

# Marian Mayfield

## Or, The Strange Disappearance

### CHAPTER XXIX.

After a stormy passage in life comes a long calm, preceding, perhaps, another storm. I must pass rapidly over several years.

Thurston was a new being. He resolved to devote his time, talents and means, first of all to carrying on and perfecting those works of education and reform started by Marian in his own neighborhood.

But this was a very mournful consolation, for in every thought and act of the whole work, the memory of Marian was so intimately woven, that her loss was felt with double keenness. Every effort was doubly difficult; every obstacle was doubly great; every discouragement doubly hopeless, because she was not there with her very presence inspiring hope and energy—and every success was robbed of its joy, because she was not there to rejoice with him. He missed her in all things; he missed her everywhere. Solitude had fallen upon all the earth from which she had passed away. Because her face was gone, all other faces were repulsive to his sight; because her voice was silent, all other voices were discordant to his ear; because her love was impossible, all other friendships and affections were repugnant to his heart; and Thurston, young, handsome, accomplished and wealthy, became a sient and lonely man.

The estate left by old Cloudestley Willcoxen had exceeded even the reports of his hoarded wealth. The whole estate, real and personal, was bequeathed to his eldest grandson, Thurston Willcoxen, upon the sole condition that it should not be divided.

Dell-Dehght, with its natural beauties, was a home that wealth could convert into a material paradise. Once it had been one of Thurston's happiest dreams to adorn and beautify the matchless spot, and make it worthy of Marian, its intended mistress. Now he could not bear to think of those plans of home-beauty and happiness so interwoven with fond thoughts of her. So poignant were the wounds of association, that he could scarcely endure to remain in a neighborhood so filled with reminiscences of her; and he must have fled the scene, and taken refuge from memory in foreign travel, had he suffered from bereavement and sorrow only; but he was tortured by remorse, and remorse demands to suffer and to atone for sin. And, therefore, though it spiritually seemed like being bound to a wheel and broken by its every turn, he was true to his resolution to remain in the county and devote his time, wealth and abilities to the completion of Marian's unfinished works of benevolence.

Dell-Dehght remained unaltered. He could not bear to make it beautiful, since Marian could not enjoy its beauty. Only such changes were made as were absolutely necessary in organizing his little household. A distant relative, a middle-aged lady of exemplary piety, but of reduced fortune, was engaged to come and reside at his table, and take charge of Miriam's education, for Miriam was established at Dell-Dehght. It is true that Mrs. Waugh would have wished this arrangement otherwise. She would have preferred to have the orphan girl with herself; but Commodore Waugh would not even hear of Miriam's coming to Luckenough with any patience—"For if her mother had married 'Grim,' none of these misfortunes would have happened," he said.

Even Jacqueline had been forced to fly from Luckenough; no one knew whither; some said that she had run away; some knew that she had retired to a convent; some said only to escape the din and turmoil of the world, and find rest to her soul in a few months or years of quiet and silence, and some said she had withdrawn for the purpose of taking the vows and becoming a nun. Mrs. Waugh knew all about it, but she said nothing, except to discourage inquiry upon the subject. In the midst of the speculation following Jacqueline's disappearance, Cloudestley Mornington had come home. He staid a day or two at Luckenough, a week at Dell-Dehght, and then took himself, with his broken heart, off from the neighborhood, and got ordered upon a distant and active service.

There were also other considerations that rendered it desirable for Miriam to reside at Dell-Dehght, rather than at Luckenough; Commodore Waugh would have made a terrible guardian to a child so lately used to the blessedness of a home with her mother—and withal, so shy and sensitive as to breathe freely only in an atmosphere of peace and affection, and Luckenough would have supplied a dark and dreary home for her whose melancholy temperament and recent bereavements rendered change of scene and the companionship of other children absolute necessities. It was for these several reasons that Mrs. Waugh was forced to consent that Thurston should carry his little adopted daughter to his own home. Thurston's household consisted now of himself, Mrs. Morris, his housekeeper; Alice Morris, her daughter; Paul Douglass, his own half-brother; poor Fanny, and lastly, Miriam.

