Mayfield Marian

Or, The Strange Disappearance

CHAPTER XXVII.

In the meantime, how had the morning broken upon Dell-Delight, How about Luckenough? and how at Oldfield Cottage?

At Dell-Delight the old man had expired just before the sun arose. The two physicians that had been summoned the night previous, but had been de layed by the storm, arrived in the moraing only to see the patient die. Many Inquiries were made and much conjecture formed as to the cause of Thurston Willcoxen's improper and unaccountable absence at such a juncture. But Melchizedek, poor, faithful fellow, having followed his master's steps, did not appear, and no one else upon the premises could give any explanation relative to the movements of their young master. He had left the bedside of his dying relative at nine o'clock the night before, and he had not since returned—his saddleherse was gone from the stable-that where no urgent demands upon his "I have caused a fellow-creature's death! young master.

At Old Field Cottage, Edith had sat up late the night before waiting for Marian; but, seeing that she did not return, had taken it for granted that she had remained all night with Miss Thornton, and so, without the least uneasiness at her prolonged absence, had retired to rest. And in the morning she arose with heavy on her soul! It was too much! the same impression on her mind, gayly looking forward to Marian's return with the visitor, and the certain happy revelation she had promised.

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She had breakfast over early, made the room very tidy, dressed Miriam in her holiday clothes, put on her own Sunday secret weighing on her bosom did not gown, and sat down to wait for Marian | then transpire. and the visitor. The morning passed slowly, in momentary expectation of an arrival.

carriage approaching the cottage.

to meeting her guests.

out just in time to see the door opened. the pursuit of the unknown murderer to make a vow to God and to your dy and Miss Thornton alight. The lady was Thurston Willcoxen; but the ghastglance.

to welcome her visitor.

strangely.

dially offering her hand. husky voice:

"Come in-come in!"

Full of surprise, Edith followed her. to a chair, and pointing to a vacant one body was that of the martyred girl. by her side.

Edith took the seat, and waited in wonder for her further speech. "Where is Marian?" asked Miss Thorn-

ton, in an agitated voice. your housel" answered Edith, in sur-

prise and vague fear. growing very pale, and trembling in every limb. Edith stared up in alarm.

"Miss Thornton, what do you mean? For mercy's sake, tell me, has anything daughter," said Edith. happened?"

trust not-tell me! when did you see her morning?"

"No! last evening, about sundown."

not seen her since?" "No!"

"No!" "Did she promise to come back? and

you, and I felt easy."

of deep distress.

tell me what has occurred!"

"Oh, Edith!"

what of Marian?"

to Marian! Oh! where is Marian?" else I had not found courage to come!" | murderer with great zeal for a while;

"Miss Thorton, this is cruel-"

pray Heaven for fortitude?" "I have fortitude for anything but sus- | Miriam, do you hear-do you hear and pense. Oh, Heaven, Miss Thornton, re- understand me?" lieve this suspense, or I shall suffocate!"

"Edith! Edith!" said the lady, going up and putting her arms around the fragile form of the young widow, as to shield and support her. "Oh, Edith! I heard a report this morning-and it may be but a report—I pray Heaven, that it is no more—"

"Oh, go on! what was it?"

during the storm, Marian Mayfield-Miss Thornton's voice choked.

of Marian?"

laid, and--" her overstrained nerves relaxed, and induced to suppose that she might have

A child's wild, frenzied shriek resounded through the house. It was the voice of Miriam.

At Luckenough that morning, the rewas all that could be ascertained. Dr. mains of the unfortunate Dr. Grimshaw Brightwell took his departure, to answer were laid out preparatory to burial. other pressing calls. But Dr. Weis- Jacquelina, in a bewildered stupor of mann, seeing that there was no responsi- remorse, wandered vaguely from room ble person in charge, and having else- to room, seeking rest and finding none time and attention, kindly volunteered That was the envenomed thought that to stay and superintend affairs at Dell- corroded her heart's centre. From her Delight, until the reannearance of the bosom, too, peace had fled. It was near noon when the news of Marian's fate reached Luckenough, and overwhelmed the family with consternation and grief.

