting for him there? He did not know where a message would be most likely now to find her, whether at Luckenough, at Old Fields or at Colonel Thornton's. But he momentarily expected the arrival of Dr. Brightwell, and he resolved to leave that good man in attendance at the sick bed, while he himself should escape for a few hours, an explanation with his wife.

But an hour passed, and the doctor did not come. Thurston's eyes wandered anxiously from the distorted face of the dying man before him, to the window that commanded the approach to the be seen.

The sun was on the very edge of the horizon. The sufferer before him was evidently approaching his end. Marion he knew must be on her way to the beach. And a dreadful storm was ris-

ing. In the meanwhile, where was he whose His anxiety reached fever heat.

the boy, hat in hand, appeared at the

Ah! he was far past relief now; he was this last, dread, all-conquering power! "He has ruptured an artery," said | "You will not be a moment behind What if it were in the person of an old man, very infirm, and over-ripe for the great reaper? It was death—the final earthly end of every living creature— The skipper went on deck and return- death, the demolition of the human form, the breaking up of the vital functions, Thurston then went on shore, entered the dissolution between soul and body, clammy dews from the brow of the dy-

Thurston might have remained much "Oh, Marse Thuster, sir! oh, sir!" ex- longer, too deeply and painfully abshe wiped the gushing stream from the claimed the boy, rolling his eyes quite sorbed in thought to notice the darkening of the night or the beating of the storm, had not a gust of the rain and "Oh, sir; my poor ole marse! my poor wind, of unusual violence, shaken the

windows. "What has happened to your master? This recalled Marian to his mind; was nearly time for her to arrive; he "Oh, Marse Thuster, sir! he done fell hoped that she was near the house; that went to the window to look forth into "A fit! good heavens! has a doctor the night; but the deep darkness prevehicle that might be near. He went "Oh, yes, sir! Jase be done gone arter back to the bedside; the old man was breathing his life away without a Thurston stopped to inquire no farther, struggle. Thurston called the mulatto went down stairs and out of the hall

"Oh, Henrietta! he was my son-my about an hour before-that a boy had claimed Thurston, anxiously returning number is 713, showing that the stock is The scrutineers reported the following only, only son! My poor, unowned boy! been instantly sent for the doctor, and to the spot where the boy crouched. But going into the hands of investors. had not spoken since they laid him there. bling, groaning, and wringing his hands. new friends for the bank. "He is gone, Commodore Waugh; lay It would yet be an hour before the doc- "Will you speak, idiot? I ask you where him down; come away to your room, tor could possibly arrive, and the state is the lady? Was she not upon the beach? will see that it is proposed to increase and J. Turnbull. said Henrietta, gently taking his hand. of the patient demanded instant atten- What has frightened you so? Did the Capital stock by \$500,000. During At a subsequent meeting of the Direchorse run away?" inquired Thurston,

(To be continued.

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 \$602,870.44

- 577,459.57

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 Premiumon new

- 340,740.00 Allowance to ex-President authorized by the Shareholders 5,000.00

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. Itis 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 pro-

pose hereafter to declare dividends every three months. Hamilton, 18th December, 1905. WM. GIBSON, President.

GENERAL STATEMENT. TO THE PUBLIC: LIABILITIES. Notes of the Bank in circulation \$ 2,279,755.00 Deposits not bearing interest 3,361,115.72 Amount reserved for interest due depositors 69,397.04 -21,464,121.50Balance due to other Banks in Canada.. 50,262.09 Dividend No. 66, payable 1st December, 1905 119,940.28 Former Dividends unpaid 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

Ealance of Profits carried forward 25,410.83 4,971,890.S3 \$28,886,048.70 ASSETS. 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 Loans at Call, or Short Call, on negotiable Securities . . 2,161,093.01 ---\$10.792.035.5**7** 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 \$28,886,048.70 Bank of Hamilton, J. TURNBULL,

Hamilton, November, 30th, 1905.

report Hon. Mr. Gibson said :the shareholders, for, as you know, cannot come too often. though the bank has had under consideration, and it is still its intention, to es- which was carried unanimously.