Mrs. Morris was a lady of good family, but decayed fortune, of sober years and exemplary piety. In closing her terms with Mr. Willcoxen, her one great stipulation had been that she should bring her daughter, whom she declared to be too "young and giddy" to be trusted out-

of her own sight, even to a good boarding school.

Mr. Willcoxen expressed himself rather pleased than otherwise at the prospect of Miriam's having a companion, and so the engagement was closed.

Alice Morris was a hearty, cordial, blooming hoyden, really about ten or eleven years of age, but seeming from her fine growth and proportions, at least thirteen or fourteen.

Paul Douglass was a fine, handsome, well-grown boy of fourteen, with an open, manly forehead, shaded with clustering, yellow curls, as soft and silky as a girl's, and a full, beaming, merry blue eye, whose flashing glances were the most mirth-provoking to all upon whom the chance light. Paul was, and ever since his first arrival in the house, had been, "the life of the family." His merry laugh and shout were the pleasantest sounds in all the precincts of Dell-Dehght. When Paul first heard that there was to be an invasion of "women and girls" into Dell-Dehght, he declared he had rather there had been an irruption of the Goths and Vandals at once—for if there were any folks he could not get along with, they were "the gals." Besides which, he was sure now to have the coldest seat around the fire, the darkest place at the table, the backward ride in the carriage, and to get the necks of chickens and the tails of fishes for his share of the dinner. Boys were always put upon by the girls, and sorry enough he was, he said, that any were coming to the house. And he vowed a boyish vow—"by thunder and lightning"—that he would torment the girls to the very best of his ability.

Girls, forsooth! girls coming to live there day and night, and eat, and drink, and sleep, and sit, and sew, and walk up and down the halls, and parlors, and chambers of Dell-Dehght—girls, with their airs, and affectations, and pretensions, and exactions—girls—pah! the idea was perfectly disgusting and offensive. He really did wonder at "Brother," but then he already considered "Brother" something of an old bachelor, and old bachelors would be queer.

But Thurston well knew how to smile the rock, and open the fountain of sympathy in the lad's heart. He said nothing in reply to the boys' saucy objections, but on the evening that little Miriam arrived, he beckoned Paul into the parlor, where the child sat, alone, and pointing her out to him, said in a low tone:

"Look at her; she has lost all her friends—she has just come from her mother's grave—she is strange, and sad, and lonesome. Go, try to amuse her."

"I'm going to her, though I hardly know how," replied the lad, moving toward the spot where the abstracted child sat deeply musing.

"Miriam! Is that your name?" he asked, by way of opening the conversation.

"Yes," replied the child, very softly and shyly.

"It's a very heathenish—oh, Lord!—I mean it's a very pretty name is Miriam, it's a Bible name, too. I don't know but what it's a saint's name also."

The little girl made no reply, and the boy felt at a loss what to say next. After fidgeting from one foot to the other he began again.

"Miriam, shall I show you my books—Scott's poems, and the Waverley novels, and Milton's Paradise, and—"

"No, I thank you," interrupted the girl, uneasily.

"Well, would you like to see my pictures—two volumes of engravings, and a portfolio full of sketches?"

"No, thank you."

"Shall I bring you my drawer full of minerals? I have got—"

"I don't want them, please."

"Well, then, would you like the dried bugs? I've got whole cards of them under a glass case, and—"

"I don't want them either, please."

"Dear me! I have not got anything else to amuse you with. What do you want?" exclaimed Paul, and he walked off in high dudgeon.