But Jacquelina! the effect of the tragic tale on her was nearly fatal. She understood the catastrophe, as no one else could! She knew who struck the fatal blow, and when and why, and under what mistake it was struck! She felt that another crime, another death lay oh! it was too much! No human heart nor brain could sustain the crushing burden, and the poor lost elf fell into convulsions that threatened soon to terminate in death. There was no raving, no talking; in all her frenzy, the fatal

Before the day was out the whole It was near eleven o'clock when she county was in an uproar. Never had any looked up and saw Colonel Thornton's event of the neighborhood created so high an excitement or so profound a "There! I said so! I knew Marian sympathy. Great horror and amazement] and his sister are both with her! And every means taken to secure the discovnow for the revelation! I wonder what ery of the criminal. In the deep, abit is," said Edith, smiling to herself, as sorbing sympathy for Marian's fate, the all this?" she arose and stroked down her dress, sudden death of Professor-Grimshaw, and smoothed her ringlets, preparatory and the reasonably-to-be-expected demise of old Mr. Cloudesley Willcoxen, By this time the carriage had drawn passed nearly unnoticed, and were soon of his eyes, and the distraction of his such an obligation?" "What can be the meaning of this?" | manner, often varied by fits of deep and conjecture of all who looked upon him. own. She answered:

But Miss Thorton was very pale and Days passed and still no light was "Yes, mamma." by the fisherman, the day after its dis- avenger." covery. Many gentlemen hurried down to the spot, and further investigation "Sit down," she continued, sinking in- confirmed the general opinion that the

recovered this last great shock. A few vation, no suffering of mind or body shall never change my bachelor life-"Where? Why, I believed her to be at days before her death she called Miriam shall be spared, if needful, to the ac- but I should like to legally adopt little to her bedside. The child approached; complishment of your vow." she was sadly altered within the last

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brilliant cheeks.

last? When did she leave home? this the fury of the British sordiers, kindled him.

in the dying woman's eyes. "And she has not returned? You have old in time, and much older than that in the bedside of the invalid. thought and feeling. Miriam, your

and understand me?" "Yes, mamma." "Do not weep; tears are vain and idle.

"She promised to return before dark! There was an injured queen once whose She did not do so! I judged the storm | tears were turned to sparks of fire. So had detained her, and that she was with I would-have yours to turn! She came among us a young stranger girl, with-"Oh, God!" cried the lady, in a voice out fortune or position, or any of the usual stepping-stones to social considera-"Miss Thornton! for Heaven's sake! tion. Yet see what influence, what power she soon obtained, and what reforms and improvements she soon effected! "Marian! Martan! what has happened to seek out and punish her destroyer; for a little girl." but none so strongly as you and !. "I had hoped to find her here after all! Others have pursued the search for the speak of it, since I can do no otherwise?" "Ah! poor Edith! what you require to object of our lives. Upon us devolve the cruel to mention it else." be told is far more cruel. Oh! Edith! right and the duty to avenge her death by bringing her destroyer to the scaffold, inquiry.

"Yes, mamma; yes."

"Child, listen to me! I have a clue to | ++++++++++++++++++++++ Marian's murderer!"

Miriam started and attended breath-

"My love, it was no poor waterman or fugitive negro, tempted by want or cupidity. It was a gentleman, Miriam.' "A gentleman?"

"Yes; one that she must have become acquainted with during her visit to Washington three years ago. Oh, l remember her unaccountable distress in the months that followed that visit! His name, or his assumed name, was-attend, Miriam!-Thomas Truman." "Thomas Truman!"

"Yes; and while you live, remember that name, until its owner hangs upon the gallows!"

Miriam shuddered, and hid her pale face in her hands.

"Here," said Edith, taking a small packet of letters from under her pillow. "Here, Miriam, is a portion of her correspondence with this man, Thomas Tru-"That, that last evening on the beach man-I found it in the secret drawer of her bureau. There are several notes entreating her to give him a meeting, on "Oh, speak; for mercy speak! What the beach, at Mossy Dell, and at other points. From the tenor of these notes, "That Marian Mayfield had been way- I am led to believe that she refused these meetings; and, more than that, "Murdered! Oh, God!" cried Edith, as from the style of one in particular I am she sank in the arms of Miss Thornton. been privately married to that man. Why he should have enticed her to that spot to destroy her life, I do not know. But this, at least, I know: that our dearest Marian has been basely assassinated. I see reason to suppose the assassin io have been her lover, or her husband, and that his real or assumed name was Thomas Truman. These facts, and this little packet of notes and letters, are all that I have to offer as testimony. by following a slight clue, we are sometimes led to great discoveries."

"Why didn't you show them to the gentlemen, dear mamma? They might have found out something by them.'

