THE Canadian Champion, $1 per yr. in advance

The Canadian Champion

AND COUNTY OF HALTON INTELLIGENCER.

THE Canadian Champion, To Jan. 1, '89 for $1.

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The Canadian Champion

IS PUBLISHED EVERY Thursday Morning

—AT—

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For the Year 1888.

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1	Milton	Wm. Panton	27	29	25	13	28	30	10 a.m.
2	Oakville	R. Balmer	11	7	9	11	12	7	10 a.m.
3	Georgetown	L. Grant	17	13	15	4	16	13	9.30 a.m
4	Acton	J. Matthews	19	15	17	"	20	15	10 a.m.
5	Campbellville	S. R. Lister	6	2	4	"	7	2	9 30 "
6	Burlington	G. C. Bastedo	10	6	8	10	11	6	11 "

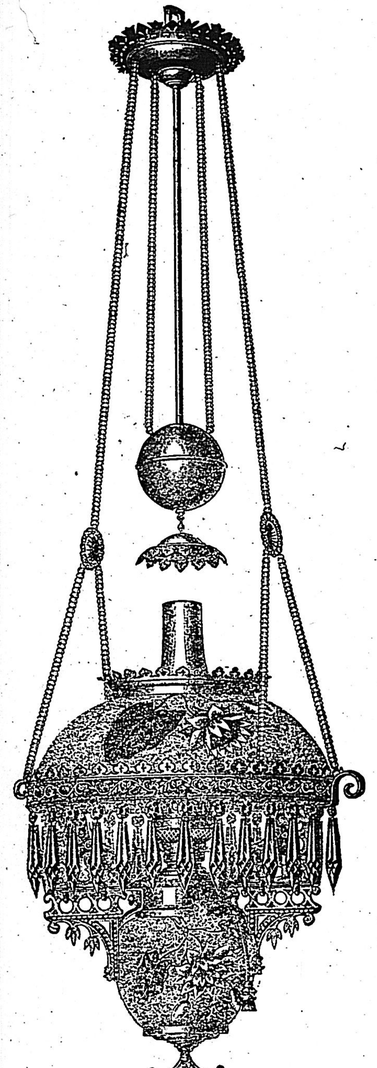
General Sessions of the Peace and County Court Sittings, with or without Jury. Tuesday 12th June, and 11th December, at 10 a.m.

County Court Sittings, without Jury, Tuesday, 3rd April, and 2nd October, at 10 a. m.

County Court Sittings—Formerly Terms—Monday, 2nd January, 2nd April, 2nd July, and 1st October at 10 a.m.

Audit of Criminal Justice Accounts.—Tuesday, 3rd January, 3rd April, 3rd July & 2nd October.

By order, JOHN DEWAR, Clerk of the Peace.



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WE INVITE YOUR CONFIDENCE AND PATRONAGE

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The Largest Stock in Canada at Close Figures for Cash Only.

ADOPTED DAUGHTER

BY ELIZA A. DUPUY,

AUTHOR OF "TRUE LOVE HE'ER FORGETS," "PASSION AND PRIDE," ETC., ETC.

"I am to understand, then, that your daughter is not to be allowed a choice between the two evils of a humdrum life or a loveless marriage?" asked Mrs. Grafton, with sarcastic emphasis. "I know well which she would prefer, although you have done all that is possible during this last month to pervert and spoil a nature which is true and good to its very core. I have trained her; I know her far better than you do, Mr. Ford, and I am certain that she will never give herself to your friend for the sake of the worldly advantages he can bestow upon her. Lora has as strong a will as your own, when it is once aroused, and I tell you that force is the last weapon you should attempt to employ against her."

A sudden thought struck Ford, and after a pause, he said:

"We will try soft words first, for I do not care to stray her silly fancies against me just now. A few days more and I may find her more amenable to authority. If she is not—well—things can take their course. I shall no longer be accountable for whatever may happen to her."

Understanding his last words to mean that Lora, if found incorrigible, was to be allowed to return to her old life, Mrs. Grafton recovered in some measure from the perturbation into which this conversation had thrown her. She had, for some days, felt that a crisis was approaching, and, although she dreaded it, she thought that the sooner it was over the better for the darling in whom she was so deeply interested.

In spite of Ford's excessive indulgence, and his apparent devotion to the girl he claimed as his daughter, the clear insight of Mrs. Grafton was not deceived. She had never doubted for one moment that Lora would be sacrificed to his own interests as remorselessly as if no tie of blood existed between them. What he had just said reassured her somewhat, and she tried to comfort herself with the certainty that, if compulsion were attempted, Lora had fast friends to stand by her, who would avert from her the worst consequences of her father's wrath when he found that she would neither be persuaded nor forced into a union with Von Rosenberg.