The next day fortune favored Paul in his efforts to please Miriam. He had a tame white rabbit, and he thought that the child would like it for a pet—so he got up very early in the morning, and washed the rabbit "clean as a new penny," and put it under a new box to get dry while he rode to C—and bought a blue ribbon to tie around its neck. This jaunt made Paul very late at breakfast, but he felt rewarded when afterward he gave the rabbit to old Jenny, and asked her to give it to the little girl—and when he heard the latter say—"Oh, what a pretty little thing! tell Paul, thank you!" After this, by slow degrees, he was enabled to approach "the little blackbird" without alarming her. And after a while he coaxed her to take a row in his little boat, and a ride on his little pony—always qualifying his attentions by saying that he did not like girls as a general thing, but that she was different from others. And Mr. Willcoxen witnessed, with much satisfaction, the growing friendship between the girl and boy, for they were the two creatures in the world who divided all the interest he felt in life. The mutual effect of the children upon each other's characters was very beneficial; the gay and joyous spirits of Paul continually charmed Miriam away from those fits of melancholy, to which she was by temperament and circumstances a prey, while the little girl's shyness and timid-

ity taught Paul to tame his own boisterous manners for her sake.

Mrs. Waugh had not forgotten her young protege. She came as often as possible to Dell-Dehght, to inquire after the health and progress of the little girl.

It is not to be supposed in any neighborhood where there existed managing mammas and unmarried daughters, that a young gentleman, handsome, accomplished, wealthy, and of good repute, should remain unmolested in his bachelorhood. Indeed, the matrons and maidens of his own circle seemed to think themselves individually aggrieved by the young heir's mode of life. And many were the dinners and evening parties got up for his sake, in vain, for, to their infinite disgust, Thurston always returned an excuse instead of an acceptance.

At length the wounded self-esteem of the community received a healing salve, in the form of a report that Mr. Willcoxen had withdrawn from the gay world, in order the better to prepare himself for the Christian ministry. A report that, in twelve months, received its confirmation in the well-established fact that Thurston Willcoxen was a candidate for holy orders.

And in the meantime the young guardian did not neglect his youthful charges, but in strict interpretation of his assumed duties of guardianship, he had taken the education of the girl and boy under his own personal charge.

"Many hard working ministers of the Gospel have received pupils to educate for hire. Why may not I, with more time at my command, reserve the privilege of educating my own adopted son and daughter," he said, and acting upon that thought, had fitted up a little school-room adjoining his library, where, in the presence of Mrs. Morris, Miriam and Paul pursued their studies. Mrs. Morris hearing such recitations as lay within her province, and Mr. Willcoxen attending to the classical and mathematical ranches. Thus passed many months, and every month the hearts of the children were knitted closer to each other and to their guardian.

And Thurston Willcoxen "grew in favor, with God and man." His name became the synonym for integrity, probity and philanthropy. He built a church and a free-school, and supported both at his own expense. In the third year after entering upon his inheritance, he was received into holy orders; and two years after, he was elected pastor of his native parish. Thus time went by, and brought at length the next eventful epoch of our domestic history—that upon which Miriam completed her sixteenth year.

(To be continued.)

### IN A RUSSIAN COURT.

Oriental justice sometimes finds a parallel in Russia, where judges and lawyers see no difficulty in arriving at eccentric decisions and taking the most of the nut for themselves, leaving the shell for plaintiff and defendant.

One day, at a village market, a shoemaker bought a calf-skin of a farmer for two and a half roubles, and, having no money with him, went home to procure it.

The farmer meanwhile sold the skin to a second buyer for three roubles. Then the original buyer returned, and when he discovered the trick that had been played was so indignant that a quarrel ensued, and the matter was brought before a justice.

"You bought the skin first?" said the latter to the shoemaker, after carefully listening to the evidence.

"Yes."

"For how much?"

"Two and a half roubles."

"Have you the money?"

"Yes."

"Put it on the table."

Then turning to the second buyer, the justice asked:

"You bought the skin afterward and paid for it?"

"Yes."

"How much did you pay?"

"Three roubles."

"You have the skin?"

"Yes."

"Put it under the table."

The man obeyed, and the former was next addressed—

"You agreed to sell for two and a half roubles, and as the buyer did not return promptly with the money, you sold the skin to another for three roubles?"

"Yes."

"Have you the three roubles?"

"Yes."

"Put them on the table."

When this had been done, the judge delivered his decision—

"The shoemaker is to blame for bargaining without money, and thereby endangering the peace of the town. The second buyer is to blame for outbidding another, and the seller for dealing with people without money. Now, all three of you go, March!"