"I showed them to Thurston Willcoxen, who has been so energetic in the pursuit of the unknown murderer; but Thurston became so violently agitated

"Yes, mamma." obligation, its inviolability?"

a vow?"

"I think I do, mamma."

have read of Jeptha and his daughter." | connection with these coarse feeds. hands, and give them to me between my | not too great it is always best to feed up before the cottage gate. Edith went forgotten. Among the most zealous in own. Look into my eyes. I want you home-grown grains in preference to the ing mother, to avenge the death of was alone—that Edith saw at the first ly pallor of his countenance, the wildness | Marian. Will you bind your soul by

very glad to see you," said Edith, cor, borhood that the corpse of a woman, all your faculties of mind and body, to while a spasm agitated his worn face. jam, the good woman emptied it into a answering to the description of Marian. the discovery and punishment of Mar- In a few minutes he resumed. But the lady seized it, and drew her had been washed ashore some miles ian's murderer; and also that you will "Look at me, Edith! the death of Mar-

"I vow."

"I swear." "Good heaven!" exclaimed the lady, few weeks; incessant weeping had "You will do it! You are certain to co-heir with my young brother, Paul forgot to take them out!" dimmed her splendid eyes, and paled her discover the murderer, and clear up the Douglass, of all I possess. Say, Edith,

mystery." "Sit down upon the bed by me, my | The mental excitement that had car- spoke earnestly, fervently, taking her

ried Edith through this scene subsided, hand and pressing it, and gazing plead-The child climbed up and took the in- and left her very weak, so that when ingly into her eyes. do not know-I am not sure-I dicated seat. Something of that long- Thurston Willcoxen soon after called smothered fire, which had once braved to see her, she was unable to receive so when I saw you labor hardest of all

Thurston was frightfully changed, the Ah! she was worthy of it." mother has not many days to live; but sufferings of the last month seemed to "Did she tell you where she was go- in dying, she leaves you a sacred trust have made him old-his countenance to be fulfilled. My child, do you follow was worn, his voice hollow, and his give me your little girl?" manner abstracted and uncertain.

this morning?"

"Yes—I always do in the forenoon." "Do you feel well enough to talk of Miriam and her future?"

"Oh, yes." "What do you propose to do with her?" "I shall leave her to Aunt Henriettashe will never let the child want."

"But Mrs. Waugh is quite an old lady parted. "In mercy, explain yourself-Marian! The country is rich in the monuments of now. Jacquelina is insane, the commo-

"To point out how you may do other-

boyhood. You know what I am. Will home. you leave your orphan daughter to me? I

WINTER COW FEEDING.

farmer should try to produce as much a daily ration of about twenty-five of the feed as possible on his own farm. pounds of dry matter. In this there Now, what are the best feeds for dairy should be about two pounds of digestible cows that most northwest farms will carbohydrates and a half pound of fat. grow abundantly? Of the coarse fod- As clover hay is comparatively rich in ders the crop that will produce the most protein when possible this should always feed per acre is corn. Next comes form a part of the ration. When silage, clover, then clover and timothy and the then give each cow two bundles, or all upland meadow hay. We hope that they will eat of it. If part of the corn we will soon be able to add to this list crop has been put into the silo then

the best of these is oats, then oats and silage, then give each cow two bundles wheat, then corn, oats and peas, or as they come from the binder. These peas alone.. Where peas can be grown should be given in two feeds, as should sluccessfully they make a very rich cow also the silage and hay. Besides this feed. These statements, and those which they should have all the corn stover follow, were made by Mr. W. F. Stiles they will eat up clean.

at the Wisconsin Institute. but by no means least, it is very succu- than bran. lent. For instance, in mixed pasture grass there is three per cent. of protein. Now we have all heard about

THE BALANCED RATION.

that I thought he must have fallen. And | What is that? It is the ratio which he wished very much to retain those should exist between the digestible proletters, but I would not permit them to tein and the digestible carbohydrates. be carried out of my sight. When he be- This is somewhat narrw, but we must came calmer, however, he assured me remember that grass is a summer feed. that there could be no possible connec- In winter feeding we can add more to tion between the writer of these notes the carbohydrates, for it will require and the murderer of the unfortunate more than heat formers to maintain the girl. I, however, think differently. I warmth of the body. By a number of think there is a connection, and even an tests it has been found that in winter identity; and I think this packet may be it is safe to feed a ration as wide as one the means of bringing the criminal to to six. This is what we call a balanced justice; and I leave it-a sacred trust- ration for dairy cows in winter. Let us in your charge, Miriam. Guard it well; now take these various feeds that we guard it as your only treasure, until it have on our farms and see which is the has served its destined purpose. And best way to combine them so as to now, Miriam, do you know the nature of approach as near as possible all of these qualities of the summer feed.