Ford left Mrs. Grafton abruptly, and striding through the room with his masterful step, he passed out and looked about him for the delinquent against whom his wrath burned all the more hotly because, for the present, it was necessary to repress all outward signs of it.

What Mrs. Grafton had said of Lora suggested to him a line of policy which would serve his purpose better than open war between them before he had her so completely in his power that resistance on her part would be useless.

He soon caught sight of her leaning against one of the pillars which support the roof of the verandah, with a flood of moonlight falling over her, rendering her doubly charming to the two who thought her the most adorable of her sex.

Her hand still rested on the arm of Tylor, for she was determined to detain him near her, and show Rosen that others had claims on her besides himself.

When Ford came toward them she was saying:

"Pray do not be so pertinacious, Count. I shall not dance to-night. You waltz divinely, but I think that I shall give up waltzing altogether till the weather grows cooler. I find this breeze far more to my taste than the music of the ball-room."

"Say that you prefer a flirtation by moonlight to keeping your engagement to dance with me," said Rosen in a low, bitter tone intended for her ear alone. "You had better reconsider your refusal to come with me, Miss Ford. I do not lightly give up claims which have been once allowed."

Lora throw back her head with a haughty movement.

"I am not aware that you have any especial claim on me, Count Von Rosenberg. I hold myself accountable to no one for what I may choose to do, least of all to you, sir. It is a strange assumption on your part to speak to me as if you had a right to control my actions."

With sudden humility Rosen said:

"Pardon me; I did not mean to offend you. But it is natural that I should feel, and even resent, the sudden change in your manner. Why should you avoid and slight me without any ostensible reason for doing so?"

Lora laughed, almost insolently.

"Really Count, this is going too far. I am not to be brought to account for changing my mind as to the amusement I prefer for this evening. I shall promenade with Mr. Tyler, and you can easily find some other partner to console you for losing me."

By this time Ford had reached the group, and he saw from the faces of the three that something had occurred to annoy them all. Tylor could not avoid overhearing much of what had been said, and he was embarrassed between his desire to knock Rosen down and his dread of doing anything which could make Miss Ford's name a topic for gossiping tongues. He was very young, chivalrous in his ideas of what is due to the sex, and very much in love with his fair companion.

In this state of affairs the arrival of Ford was opportune. He drew Lora's disengaged hand under his arm, and said in his blandest tones:

"It was wise in you, my pearl, not to gratify the passion for dancing which seems of late to have possessed you at the cost of losing this lovely night. After the day we have had, the air from the rapids is positively delicious. Will you accept me as your escort if you wish to promenade?"

Surprised, and not very well pleased by this proposal, Lora withdrew her arm from Tyler, and said:

"Of course I will accept you, papa, in preference to any other companion; Mr. Tyler will excuse me, I am sure, and I will make the amends to him some other evening."

"I am not aware that you have any especial claim on me, Count Von Rosenberg."

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CHAPTER XXIII.

A SUDDEN JOURNEY DETERMINED ON.

In response to Lora's remark, as her father drew her away from Mr. Tyler, the latter bowed, muttered a few unintelligible words and walked away, understanding perfectly that Mr. Ford did not choose to allow him to play the part of the devout cavalier to his daughter. He vowed to himself that she should at least have the choice between himself and Rosen, and if the father objected he would magnanimously renounce all claims on his westlift and be well contented to bear the daughter away to his Southern home as its fair and honored mistress. He was far from dreaming that no chance would be allowed him even to meet Lora face to face again.

When he was gone, Ford turned to Rosen, and said, in a tone of great significance:

"You must not take your disappointment too deeply to heart, my dear Count. Women are proverbially wilful you know, and this fair one at my side is not free from the faults of her sex. If she has put a slight on you this evening, I am sure that she will atone for it in full measure after I have spoken with her a while."

Rosen bowed, and sauntered away, satisfied to leave his case in such capable hands. He had learned to love Lora better than he had once thought it possible for him to love any creature beside himself, yet he did not shrink from the course which had been already decided on between himself and Ford, should opposition to their views be encountered. Two more ruthless or determined men could never be found than those into whose power this helpless girl had fallen.

She flushed deeply now, and as she walked away with Ford, said:

"You had better make no pledges for me, papa, and especially such as you know to be inconsistent with my actual position. If I have been thoughtless, you need not aid me to deceive a man who seems to be really in earnest, though I declare to you that until this evening I thought that, like myself, he was only seeking amusement."