And they went preface, leaving skin and money behind them.

### CEYLON FOR CLEVER DOCTORS.

The native medical profession of Ceylon is envied by half the population of the island, as it comprises the highest their learning can afford. But it is deplorably becoming extinct, owing to lack of encouragement, and shortly will be as much a thing of the past as the Egyptian embalming system. Ceylon dentists never extract a tooth. Their medicines are strong enough to arrest corruption, giving vitality to the gums. Surgeons never amputate an injured limb, but cure the break, fracture or dislocation by powerful vegetable oils. There is no union amongst these mysterious doctors, however. They are jealous of one another, are continually running each other down, and so the Europeans and high-class natives seek European advice, and the native science is being gradually ruined.

# THE DOMINION BANK

—PROCEEDINGS OF—

## The Thirty - Fifth Annual General Meeting of the Stockholders

THE THIRTY-FIFTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE DOMINION BANK was held at the Banking House of the Institution, Toronto, on Wednesday, January 31st, 1906.

Among those present were noticed:

Dr. Andrew Smith, Messrs. J. G. Ramsey, Barlow Cumberland, W. R. Brock, R. T. Gooderham, H. C. Hammond, Cawthra Mulock, E. B. Osler, M.P., J. J. Foy, K.C., David Smith, R. J. Christie, J. M. Bond, A. W. Austin, F. J. Harris, Ira Standish, E. C. Burton, A. R. Boswell, Jno. T. Small, J. Bruce Macdonald, W. Mulock, Jr., Sidney Small, H. Gordon Mackenzie, J. Gordon Jones, F. J. Stewart, Wm. Ross, W. G. Cassels, Geo. D. Scott, N. F. Davidson, W. H. Cawthra, J. A. Proctor, David Kidd, F. D. Benjamin, J. F. Kavanagh, S. Samuel, W. C. Harvey, W. Dixon C. Holland, F. J. Phillips, Wm. Davies, H. W. A. Foster, W. C. Crowther, E. W. Langley, H. S. Harwood, R. M. Gray, Richard Brown, Henry Johnson, Wm. Spry, W. Glenney, Frank H. Hill, Jno. J. Dixon, G. N. Reynolds, F. C. Taylor, F. G. Hodgins, W. C. Lee, F. E. Macdonald, Jno. Stewart, Thomas Walmsley, T. G. Brough and others.

It was moved by Mr. W. R. Brock, seconded by Mr. A. W. Austin, that Mr. E. B. Osler do take the chair, and that Mr. T. G. Brough do act as Secretary.

Messrs. A. R. Boswell and W. G. Cassels were appointed Scrutineers.

The Secretary read the report of the Directors to the Shareholders and submitted the Annual Statement of the affairs of the Bank, which is as follows:

To the Shareholders:

The Directors beg to present the following statement of the result of the business of the Bank for the year ending 30th December, 1905:

Balance of Profit and Loss Account, 31st December, 1904 ..... \$134,572.64  
Profit for the year ending 30th December, 1905, after deducting charges of management, etc., and making provision for bad and doubtful debts ..... 490,495.26  
\$625,067.84

Dividend 2½ per cent. paid 1st April, 1905 .. \$75,000.00  
Dividend 2½ per cent., paid 3rd July, 1905 .. 75,000.00  
Dividend 2½ per cent., paid 2nd Oct., 1905 .. 75,000.00  
Dividend 2½ per cent., payable 2nd Jan., 1906 .. 75,000.00  
Written off Bank Premises ..... \$300,000.00  
\$375,629.87

Balance of Profit and Loss carried forward ..... \$249,437.97

With deep regret your Directors have to record the death, which occurred in October last, of Mr. William Ince, who had been a member of the Board since 1884. The vacancy was filled by the appointment of Mr. R. J. Christie.

Branches of the Bank have been opened during the past year in Hespeler, Ontario; in Winnipeg, at No. 643 Portage Avenue and at the corner of Notre Dame and Nena streets; and in Toronto at the corner of Dovercourt Road and Bloor street and at the Union Stock Yards.