In selecting winter feed one should "Do you understand its solemnity-its first select the coarse feeds, as they are usually the cheaper. Of these, hay of the various kinds should be considered "Do you know that in the performance first, then corn fodder in its many had remained with Miss Inornton, and filled every bosom. A county meeting of your vow, if necessary, no toil, no preparations, and in some cases, but that they would bring her home this spontaneously convened, and handbills privation, no suffering of mind or body. rarely, straw may be used. Then from morning. I suppose Colonel Thornton were printed, large rewards offered, and no dearest interest of your life, no the grains which are grown on the strongest affection of your soul, but farm and the concentrated feeds that must be sacrificed; do you comprehend are on market, the feeder must select those which are the best and cheapest "Yes, mamma; I knew it before, and I compared with feeding value to feed in

"Now, Miriam, kneel down, fold your | When the difference in the price is

You look at me in wonder; but listen, The child was magnetized by the dear Edith, and then decide. Marian- of bringing unexpected guests home to she asked herself, as she went forward sullen despair, excited the surprise and thrilling eyes that gazed deep into her dear martyred saint! loved that child as luncheon, and the family larder was not her own. And I loved Marian-loved always equal to the strain. On one such her as I had never dreamed it possible occasion Mrs. Bennett was obliged to retremulous, and she acted altogether thrown upon the mystery. About a fort- "You, vow in the sight of God and all for heart to love-I cannot speak of this! enforce the rather scanty menu with night after the catastrophe, however, his holy angels, that, as you hope for it deprives me of reason." he said, sud- something from her store of preserves. "How do you do, Miss Thornton? I am information was brought to the neigh- salvation, you will devote your life with denly covering his eyes with his hands,

> ing mist. I have not an object in life up to propound a question. "Swear that no afterthought shall except to carry out purposes which were tempt you to falter; that happen what dear to her benevolent heart, and which would you mind telling me what fruit may in the changing years, you will not her sudden death has left incomplete. I this excellent preserve is made of? The hesitate; that though your interests and have not an affection in the world ex- flavor is delicious, but I can't call to Three weeks after this, Edith lay upon | suffer them to retard you in your pur- should love this child dearly, and cher-Miriam. I should give her the best educan you trust your child to me?" He

"So you loved Marian-I even judge! for the apprehension of the criminal. The next morning, however, Thurston Oh, many loved her as much as you! "Miriam, you are nearly nine years repeated his visit, and was brought to Colonel Thornton, Dr. Weismann, Judge Gordon, Mr. Barnwell, all adored her!

> "No more of that, dear Edith, it will overcome us both; but tell me if you will

"Dear Thurston, your proposal is as "Edith," he asked, as he took the chair strange and unusual as it is generous. near her head, "do you feel stronger I thank you most sincerely, but you must give me time to look at it and think of it. You are sincere, you are in earnest, you mean all you say. I see that in your face; but I must reflect and take counsel upon such an important step. Go now, dear Thurston, and return to me at this hour to-morrow morning."

Thurston pressed her hand and de-

The same day Edith had a visit from her young wisdom and angelic good- dore and Mrs. L'Oiseau scarcely com- Mrs. Waugh, Miss Thornton and other "Oh, God sustain you, Edith! what can ness. All are indebted to her; but none petent to take care of themselves and friends. And after consulting with them though curious custom prevails. When I say to you? my own heart is lacerated!" so deeply as you and I. All are bound Luckenough a sad, unpromising home upon the proposal that had been made a girl is going to be married, and just "I know it-oh! I know it; why do you joint guardianship of Mrs. Waugh and mother gives her a handkerchief, which Thurston Willcoxen.