"Then you must be blind, indeed, Lora," was the grave reply. "Never have I seen a man more desperately in love than Von Rosen is with you; and really, my dear, I think he has good reason to believe himself acceptable to you."

"Oh, papa, don't say that, for you know that I could never have cared for him the least bit. You ought to have warned him if you are really his friend."

"I am so much his friend that I wish, above all things, to see you become his wife. As to the silly idyl you refer to, that is played out, for you could never think of giving up such brilliant prospects as are before you, to sink back into obscurity, which would now be unendurable to you. I speak the words of wisdom, Lora, and it will be well for you to hearken to them."

"If that is wisdom, heaven defend me from it," exclaimed Lora bitterly. "Papa, you cannot believe that I meant to mislead Count Von Rosenberg. Until to-day I did not believe that he was any more in earnest than I was. I have been to blame, but it was through thoughtlessness and girlish fondness for admiration. He can forgive me and forget me soon enough, I dare say. His love for me cannot be so very deep, after all. He has known me but a month, and I have cared for Frank nearly all my life. I don't intend to give him up, even if you should refuse to give me any fortune when I marry him."

"Yes, I do blame you, Lora, and I insist that my friend shall have fair play. As to the assertion you have just made, it is simply bravado. You ought to know by this time that I will not only refuse to give you a dower if you persist in your romantic devotion to young Nugent, but that I will use all my parental authority to prevent you from throwing yourself away in that absurd manner. You are not the mistress of your own fate, remember."

Lora turned her dilating eyes on him, and with pale lips said:

"But you promised, papa. You know you did."

"Promises cost nothing," scoffed Ford, "and are generally made but to be broken. I allowed the affair to rest where it was, expecting that by this time you would shrink yourself from going back to the old dull life. You understand yourself very little if you think you could ever be contented in it again. I know best what is good for you, Lora, and I insist that you shall give Von Rosenberg a fair chance to win you."

By this time Lora's spirit was fully aroused, and she decisively replied:

"I understand myself thus far, at least, that no devotion on Count Von Rosenberg's part, no persuasion on yours, can ever induce me to accept him as my future husband. If you refuse to redeem your plighted word, I cannot help myself, at least till I am of age. Then I can do as I please."

"Upon my word, you are a cool hand to deal with," said Ford, half laughing, and enjoying her spirited resistance to his authority with the same zest shown by the feline tribe when they torture the wretched prey that has fallen into their claws. He knew that she was just as helpless in his hands, and it amused him to temporize with her now, only to show her hereafter how useless it would be to struggle against the fate he had decreed for her.

Finding that she made no reply, he asked:

"Are you not afraid to brave me in this way, Lora? Do you imagine that because I have lavished such fond indulgence upon you I can be moved to give up the dearest wish of my heart, or that I will permit you, at any period of your life, to marry a man who is distasteful to me? You are my child, and as such I shall exact obedience from you, though I am willing to give you time to learn how to submit gracefully to be made a countess and the joint owner of such wealth as you have never dreamed of possessing."

Still Lora said nothing. She was too deeply shocked and astonished by this sudden change in their relations toward each other to readily find words with which to express her emotions. Hitherto he had been almost obsequious in his desire to conciliate her and win her affections, yet at the first sign of opposition he had shown her of how little value was all that affected fondness. She had begun to cherish a very genuine attachment to him; for, until to-night, he had been uniformly affectionate and gentle in his manner to her. As she listened to him now, something arose within her so different from the sentiments she had so lately felt, that she was shocked at herself.

What right had this man to dictate to her in this masterful manner? she asked herself. He had thrown her aside in her infancy, and had manifested no interest in her, till he suddenly took the caprice to claim her.

she supposed, of marrying her to Von Rosen. She believed that she could sooner die than be consigned to such a fate as that; for the toleration she had felt for her new admirer was suddenly converted into repulsion which amounted almost to aversion.

Her whole being was in a tumult of resentment, mingled with dread; for she knew not what might be the result of her rebellion against the wishes of the man she believed to be her father.

Ford bent toward her, and asked:

"Have you nothing to say to me, Lora? It is very unlike you to be silent so long on a subject which must be of the most vital interest to you."