tablish a pension system, such has not yet been begun. been opened at College and Ossington streets, Toronto; Toronto Junction, Carberry, Kenton and Killarney, Man.; their services during the past half year." Battleford, Sask.; and at Fernie, B. C. While we have been somewhat conservative in opening new branches we have been endeavoring to strengthen those by Dr. Russell: where we already have agencies. It may "Gone! gone!" echoed the old man, in first thing Thurston did, was to take the Melchizedek alone sprang from the centres, surrounded by rich country, duties.' his imbecile distraction, and dropped his hand of this poor crazed, but docide gig, and sank trembling and quaking at and that the prospect for increased busi- This was carried, and responded to Ly ness in the future is very bright. The Mr. Turnbull.

of 100 per cent. The same care will be President.

General Manager In moving the adoption of the annual | exercised in issuing the new stock only as the business of the bank requires it

Gentlemen,-Your Board of Directors | Now in regard to the incident in the beg to express the pleasure they have in east end. Much comment and criticism being able to present the report to the have been indulged in. I had been away shareholders. During the whole history from the country at the time, but / of the bank, covering a period of thirty- want to say for the members of the four years, this year would have been | board that they acted like men in the the best and the most successful that we best interests of the public and of the have ever enjoyed but for the unfortu- bank. The board determined to give nate incident in connection with our the public the result as soon as the reeast end branch in this city. Had that sult could be ascertained. Our inspecnot occurred our net earnings would | tion is as rigid as that of other banks. have been 19.30 per cent. on the capital, You can do something with the staff of and notwithstanding that we had to the bank when the agent is honest, but make provision for that loss the net | when the agent is not honest, and adds earnings of the year are 15.42. After forgery to his stealing, the bank is deducting the loss of \$90,000 al- largely at his mercy. You have to trust ready referred to, our earnings the people employed by you, and we for the year are considerably great- have to depend on the fidelity of our er than the average for the past ten agents, and while one man has proven years. In the period from 1875 to 1885 false, the 399 other employes of the bank the rate of earnings was 10.1; 1885 to have not, and we have confidence 'n 1895, 11.03; 1895 to 1905, 13.98. I invite them. You may say that the inspection the attention of the shareholders to the is not rigid enough. I believe that you fact that every dollar earned by the bank, may have too much inspection. If you except what has been carried to rest, let an agent think that he is being spied has been paid to the shareholders, and upon he will probably sit and do nothat the misfortune of the past year in thing and your business is bound to the east end branch is likely to fall on suffer. Now, in regard to quarterly the employes more heavily than upon dividends I need not say much-they

Mr. John Proctor seconded the motion. On motion of Mr. Samuel Barker, M.P.,

seconded by John A. Bruce, the follow-During the year new agencies have ing motion was unaimously carried: "That the thanks of this meeting be given to the President and Directors for

> Carried and replied to by Hon. Mr. Gib-Mr. W. A. Robinson moved, seconded

"That the thanks of the meeting be be said that some of the places where given to the General Manager, Assistant we have opened branches are small in General Manager, Inspectors, Agents the matter of population, but it must be and other officers of the bank for the remembered that they are in growing efficient performance of their respective

room up into her own. He bade her re- Thurston blindly pushed past him, directors have great faith in the country Hon. Mr. Gibson moved the adoption Mrs. Waugh came and laid her hand main there, and then returned to his and peered and felt in the gig. It was try. I am very glad to notice that the of the by-law to increase the capital bank is popular with the investigating stock from \$2,500,000 to \$3,000,000. Mr. ed up in such hopeless, helpless frouble, anxious questioning, he was informed "Where is the lady, sirrah? What ails public. Last year there were 645 share- John Proctor seconded the resolution,

gentlemen unanimously elected Directors At the same time we have made (8 for 1906: Hon, William Gibson, John Proctor, Hon. J. S. Hendrie, George By the report I have just read you Rutherford, Cyrus A. Birge, C. C. Dalton

the last six months a quarter of a mil- tors Hon. Wm. Gibson was re-elected lion dollars was taken up at a premium | President and Mr. J. Turnbull Vice-