Premises have been secured in Windsor, Ontario, and a branch will shortly be opened there.

All branches of the Bank have been inspected during the year.

Toronto, 31st January, 1906.

E. B. OSLER,  
President.

The Report was adopted, and the thanks of the Shareholders were tendered to the President, Vice-President, and Directors for their services, and to the General Manager and other Officers of the Bank for their efficient performance of their respective duties.

The following gentlemen were elected Directors for the ensuing year: Messrs. A. W. Austin, W. R. Brock, R. J. Christie, T. Eaton, J. J. Foy, K.C., M.L.A., W. D. Matthews and E. B. Osler, M.P.

At a subsequent meeting of the Directors, Mr. E. B. Osler, M.P., was elected President, and Mr. W. D. Matthews, Vice-President, for the ensuing term.

### GENERAL STATEMENT

#### LIABILITIES.

Notes in circulation ..... \$ 2,651,956 00  
Deposits not bearing interest ..... \$ 4,390,832 67  
Deposits bearing interest (including interest accrued to date) ..... 29,692,275 74  
34,083,108 41  
Balance due to London Agents ..... 694,169 84  
Total liabilities to the public ..... 37,429,234 23  
Capital stock paid up ..... 3,000,000 00  
Reserve Fund ..... \$ 3,500,000 00  
Balance of profits carried forward ..... 249,437 97  
Dividend No. 93, payable 2nd January ..... 75,000 00  
Former dividends unclaimed ..... 167 50  
Reserved for exchange, etc. .... 42,137 90  
Rebate on bills discounted ..... 107,762 34  
3,974,505 72  
\$44,403,739 95

#### ASSETS.

Specie ..... \$ 1,084,210 73  
Dominion Government demand notes ..... 2,455,477 00  
Deposit with Dominion Government for security of note circulation ..... 150,000 00  
Notes and cheques on other Banks ..... 1,842,022 49  
Balances due from other Banks in Canada ..... 699,243 18  
Balances due from other Banks elsewhere than in Canada and the United Kingdom ..... 968,345 25  
Provincial Government securities ..... 91,019 25  
Canadian Municipal securities and British or Foreign or Colonial public securities other than Canadian ..... 669,160 76  
Railway and other bonds, debentures and stocks .. 2,649,334 23  
Loans on call secured by stocks and debentures ... 4,417,263 70  
15,026,076 50  
Bills discounted and advances current ..... 28,564,199 67  
Overdue debts (estimated loss provided for) ..... 335 00  
Mortgages on real estate sold by the Bank ..... 6,000 00  
Bank premises ..... 800,000 00  
Other assets not included under foreign heads ..... 7,128 70  
29,377,663 37  
\$44,403,739 95

T. G. BROUGH,  
General Manager.

Toronto, 30th December, 1905.

### MARRIED AT FIVE YEARS.

Over a quarter of a million girls in India, of five years of age and under, were already married when the last census was taken. Between five and ten years of age the number of married girls was over 2,000,000, and between ten and fifteen years the number was close upon 7,000,000. To the girls in the first two categories, of course, marriage meant nothing more than a contract entered into for them by others, long before they themselves were capable of understanding it; many of them had been bound by engagements when they were still children in arms. Most of the widows of such tender years become so before they know what widowhood means. It is only as they grow out of infancy that they learn the sad life to

which they are condemned. Though the English law in India would recognize the legality of a re-marriage of these youthful widows, inexorable custom forbids it, and its occurrence is rare. There were in India, in 1901, nearly 426,000 widows under fifteen years of age, of whom nearly 20,000 were less than five years old.

Widow (with marriageable girls)—"Julia has a most lovely voice, Major—so powerful, you know; but for ringing silvery tone, give me my second daughter's. Would you like to hear sing 'Some Day?' Major (awfully bored)—"Certainly! Delighted, I'm sure! Let's say some day next month; that is—er—unless I'm unexpectedly ordered away anywhere."