With effort, she replied:

"I have been trying, sir, to reconcile with each other the character I had conceived of you and that which it is now your pleasure to exhibit. As long as you were considerate and kind to me I felt that it would not be difficult for me to love and obey you, in spite of the indifference you manifested toward me for so many years of my life. But when you assume the right to control my fate, and dictate to me what I shall or shall not do, I feel that there are limits even to parental authority. You have sanctioned my engagement to Frank Nugent, and you have no right to withdraw the consent you have given. You will certainly have some respect for your own plighted word."

"My dear, what could I do but submit to the silly nonsense between you and the farmer's son? It had been encouraged by those who had charge of you, though they must have known that Nugent is no fitting match for you. You are cruel to refer to my long neglect of you, Lora, for I have repented of it and tried to atone for it since I have had you with me. Have all my efforts to win your love and obedience been vain? Do you really think that nothing is due to me as your fond and indulgent father? If I violate my word to you is it not because the prosperity of your whole life is at stake? I know that the commonplace life of petty economies and humdrum duties which Nugent can alone afford you, can never suit a gay, brilliant creature like yourself. Only take time to reflect, Lora, and you will see all this for yourself."

His manner had changed completely, and Lora's anger melted before the tender tones in which he now addressed her; but her determination not to be inveigled into a union with Rosen was as inflexible as ever. In a low voice she said:

"I think it would have been best, papa, to let me know from the first that you were unalterably opposed to my betrothal to Frank. If you wished me to marry another, that was a poor preparation for his success with me. You can see for yourself that time should be given me to be off with the old love before I am on with the new."

To gain time, she intuitively felt, was now her only chance to escape from the destiny she feared would be forced upon her if she openly rebelled.

Ford gently said:

"Far be it from me to hurry you in your decision, my daughter. As I told you before, I only ask fair play for the man who offers you so brilliant a future. In giving you to him I shall consult your very best interests, and you will some day thank me for not allowing you to throw away such chances as are now afforded you."

"I pledge myself to nothing," said Lora hurriedly, for deception of any kind was odious to her. "At present I can give no hope to any lover, and if the count really wishes to please me, he will absent himself for a time, that I may see if I miss him enough to care for his return."

Ford promptly replied:

"Von Rosenberg meant to stay behind when we leave, at any rate, and as we are going to Cleveland in the morning, you will have the opportunity to test your feelings at once. Before parting from you he wished to learn his fate, and that is why I spoke to you to-night."

"To Cleveland to-morrow!" exclaimed Lora, in extreme surprise, with which was mingled much annoyance, for she was enjoying herself too much to wish to leave Niagara so abruptly. "Surely, papa, that is a sudden determination."

"By no means. My yacht is here, and a part of our summer programme was to take a sail on her on the lake. Von Rosenberg does not care to join us, because he suffers from sea-sickness, even on the calm waters of the Erie, where they are as still as a mill-pond."

If departure, however unwelcomed before, was to separate her from the lover she had begun to dread and hate, Lora was willing to accept it, and after a few more words with Ford she went in to tell the surprised Mrs. Grafton that they must pack up that night, and be ready to leave on the early morning train.

CHAPTER XXIV.

TWO VILLAINS—A CONFIDENT WOOER—ON THE PATH OF DANGER.

As soon as Lora had communicated her unwelcome news the two ladies retired to their own apartments to make their preparations for departure.

Mr. Ford had employed no maid for his daughter, for he knew of no one he could implicitly trust in that capacity, except Florine, and she, he know, had more important business in hand just now.

He had heard from Silas that the Arrow would be in waiting for him on his arrival at Cleveland, and he felt confident of his own ability to carry out his plans with reference to Lora without any help from others. He intended to decoy her alone on the yacht under a pretense of taking a view of the accommodations before they embarked on their excursion. Once on board, the vessel would set all sail and take the poor girl away from those who would have helped her, leaving behind them no certain clow by which she could be followed and rescued.

The vessel was then to return for Rosen, and take him to Flath Innis, accompanied by a renegade clergyman, who had abjured his faith and turned counterfeiter; but "once a priest, always a priest;" and he argued that the tie would be as binding on the parties I most deeply interested as if the rites were performed by the holiest of men.

Once at Flath Innis, Lora was to have but one chance to evade a union with Rosen. If she would buy back the loss of Grafton's ski herself to his service o

Ford would allow her to refuse the overtures of her lover. In that event she would be completely in his power. Should she discover the fraud which enabled him to seize on her fortune, she would not dare to proclaim it, lest ruin and punishment should come to herself.

Rosen professed to love her, and did love her after a fashion of his own, yet he was base and brutal enough to consent to this ordeal, confident that when it came to the test Lora would accept the alternative of his hand, sooner than remain in the seclusion of Flath Innis as the bond-slave of her supposed father.