(To be continued).

by-products of these mills. There is a flavor and a palatibility to fresh ground grains which is not found in most of the mill feeds, and palatibility has much to do with digestibility. This being the case we should see well to it that all our crops should be cut in season and

PUT UP IN THE BEST SHAPE

to retain as much as possible of their

It has been found by various tests that a cow that is giving enough mills In feeding all classes of stock the to make one pound of butter a day needs give the cow about forty pounds daily When we come to consider the grains each, t When fodder is fed, instead of

Now, as a cow's stomach is not large As the dairy cow does her best in enough to hold all of the feed she rethe month of June when on good pas- quires of the coarse fodders it will be ture, we should take a lesson from this necessary to feed her some grain or and give her as near these conditions in mill feed. For most seasons, perhaps, winter as possible, both in regard to the best mixture, when silage is fed, feed and surroundings. What are some will be three pounds of corn and oil of the characteristics and qualities of meal, three pounds of oatmeal, and two the summer feed? In the first place this pounds of bran middlings. When no feed is very palatible; next, is easily silage is fed then substitute two pounds digested; third, it contains all of the of oil meal for the bran. A year like elements of nutrition in the right pro- this, when oil meal is \$25 and bran portions for summer feeding, and, last, more than \$15, oil meal is far cheaper

ANOTHER IMPORTANT POINT

13 per cent. of carbohydrates, eight- in winter feeding is regularity, not only tenths of one per cent. of fat, two per in regard to the feeding, but with all of cent. of salt, and 75 per cent. of water. the work with the cows. The feeder should watch and study his cows individually and know what each one is deing at the pail and also observe their likes and dislikes for the different kinds of feed. There is as much difference in individuality of men. For this reason it is best to feed as great a variety as possible, so that if a cow does not relish one kind of feed she may make ug on another.

Give the cows a handful of salt every other day, or still better, have a box in the yard where they can have access to it at all times.

One other point of nearly equal importance to the food is to allow the cattle to have all the pure water they wish to drink. Do not compell them to drink from a tank that is half full of ice. The feed is all dry, and they should have all the water they want twice a day. Get them in the habit of drink. ing before they are fed their grain.

All feeds should be fed in the most palatable form possible, for we must e member that a cow gives us a profit on that feed which she eats and utilizes over that which is required to maintain her, therefore, the more a cow can be induced to eat especially of the coarse feed the more profitable she is in the dairy. As a rule, a cow should have two-thirds of her feed of the coarse fodders and one-third of grain, but right here the individuality of the cow must be taken into account if we would feed profitably.

CURIOUS SEEDS.

Mr. Bennett had an embarrasing habit Hastily seizing a jar of gooseberry

glass dish and placed it on the table. A little later the guest, who for some

forcibly towards the door, saying in a down the coast, but had been interred live a maiden until you become an ian has brought me to what you see! moments had been regarding with puz-My youth has melted away like a morn- | zled interest his saucer of jam, looked "I beg your pardon," said he, "but

> affections should intervene, you will not cept that which comes through her. I mind any fruit with seeds like these." Mrs. Bennett deaned forward to inher deathbed. Her delicate frame never pose; that no effort, no sacrifice, no pri- ish her devotedly for Marian's sake. I spect the seven round objects on the guest's plate.

"For goodness' sake!" she exclaimed. "Those are the marbles I put into tha cational advantages, and make her the kettle to keep the jam from burning.

KNEW TOO MUCH.

A story told of a certain tradesman whose premises were almost entirely destroyed as a result of a mysterious fire, The stock was fully insured, and there was some talk of arson. Proceedings were actually taken against the owner of the business, but owing to lack of evidences the prosecution fell through.

Soon afterwards the shop was re-opened with an entirely new stock, and the tradesman advertised in the local news. paper for an errand-boy. Among the applicants for the post was a bright youth who had just left school. "Well, my boy," said the tradesman,

"and what do you know?" "Oh!" was the cool response, "I know: a lot. For one thing I knows how to keep my mouth shut, an' if you're thinking of having another flare up, you'll

find me as close as any oyster!" To the youngster's surprise he wasn't engaged.

THE TEARKERCHIEF.

In some parts of the Tyrol a beautiful her, she decided to leave Miriam in the before she leaves for the church, her is called a tearkerchief. It is made of And this decision was made known to newly spun and unused linen, and with we must make that search the one great wise, dear Edith. It would have been Thurston when he called the next morn- it the girl dries the natural tears she sheds on leaving home. The tearker She looked up at him with surprise and | A few days after this Edith passed to chief is never used after the marriage the world of spirits. And Thurston took day, but is folded up and placed in the "Edith, you have known me from my the orphan child to his own heart and linen closet, where it remains till it owner's death, when it is taken from it place and spread over her dead face.