Before they slept, the two men had arranged every minutiae of the plot they intended to carry out against the hapless girl, whose spirit they meant to break until her will was thoroughly subjected to theirs.

Just before parting Rosen said:

"I shall not stay here after to-morrow, for fear of unpleasant consequences. The old man has heard that I am figuring here as a count of the empire, and he has written me a furious letter, declaring that I have endangered him by letting out the fact that we are of blue blood. It seems that my respectable parent got into difficulties before he left the fatherland, and he is afraid some one will be after him before long on account of my escapade. The purpose for which I assumed the title has been served, and I will now go to the old fellow and make my peace with him the best way I can."

"Difficulties! Political difficulties, do you mean?"

"Well, yes; I suppose so; though I don't know precisely of what nature they were. I was born in this country, you know, and what happened in Germany before that time you cannot expect me to know anything about. Why should you care to know?"

"Because I once heard a German speaking of a Count Von Rosenberg who had committed forgery, got possession of a large sum of money, and effected his escape to this country. That was many years ago, and it has possibly been forgotten. But if your father had anything to do with that affair, your vanity may have furnished the clew that may get him in trouble."

Rosen became very pale, but he rallied, and said:

"I believe you are only making up this story to annoy me, Ford. As necessary as we are to each other, I do not understand what pleasure you can take in saying such things as you often do."

"My good fellow, I am afraid there is something in it, or you would not change color so suddenly. I only thought it best to mention it as a warning, you know. If my pearl of price knew the penalty attached to the title, I fear she would have less inclination than ever to assume it herself."

Rosen clenched his hands, and fiercely said:

"You had better not goad me too far, Ford, or I may—"

He paused, quelled by the imperious gaze that was turned on him.

"May—what? Pray finish your sentence, Carl. I do not put up with threats, as you know, but still I like to have an inkling of what I am to expect from those I have taken into my confidence."

"Oh, never mind what I was going to say. It was great folly, as all idle threats are. You and I are too closely bound together to allow of misunderstandings. I am fond of Lora—fonder of her than I thought I ever could be of any woman—and you are to hint to her nothing of this. If the title is a bait, she can be let believe that it will be hers if she chooses to wear it. I am not accountable for the old man's sins, anyway, and he must settle his own affairs. I am going to him when you leave, and if he's concerned in anything dark, I'll cut his acquaintance. I can do without his help, thanks to my own sharpness."

"You are so above board yourself that you can afford to do that, I suppose," said Ford, with cutting irony. "For my part, I think you are 'birds of one feather.' 'Like father like son' is so often the rule, that you must excuse me if I think this case is hardly an exception. You were very silly, though, to indulge your vanity at your father's expense, if you were aware of any secret in his life that would not bear exposure. Since you have told me this I begin to think that you had better give up all hope of making Lora your wife. It will be a tough job to get her consent, anyway, and I have half a mind to let her go back to her old home and wash my hands of her altogether."

A gleam of sudden fury leaped into the eyes of Rosen, and he angrily said:

"That means that you are almost as good as in possession of this South American inheritance, and that you are afraid I may demand a share out of it as the dower of my bride." "I have only this to say to you: Your pledges to me shall be fulfilled, and our plans carried out to the letter, or it will be worse for you than you think. I would ruin myself in destroying you, sooner than give up Lora. Keep the fortune, if you choose. I have made no conditions concerning it, but not one penny of it shall go in your pocket if you dare to forfeit your word to me."

With scornful composure Ford listened to this outburst. He cynically said:

"I suppose you mean that you will play the part of the informer if I am weak-hearted enough to let the bird we have caged flutter back to the nest in which it would be safe and happy. I do regret bitterly that I made my appearance beneath Grafton's roof before I was aware of the death of James Ross, and the disposition he had made of his estate. I heard of his decease from young Nugent, and also of his mother's claims. If I had known what he told me before I claimed Lora from her protectors, I should have left her in obscurity, and used the same means which have been since employed to gain possession of the estate. She is only a burden on my hands in the present state of affairs, and I can foresee that she will be hard enough to manage. If you can bring her to reason I am sure you are welcome to try."

"I shall try, and I will let nothing stand in the way of my success. I do not apprehend such great difficulty, either; to escape you she will turn to me as her only refuge from the mean and disgraceful service for which you have had her trained. Let me be whatever I may, I should never ask of my wife any assistance in carrying out my schemes. Lora shall be kept like a lady and have every indulgence that money can command. I have written of my apply own to do that, and King course you will find, however, you take fro

S. C. WATKINS.